

BLACK TORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 21st July 2015

1 In Attendance: P.Roberts (Chair), M.Down, J.Nutt, D.Haywood, T.Laws, B.Garrett, C.Lock, D.Bates, M.Taylor. (Parish Clerk), five members of the village, C.P.S.O. Mark James, Cllr Phil Hackett

2 Apologies for absence. N.Berkeley

3 Declarations of interest relevant to this agenda: None.

4 Open Session.

a) Mr. C. Adams asked the Council to contact the owners of the Torridge Inn to prevent their recycling waste from blowing out into Broad Street. Cllr. Laws agreed to take this matter forward on an informal basis.

b) Mr. Steve Blakeman told the Council about his recent planning application to TDC for alterations to the Old Post Office prior to it becoming a let property for local needs. He hoped that the Council would give its support when the formal application is received.

c) Mr. D. Illman addressed the Council on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. The committee believes there are issues relating to the Title as registered with the Land Registry and the view reportedly taken by the Charity Commission's solicitors. He distributed a paper noting the position of the VHC.

It was proposed by Cllr. Haywood that *“Council takes independent professional advice to establish the definitions and distinctions of Management Trusteeship as opposed to Trusteeship and to clarify any long-term implications or risks of shared ownership.”*
This is the proposal that it was agreed to circulate to all cllrs. for comment.

Mr. Illman requested that Council clarify who is to be the Council representative on the VHC. Until this is accomplished, Cllr. Roberts will continue as the PC representative.

d) District Cllr Hackett gave information about work towards obtaining funding for repair of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), progress with High Speed Rural Broad Band, threat to Holsworthy Hospital, and repairs to local roads.
Cosmic is holding a public meeting re: superfast broadband in Holsworthy Memorial Hall on September 15th.

5 Approval of minutes of 20th May:

These had been circulated prior to the meeting. They were approved unanimously following a proposal from Cllr. Down seconded by Cllr. Bates.

6 Matters arising from previous minutes: N/A

7 Parish Plan

The Plan needs updating. Cllr. Garrett agreed to track down a copy of the questionnaire used for the last updating of 2010. A sub-committee will then be formed to draw up a new questionnaire for distribution to every parish household.

8 Planning

Clerk to distribute details of future planning applications to all councillors.

9 Town and Parish (TaP Fund)

Under this funding BT has access to £475. The aim of the fund is to encourage neighbouring PCs to work together involving their communities to try to solve local issues. Cllrs have already received guidelines of the scheme. The deadline for submissions is 29th Feb 2016.

Several suggestions were put forward by cllrs. And BT PC has approached Sheepwash PC with a view to working together again on a joint project.

10 Playing Field Committee Report

The Annual Financial report was approved.

Dates of forthcoming events: Fun Day this coming week end, Fun Day 5th September, Fireworks, 7th November.

There was unanimous support for signing the QE 2 Agreement.

11 Village Hall Report.

At present Cllr. Roberts remains the PC representative on the VH Committee. It was proposed and seconded and unanimously agreed that Cllr. Nutt take over the role providing it meets with the approval of the VH Committee.

12 Financial Statement and approval of payments.

The Financial Update Statement to 20/7/2015 which had been previously circulated to members, was presented and approved.

Current Account holds £3,974.00

Reserve a/c holds £3,176.79

It was agreed to set up a F & O. (Financial and Oversight) Committee

The proposed new signatories to the PC bank account with Nat West are:
the Chairman and vice chairman, Cllr. Haywood and the Parish Clerk.

Payments for the following were approved by the Council:

DALC (Devon Assoc. of Local Councils) subscription. Parish Pump printers (BT Times)
Hope Methodist Chapel – hire of school room for PC meetings, clerk's expenses,
maintenance of war memorial and surrounding area.

13 Policies and procedures.

Seven procedural documents have been drafted but since this had already been a long meeting, their final amendment/approval will be a priority item at the next PC meeting.

14 P3 Annual Grant (Parish Rights of Way)

Cllr. Laws already has extensive experience of maintaining footpaths etc and offered to train and oversee volunteers in this work.

