

NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk
Mrs Rosalind Rice
Assistant Town Clerk:
Mrs Sarah Say

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on:
TUESDAY 9 January 2018 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr R Aplin	Cllr Mrs C Burrow
Cllr Mrs R Davies	Cllr M Fisher
Cllr K Hodge	Cllr M Kennedy
Cllr C Lee	Cllr I MacLeod
Cllr Miss B Rice	Cllr Mrs K Tizard
Cllr Ms J Trehitt	Cllr S Whiteley (Chairman)

Mrs R Rice, Town Clerk
2 members of the public were also present

Open Forum Nothing was raised.

Fire Safety Notice

1. **Apologies for Absence** – All Councillors were present.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Nothing was raised at this stage.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meetings**
 - 3.1 The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on Tuesday 5th December 2017 at 7.15 pm, copy previously circulated, were agreed and signed, subject to a minor amendment.
 - 3.2 The Notes of the Site Inspection Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held Friday 8th December 2017 at 10.00 am; copy previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
4. **Updates - Please keep your update to a maximum of 5 minutes**
 - 4.1 Chairman to update the Council on various issues. – Nothing to report, except a reminder of the skittles evening at the Waie Inn on Friday 12th January.
 - 4.2 Cllr Ms J Trehitt updated Members on the NT Neighbourhood Plan.
 - The Regulation 14 consultation event took place on Saturday, 70 people attended, there were some good conversations, many people were reading the plan, 20 forms so far have been returned, we are urging people, even Councillors, to complete the form.
 - Comments will be considered, and changes to the plan may be made.
 - WDBC will have a 6 week consultation, then the Examination will be appointed and then the referendum.
 - Thanks to everyone who attended and also the Neighbourhood Plan Project Group members.
 - In the light of the Wainhomes appeal the plan is very critical.
 - An e-mail has been send chasing up the statutory consultees for their comments.
 - 4.3 The Chairman Cllr S Whiteley thanked everyone involved with this event, it was unfortunate that he could not attend.
 - 4.3 Section 106 Monitoring Group update – Nothing to report.
 - 4.4 Cllr S Whiteley and Cllr I Macleod to Report on the Denbrook Community Fund – Nothing to report.
 - 4.5 Updates from WDBC Ward Member Cllr Mrs L Watts.
 - Devolution – Heart of South West Strategy Group Productivity Strategy Consultation has been sent out. The strategy has been put together and covers rail and travel infrastructure, broadband coverage etc.

- Devon has been picked as one of ten authorities for a business rate pilot, going forward this may change how we receive business rates.
- Green lights given for lottery which will start early this year, fund will go to projects in the area.
- Steve Jordan is leaving the Council at the end of February. Sophie Hoskins is going to be head of Paid Services; this will be reviewed in 2019.
- Well done to the Neighbourhood Plan Group, Cllr Watts will be submitting her comments in due course.

Cllr Mrs C Burrow asked a question regarding the JLP – the Inquiry will comment on 30th January and will last several weeks.

Item 13.3 on the agenda was brought forward to consider whilst Cllr Mrs L Watts (Ward Member) was present.

To note Planning Appeal Lodged

13.3

APPLICATION NO

3836/16/FUL

LOCATION

Land West Of High Street Known as Batheway Fields North
Tawton
Devon EX20 2FN

APPLICANT NAME

Wainhomes (South West) Holdings Ltd

PROPOSAL

Full planning application for 100 residential dwellings with associated roads, footways, parking, landscaping and drainage
Appeal Lodged 19th December 2017

The matter of whether the Town Council wishes to modify/withdraw their previous representations was discussed. Cllr Mrs C Burrow proposed that both she and Cllr J Trehwitt should go through the JPL and the Neighbourhood Plan to formulate a further response to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs K Tizard and there were 12 votes in favour, therefore the proposal was carried.

The matter of the Town Council wishes to speak at the Inquiry was discussed. It was proposed by Cllr I MacLeod that the Town Council should seek to employ a Planning Consultant to speak on our behalf. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs K Tizard and there were 12 votes in favour, therefore the proposal was carried. The Clerk was requested to make enquiries with various Planning Consultants.

