

Black Torrington Parish Council

Leasefield Farm, Halwill Junction, Beaworthy EX21 5XU
Telephone: 07809 688 725 Email: clerkblacktorrington@outlook.com

To All Black Torrington Parish Councillors,

You are hereby summoned to attend a **Virtual Meeting of Black Torrington Parish Council**, which will be held on **Wednesday, 13th January 2021, 7:00 pm** by video conferencing, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 members of the public are welcome to attend, contact the clerk for details of how to do this.

D Osborne

05/01/2021

Members of the press and public requiring access to any of the documents mentioned in this agenda are asked to contact the Town Clerk (electronic links to documents are provided where available).

AGENDA

- 1. To receive and accept apologies** (Please make any apologies known to the Parish Clerk)
- 2. Declarations of Interest** - To receive declarations of personal interest and disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI's) in respect of items on this agenda.
- 3. Parish Council Minutes** - To approve and sign the minutes of the Black Torrington Parish Council meetings held on 11th November 2020 as a correct record.
- 4. Action List**
- 5. Public Question Time** - At the discretion of the Chairman, to receive questions from members of the public relevant to the work of the Council. Matters raised may be added to future agenda. Answers may be given in writing.
- 6. Councillor Reports** - At the discretion of the Chairman, to receive reports from Councillors (Parish, District, and County) - for information only.
- 7. Finances –**
 - To agree the budget for the financial year 2021/22
 - To agree the precept for the financial year 2021/22
 - Bills to pay, cheques to be raised
 - To agree a s137 grant payment to the Citizens Advice
 - To agree a s137 grant payment to the Okehampton Community Transport
- 8. Action List (including war memorial)**
- 9. Ideas to improve the wellbeing of the parishioners eg**
 - Floral displays at points around the village.
 - A community hub for collecting/ distributing excess food, unwanted items,
- 10. Black Torrington Playing Fields**
 - Playing Field Committee Report.
- 11. Planning**

Torrridge District Council - Planning Applications [TDC Planning Public Access Portal](#)

For information only, Torridge District Council, the determining Authority, has **granted permission** for the following planning applications:

Reference: 1/0888/2020/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian including erection of stables.

Location: 3 Sparks Villas, Black Torrington, Beaworthy, Devon

Reference: 1/0893/2020/FUH

Proposal: Remove existing single storey lean-to extension and build a proposed two storey extension.

Location: Gorford, Sheepwash, Beaworthy, Devon

- Does the parish council consider it is worthwhile responding to planning application requests for comments and should it coordinate its response with neighbouring parishes

12. To agree the date of the next parish council meeting Do we wish to change the day of meetings.

13. Close

BLACK TORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Black Torrington Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th January 2021, at 7pm, by video link

Present: Cllrs, M Hall (MH)(Chair), C Lock (CL), E Barnes (EB), W Frost (WF), P Mills (PM)
M Moulton (MM), M Down(MD), D Haywood(DH) & S Powell(SP)

In Attendance: One member of the public & Clerk

1301/01 To receive and accept apologies

Apologies were received from Ward Councillor P Hackett

1301/02 Declarations of Interest – none

1301/03 Parish Council Minutes

It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th November 11th 2020.

1301/04 Public Question Time

Thank you from all the people of Chilla for the Christmas tree.

1301/05 Councillor reports

County Councillor B Parsons reported that Devon County is as safe as anywhere from the coronavirus with amongst the lowest rates in England. There is a worrying increase in care homes.

Steve Brockman of Devon Highways is aware of the issues within the parish with blocked and inadequate drains.

It may be possible to have a 20 mph limit near the school, there is a pilot scheme ongoing at the moment.

BP will not be standing at the next elections so this might be the last meeting of the parish council he attends. He thanked the parish council for all their contributions during his time in office.

Councillor Hall thanked BP on behalf of the parish for all his help.

1301/06 Finances

- **To agree the budget for the financial year 2021/22**

The budget is used as the basis of the precept. The budget is a revenue budget but with some allowance for specific capital projects. Expenditure that is specifically budgeted for does not require any further resolution to pay.

The clerk presented a summary of the budget to date and a cash reconciliation (appended). He explained that this year's actual revenue expenditure was an unreliable basis for next year's budget as the coronavirus pandemic has resulted in unusual spending patterns. For example; we have no hall hire fees but we do have extra software costs because we have been meeting virtually.

The Clerk presented a proposed budget (appended) based on predicted requirements. It was agreed to accept the proposed budget. The budget includes reserves sufficient to cover expected capital expenditure for the year.

The £500 formerly reserved for minor road repairs will be transferred to the public toilet budget, this will mean reserves will need to reduce by £500.

- **To agree the precept for the financial year 2021/22**

Because of the effects of the coronavirus pandemic the number of households able to pay full council tax has been reduced. If the Parish Council keeps its precept demand at the same level there will be an increase of 3.17% in the council tax rate per household. To keep the council tax paid by households the same we would need to set a precept of £9,812. The reserves in the budget will need to be adjusted as the precept is less than the budget.

