

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 18th March 2014** at **7.15 pm**.

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

2 Members of the public were present.

Open Forum –

Mrs Louise Watts addressed the Council regarding traffic and parking.

This ongoing problem seems to have come to a head. People are parking opposite Graylings, parking on yellow lines in Barton Street, and people are parking long-term on the corner of Barton Street and High Street, which may prevent the Fire Engine getting through. Mrs Watts stated that she was putting polite notices on cars. People are parking outside Kaden Cottages, on the double yellow lines outside Spar and in the loading bay. In Mrs Watt's opinion she should be able to use the loading bay for unloading her car; this is becoming a dig issue. There are no marked parking bays and people are parking very poorly thus losing spaces. Mrs Watts feels the solution would be marked bays throughout the town; this would be a low cost simple solution to create extra spaces. Resident's parking would be an option. The Traffic Warden's should be in North Tawton at peak times, 5 pm – 7 pm every night. The shops and food takeaways should take responsibility and perhaps put up notices in their shops. It has been a miracle that there have been no accidents as the town gets busier. Constant traffic starts from 6.15 am in the morning going up the High Street. People park outside Kayden Cottages sometimes preventing people coming out of their doors. Mrs Watts feels that a larger car park should be provided at the top of the High Street. People do not seem to care. Mrs Watts said she would be happy to assist the Town Council in any campaign and knew this was a concern of lots of other people in the town.

The Chairman responded by saying parking and traffic is not just a problem in High Street. Devon County Council have been invited to attend a meeting of the Town Council to discuss this and other highway related matters. The Neighbourhood Plan Project Group were intending to have a traffic survey conducted by a student from Plymouth University, and this would show whether through traffic has increased.

The Clerk was requested to contact West Devon Borough Council regarding visits from the Civil Enforcement Officers at peak times. The Clerk was also requested to contact the Fire Brigade regarding access via Barton Street.

1. **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dr P Brickley (annual leave), Cllr Mrs A Ponsford (family matters) and Cllr Mrs J Morgan (family matters).

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 Tuesday 4th March 2014, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

4. **Updates**

4.1 The Chairman updated the Council on various issues.

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4.2 Cllr Dr. P Brickley had forwarded the Clerk an update regarding the Neighbourhood Plan project.

- One member of the Project Group is on the point of leaving the town and one other has recently moved abroad. Two other members are currently unable to pay their normal active part in the work of the group because of health/domestic reasons. However, we have had several expressions of interest in joining the group and the Project Team has been delighted to welcome five new members - Mrs Sheila Quick, Kate and Andrew Thomson, and Rebecca & Mark Kennedy. These new members put us two above the 'approximately twelve' members specified in our Terms of Reference, in addition to which we are supported by Cllr Nick Morgan (Chair of the Council) and Project Secretary Ros Rice (Town Clerk). I am sure the Council will be pleased that the work of the Neighbourhood Plan is being so well supported by members of the public and certainly we are keen to have their help for our very full programme.

I am pleased also to report that Cllr Mrs Carol Burrow and Mr Kim Stephens have kindly agreed to jointly be Vice Chairs of the Project Group. This will undoubtedly strengthen our team - many thanks to them.

- Councillors and members of the public will know now that the questionnaires have now been returned. I am sure we are all absolutely delighted that so many people have taken the trouble to complete them, providing really crucial views of how they see the Town and Parish developing. We have achieved a response 39.45% which, to put it into a useful context, is quite a bit more than Hatherleigh's 25% and almost as much as the legendary 43% achieved by Bere Peninsular. It is a wonderful result for the town and it means that our Neighbourhood Plan will have sound credibility in terms of its public base.

- We are now busy analysing the results of the survey and as soon as this is complete we shall be communicating again with the town, setting up Saturday morning Focus Groups (in the Council Office hopefully) to consult people about the SHLAA Call for Sites and to discuss section by section the various parts of the Questionnaire analysis. In this way we shall be adding valuable qualitative data to the largely quantitative data received so far.

