

NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk:
Mrs R Rice

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

Minutes of the Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on Tuesday 2nd April 2013 at 7.15 pm.

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

6 Members of the public were present.

Open Forum –

Ms A Porter addressed the Council regarding litter. She felt that the Council was giving more attention to dog fouling than litter. Ms Porter felt that the money spent on the dog warden should be spent on litter picking and street sweeping.

The Chairman pointed out to Ms Porter that the dog warden scheme and litter/street sweeping was a service provided by West Devon Borough Council. The Chairman appreciated that there was a problem. It was pointed out that if there was a specific area that was a problem it should be reported to West Devon Borough Council, the Clerk would pass on any complaints to West Devon Borough Council. The Clerk was requested to contact the Monitoring Officer at West Devon requesting details on the frequency of litter picking and street sweeping and requesting the Monitoring Officer visit North Tawton to see the problem first hand. The Clerk was requested to write to businesses/traders asking if they could pick up litter etc., outside of their premises.

At this stage of the meeting the Chairman stated that Mr M Hann would be able to speak later in the meeting under Agenda Item 19.3.

1. **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs C Burrow (annual leave), Cllr Mrs G Hoggins (illness) and Cllr Mrs J Rosser (illness).
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr N Morgan declared an interest in the planning matters on the Agenda – reason: conflict of interest as Ward Member.
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 March 2013, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
 - 3.2 The minutes of the Finance meeting held at the Council Offices on Monday 18th March 2013, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
 - 3.3 The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council meeting held at the Council Offices on Monday 18th March 2013, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
4. **Updates**
 - 4.1 Chairman updated the Council on various issues:

- The door to the telephone box in The Square has now been replaced.
 - Lottery funding of £9497 has been received to be spent on the fitness training in the park and Nanny Nights.
 - There is a Community Safety Partnership meeting on the 25th April 2013. Anyone interested in attending please contact the Clerk.
 - There is to be a Dementia Week presentation in the Town Hall on 22nd May 2013.
- 4.2 Denbrook - The application to vary the noise condition has still not been submitted to West Devon Borough Council.
- 4.3 Cllr Dr P Brickley updated the Council regarding the Neighbourhood Plan project.
- The launch of the project had been well received at the Devon Heartlands Community Forum on 6th March 2013. The Project Team were grateful to Devon Heartlands for their support in facilitating this and a member of the team will try to regularly attend future meetings of this important public forum.
 - To date 18 copies of the questionnaire which had been published in the Roundabout had been received. More were expected in the coming weeks.
 - Mrs I Wareing a member of the Project Group had attended a Workshop at Lamerton which provided some useful information. It was clear from her report to the team that there was a lot of work to be done.
 - The Extraordinary Meeting on the 18th March 2013 was initially called to meet Wainhomes regarding a proposal to build on land to the south of Moor View. However following receipt of the Planning Officer's view that such an application would be premature at the present time, it was decided at the meeting to ask the Neighbourhood Plan Project Team to make initial contact with the company. On the 28th March some members of the Project Group met briefly with Wainhomes and were informed that the development company had an option on the land to the south of Moor View and that they owned more land to the south of that. The land in question is part of an area designated in West Devon's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) as being suitable for 183 dwellings. The Project Team thought it unlikely that it would be feasible for building applications to be held up for the 18 months to 2 years necessary for the completion of the town's Neighbourhood Plan and they were of the opinion that any application received by the Council in the near future, from Wainhomes or from any other source, would be better handled by the Council under existing arrangements. They thought that as time goes on, as the project comes closer to fruition, that situation would probably change.
 - On the wider issue of the desirability of the Town Council having a Neighbourhood Plan, Cllr Dr P Brickley explained that Council has a choice. We can choose not to carry on with the Neighbourhood Plan, and then we would remain simply consultees for any applications submitted, but if we continue and succeed with the project, we can influence the planning process in the future, and achieve for town a balance between

appropriate housing, jobs, shops, amenities, the preservation of the environment and infrastructure in the years ahead.

