

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 5th February 2013 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
Cllrs Mrs D Rice Cllr S Whiteley

4 Members of the public were present

AGENDA

Open Forum –

Trish Carrington from Peninsula Waste Management addressed the Council. Trish Carrington was requested to address the Council following an article in the Okehampton Times regarding Winkleigh Community Recycling Group. Winkleigh Community Recycling Group had set up a scheme whereby members of the community collected recycling materials that could not be collected by Torridge District Council. Once a month Peninsula Waste Management collected these materials, which had previously been sorted, from one collection point in Winkleigh. Trish Carrington explained that almost anything can be recycled, the community needs the will to be green and environmental aware. She explained that there were 50+ types of plastic and only some types can be recycled together, so the recycling waste must be segregated and clean.

Members asked questions which included:

- How do collections get done? The community could be provided with containers and then a collection could be made from a central collection point, every 6 weeks or so, probably a weekend collection would be best.
- Do you collect drink cartons? Not at present, but unsquashed drink cartons can be made into bird feeds.
- Do you charge for this service? no we do not charge community groups;

Members agreed that they did not want to compromise the recycling collections made by West Devon Borough Council but would like to explore the idea of recycling collections for other recycling that West Devon Borough Council does not collect. Trish Carrington was asked for a list of the types of recycling that Peninsula Waste Management can collect.

Members felt that a small working group would be set up to explore the idea. Cllr Mrs C Burrow, Cllr S Blood (also as part of the Environmental Trust) and Cllr Dr P Brickley would be part of the working group and report back to Council.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs A Ponsford (illness).
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None were made at this stage.

3. Recycling Project – Peninsula Waste Savers Limited

Following the presentation by Trish Carrington it was resolved that Cllr Mrs C Burrow, Cllr Dr P Brickley and Cllr S Blood should explore this matter further and report back to Council.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

4.1 The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on Tuesday 8th January 2013, previously circulated were agreed and signed, with the addition of “There were 4 members of the public present”.

5. Updates

5.1 The Chairman to update the Council on various issues

- A letter of thanks had been received from the Citizens Advice Bureau in Okehampton for the grant that the Town Council had made.
- West Devon Borough Council tax support system.

5.2 Cllr Mrs J Rosser updated the Council on the Den Brook Community Council.

- RES have asked West Devon Borough Council whether a “Scoping Opinion” is required regarding the submission of the application to vary the noise condition. West Devon Borough Council has said yes a “Scoping Opinion” must be submitted. There are issues on archaeology, safety on roads, but Cllr Mrs J Rosser is of the opinion that they will submit an application, there would have to be an amendment to the Environmental Impact Assessment, and they have spent too much money to pull out now. The current planning permission expires in December 2013.

5.3 Cllr Dr P Brickley updated the Council regarding the Neighbourhood Plan project. The terms of reference has been drawn up and would have to be agreed by the Planning and Estates Committee. An item had been put on the agenda at the Devon Heartlands Community Forum to be held on Wednesday 6th March 2013. In future presentations and public meetings would be held in the evenings or Saturdays. A double sided page information and questionnaire was to be placed in the March edition of the Roundabout, which would include an introduction to the Neighbourhood Plan project and asking for comments, volunteers for face to face comments, in particular organisations. In future Roundabout editions the focus will be on particular topics each month.

6. Ongoing Issues

The ‘Action Log’ was updated

- Barton Street Light – it was reported that the light had been installed. The Clerk was requested to check whether this was the case or not.
- TAP fund applications had been submitted, one with Chagford and South Tawton Parish Council for Parish Lengthsman, and one with Winkleigh, Sampford Courtenay and Okehampton for Okehampton Community Transport.
- A letter had been sent to Rhys Davies regarding various highways issues.

7. Basketball Hoop – Memorial Park

After some discussion it was resolved that the Basketball Hoop should be replaced, (once only), at an estimated cost of £100. The Clerk was requested to contact Mr Geoff Cawse.

8. Procedure for urgent items on the agenda

After some discussion it was resolved that agenda items “Urgent Matters at the Discretion of the Chairman” should be replaced with Any Other Business. As a courtesy Councillors are requested, if possible, to notify the Clerk or Chairman prior to the commencement of the meeting.

9. Annual West Devon Mayoral Awards

After some discussion it was resolved that should any Councillor consider that someone should be nominated for the Annual West Devon Mayor Awards they should contact the Clerk by the 28th February.