- We are in the process of applying for the Government Grant for the remainder of our work and in formalising our relationship with Stuart Todd, our new Town Planning Consultant who, with Rebecca Black of WDBC, will be advising us in our next steps. With Stuart Todd's help we have made contact with the Professor of Town Planning at Plymouth University, Prof Chris Balch, through whom we hope to be receiving the assistance of a Third Year undergraduate town planning student who will undertake work experience with us in the summer and who will, we hope, assist us with our Traffic Survey. More information on this as matters progress.

4.3 Cllr S Blood informed the Council that he had heard nothing from the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding the Lottery Bid application.

5. **Ongoing issues**

The 'Action Log' was updated:

- The Clerk was to check whether the basketball hoop has been fitted.
- Cllr S Whiteley has spoken to Steve Dawe, Highways, regarding the poppies and requesting the hedges not being cut. Cllr Whiteley stated that Steve Dawe was very helpful and obliging. The Clerk was requested to thank Steve Dawe.

6. **Litter Bin and Verge – Barkers Way/Gostwyck Close**

The Clerk to update the Council:

- The litter bin has been delivered and permission had been obtained from Devon County Council for the bin to be affixed to the street light at the end of the footpath leading from Gostwyck Close to Barkers Way. The wrong fitting had been delivered, but as soon as it arrived the bin would be fitted.
- The Land Registry Search had revealed that the land is not registered. The Land Registry had returned the cheque for £3. Mrs Knott indicated that she wished to comment on this matter in the Questions/Comments item on the agenda.

7. **Devon County Council Consultations**

- 7.1 Day Services Review, previously circulated - noted
- 7.2 Youth Service Review previously circulated – noted
- 7.3 Adult Residential Care Services Review previously circulated. The Clerk was requested to write a letter concerning Ward Hayes Residential Home in Okehampton commenting that the Town Council could not see how there can be saving by putting the Residential Care Home into the private sector.

8. **West Devon Borough Council – Dog Control Orders**

The Consultation from West Devon Borough Council regarding Dog Control Orders, previously circulated was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should respond to West Devon suggesting that the following areas should be included in the Dog Control Orders:

- Church Yard
- Cemetery
- Memorial Park
- Letherans Lane (Dog on Leads order)
- 2 Car Park (Dogs on Leads order)

9. **Prince of Wales Award 2014**

The matter of nomination for the Prince of Wales Award 2014, previously circulated was noted.

10. Best Kept Village Competition Devon 2014

To matter entry to the Best Kept Village Competition Devon 2014, previously circulated was discussed and noted.

11. Communities Coming Together

Details of a Forum – Communities Coming Together – to be held on 3rd April 2014 7 pm – 9 pm at Bridestowe Village Hall, previously circulated, was noted.

12. Library Van

The request from Devon County Council regarding the parking of new Library Van which is 1.5m longer than the current van was discussed. After some discussion the Clerk was requested to respond suggesting the Library Van may be able to park outside the Town Hall but this would be subject to other vehicles being parked there.

13. Campaign to open the Railway Line Exeter to Plymouth via Okehampton

The matter of whether North Tawton Town Council should join the campaign to lobby the Government to reinstate the railway link from Exeter to Plymouth via Okehampton and Tavistock as an alternative main line route to the storm-hit Dawlish line was discussed.

Cllr S Blood informed the Council that Devon Heartlands and the Federation of Small Businesses were campaigning to get a regular train service from Okehampton to Yeoford and eventually Exeter. Authority from the owners of the line had been obtained to set up a Community Group to manage the Line. Peninsula Rail Group has been set up to region campaign for better rail connectivity for the South West. The Clerk was requested to send a letter of support.

14. Part Night Street Lighting

The Clerk to updated the Council regarding the resolution at the 21st January 2014 to request that the street lights should be turned off 1 hour earlier and turn back on 1 hour earlier.