- He reported that one member of the Project Team had unfortunately resigned and that consideration would be given to whether to replace that person or not.
- On 2nd April 2013 both Cllr Dr P Brickley and Cllr S Blood attended a planning workshop at Kilworthy Park. After this session they met Rebecca Black, the Project's Strategic Planning Adviser, who suggested that we should go ahead with the Neighbourhood Plan now that the Terms of Reference had been submitted to West Devon. She also indicated that we should have our first working meeting (as distinct from the launch) with the community as soon as possible. We should also, she said, carry out a 'call for sites' which would effectively begin the detailed consultation process. A 'call for sites' does not require a land owner to commit to an application for building consent, nor does it imply any opinion on the part of the Council or the Project Team about the desirability of planning development for the site concerned. It merely shows the areas of the parish, which may in the future be the subject of planning applications.

She expressed the view that the timing and scope of Wainhomes' plans for the land at Barton Hill is very different from that of the Plan project and in her opinion it is best to avoid the one setting the agenda for the other. Cllr Dr P Brickley said that this advice had supported the Project Team's view that it would be sound policy not to try to hold up all planning while the Plan is being prepared.

Rebecca Black also indicated that we should start using the Neighbourhood Plan Toolkit (Plan-It) now published by West Devon and she offered to help us with this, with a visit to the team at an appropriate time.

- Cllr. Dr Brickley gave his apologies for the length of his report and he thanked members of the Team for their hard work in responding so readily to the need for an increased frequency of meetings.

- 4.4 A brief update regarding the proposed recycling project was given. A meeting had been held with Jane Savage from West Devon Borough Council which was quite positive. The possibility of using the recycling shed opposite the Copper Key would be investigated. A payment of £50 per ton of plastic would be paid by West Devon Borough Council to North Tawton Town Council.

The Chairman stated that at the last Council meeting the matter of members of the public speaking during the meeting was raised. The Chairman stated that if Standing Orders were suspended this should be allowed, but he proposed that at the end of each meeting members of the public should be allowed to ask questions. The Clerk pointed out that as this was not an agenda item a resolution could not be made and also that the Standing Orders would need to be amended. The Clerk was requested to place an item on the agenda for the next meeting on 7th May 2013.

5. **Ongoing issues**

The 'Action Log' was updated:

- Trees in Churchyard – an e-mail would be sent to Georgina Browne regarding the lime trees.
- Market Street Junction/Traffic Speeds – other highway issues – another e-mail would be sent to Rhys Davies.
- TAP funding - £4,600 funding has been approved for a Parish Lengthsman for North Tawton/Chagford/South Tawton. Also £625 funding has been approved for the Okehampton and District Community Transport Group.

6. **Dog Fouling/Street Sweeping**

The matter of dog fouling and street sweeping was discussed in the open forum and it was resolved that the Clerk should write to West Devon Borough Council requesting a schedule of proposed street sweeping/litter picking and also requesting that the Monitoring Officer should visit North Tawton with the Clerk to see the problem first hand.

7. **Big Lottery Fund**

The information received regarding Big Lottery Fund, previously circulated, was discussed and it was resolved that the matter should be dealt with by Devon Heartlands.

8. **Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service – Draft Plan (2013/14 – 2014/15 Consultation)**

The correspondence received from Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, previously circulated, was noted.

9. **South Western Ambulance Services Right Care Initiative**

The correspondence received from South West Ambulance Service previously circulated, was noted.

10. **Defibrillator**

The correspondence received from the South West Ambulance Service, previously circulated, was discussed. After some discussion it was resolved that Joe Jensen from the South West Ambulance Service should be invited to attend the Annual Town Meeting on the 13th May 2013 to give a presentation on the community public access defibrillator scheme. The Clerk was requested to obtain information regarding insurance and electricity usage.

11. **Western Power Distribution**

The invitation received from Western Power Distribution to a Stakeholder Workshop to be held at Exeter Racecourse on 24th April 2013, previously circulated, was noted. If any Councillor wished to attend the Workshop would they please contact the Clerk?

12. **Devon Playing Fields Association**

The information contained in the letter received regarding the Devon Playing Fields Association, previously circulated, was noted.