10. Best Kept Village Competition 2012 & Pam Parker Village Map Awards

After some discussion it was resolved that North Tawton Town Council would not enter this competition. The Clerk informed the Council that she had forwarded details of the Pam Parker Village Map Awards to the Primary School. It was further resolved that should any children from the Primary School enter this competition that the Town Council would give each child a small award.

11. Buckingham Palace Garden Parties

After some discussion it was resolved that Cllr Mrs G Hoggins, as the longest serving Councillor, should be nominated to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on the 6th June 2013.

12. Casual Vacancies on DALC County Committee 2011 – 2015

After some discussion no Councillor wished to be considered to be nominated for DALC County Committee.

13. Community Forum – 6th March 2013

After some discussion it was resolved that Cllr I MacLeod, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, should represent North Tawton Town Council at the Community Forum to be held on 6th March 2013 at the Community Centre, Barton Street, North Tawton, regarding the Precept for 2013/14.

14. Summer Flower Baskets and Tubs

A letter had received from Granny’s Meadow stating that they would no longer be able to provide the flowers for the baskets and tubs. After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should include an article in the Roundabout for March 2013 asking if anyone would be interested in providing the flowers and planting up the baskets and troughs that they should write to the Clerk expressing an interest.

15. North Tawton Town Hall – Water Damage

The Clerk updated the Council Clerk regarding the ownership of the path running from The Square to the Church Yard. The Clerk has visited the Devon Records Office, but there was no record showing the owners of the path. However, Mrs J Shields had provided a map from the 1700’s which clearly showed that before the Town Hall was built there were cottages on the site with gardens running upto The Church Yard. There was a gate shown in

the same position as the current gate, which, in the Clerk's opinion shows that the path is not within the curtilage of the Church Yard, and therefore not the responsibility of the Town Council.

After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should write to the Town Hall Management Committee stating that it is the Town Council's opinion that the path is not the responsibility of the Town Council. Also it should be pointed out to the Town Hall Management Committee, that, with respect, the downpipes and drains on both side elevations of the Town Hall appear to be blocked and silted up, and it was also suggested that the sump pump and outlet is checked to ensure that it is not blocked.

16. Golden Leaf Landscaping report

The January report received from Golden Leaf Landscaping was noted. It was noted from the report that dog fouling had become an issue in the Park. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to someone exercising their dog in the Park, pointing out that dogs were only allowed on the lower path, were not allowed on the path from Barton Street to High Street and were not allowed on the grassed area. The Clerk was requested to obtain new signs to be erected in the park.

PLANNING MATTERS

17. Planning Appeal

17.1 02875/2012

The Anchorage, 33 High Street, North Tawton, EX20 2HG
Retrospective householder application for addition of uPVC cladding to property.
Refused by WDBC
Appeal lodged
Noted

18. To note decisions of West Devon Borough Council

18.1 03265/2012

Land at SS659007 (The Barton), North Tawton
Change of use of land to equestrian and construction of sand school for equestrian purposes.
Conditional consent 16/1/13
Noted

18.1 03286/2012

Fountain Inn, Exeter Street, North Tawton, EX20 2HN
Conversion of loft space to create two flats
Conditional consent 24/1/13
Noted

19. Proposed new gate – Footpath No 9

The Clerk read out a letter received from Robert Hicks on behalf of the tenant farmer. The letter stated that the tenant farmer objected to the Town Council installing a new self-closing gate beside the existing field gate on Footpath No 9 at Taw Bridge.

After some discussion the Clerk was requested to send a letter to Robert Hicks advising him that the Town Council is very keen to improve the access

to this footpath, to give easier access for the disabled, and to try and negotiate a compromise. The Clerk was also requested to pursue the matter further with Devon County Council to see if they are willing to be involved with our negotiations with the tenant farmer.

20. FINANCE

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

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.

20.3 Bank Mandate

All Councillors signed the new bank mandate. It was resolved that the Clerk should be added as a signatory for cheques, as this will then enable her to obtain statements etc., from the Bank. It was further resolved that if the Clerk is a signatory on a cheque that there should also be two councillors sign the cheque as well.

20.4 Financial Regulations

After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk and the Chairman of the Finance Committee should explore the possibility of opening a deposit account with another bank in Okehampton.

21. Urgent matters at discretion of Chairman – No urgent items were raised.

22. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Council shall be 5th March 2013.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.