A response has been received from Devon County Council:

“Thank you for your email regarding the part-night operation of street lights in North Tawton and the Town Council’s request for timing of the switch-off period to be changed. The switching controls that are used are programmed during manufacture for the required operating time and cannot be adjusted. The same operating hours are being used across the county to maintain a level of consistency and reduce operational and administrative costs, so I am afraid the Town Council’s request cannot be made. The remaining option is to restore lighting to all-night operation along those routes mostly used by shift workers”.

After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should contact Devon County Council again and requested that alternate lights in High Street, Fore Street, North Street, Bouchers Hill and Essington should be turned off.

15. Defibrillators

The matter of whether more defibrillators are required for the Town, and if so, possible sites and funding, was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved that possible sites would be Fore Street Garage, subject to the agreement of the property owners and the Youth Centre in Barton Street.

The matter of funding was discussed and the clerk was requested to write to Taw Valley Creamery, Vital Dogs, North Park Veterinary Group, Gregorys, SPAR, NatWest, FCC Environment (formerly FOCSA) requesting funding. The Clerk was also requested to put an article in the Roundabout Magazine requesting contribution.

16. Water Fountain

The matter of the suggestion to install a drinking water fountain in the Memorial Park was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved not to pursue the matter.

17. CCTV – Memorial Park

The matter of whether CCTV should be installed in the Memorial Park and funding was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved not to pursue the matter.

18. Public Conveniences – Charging

The matter of whether the Council should install Coin Operated doors to the public conveniences was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved not to pursue the matter, but to review the matter in 6 months.

19. Summer flower baskets and troughs

The matter of the summer flower baskets and troughs was discussed.

The Clerk reported that there would be an increase of £35 on the price paid for the flower baskets and troughs last year, and that Mr Hiscock had planted spring bulbs and polyanthus in the troughs at no extra cost.

After some discussion it was resolved to ask Mr Hiscock to plant up the flower baskets and troughs as last year.

20. PLANNING MATTERS

To note decisions of West Devon Borough Council

20.1 00133/2014

The Nest, 4 North Street, North Tawton, EX20 2ES
Householder application for erection of extension and replacement roof
Conditional Consent – 21/2/14
Noted.

21. FINANCE

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

21.2 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.

22. 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**. Time shall be limited to 2 minutes per person, up to a maximum of 3 persons.

Mrs Knott raised the issue of the untidy land adjacent to 15 Gostwyck Close/Barkers Way and the fact that the land is not registered. Mrs Knott indicated that she and her husband would keep this land tidy.

It was pointed out that the Town Council could not give permission for this as they did not own the land and it was for Mr and Mrs Knott to decide if they wanted to do this.

The meeting opened again.

23. Any other business

Cllr I MacLeod informed the Council that the North Tawton Patient Participation Group had organised a Health Living forum to be held on 26th April 2014 9.30 am – 12.30 om in the Town Hall. Wallingbrook Surgery were in discussion regarding the proposed new surgery and more information is expected shortly.

A question was raised regarding The Friends of the Park and what was happening. Cllr S Whitely stated that he had not had any contact regarding any meetings of The Friends of the Park.

Mark Quick from the Fire Station had contacted the Clerk regarding a visit to the Fire Station, this was due to be held on the 9th April at 7 pm. Training regarding arrangements for burials would be held on the same evening at 6.30 pm.

24. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Council shall be Tuesday 1 April 2014.

Part I of the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

PART II

EXEMPT REPORTS:

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.

Street Sweeping

The quotation received from Ben Pell for the street sweeping in North Tawton was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved to accept the quotation, for a period of 1 year.

The Clerk was requested to contact Chagford Parish Council to arrange a meeting with Ben Pell to discuss arrangements.

Other property matters were discussed and would be investigated.

Part II of the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.