15 Correspondence n/a

Black Torrington Parish Council

16 Devon County Councillor's Report.

- I am pleased to report that South West schools are set to benefit from an additional £390 million in national funds next year, as MPs continue their campaign to secure a fairer funding deal for the region. Devon teachers and councillors have been united behind the education funding campaign. Members of the “f40” group called on ministers to address imbalances in the education funding formula, which leave counties like Devon up to £270 worse off per pupil than other parts of the country.
- Devon County Council decision to close Pyworthy Primary School gives little comfort for small rural schools generally. There is not a great deal of research into the effects on the local community of small, rural school closures especially when such communities face impact in other service areas. I have asked Place Scrutiny Chairman, Andrew Moulding, to look at this as a priority given the number of threats to rural community services (eg. Transport, Youth Services, Hospital beds ..) as this is especially important for Holsworthy Rural Ward.
- The condition of our local Highways network is one of Devon County Council's highest priorities. Living as we do in a very rural part of the county which often holds more insubstantial foundations for our roads coupled with inadequate funding leads to us having need to invest in very real, efficient innovation to patch up deficiencies. My conversations with the Head of Highways and Cabinet Member for Highways have been many. I was keen for us to be one of the first to try new technology to improve our rural roads. Spray Injection Patching (which includes Jet Patching) is a good example of this approach and DCC is, currently, carrying out a programme of trial sites across the County to test the technique – much of which is in our area. To properly trial the technique, we need to carry out work on a number of sites with different characteristics and then monitor the performance of the repairs over the following winter to make sure that the repairs are robust. DCC has included sections of highway in his Holsworthy area in our programme of trials for spray injection patching. Trials so far are encouraging, although the repairs are very sensitive to weather condition at the time of the works and we do not know how repairs will stand up to winter conditions. Conventional hazardous pothole repairs will continue to be used on roads when needed.

- For the past two years I have been in discussions regarding potential hospital bed closures in community hospitals. The Mayor of Holsworthy, John Allen, and I have worked together to try and ensure as far as possible that Holsworthy Hospital has full and proper consultation over this matter. Recent changes with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have enforced a change in approach by the CCG.

Dr John Womersley (Chair of the Northern Locality Board - NEW Devon CCG) sat down with us just over a week ago informing that it is the CCG's intention (along with Northern Devon Healthcare Trust which will take the lead) to invite and select up to 40 representatives from the area of Torridge and North Devon to select criteria upon which assessment can be made to best apportion community beds across the area. According to Dr Womersley in relation to the group of 40 it is recognized that "Their nominations need to be balanced. The group will hold two meetings, no doubt with some correspondence in-between. The first is to draw up a list of criteria for deciding the location of the in-patient beds. The criteria will be chosen from the suggested list produced as a result of what we heard at our (CCG) public consultations last year. The second meeting will be to allocate weightings to each criteria. The criteria will be applied to each community hospital setting and the resultant scores will produce a list of options where the beds should be situated with scores going from highest (most appropriate) to lowest (least appropriate). That recommendation will then come to the Northern Locality Board for endorsement and that proposal will then be taken to the public consultation process."

Cllr. Barry Parsons

17 Items for consideration at next meeting.

Policies and procedures, TaP Scheme, P3 Annual Grant, Legal status of Village Hall.

18 Dates of the next meetings: Thursday 3rd September

GENERAL ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

PAYMENTS

Barclays Matched Funding	427.00	Parish Council - Noticeboard	250.00
Firework Night - Net Receipt	772.69	Firework Night - Fireworks	795.00
Share of Fete Money	750.00	G Saunders - Grass Cutting	1990.00
Bank Interest	1.31	Mower fuel	66.19
Meat Raffle net receipts	35.00	ROSPA Annual Inspection	85.20
Party in the Park - Net Receipt	252.17	Repairs to field (timber / fences)	61.28
Community Grants Scheme	250.00		
Hot House 4 Night	548.70		
Steam Rocket Event	220.00		

3256.87	3247.67
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Excess of Payments 9.20

Balance From 01.07.14	2347.10	Balance to 1.7.15	2356.30
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TOTAL FUNDS 2356.30

Represented By Nat West Bank :

Current Acc :	1048.13
Reserve Acc :	960.78
Bonus Saver:	347.39
	2356.3