It was **resolved** to demand a precept of £9,812 from Torridge District Council

It was agreed that MH should write an article for the BT Times explaining how the parish council has reduced its precept demand in order to show solidarity with parishioners who are struggling financially due to the coronavirus pandemic.

- **Bills to pay, cheques to be raised**

It was agreed to pay the following bills. The Audit fee was larger than budgeted for and the swings were £100 above budget as geotextile was added to the specification.

Date	Payee	Amount inc VAT	Brief details of supply
28/11/2020	PKF Littlejohn LLP	£360.00	Audit
31/12/2020	Parish Magazine Printing	£199.20	BT Times printing
09/12/2020	TK Play Ltd	£5638.80	New swings
07/01/2021	D C Osborne	£14.39	Zoom subscription paid by clerk
07/01/2021	Stacey's Christmas Trees	£248	Two Christmas trees and 5 strings of lights delivered

- **To agree a s137 grant payment to the Citizens Advice**

It was **resolved** to give a grant of £50 to Citizens Advice

- **To agree a s137 grant payment to the Okehampton Community Transport**

It was **resolved** to give a grant of £50 to Citizens Advice

1301/07 Action List (including war memorial)

Speeding in the Parish No Progress to date. The clerk said he would come and covertly monitor speed one day.

Several in the parish are not happy with the standard of work on the war memorial.

The clerk was asked to contact Stacey's and present them with a snagging list.

There is no season for small tree uplift should not be affected by bird nesting but may be better done during the dormant season. Keep under review.

Highway hedges – A letter has been written to the owner of the hedges originally complained about. PM thought the hedges have not been sufficiently cut back for visibility at Windmiland Cross. There is some hedge cutting going on. It was agreed to wait and see what progress is made with the ongoing hedge cutting.

1301/08 Ideas to improve the well-being of the parishioners

- **Floral displays at points around the village.**

Councillor Hall would like to get involved with planters and is willing to provide materials and construct one planter. The Clerk informed the meeting that Halwill has 4 planters constructed

from railway sleepers at a cost of £196. Maintenance/planting costs are £100 for Halwill's 4 planters. DH suggested businesses could sponsor displays round the village. Perhaps Chilla can have 2.

The Clerk was asked to look into what structures can be put on a highway.

The Chair agreed to take the lead on this.

- **A community hub for collecting/ distributing excess food, unwanted items**

There is already a food bank by the church. WF suggested a stall of some sort could be left in the car park. People could leave things for exchange perhaps once a month. It could be combined with the Post Office and BT Connect

- **BT Re-Connect**

The Chair spoke about BT Re-Connect on behalf a parishioner who was unable to join the meeting. It is suggested that the Hall is opened once a month to help re-establish social events after the pandemic lockdown, a councillor would be available to answer questions or help however they can. The cost of hall hire would be £18 a month for 6 months. Cllr Down repeated his desire not to set a precedent and reminded the meeting that the PC had already agreed to help any groups that asked if it was safe to do so.

It was **resolved** to fund hall hire for six monthly meetings.

1301/09 Black Torrington Playing Fields.

- **Playing field committee report**

The swings have been installed. The safety surface needs installing.

The exposed nails on the picket fence will be removed as soon as possible and the fence repaired or replaced when time allows. The broken rebound panel might be better replaced with a wooden section as it is the bit most used as a rebound wall. MH pointed out that a wooden wall would stop spectators watching sports.

The hedge at the far Southern of the playing field will be cut by WF before the end of February.

1301/10 Planning

- **Does the parish council consider it is worthwhile responding to planning application requests for comments and should it coordinate its response with neighbouring parishes?**

Cllr Mills attended a Halwill Parish Council meeting where S Harrington from Torridge District Council Planning. It seems that parish council's views carry little or no weight. PM suggested parish councils including Black Torrington, should give a standard reply showing their displeasure. If all the PC's gave a standard reply it might raise publicity.

WF thought if we don't comment at all we will be doing what the district council wants.

PM will take the lead and come up with some standard wording.

1301/11 To agree the date of the next parish council meeting Do we wish to change the day of meetings.

It was agreed to change the day of meetings to Tuesday. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7:00 pm.

