

# NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk:  
Mrs R Rice

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

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the **Council Offices** on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013** at **7.30 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

12 Members of the public were present.

**Open Forum** – No members of the public raised any matters.

1. **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs A Ponsford (previous engagement), Cllr Mrs C Burrow (holiday), Cllr Mrs J Rosser (sickness) and Cllr S Whiteley (previous engagement).
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllrs N Morgan and Cllr S Blood declared an interest in Item 14 (Community Right to Bid).
3. **Updates**
  - 3.1 The Chairman updated the Council on:
    - Boundary Commission Review of Wards – North Tawton Ward is one of the larger wards in West Devon, so the review may reduce the size of the ward; may increase the size of the ward but having two ward members. Await the proposals before we can comment.
    - Taw Bridge – we have been notified that essential works are proposed to be carried out to the bridge in April 2014, which will mean the bridge will be closed for several weeks 24 hours per day. A meeting is proposed with the Devon County Council Contractors. Cllr N Morgan, Cllr Mrs G Hoggins, Cllr Dr P Brickley stated they would like to attend the meeting. The Clerk was requested to contact the contractors regarding this meeting, and request that the meeting takes place in North Tawton rather than Exeter as the contractors were proposing.
    - The Town Council has been informed that Inspector Any Oliver has been appointed the new inspector for West Devon. The Clerk had invited Inspector Oliver to attend the Annual Town Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013, but unfortunately he was on leave. The Clerk was requested to invite Inspector Oliver to a future meeting of the Town Council.
    - An e-mail of thanks had been received from the Okehampton and District Community Transport Group for the TAP fund recently sent to them.
  - 3.2 Cllr Dr P Brickley updated on the Den Brook Community Council meetings. Cllr Dr P Brickley stated that the Forum was in “limbo” at the moment. It has

been suggested that the Forum oppose the recent planning application to change the noise condition, but it was felt that this was not in the remit of the Forum. Opposition to this planning application was the roll of the Den Brook Judicial Review Group.

3.3 Cllr Dr. P Brickley updated the Council regarding the Neighbourhood Plan project. A presentation was given at the Annual Town Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013. The “call for sites” process had commenced, to date no applications have been received. Discussion with Wainhomes and the developers for the Eco Park were planned. The Neighbourhood Plan process can take up to 18 months to complete. Two applications were imminent, but the Group feel that the Neighbourhood Plan Project is longer and broader than these proposals. The Project Group was fact gathering for the Planning Committee. The Group was being divided up to undertake specific roles. The application to designate the area for the Neighbourhood Plan was currently in the consultation stage, deadline for comments being 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013, a decision was expected in June, following this West Devon Borough Council can bid for funding.

3.4 Recycling project – nothing further to report at this stage.

3.5 Mr G Cawse updated the Council on the Lottery Bid application. Inspections of the walls etc., had been carried out, this had been done using Mr R Hicks’ recent report. The next stage was to prioritise works; a rate per square meter would be sought. Some immediate works had been identified in the Church Yard. A tender process would be commenced for the stonewalling, clock face, and some ground works. With regard the railings in the Memorial Park, a decision had to be made whether replacing the railings with like-for-like, or more elaborate style railing, and whether to move the railings to the inside of the car park or leave where they are currently situated. The Council will need to organise a meeting to decide the best way forward. The Clerk was requested to contact the Conservation Officer at West Devon Borough Council.

A request for funding had been received from Mr A Parkinson for a history project, but this would be considered by the Durant Trust.

Cllr S Blood joined the meeting at 7.50 pm.

#### **4. Ongoing issues**

The ‘Action Log’ was amended as follows:

- Access gate to infant play park – Mr G Cawse indicated that the work would be completed by next week.
- TAP funding – an e-mail received from Mr J Shields regarding the footpath from De Bathe Cross to The Railway was read out to the Council by the Clerk. The Clerk was requested to send a letter of thanks to Mr J Shields.
- E-mail received from Rhys Davis at Devon County Council was read out to the Council. The Clerk was requested to request that Rhys Davis attends a future meeting of the Council. The matter of the 30 mph speed limit starting very close to the roundabout at Moor View should also be raised.
- E-mail received from Jill Skelton at West Devon Borough Council was read out to the Council.

**5. Temporary Road Closures**

Details of Temporary Road Closures were noted.

- Slade – Staddon Moor – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013 – 31 August 2013 (for 3 days during this period).
- A3124 (from Langmead Farm to Culm Cross) – 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013
- North Street, North Tawton – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013
- Exeter Street, North Tawton 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2013

The Clerk was requested to ascertain the details of the pavements works on North Street and Exeter Street.

**6. Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Plaque**

The quotation and details for the Plaque to be affixed to the Jubilee Clock, previously circulated, was discussed and it was resolved that the quotation and details be accepted.

**7. Devon Heartlands Community Forum**

The schedule of meeting dates for the Community Forum, previously circulated, was noted.

**8. WDBC Planning Workshop – Enforcement – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

Details of the WDBC Planning Workshop focusing on enforcement to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013 10 am – 1 pm, were discussed and it was resolved that Cllr S Blood and Cllr Dr P Brickley should attend. Cllr Mrs G Hoggins indicated that Cllr Mrs C Burrow may also be interested in attending.

**9. Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum**

The campaign “CLEAR Advantages to being prepared for an emergency”, previously circulated was noted and it was resolved that the Council’s Emergency Plan should be reviewed.

**10. Keep North Tawton Tidy**

Details of “Keep Okehampton Tidy” previously circulated were discussed. It was resolved that North Tawton should promote a “Keep North Tawton Tidy” campaign, and the Clerk was requested to write to the Governors at North Tawton Primary School to ascertain whether or not they were willing to become involved.

