

DRAFT MINUTES OF

BLACK TORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 9/5/2017

1 In Attendance: S.White (Chairman), P.Roberts, E. Barnes (Vice Chairman), D.Bates, S. Floyer, M.Down, C.Lock, D.Haywood, P. Riches Mills, M.Taylor. (Parish Clerk), Distr. Cllr Phil Hackett, Cnty.Cllr. B.Parsons.
Six members of the public.

2 Apologies for absence.

3 Declarations of interest relevant to this agenda: None.

4 Open Public Session.

Recently re-elected County Councillor Barry Parsons told the meeting that since boundary changes Holsworthy Rural is the largest ward in Devon, containing thirty parish councils. The new county council's AGM will be take place soon following which he will be able to give this council information of future plans. He is particularly concerned with the disparity of funding in our education system whereby rural schools receive considerably less per pupil than urban schools. He assured the Council that there will be extensive road patching in the area over the coming months.

A resident voiced her concern over a proposed caravan storage project adjacent to her property. She was particularly concerned that several of her neighbours were unaware of the proposal.

Distr.Cllr. P. Hackett agreed to investigate the application as this council felt that it did not describe the whole proposal in sufficient detail. He also agreed to investigate why details of the application were not sent to all the neighbours.

The Council discussed possible methods of disseminating planning information throughout the parish.

A volunteer offered to strim the grass around the sign at one of the entrances to the village.

The condition of the bus shelter, toilets and phone box was brought to the attention of the Council.

It was suggested that via the BT Times, volunteers be asked to help with some of these tasks.

Information was requested regarding the state of some of the play ground equipment at the playing field.

5 Approval of minutes.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously following a proposal made by Cllr. Barnes and seconded by Cllr. Floyer

6 Playing Field Committee Report.

Following a ROSPA report it appears that some playground items are not up to standard and require replacement. There are two projects in the pipeline, meanwhile fund raising is ongoing to be able to afford the work.

7 Village Hall Report.

Redecorating the outside of the building will start soon. Plans for the Race Night are progressing and tickets are available.

Car Park.

Cllr. Roberts contacted Arthur Weed for an update to the plans for the village carpark and retaining wall for the overflow carpark and a quote of £500 was indicated. Tamar Trading declined to take on the task. However Mr. Mark Neave, a local civil engineer provided a detailed modified scheme which was circulated to the council. This will now be submitted to the contractors who originally submitted bids, in order to bring down the price to within a range acceptable for a grant from North Devon Plus. Carrying out the work over time in three phases would probably not be possible as North Devon Plus would require the scheme to go forward as a whole.

Councillors agreed to make an early site meeting before quotes are requested.

Fete

It was agreed to provide a donation to the fete of £25 as a prize for the holder of the winning numbered BT Times.

8 Planning.

Land at Upcott, Black Torrington

Councillors considered that this application was too open-ended as it appeared to involve a variety of business ventures some of which would have an impact on neighbouring properties. A letter to this effect will be sent to TDC Planning.

Erection of stables at Little Park, West Chilla

Application granted.

Narracott Woods.

Appeal won since TDC were too late with its objections to the appeal.

9 Financial Statement and approval of payments.

The Financial Update Statement to the end of April 2017 24/2/2017 was presented and approved.

Current Account holds £11,725.43 Reserve a/c holds £3,179.00

10 Public Toilets.

TDC have informed the Council of its intention to relinquish responsibility for the public toilets. In the past the community has expressed its wish to keep the toilets open and the Council has been budgeting for this eventuality. However it is proving difficult to obtain accurate costings from TDC and until this is resolved no progress can be made.

11 Insurance.

Council and Playing Field insurance is due on June 1st. The council has a three year index linked agreement with the insurers. The premium this year is £488.56.

12 War Memorial

Following a site meeting it was agreed that the two gate posts are unsafe and much of the kerbing is damaged or unsightly. Several ideas are under consideration and money has been allocated from the budget for limited repairs. Quotes are to be obtained for cutting down the pillars and installing new kerbing faced with appropriate local stone. Council will apply for grants towards the work.

13 Training.

Cllr. Hackett will arrange training for new cllrs, but this will not be possible until after June 9th when TDC will have established its priorities.

14 On going matters.

Parish Plan.

Cllrs Barnes and Floyer have collated all the information needed and have illustrated the draft document. When completed the contents will be published in the BT Times and the parish website.

P3

Tim Laws and his P3 team to be contacted to deal with the overgrown banks at the top of the village. Visibility for drivers is become increasingly difficult.

Website

The present website is no longer fit for its purpose. An advert will be placed in the BT Times for a website designer /manager to take it over. This would be a voluntary post but all costs would be met by the Council. Any interested person is welcome to contact any councillor or the Parish Clerk now.

Cllr. White to have council business displayed on the Black Torrington Facebook page.

15 Correspondence-

Letter opposing the development at land at Upcott.

16 Additional Item

Several residents are so concerned about the poor visibility and traffic speeds at Windmilland Cross that they are afraid to exit the village this way. Devon Highways to be contacted as a matter of urgency.

17Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 6th June at 7.30pm Annual Meeting of the Parish in the Village Hall. (Speakers to be arranged)

Tuesday 18th July at 7.30pm in Methodist School Room.

