

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 **Wednesday 6th November 2013** at **7.30 pm**.

Present: Cllr S Blood
Cllr Mrs G Hoggins (Chairman)
Cllr I MacLeod
Cllr S Whiteley
Cllr Mrs C Burrow
Cllr K Hodge
Cllr Mrs D Rice

Richard Jefferys and Kate Brotherton from Devon and Cornwall Housing Association were in attendance. Mr Alan Gillespie was also in attendance.

4 Members of the public were present.

Open Forum No members of the public raised and issues.

1. **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies were received from Cllr Dr P Brickley Cllr Mrs J Morgan Cllr N Morgan and Cllr Mrs A Ponsford.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None were made at this stage.
3. **Devon and Cornwall Housing Association (DCHA)**
Richard Jefferys and Kate Brotherton were in attendance at the request of the Town Council to explain their apparent alterations to their allocations policy.

Richard Jefferys explained the allocations policy and the Devon Homes Choice system of bidding for homes. The Section 106 attached the planning permission is very strict. Government legislation does restrict the ages of people sharing rooms, but the specific problem of allocation to the particular family was referred to, and although not ideal from DCHA's point of view, the family were prepared to accept it. DCHA have 10,000 homes in Devon and Cornwall and Devon Homes Choice has 30,000 people of the waiting list. Recent changes in legislation regarding the "bedroom tax" have forced DCHA to review their policies. The 11 houses at Barkers Way were allocated to 8 people currently living in North Tawton, 1 living in Bow, 1 living in South Zeal and 1 living in Okehampton. All the applicants met the criteria of the Section 106 Agreement. The DCHA was a not for profit company.

Questions from the public were raised

Internal and external inspections of the houses – there would be 2 visits within the first 12 months, if new tenants of DCHA then only external inspections.

Concern was raised about who to contact in case of any problems of anti-social behaviour etc; the DCHA Customer Contact Centre was the first point of call, the DCHA had anti-social behaviour teams.

Pets; pets were allowed with permission.

Tenancies; the tenancy agreements will be for a fixed term of 1 year and then extended to 6 years.

Barton Hill houses; there were owned by West Devon Homes.

Handover; all the houses had now been allocated and would be handed over mid December, whoever if this was not the case, because DCHA is closed for 2 weeks over the Christmas period, then handover would be early January.

Highway works; the works to the highways at the junction with Fore Street was a planning condition.

One bedroomed properties desirable; if the Town Council knew of a site that may be suitable then please contact DCHA.

Landscaping; DCHA have a grounds team and estate caretaking team.

Cllr Mrs G Hoggins thanked both Richard Jefferys and Kate Brotherton for attending.

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 1st October 2013, previously circulated were agreed and signed, with amendments: Cllr N Morgan was in attendance and 5.1 an amendment to the item 8 the word conversion was changed to conversation.

4.2 The notes of the Site Inspection meeting held at the Bowling Club on 4th October 2013, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

4.3 The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held at the Council Offices on Monday 21st October 2013, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

5. Co-Option of Councillor

Two candidates applied for Co-Option to the Council, but the Clerk reported that one had withdrawn; therefore it was resolved to Co-Opt Mr Alan Gillespie as a Councillor. The Clerk would arrange for Mr Gillespie to sign the relevant papers.

6. Updates

6.1 The Chairman updated the Council on various issues:

- Councillors were reminded that the Remembrance Service was to be held on Sunday 10th November 2013 and Councillors should meet in The Square at 10.15.

6.2 Cllr I MacLeod attended the recent Den Brook Community Council meeting. The meeting did not start well, for various reasons, the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2013 were not agreed. The Denbrook Construction Team gave a presentation, which was generic rather than confined to the Den Brook site. 600 tons of concrete would be used for each turbine base. Work has started on site so that the planning permission is kept live. No more work will be done until the AM noise problem has been sorted out, including the new road at Whiddon Down. Questions on the Community Fund were asked, the bench mark of £5,000 per MW was discussed, but RES would only pay £2,000. Proposal for local electricity scheme to qualifying households to include discounts on electricity and the money remaining would be put to the Community Fund. RES had not consulted the owners of the railway line.

6.3 Cllr Dr. P Brickley was not in attendance and there was no update regarding the Neighbourhood Plan project.

6.4 Mr Geoff Cawse had produced a spreadsheet on the Lottery Bid application, which would form the basis of a preliminary application

6.5 Cllr S Whiteley gave a brief update on the details on the Centenary of the start of the First World War. An application to the Durant Trust was to be made asking for a grant for the memorial stone to be placed in the Cemetery. Poppy seeds were to be planted/sown on 16th November and Councillors were asked if they could help with this.

7. **Ongoing issues**

The 'Action Log' was updated:

8. **Connecting Communities**

WDBC's "Connecting Communities", previously circulated was noted.