5. Ongoing issues

The 'Action Log' was updated.

Memorial Park – A meeting was to be arranged with Mr Geoff Cawse.

Street sweeping contract – The new contractor had started on Monday 8th January 2018.

Extra post box near Batheway Field – matter closed. No response received from Royal Mail and Cllr Mrs R Davies stated that she felt that Royal Mail would not provide an extra post box.

6. Consultations/Newsletters/Invitations

West Devon Borough Council – Green Light for Community Lottery – Noted.

7. Request for Dog Waste Bin at Batheway Fields

A discussion took place regarding the request from a resident at Batheway Fields for installation of a Dog Waste Bin. The cost to purchase the bin and emptying the bin were noted.

It was proposed by Cllr S Whiteley and seconded by Cllr I MacLeod that the Clerk write to Wainhomes asking them if they would provide a dog bin, sited on the edge of the development.

8. Highways issues related to Batheway Fields

The longstanding ongoing issues relating to the 30 mph road sign, street lighting, and the proposed bus stop, and further to the most recent email correspondence with DCC Highways (copy previously circulated to Members), were discussed.

A discussion took place on the various issues.

Regarding the 30 mph road sign it was proposed by Cllr C Lee that measurement of the road in relation to the signage should be done and a risk assessment carried out; when this has been carried out a meeting with Cllr James McInnes, Simon Phillips (DCC) and Darryl Jagger (DCC) should be arranged, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs C Burrow, and there were 12 votes in favour, therefore the proposal was carried.

Regarding the street lighting and proposed bus stop, it was proposed by Cllr Mrs C Burrow that in the light the contents of an e-mail from Simon Phillips dated 6th December 2017.

Bus stop.

Similar factors prevail with the bus stop. Our Development Control Officer would have made a 'good faith / best intentions' response based on the evidence he had available at the time. It is unfortunate if he did not fully appreciate the status of the land opposite, but that is the situation we are in. The developer has a signed and sealed Section 106 Agreement that requires them to provide the bus stop (whether or not they can within the land available). If they cannot provide it, they must apply to the Planning Authority to vary that requirement in the first instance and we would have to consider the application, and the Town Council would be consulted for their views. It is not a matter for the Highway Authority (DCC) to acquire land for a developer to enable them to satisfy their Section 106 requirements and as such we are unable to assist in this respect.

In summary; the lights meet the requirements for a 30mph road; the pavement issues will be addressed by DCC either when the tree is removed or when we receive confirmation from the Town Council that it is not going to be removed; the bus stop issue is one the developer needs to address with the Planning Authority.

As such a meeting with DCC would not stand to resolve any of these issues.

And an Extract from e-mail dated 20th November 2017

Unfortunately there is no room on land within the developer's control to provide a bus stop and lander, particularly on the opposite side of the road where they don't own the land. We understand that this is in the agreement but it was always apparent that there were going to be difficulties with providing it. Whilst DCC are doing their best in relation to this matter, we have to be realistic and it's unlikely we are going to be able to make this happen despite everyone's wishes.

That we should contact the Section 106 Monitoring Officer asking that they pursue an alternative site for the bus stop. This was seconded by Cllr Ms J Trehwhitt, and there were 12 votes in favour, therefore the proposal was carried.

10. North Tawton Town Council Parking/Traffic Sub-Committee

A discussion took place regarding the formation of a sub-committee of Councillors to deal with parking and traffic issues.

It was proposed by Cllr Ms J Trehwhitt that a sub-committee of both Councillors and the public be formed, which was later amended.

Cllr S Whiteley commented that he thought that the sub-committee should be just Councillors. Cllr S Whiteley further commented that the Neighbourhood Plan Project Group now only had two Councillors and the rest of the members were non-councillors. Cllr S Whiteley felt that members of the public interested on joining the sub-committee should be vetted by the full Council.

2 members of the public left the meeting.

A further proposal was made by Cllr R Aplin that a sub-committee is set up with the authority to co-opt members of the public to discuss problems of traffic and parking; that the full Council should be informed who is on the sub-committee and the sub-committee should be 50/50 councillors/public. The sub-committee was to consist of:

Cllr S Whiteley (Chair)
Cllr C Lee

Cllr Mrs R Davies
Cllr Ms J Trehitt

Cllr R Aplin

This was seconded by Cllr Ms J Trehitt, a vote of 12 in favour, therefore the proposal was carried.

11. Royal Garden Party – Buckingham Palace – 5th June 2018

A discussion took place but there was no nomination of a representative of North Tawton Town Council and guest/companion to attend the Royal Garden Party on 5th June 2018.

12. Draft Local Government Finance Settlement 2018 – 2019

The information received regarding the Local Government Finance Settlement 2018 – 2019 was noted.

13. PLANNING MATTERS

To note decisions of West Devon Borough Council

13.1

Application No.:

3336/17/PAT

Proposal:

Prior notification of proposed development by telecommunications code systems operators for installation of 21m lattice mast with ground mounted power cabinet and generator, enclosed by 1m high fence.

Location:

Lower Nichols Nymett Farm, North Tawton, EX20 2BW

Applicant:

Airband Community Internet Ltd.

Decision:

Refused Prior Approval 5th December 2017

Noted.

13.2

Application No.:

3254/17/OPA

Proposal:

Outline Planning Application with all matters reserved for residential development of two dwellings

Location:

Land adjacent to Richina Drive, North Tawton, EX20 2EA

Applicant:

Mr R Browne

Decision

Conditional Consent 14th December 2017

Noted.

13.3 – see above.

14. FINANCE

14.1 Invoices – Cllr Mrs K Tizard proposed approval of payment of the relevant invoices and other payments, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs R Davies and there were 12 votes in favour, therefore the proposal was carried.

14.2 Monthly statement – Cllr Ms J Trehwitt proposed approval of the monthly statement, and approval of the relevant bank transfers to allow payments to be made. This was seconded by Cllr K Hodge and there were 12 votes in favour, therefore the proposal was carried.

14.3 OkeRail

After taking advice from DALC Councillors are to note that the Town Council is making a donation of £100 to OkeRail and is not becoming a Member of OkeRail.
Noted.

15. Questions/Comments from members of the public

No members of the public were present at this stage.

16. Parish Matters

Cllr Miss B Rice raised concern about the running water at the end of Yeo Lane and when it freezes who is responsible for spreading salt. Cllr S Whiteley pointed out that anyone can use the salt in the salt bins, and this problem is caused by a spring in the field about Yeo Lane.

Cllr R Aplin enquired about the Councils Together meeting being organised by Okehampton Town Council on the 24th January 2018. Cllr S Whiteley stated that at a recent meeting with the Leader of West Devon Borough Council it was discussed that Town Councils within the Borough should have regular meetings. The Clerk was requested to ascertain when this was likely to start. In the meantime if any Councillor wanted to attend the Councils Together on the 24th January to inform the Clerk.

An item would be placed on the agenda for February.

17. Date of next meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council shall be Tuesday 6th February 2018.

Part I of the meeting ended at 9.10 pm.

PART II

EXEMPT REPORTS:

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by S.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

1. A quotation for the replacement of the railings in the Memorial Park was received. It was proposed by Mrs K Tizard that the quotation be accepted in principle. The Clerk was to obtain a quotation for the work to the stone walling. This was seconded by Cllr M Fisher, and there were 12 votes in favour, therefore the proposal was carried.
2. A quotation for electrical works at the Chapel of Rest was received. It was proposed by Cllr Ms J Trehwitt to accept the quotation. This was seconded by Cllr K Hodge, and there were 12 votes in favour, therefore the proposal was carried.
3. The recent incidents of anti-social behaviour were discussed.

Cllr S Whiteley informed the Council that the new Street Sweeping/Lengthsman contractor was going to submit a quotation for the works to the pavement from Moor View Roundabout to De Bathe Cross to remove the vegetation and earth from the bottom of the bank and also the weeds on the edge of the pavement.