

NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk:
Mrs R Rice

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 3RD DECEMBER 2013** at **7.30 pm**.

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

Open Forum – No members of the public raised and issues.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – All members were present.

2. **Declarations of Interest** None were made 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 Wednesday 6th November 2013, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

3.2 The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held in the Town Hall on Tuesday 12th November 2013, previously circulated, were agreed and signed, subject to the following amendments:

Page 2 – to amend as follows ~~WDBC's SHLAA is now off the radar, there is not now the need for 183 dwellings.~~ we have been advised by WDBC that their SHLAA does not require 183 houses in North Tawton.

Page 2 – the words “without needing a new school” to be inserted after “Cllr Dr P Brickley confirmed that a meeting had been held with the Head Teacher from the Primary School and the school can accommodate new housing”.

Page 3 – the words “and that will be a decision for the town to make through the Neighbourhood Plan public consultation” after the words “New Road – Cllr Dr P Brickely stated that the new road could only be built if a significant number of houses were approved”.

4. **Replacement of Railings – Memorial Park**

Apologies were received from Mr Geoff Cawse who was due to attend the meeting to update the Council on the proposed replacement of the Railings on the eastern boundary of the Memorial Park. Mr Geoff Cawse had notified the Clerk that he had approached the Heritage Lottery and they confirmed that funding for replacement railings as an individual item would not be acceptable as a funded item from them.

5. **Updates**

5.1 The Chairman updated the Council on various issues.

- A thank you letter had been received from the Citizens Advice Bureau for the grant of £100.
 - Confirmation had been received from Cllr J McInnes that the proposed road closure from Green Hill Cross to Jacobstowe would now be a contraflow system.
 - Following another incident in Barton Street when a lorry pulled down guttering, the Clerk had contacted Devon County Council. The response from Devon County Council was because of budget constraints a bollard could not be installed to prevent this happening again. The Clerk was requested to contact the new Highways Officer at Devon County Council requesting that he review the situation.
 - Mobile signal coverage – the Chairman pointed out to members that if you are in a situation and need to dial 999 or 112 that the mobile phone companies now have a system that will connect you even if you do not have a mobile phone signal.
 - The Chairman stated that he had written to Mel Stride MP regarding Wildlife Farming. Mel Stride MP had responded stated that he fully supports Wildlife Farming and was part of a group set up to look at this matter.
 - The Chairman had spoken to Lisa Buckle, Head of Finance, WDBC, regarding Localisation of Council Tax Grant and how town and parish councils were suffering. Lisa Buckle was going to take up this matter. NALC have also been in consultation with the Government.
 - WDBC have published their charges for emptying litter and dog waste bins for next year.
Litter bins would now be £1.00 per bin, being increased from 63p.
Dog waste bins would now be £1.15 per bin, being increased from £1.04.
 - The joint TAP fund application with Chagford Parish Council to supplement the street sweeping had been agreed. Both parishes would receive £2,000.00. The Clerk was requested to put up notices of the job vacancy.
 - An e-mail response (circulated to Members) had been received following the complaint to Devon County Council on the resurfacing of North Street.
- 5.2 There had been no Den Brook Community Council meetings since the last Town Council meeting.
- 5.3 Cllr Dr. P Brickley gave a brief update regarding the Neighbourhood Plan project:
- The questionnaires would be distributed the 2nd or 3rd week in January.
 - There was to be a catch up meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Project Group on Wednesday 4th December 2013.
 - There was to be a meeting to go through call for sites assessments that members of the Neighbourhood Plan Project Group had completed.
- 5.4 Cllr S Blood gave a brief update regarding the Lottery Bid application. – Information received from Mr Geoff Cawse, previously circulated. The draft Lottery Bid application was circulated at the meeting. Any comments should be submitted to The Clerk. Mr Cawse had not obtained any quotations for the proposed work yet. The estimated bid will be £86,000, which will be for walls

to the Church Yard Walls, Cemetery walls, park walls, and the clock face on St Peter's Church. Included in the bid were public consultation and educational elements. It would help the bid application if North Tawton Town Council would offer any match funding.

5.5 Cllr S Whiteley gave a brief update on the details on the Centenary of the start of the First World War.

- Poppy seeds were planted two weeks ago; Station Road to De Bathe Cross; either side of the avenue of Lime Trees in the Church Yard; entrance to the cemetery and on the verge past the Cheese Factory. Cllr S Whiteley thanked Richard Knott for his help and thanks to the Durant Trust for their support for the memorial stone to be placed in the Cemetery.

5.6 Cllr S Whiteley updated the Council following his attendance of the workshop organised by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) – *“Understanding Commercial Wind and Solar Power and how to respond to an application”*

- 200 people were in attendance and the workshop which lasted 3 ½ hours. At present there is no specified distance that a wind turbine can be from a domestic dwelling, but this is something that could be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. Devon County Council recommended that there should be a 2km distance between turbines and solar farms and domestic properties. At present communities are being paid £5000 per MW, and WDBC received £15000 per MW. The appeal procedure for wind farms has now been changed and the appeal goes straight to Mr Pickles, the Secretary of State. It cost £1 million pounds per turbine for it to produce £80000 worth of electricity. Wind and solar farms need an “in tandem” power station ticking over all the time. CPRE does not have a policy on fracking, but there is only one place in South Devon that would be suitable.

5.7 To receive an update from Cllr Mrs G Hoggins and Cllr Mrs C Burrow following their attendance of the workshop organised by West Devon Borough Council – *“Community Emergency Planning Workshop”*

The workshop was very rushed. Jacky Smith and Peter Dale from WDBC organised the workshop. There were representatives from the Environment Agency, Police, Fire Service, Dartmoor Rescue and the Ambulance Service. The workshop mainly concentrated on flooding. The Police suggest a hard copy of the Emergency Plan should be kept, and that trial runs should be carried out to iron out any difficulties. North Tawton Town Council needs to identify risks. It was also suggested that all properties should display signs showing the name or number of the house, as this was a real problem in rural areas. The Ambulance Service outlined the Community First Responder Service, but it was felt that this was too much responsibility. Guidance on how to draw up a plan and useful telephone numbers was given. Funding was not available, but it was suggested perhaps a TAP funding application could be made or Section 106 money. Bere Ferrers have an Emergency Plan booklet which has a big “H” on the back so that anyone that needs assistance could put this in their window to alert a problem. We already have sleeping bags, roll mats, saucepans etc., stored in the Town Hall. It was suggested

that a Working Group should be formed and the Clerk was requested to place an item on the agenda for the 14th January 2014 meeting.

6. Ongoing issues

The 'Action Log' previously circulated was updated as follows:

Market Street Junction/Traffic Speeds – other highways issues – the Clerk was requested to contact Devon County Council again.

Litter Bin – Cemetery area, Exeter Street – WDDB could supply and fit the bin for a charge of £270.00. At the previous meeting the Chairman and Vice Chairman had been delegated to authorise this.

7. Cycle Sportive – 18th May 2014

The details of the proposed cycle sportive to be held on 18th May 2014 which will be passing through the parish of North Tawton, previously circulated, were noted.

8. Electronic Cigarettes

The matter of whether the Town Council should adopt a policy regarding Electronic Cigarettes being used on Council premises was discussed. The Clerk pointed out that smoking on the premises was prohibited by Government legislations and suggested that a no smoking sign, including electronic cigarettes notice should be displayed.

9. Burial procedures

The matter of organising training for Councillors in the Burial Procedures should the Clerk or Cllr Mrs G Hoggins not be available were discussed. The Clerk was requested to arrange a training session in the New Year.

10. Golden Leaf Landscaping report for November.

The Clerk updated the Council on the work that Golden Leaf Landscaping had carried out during the month of November.

11. PLANNING MATTERS

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

11.1 01155/2013 – Report will be circulated at the meeting

59 High Street, North Tawton, EX20 2HG

Works to Trees in a Conservation Area application for the lateral reduction of the low side growth of a mature Oak by up to 2.5m back to suitable growth points, to reduce the overhand to the garden of 39 Strawberry Fields and the 2 adjoining car parking spaces.

After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

11.2 10101/2013 - Report will be circulated at the meeting

Ginger Pop Cottage, 37 Essington Lane, North Tawton, EX20 2DA

Listed Building Consent application for reinstatement of fire damaged cottage.

After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

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. Questions/Comments from members of the public

The meeting was suspended prior to Any Other Business to allow members of the public to comment/ask a question on any **agenda item only.**

Mrs C Hughes raised her objection at being volunteered as a Snow Warden, without any consultation. Mrs Hughes stated that there were lots of younger males in the area that could have been asked. Cllr S Whiteley agreed to ask other people.

The meeting was opened again.

14. Any other business

Cllr Dr P Brickley suggested that the procedure for dealing with complaints should be looked at.

Cllr Dr. P Brickley thanked the Durant Trust for the grant awarded for the Neighbourhood Plan.

A meeting of the Finance Committee should be arranged for Wednesday 8th January 2014 to discuss setting the Precept for 2014/15, which would then be presented to the Full Council on the 14th January 2013 for ratification.

Cllr Mrs C Burrow reported that a mattress had been dumped in the layby to the east of De Bathe Cross.

21. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Council shall be Tuesday 14th January 2014.

Part I of the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

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Part II of the Ordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the **Council Offices** on **TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2013**.

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

PART II EXEMPT REPORTS: Quotations

- 1. Fencing Memorial Park Car Park**
- 2. Replacement/Repair Chapel of Rest Doors**

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.

Cllr Mrs D Rice and Cllr A Gillespie declared an interest in item 2 Replacement/Repair Chapel of Rest Doors.

- 1. Fencing Memorial Park Car Park**

The Clerk reported that one quotation for the replacement of the picket fencing in the Memorial Park Car Park had been received. After some discussion it was resolved to accept the quotation, the Clerk was asked to request that the post and rail fencing should have 3 rails.

Cllr S Blood stated that North Tawton Environmental Trust may have some hedging plants that could be planted adjacent to the fence.

- 2. Replacement/Repair Chapel of Rest Doors**

The Clerk reported that one quotation for the replacement of one door to the Chapel of Rest and repairs to the double doors to the Chapel of Rest had been received. After some discussion it was resolved to accept the quotation.

Part II of the meeting ended at 8.50 pm.