

# NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk:  
Mrs R Rice

14a The Square North Tawton  
EX20 2EP  
Tel 01837 880121

Minutes of a Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Town Hall on **TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012** commencing at **7.15 pm**.

Present:	Cllr S Blood	Cllr Dr P Brickley
	Cllr Mrs C Burrow	Cllr K Hodge
	Cllr Mrs G Hoggins	Cllr N Morgan (Chairman)
	Cllr Mrs J Morgan	Cllr I MacLeod
	Cllr Mrs A Ponsford	Cllrs Mrs D Rice
	Cllr Mrs J Rosser	Cllr S Whiteley

In attendance Cllr J McInnes and Rhys Davies, DCC Highways

There were 6 members of the public present

## **AGENDA**

**Open Forum** – Mrs Carol Hughes addressed the Council regarding comments made by certain Councillors during the debate at the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012 – Open Forum. Mrs Hughes pointed out that the Town Council publishes that the Open Forum is

*“An opportunity for the Electors and others to address the Town Council.*

*The Council encourages the use of an Open forum. This will allow Members of the Public to address the Town Council.”*

Mrs Hughes had contacted DALC and understood that public participation should be a time set aside during or before a meeting. Mrs Hughes was concerned that the Town Council should encourage openness and transparency. At last month's meeting it was stated that all Councillors did not need to attend for the Open Forum.

Cllr J Rosser stated that generally Councillors were in attendance but if they were not in attendance they could be contacted.

Cllr N Morgan stated that Councillors should listen to people.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION**

Cllr James McInnes and Rhys Davies from Highways, Devon County Council were in attendance to participate in a “Questions and Answer Session”.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr James McInnes and Rhys Davies from Devon County Council Highways. The Town Council had prepared a list of questions which were circulated to Councillors and members of the public.

1. Traffic through the town and new development.  
Rhys Davies explained that he was very sympathetic regarding these problems, but allocations of new housing were beyond the control of Highways, as they had to comply with WDBC's Core Strategy. All significant

planning applications have to be accompanied by a Traffic Impact Assessment. Highways would welcome development to the south of the town, but questioned where the money would come from for road infrastructure. Devon County Council does not have funding to provide such a road.

**2. Taw Bridge**

Rhys Davies stated that the bridge is inspected every 2 years. Reported incidents for the area were NIL, but there were 2 incidents in 2007. The £50,000 money from the Section 106 Agreement was to provide minor traffic improvements in connection with the Woollen Mill development. To provide a new bridge at the moment would be very difficult, however he would look into the traffic management of the area.

**3. Fore Street/Yeo Lane – Problems with ice.**

Rhys Davies stated he had spoken to the Neighbourhood Highways Officer regarding this problem who state that the problems arose because of lack of management of drainage from the land. DCC's approach had in the past not been very robust, but in this case they were going to investigate and take enforcement action against the owners of the land. A member of the public pointed out to Rhys Davies that he felt the problem was not from lack of drainage from the land, but due to the fact that there was a spring beneath the tarmac in the middle of the road. Rhys Davies noted this comment and would have the matter investigated.

**4. Pavements**

Rhys Davies stated that there was a footways maintenance programme and he understood that works would due to commence in North Tawton shortly, including the pavement from the town to De Bathe Cross.

**5. Junction of North Street/Market Street/The Square**

Cllr Mrs G Hoggins presented a petition to Rhys Davies regarding the junction at North Street/Market Street/The Square, asking if DCC would reinstate the stop road markings and sign in Market Street, the priority of this junction was changed from a stop junction to a through junction about 7 years ago.

Rhys Davies listened to the Town Council's concerns and members of the public and stated that he would investigate why the junction was changed. He said he could not promise that any changes would be carried out as DCC had to comply is highways legislation.

**6. Development having to have access via Market Street/North Street.**

Rhys Davies referred to Question 1 as the answer was the same.

**7. Market Street – lack of pavement**

Rhys Davies stated that to provide a pavement would cost between £70,000 and £1000,00 and because of the cost funding would probably not be possible. He stated that "traffic" was in fact a form of traffic calming. He referred to the Community Speed Watch, but felt that to impose a 20 mph limited was not justified on safety grounds due to the lack of incidents.

**8. DCC Budget Cuts**

Cllr James McInnes was not aware of any particular cuts in the budgets at this time.

The Chairman thanked Rhys Davies and Cllr James McInnes for attending the meeting and answering questions raised.

Rhys Davies left the meeting and Cllr James McInnes stayed for the remainder of the meeting.

9. **Apologies for Absence** – No apologies were received as all members of the Council were present.

2. **Declarations of Interests** – None were made at this stage.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

3.1 The minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held in the Council Offices on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

3.2 The minutes of the Planning and Estates Committee held in the Council Offices on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

4. **Updates**

4.1 Chairman updated the Council on various issues

- Councillors were reminded about the Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2012, meeting in The Square at 10.15 am.
- An invitation had been received from Western Power to attend a Stakeholders Workshop in Exeter, if you wished to attend could you please contact the Clerk.
- WDBC is carrying out a Consultation “Shaping our Towns”. The Clerk informed the Councillors that she would be putting a link to this consultation on the Town Council website.
- A request had been received from West Devon Community & Voluntary Service (WDCVS) based in Okehampton regarding a Community Contact. The Clerk had a copy of the job description, if any Councillors were interested in being this contact or knew a member of the public who may be interested they were requested to contact the Clerk.
- The Section 106’s Legal Agreements for The Woollen Mill and Barkers Way still with the Legal Department and developer’s Solicitors.

4.2 Cllr Mrs J Rosser updated the Council on the Den Brook Community Council. The application to vary the noise condition had still not yet been submitted to West Devon Borough Council. It was understood that the new road at Whiddon Down would commence early next year.

5. **Ongoing issues**

The ‘Action Log’ was updated as follows:

Barton Street Light - Councillor McInnes confirmed that the order for this work has now been authorised.

Conifers in Church Yard – quotation received from Hi-Line £288.00 (including VAT) – Councillors agreed that this work should be carried out.

Website – the Website went live on 1<sup>st</sup> October –  
northtawtontowncouncil.co.uk

**6. Local Produce Market**

The response letter received from North Tawton Town Hall Management Committee, previously circulated, was read out.

After considerable discussion and questions from members of the public, it was resolved that the Town Council supports having a Local Produce Market and suggested it would be worth interested parties looking for another venue and perhaps an outside market may be worth considering.

**7. Safety Inspection and Risk Assessment – Memorial Park**

The report of the Planning and Estates Committee, previously circulated, regarding the Safety Inspection and Risk Assessment – Memorial Park, was noted.

**8. Councillors attendance at meetings**

Cllr S Whiteley requested that this item be deferred until the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012 meeting.

**9. Amount of Paperwork sent with Agendas**

Cllr S Whiteley requested that this item be deferred until the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012 meeting.

**8. Golden Leaf Landscaping report - The Report for October was circulated and noted. The Clerk was requested to remind Golden Leaf Landscaping regarding the War Memorial and leaf clearance for the Remembrance Service.**

**PLANNING MATTERS**

**9, To consider the planning application received from West Devon Borough Council and to make recommendations.**

**10.1 03131/2012**

Four Corners, North Tawton, EX20 2BY

Householder application for the erection of garden shed.

After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

**To note decision of West Devon Borough Council**

**10.2 02983/2012**

6 Market Street, North Tawton, EX20 2ET

Replacement PVC windows with timber windows

Condition Consent 24/10/12

Noted.

The Clerk was requested to contact West Devon Borough Council again regarding the uPVC cladding above the windows to be replaced.

**12. FINANCE**

**12.1 Invoices.** Members inspected the invoices and bank statements and appropriate payments were made in accordance with bank mandate.

- 12.2 Monthly statement** – Members received the monthly statement and agreed to make the appropriate transfer from the reserve account to the current account to allow payments to be made.
- 13. Urgent matters at discretion of Chairman** – No decision may lawfully be made under this item but matters may be discussed which involve no more than an exchange of information.
- 14. Date of next meeting**  
The next meeting of the Council shall be 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012.  
The Schedule of Meetings for 2013 was noted.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.