9. **Understanding Commercial Wind and Solar Power and how to respond to an application**

The invitation received from Campaign to Protect Rural England's to attend a workshop on 15th November 2013 at Holsworthy, previously circulated, was discussed and it was resolved that Cllr S Whiteley should attend.

10. **Community Emergency Planning Workshop**

WDBC Community Emergency Planning Workshop to be held on Thursday 28th November 2013, previously circulated, was discussed and it was resolved that Cllr Mrs G Hoggins, Cllr Mrs C Burrow and the Clerk should attend.

11. **Public Consultation – Mobile Library Service**

The consultation regarding Devon County Council's Mobile Library Service, previously circulated, was discussed, and it was resolved that the Clerk should respond to the consultation stating that the Council would like to ensure that a weekly presence of the Mobile Library is maintained.

12. **Devon County Council – Temporary Road Restrictions and Highway Structural Maintenance Schemes**

- 25th – 26th November 2013 – Road Closure – Fore Street – drainage works – Noted.
- 1st November 2013 – 30th April 2015 – Temporary 40 mph speed limit – Nichols Nymet – De Bathe Cross – Noted.
- 17th February 2014 – 16th May 2014 – Road Closures – Greenhill Cross – Jacobstowe – After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should contact Devon County Council objecting to this road closure and requesting that the work should be carried out in a manner that would ensure that the road is not closed completely.

13. **Street Lighting – DCC Part Night Lighting Policy**

The matter of complaints received regarding the introduction of DCC's Part Night Lighting Policy was discussed and after some discussion it was resolved that the complaints should be forwarded to Devon County Council as the authority responsible for street lighting.

14. Local Business Directory

The matter of whether the Local Business Directory should be revised was discussed and it was resolved that a new directory should be compiled. Cllr S Whiteley volunteered to organise this. The Clerk was requested to forward a list of business in North Tawton to Cllr S Whiteley.

15. WDBC Ground Maintenance

The matter of whether North Tawton Town Council should investigate taking over certain ground maintenance within North Tawton currently carried out by West Devon Borough Council was discussed and it was resolved that the Clerk should contact West Devon Borough Council requesting further details.

16. Golden Leaf Landscaping report The Clerk updated the Council on the work carried out by Golden Leaf Landscaping for the month of October.

17. PLANNING MATTERS

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

17.1 01015/2013

30 High Street, North Tawton, EX20 2HG

Works to Trees in a Conservation Area application for the removal of a fire tree (possibly a Cypress) from the rear garden of 30 High Street

After some discussion it was resolved not to object to the application.

17.2 10122/2013

35 Essington Lane, North Tawton, EX20 2DA

Householder application for rebuilding of chimney

After some discussion it was resolved not to object to the application.

17.3 10123/2013

35 Essington Lane, North Tawton, EX20 2DA

Listed Building application for rebuilding of chimney

After some discussion it was resolved not to object to the application.

To note decisions of West Devon Borough Council

17.3 00884/2013

Bowling Green, North Street, North Tawton, EX20 2ES

Proposed Clubhouse/Pavilion

Conditional consent – 23/10/13

Noted.

17.4 00917/2013

Nichols Court, North Tawton, EX20 2BP

Erection of agricultural building for livestock

Conditional consent – 21/10/13

Noted.

17.5 00988/2013

Sandford Barton, North Tawton, EX20 2BN

Prior approval application for the erection of agricultural storage building

No objection – 22/10/13

Noted.

18. FINANCE

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

18.2 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.

18.3 Okehampton and District Community Transport Group

The grant request received from Okehampton and District Community Transport Group, previously circulated, was discussed. After some discussion it was resolved that a grant of £100 should be made to the Okehampton and District Community Transport Group.

19. Questions/Comments from members of the public

The meeting was suspended.

Questions were asked about the New Homes Bonus and Empty Homes Bonus. Cllr N Morgan said that he would speak to West Devon Borough Council Head of Finance regarding these matters; the problems of parking in North Street was raised and the Clerk was requested to contact Devon County Council to enquire about residents parking and also to write to the Bowling Club explaining the problems.

The meeting was opened again.

20. Any other business

Cllr S Whiteley raised a concern about an article in the Crediton Courier stating that North Tawton's parking charges were higher than Crediton. Cllr Whiteley had contacted the Crediton Courier and they had agreed to print a correction.

Cllr S Whiteley raised a concern about the Council's policy on electronic cigarettes being used on the Council's premises. The Clerk was asked to include this as an item on the agenda for the December meeting.

A planning enforcement issue was raised and the Clerk was requested to contact West Devon Borough Council's Enforcement Officer.

21. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Council shall be Tuesday 3rd December 2013.

Part I of the meeting ended at 9.40 pm.