13. **Temporary Road Closure**

The Temporary Road Closure for approximately 2 or 3 days between 10th June 2013 – 31st August 2013 – North Street, North Tawton, previously circulated, was noted.

14. West Devon Borough Council – Planning Consultations

The two planning consultations being carried out by West Devon Borough Council previously circulated regarding:

1. South and South West of Tavistock Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document
2. Assessing the Impact of New Retail Development in West Devon Supplementary Planning Document

These consultations were noted.

15. Welfare Reform Briefing Paper

The Welfare Reform Briefing Paper, previously circulated, was noted.

16. St Peter's Church Yard, North Tawton

Cllr S Whitely reported that Cllrs Dr P Brickley, I MacLeod, and himself had met Rev'd Weldon. After inspection it was agreed that some work was needed to the cobbles. Before an inspection of the cobbles could be made the Clerk was requested to arrange for mud and debris to be cleared from the cobbles. A specialist tradesman would then be asked to inspect the cobbles to ascertain what work was required. The Clerk was requested to obtain information on whether a Faculty would be required and also to get advice from Golden Leaf about spraying the cobbles and scarifying.

17. Summer Flowers

The Clerk reported that she had received one expression of interest in providing the summer flowers for the tubs and hanging baskets. The Clerk was requested to obtain a price.

18. Golden Leaf Landscaping report

The March report had not been received from Golden Leaf Landscaping, they had indicated that this would be available for the next meeting.

Cllr N Morgan left the meeting at this stage and Cllr D P Brickley took the Chair.

19. PLANNING MATTERS

To consider the planning applications received from West Devon Borough Council and to make recommendations.

19.1 00192/2013

Listed Building Application for replacement Front Door
21 North Street, North Tawton

After some discussion it was resolved to support the application

19.2 00241/2013

Devon County Application for renewal of temporary permission for a single storey, timber clad, prefabricated and portable structure for use as a sheltered outdoor learning/activity facility

North Tawton Primary School, Exeter Street, North Tawton
After some discussion it was resolved to support the application

19.3 00223/2013 Change of use of A1 shop to residential (one room)
Fountain Inn, Exeter Street, North Tawton

At the beginning of the meeting The Chairman had agreed to allow Mr Hann to speak to the Council regarding this application.

Mr M Hann stated the room was going to be used for living accommodation in conjunction with a room above.

After some discussion it was resolved to support the application provided that the room would be used for living accommodation in conjunction with a room above.

19.4 00254/2013 Householder application for erection of garden shed
Essington Lodge, Essington Road, North Tawton

After some discussion it was resolved to support the application

To note Appeal Lodged

19.5 02715/2012

Devonshire House Surgery, Essington, North Tawton, EX20 2EX
Ground floor extension to existing surgery to provide A1 retail for pharmacy and access improvements.

Appeal lodged 12/3/13

Noted.

To note decisions of West Devon Borough Council

19.6 02914/2012

Land Adjacent to Shellsley, Webbs Orchard, North Tawton
Erection of 3 detached dwellings, access and external works
Refused 15/3/13

Noted.

19.7 00052/2013

5 Gostwyck Close, North Tawton, EX20 2HR

Householder application for removal of existing conservatory and erection of conservatory

Conditional Consent 7/3/13

Noted.

19.8 00127/2013

Butts Farm, Barton Street, North Tawton, EX20 2HH

Change of use of land to residential use and erection of detached garage for use ancillary to dwelling approved under application 03115/2012

Conditional Consent 15/3/13

Noted.

At this pointed Cllr N Morgan returned to the meeting as Chair, and thanked Cllr Dr P Brickley for taking the Chair for the planning matters.

20. FINANCE

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

Cllr S Whiteley proposed that the subscription for DALC should not be paid, as he was concerned about the level of service that they provided. The proposal not to pay the subscription was not seconded, and the cheque for the subscription was therefore signed.

20.2 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.

21. Any other business

Councillors were reminded that there was to be a Devon Heartlands meeting on Wednesday 3rd April 2013.

Cllr Dr P Brickley informed the Council that he had been approached by Mr G Cawse to undertake an evaluation on the progress of works in the Memorial Park.

22. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Council shall be 7th May 2013. This meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.