**11. St Peter’s Church Yard, North Tawton**

Cllr I MacLeod updated the Council regarding the cobbles in St Peter’s Church Yard. Cllrs MacLeod, Brickley and Whiteley had met Mark Lawrence on site and requested a quotation for some minor works to the cobbles. These minor works did not require a Faculty. The quotation submitted by Mark Lawrence for the minor works was considered

Cllr Mrs G Hoggins felt that other quotations should be requested, but this was not agreed.

The quotation submitted by Mark Lawrence was agreed.

**12. Rural Communities Broadband Fund**

The details of the Rural Community Broadband Fund, previously circulated, was considered. It was resolved that North Tawton Town Council should express an interest. The Clerk was requested to include an article in the Roundabout advising users of broadband to also express an interest.

**13. Community Council of Devon**

Details received from the Community Council of Devon which now incorporates the Devon Association of Community Buildings and Devon Playing Fields Association, previously circulated was discussed. It was agreed that the annual subscription of £50 should be paid.

**14. Community Right to Bid**

Details regarding the Community Right to Bid – Rail track from Meldon to the West Devon border at North Tawton, previously circulated were discussed.

Cllr S Blood outlined details of this process to the Council. Aggregate Industries own the railway line; they have indicated that they may sell the line. Under the Localism Act we can register assets with WDBC, which allows if the asset is put up for sale, it guarantees the local community the right to bid. The community would have 6 months to raise the funds.

Devon Heartlands have registered this with West Devon Borough Council and Mid Devon District Council.

Cllrs N Morgan and Cllr S Blood did not vote on the resolution.

Following some discussion it was agreed that North Tawton Town Council should support the application to list the Rail track from Meldon to the West Devon border at North Tawton as an Asset of Community Value

**15. Golden Leaf Landscaping report**

The Clerk updated the Council on the work that Golden Leaf had carried out during the month of April. Weed spraying/hoeing was to be commenced shortly. Golden Leaf reported that they cut the grass at the end of Moor View, but the following day WDBC's contractors also cut the grass. The Clerk had contacted WDBC regarding the frequency of their contractors cutting this area of grass. After some discussion it was agreed that Golden Leaf should be asked to continue cutting the grass when they cut the Memorial Park Grass and the Clerk was requested to contact WDBC to try and negotiate altering their contractors schedule for this area to another area within the parish.

**16. PLANNING MATTERS**

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

**16.1 00313/2013 –**

12 Barton Hill, North Tawton, EX20 2HQ

Householder application for erection of 2 storey side extension  
After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

**16.2 00309/2013 –**

**17 Strawberry Fields, North Tawton, EX20 2GX –**

Householder application for erection of first floor extension over existing garage  
After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

**16.3 00403/2013 –**

Land adjacent to Barkers Way, Barkers Way, North Tawton  
Variation of condition 17 attached to planning consent 02603/2012 relating to compliance with approved plans.  
After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

**16.4 00392/2013**

Land adjacent to Den Brook, North Tawton – Notes of a meeting held on 6/3/13 which may be useful  
Variation of condition 20 of planning permission 8250/2005/OKE (appeal reference APP/Q1153/A/06/2017162) relating to amplitude modulation.  
After some discussion it was resolved that Councillors felt that RES's proposed variations to the extant AM noise Condition 20 flies directly in the face of the Inspector's intended levels of AM noise control which underpinned his decision to approve the wind farm, as ruled by the Appeal Court and to object to the proposal.

**16.5 00431.2013 –**

Land to rear of Letherens, Fore Street, North Tawton  
Part retrospective application for the erection of an agricultural building for general storage.  
After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

**16.6 00423/2013 –**

Nichols Court, North Tawton, EX20 2BP  
Proposed covered yard  
After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

**To consider the planning application received from Mid Devon District Council and to make recommendations.**

**16.7 13/00541/FULL**

NGR 268849 104721 Manns Newton Farm, Zeal Monachorum  
Erection of a 500 kw wind turbine with a maximum hub height of 50m and a maximum tip height of 77m with association works and formation of access track.  
After some discussion it was resolved that the Town Council should neither support or object to the application (a neutral response).

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

**16.8 00056/2013**

Cider Cottage, Yeo Farm, Yeo Lane, North Tawton, EX20 2DD  
Change of use of first floor garage level to form bedrooms and a bathroom to serve the existing holiday let.  
Conditional Consent 21/3/13  
Noted

**16.9 00057/2013**

Cider Cottage, Yeo Farm, Yeo Lane, North Tawton, EX20 2DD  
Listed Building Consent application for change of use of first floor garage level to form bedrooms and a bathroom to serve the existing holiday let.  
Conditional Consent 21/3/13  
Noted

**16.10 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  
Conditional Consent 12/4/13 (Ten years)  
Noted

**16.11 00192/2013**

Listed Building Application for replacement Front Door  
21 North Street, North Tawton  
Condition consent 22/4/13  
Noted

**16.12 00282/2013**

Wildridge, North Tawton, EX20 2DQ  
Prior Approval application for agricultural equipment storage building  
No objections 24/4/13  
Noted

**16.3 00283/2013**

Wildridge, North Tawton, EX20 2DQ  
Prior Approval application for agricultural storage building  
No objections 24/4/13  
Noted

**17. Any other business**

Members were reminded of the exhibition due to take place in the Town Hall on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013 regarding the proposed Eco Park.

A member of public raised asked why "Any Questions" was not on the agenda. The Clerk pointed out that the Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013 had not been agreed yet.

**18. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council shall be 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm