

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014** at **7.15 pm**.

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

6 members of the public were present.

## **AGENDA**

### **Open Forum**

Mr N Davies have addressed the Council regarding the accuracy of the approved and signed minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014, - Item Comments/Questions from Members of the Public and the Ordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014, - Item Comments/Questions from Members of the Public. Mr Davies read out a statement, a copy of which he gave to each Councillor.

Mr Davies thanked Councillors

The Chairman thanked Mr Davies and stated that the matter was going to be discussed under Item 3.5 of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr A Gillespie (work commitments) and Cllr Mrs D Rice (annual leave).
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Dr P Brickley declared an interest in item 14.1 (invoices for payment) and Cllr S Blood declared an interest in Item 7 (Community Right to Bid).

If Councillors have any questions relating to predetermination, bias or interests in items on this Agenda, then please contact the Clerk in the first instance.

### **3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

- 3.1 The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held in the Town Hall on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014, previously circulated were agreed and signed, with the addition of Cllr N Morgan being present and changing Cllr Mrs S Watts to Cllr Mrs L Watts.
- 3.2 The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held in the Town Hall on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014, previously circulated were agreed and signed.
- 3.3 The notes of the Planning Committee Site Inspection held on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
- 3.4 The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
- 3.5 The accuracy of the approved and signed minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014, and the Ordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014, was discussed. After some discussion it was agreed to remove the two paragraphs from the minutes.

#### **4. Updates**

- 4.1 Chairman updated the Council on various issues.
- It has been reported that a parishioner fell on the uneven pavement in Fore Street. The Clerk has reported the matter to Devon County Council.
  - The Crediton Courier is 40 years old. Cllr S Whiteley had written to the Crediton Courier on behalf of the Town Council congratulating them.
- 4.2 Cllr Dr. P Brickley gave a brief update regarding the Neighbourhood Plan project. A hand-out on what progress is being made and Steps towards a Neighbourhood Plan were handed out.
- A group was being formed called the Townscape Group which was going to go back to the Village Design Statement.
  - It is hoped that if the Neighbourhood Plan does go through the Referendum, that the Townscape Group would carry on after that and could advise the Town Council.
  - Gave a presentation to the Eastern Links Committee on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014, and feels that we should have 2 representatives on that Committee. The Clerk was requested to ascertain when the next Eastern Links Committee is and also to put an item on the agenda for the January 2015 meeting regarding an additional representative.
- 4.3 Cllr I MacLeod gave a brief update regarding Denbrook.
- The Judicial Review had failed.
  - Mike Hulme is considering going to appeal that decision through the High Court.
  - A date has still not been set for the next meeting of the Denbrook Community Council.
- 4.4 Cllr N Morgan (WDBC Ward Member) gave a brief update
- The Planning Officer is preparing the report on the planning application submitted by Kinetica.
  - The Chairman stated that if the application does go to the Planning and Licensing Committee that representatives from the Town Council should be in attendance. The Clerk was requested to contact West Devon Borough Council indicating that the Town Council would wish to have a speaker at the meeting. It was further suggested that a representative from the Town Council should attend any Planning and Licensing Committee meeting that is considering applications within the parish of North Tawton. The Clerk was requested to contact Mr Charlie Young again regarding negotiations for community benefit.
  - Received a new paper regarding Section 106 obligations – will update the Council at the next meeting.
  - West Devon is going through huge changes. They are going to have a Hub Committee, like an Executive Committee as other Councils have – this is a group of people, mainly from one political party that will run the Council. A few years ago there was a referendum on whether the public wanted a Mayor or Committee System to operate at West Devon. This referendum had a large turnout. Now West Devon are going against the public wishes in that referendum. The Planning Committee will be the only Committee left.
- 4.5 Cllr I MacLeod gave a brief update regarding the North Tawton Engagement Group.
- There have been various meeting held with Caroline Stead, participation have been exceptional and encouraging.
  - The main aim is to retain GP surgery in the town.
  - There was to be a meeting with Rebecca Black, Strategic Planner, from West Devon on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014.
  - A public meeting was to be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015.
  - Bow Surgery were going to take over the practice as an interim service whilst negotiations are taking place.

#### **5. Ongoing issues**

The 'Action Log' was updated

- Cllr S Whiteley stated he was going to telephone the Snow/Ice Wardens to check whether they needed more salt delivered. Mr P Mellor had volunteered to be a Snow/Ice Warden for the Essington area.
- As no response had been received from Rhys Davies regarding the signage review at De Bathe Cross the Clerk was requested to make another formal complaint to the Chief Executive at Devon County Council, stated that they wished to matter to be investigated by someone other than Rhys Davies.
- The Clerk was requested to send another reminder about the drain outside Spar and the surface water drain that runs from Exeter Street down through Court Green to Essington and then down to North Street.
- The Clerk was requested to e-mail Cllr James McInnes regarding the funding through the Okehampton Youth Hub.
- The works to the surface of Letherans Lane would be carried out in the Spring. The work to install a larger drain and shape the bottom of the lane has been completed, however the fall pipe leading from the drain is broken. DCC were to carry out more work.

**6. Consultations/Newsletters  
Electoral Review of Devon**

The Local Government Boundary Commission consultation on electoral divisions for Devon, previously circulated was noted.

**7. Community Right to Bid**

The North Tawton Environmental Trust's application for Land at The Depot Devonshire Gardens, North Street, North Tawton, to be listed on the "Community Right to Bid" register was noted. The Environmental Trust will have 6 months to raise finance should the present owners propose to sell the land.

The Chairman stated that North Tawton Town Council support the Environmental Trust.

**8. Local Government Election Timetable**

The timetable for Local Government Elections, (Parliamentary, Borough, Parish) to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015, and to note that "Nomination papers must be submitted in person and cannot be submitted by post, fax, e-mail or other electronic means", previously circulated, was noted.

**9. Rural Community Energy Fund**

The correspondence received from DARE regarding Rural Community Energy Fund, previously circulated, and was discussed. Cllr S Blood stated he had already has talks regarding the hydro-electric plant at the Woollen Mill.

After some discussion it was resolved that Mr Ben Eardley should be invited to attend the Town Council meeting in February.

**10. Recycling Project**

The Recycling Project was discussed. Mrs Chris Blood had expressed an interest in becoming involved in this project, but other volunteers were required. Cllr S Blood stated that a few volunteers from the Environmental Trust may be interested. An article had been placed in the December/January issue of the Roundabout asking for volunteers.

It was felt that a visit to Winkleigh to view their scheme would be useful.

The Clerk was requested to include an item on the agenda for updates.

**11. PLANNING MATTERS**

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

**11.1 01213/2014**

The Corner Cottage, 23 North Street, North Tawton, EX20 2DE  
Remedial works and structural repairs to rear wing including new lintels, windows, door and re-rendering.  
After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

**11.2 01220/2014**

Easthill Bungalow, North Tawton, EX20 2BS  
Replacement agricultural building for storage  
After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

**11.3 01242/2014**

Ground Floor Flat, 5 The Square, North Tawton, EX290 2ER  
Certificate of Lawful Development for existing use of building for residential use.  
After some discussion the Clerk was requested to submit the same information to West Devon as the previous application.

**11.4 01290/2014**

Warden Farm, North Tawton, EX20 2BY  
Removal of Condition 5 of application 3591/2002/OKE to allow unrestricted residential use of Bale House, Folland House and The Stable.  
After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

**11.5 01294/2014**

Warden Farm, North Tawton, EX20 2BY  
Removal of Condition 3 of application 6988/2005/OKE to allow unrestricted residential use of The Shippen  
After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

**11.6 01314/2014**

Ginger Beer Cottage, 31 – 33 Essington Lane, North Tawton, EX20 2DS  
Works to Trees in a Conservation Area for the removal of 1 Weeping Willow and 1 Laburnum from the rear garden of Ginger Beer Cottage, 33 Essington Lane and 1 Poplar from land opposite 35 Essington Lane, North Tawton  
After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

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

**11.7 01128/2014**

Householder application for the erection of a garage/workshop  
6 Devonshire Gardens, North Street, North Tawton, EX20 2ES  
Refused – 17/11/14  
Noted

**11.8 01061/2014**

Cider Cottage, Yeo Farm, Yeo Lane, North Tawton, EX20 2DD  
Change of use from Holiday Accommodation to full residential  
Refused – 13/11/14  
Noted

**12. Neighbourhood Plan**

The matter of how North Tawton Town Council should consider planning applications taking account of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved that the Chairman, Vice Chair and Cllr Dr P Brickley should review the matter and report back to the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 meeting.

**13. Wainhomes**

The alleged covenant that Wainhomes are placing on their purchase contract, previously circulated was discussed.

After some discussion it was considered that this was a civil matter and the matter should be noted.

#### **14. FINANCE**

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

**14.2 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.

**14.3 Destination Okehampton**

The request for a contribution towards funding Destination Okehampton, previously circulated, was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should write to Okehampton Town Council requesting further information, in the light of the fact that the Government are carrying out another feasibility study.

#### **15. 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. Time shall be limited up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

Mrs C Hughes commented on the lack of Section 106 obligation with Kinetica.

Mrs C Hughes commented on the surface water drain that runs from Exeter Street (outside the School), under the White House, down through Court Green to Essington and then down towards the Bowling Green and then North Street. There are silt chambers, perhaps the silt chamber outside the School needs cleaning. Also perhaps a silt chamber should be installed further up Exeter Street.

Mr S Adams asked a question regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, and whether the Plan gets adopted by the Town Council. Cllr Dr P Brickley stated that the Neighbourhood Plan is the Town Council, but it is not possible for the Town Council or West Devon to object to a Neighbourhood Plan as long as it is properly prepared and been through the process of being examined by a Government Inspector and the referendum, it will have legal statutory weight equivalent to West Devon's Our Plan.

#### **16. Any other business**

Cllr S Whiteley asked had anything being organised for the Christmas Meal. The Chairman stated that it would be held after Christmas.

Cllr K Hodge asked about the resurfacing of the road at the bottom of Fore Street. The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by Mrs Pridham and Steve Dawe from Devon County Council had ensured that the work was carried out in accordance with his schedule.

Cllr Mrs C Burrow asked for clarification regarding the siting of the seat next to the Bus Shelter.

#### **17. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council shall be 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

Part I of the meeting ended at 9.55 am.

## **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.

The Clerk reported on the Society of Local Council Clerks 2014-2016 National Salary Award.

An enforcement matter was discussed.

The meeting ended at 10.05 am.