1301/12 Close

The meeting closed at 20:53 pm

Statutory

Discretionary

APPROVED BUDGET	APPROVED BUDGET	APPROVED BUDGET	REVISED FCAST	VARIANCE	PROPOSED BUDGET
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2020/21		2021-22
£	£	£	£	£	£
500	510	578	600	-22	600
100	100	100	98	2	100
67	67	67	330	-263	67
140	140		29	-29	56
200	200	200	300	-100	200
100	100	100	128	-28	300
150	150	150	10	140	150
2500	2573	2573	2,573		2573
100	100	100	100		100
100	100	100	100		50
100	100	100	100		100
500	500	500	1,051	-551	
1500	1500	1500	9,449	-7949	1500
50	50	100	248	-148	100
500	500	500	500		
500	500	500		500	
125	125	125	500	-375	250
2292	2292	2830	3,591	-761	3977
9524	9607	10123	19,706	-9583	10123
		10123			10123

Capital Expenditure 2020/21

New swing

New mower

4296

Possible Capital Expenditure 2021/22

Shed £1,000

Finish overflow car park £500.00

Speed signs £350.00

Speed gun £1,000.00

Planters £200.00

£3,050.00

Bills for payment January 2021

Current Account

Date	Payee	Amount Ex VAT	Amount inc VAT	Brief details of supply
28/11/2020	PKF Littlejohn LLP	£300.00	£360.00	Audit
31/12/2020	Parish Magazine Printing	£199.20	£199.20	BT Times printing
09/12/2020	TK Play Ltd	£4699.00	£5638.80	New swings
07/01/2021	D C Osborne	£11.99	£14.39	Zoom subscription paid by clerk
07/01/2021	Stacey's Christmas Trees	£248	£248	Two trees and 5 strings of lights delivered

Subject to agreement, Grant payments of £50 each to Citizens Advice and Okehampton Community Transport

Total for month ex VAT £5558.19 (inc grants STA)
Total for month inc VAT £6,560.39 (inc grants STA)
VAT for month £1002.20

BLACK TORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL - BUDGET 2020/21

	BUDGET	2020									2021			TOTALS	YET TO	REVISED FCAST	VARIANCE
	2020/21	ACTUALS									FORECAST			FOR YEAR	PAY	2020/21	
	£	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	2020/21			
Insurance	578		600											600	-	600	-22
DALC Affiliation	100	98												98	-	98	2
Domain Name/Hosting	67	60					270							330	-	330	-263
Software	-						14				14			29	-	29	-29
Audit	200								300					300	-	300	-100
Admin expenses	100				128									128	-	128	-28
Hall Hire	150													-	10	10	140
Clerk	2,573						1,286							1,286	1,286	2,573	0
Training	100						30							30	70	100	0
Travel/Subsistence	100													-	100	100	0
Mem. Garden upkeep	100													-	100	100	0
														-			
BT Times net	500	211			211		215				199			836	215	1,051	-551
Playing Fields/Grass cutting	1,500						-				4,699			4,699	-	4,699	-3199
Christmas Tree	100										248			248	-	248	-148
War memorial incremental	500						500							500	-	500	0
Minor road repairs	500													-	-	-	500
Grants/s137fete prize	125				300		100				100			500	-	500	-375
Reserves	2,830				395		600							995	-	995	1835
	10123	369	600	-	1,034	-	3,016	-	300	-	5,261	-	-	10,579	1,781	12,360	-2237

checks: 12360

11th December 2020

Black Torrington
RECONCILIATION

From Accounts 30 th October 2020		
Reserve Ac	£3,180.00	
Current Ac	£21,996.27	£25,176.27
Payments not cashed Subtract..	(£8,576.44)	
Receipts not entered Add.....	£0.00	
Cash as day book		£16,599.83
Add payments to come		
VAT reversal	£3,155.80	
Total to come Add	£3,155.80	
Day Book.....		19755.63
Minus restricted funds		
Balance of precept yet to pay	(£1,781.48)	
Ring fenced for swing safety surface	(£750.00)	
Ring fenced for mower	(£4,000.00)	
Ring fenced for tree lifting	(£100.00)	
Ring fenced P3	(£225.00)	
Ring fenced for toilet	(£1,000.00)	
Minor road repairs	(£500.00)	
War mem repairs-£500 incremental	(£2,496.00)	
Total restricted Subtract	(£10,852.48)	
Total Unrestricted		£8,903.15

PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT**1st APRIL 2021 TO 31st MARCH 2021**Please check the Clerk and bank details shown below are correct or amend as appropriate

Name of Parish Council: Black Torrington Parish Council		Remit to: Account Name: Black Torrington Parish Council
Name of Parish Clerk: Don Osborne		Account No: 05001315
Address for Correspondence Leasefield Farm		Bank Name: Natwest
Halwill Junction		Bank Sort Code: 535052
Beaworthy		Bank Address: Launceston Branch, 14 Westgate St, Launceston, PL15 7AG
Devon Post Code: EX21 5XU		
Telephone No:	07809 688 725	
E-Mail Address:	clerkblacktorrington@outlook.com	

Notice of Precept upon Torridge District Council

You are hereby directed to pay to the Parish Council's bank account, at the bank described above, the following instalments of precept from the Council Tax of the Parish to meet expenses payable by the Parish Council during the Financial Year described above.

Authorised at a meeting of the Parish Council held on:-

13 / 01 / 2021

Town/Parish Precept Requirement 2021/22

£9,812.00

To be paid in 2 equal instalments by end of April & September

Signed X



X Proper Officer

Date:

17/02/2021

Action List

Minute Number	Action	Responsible for action	Next steps
1419/08	Speed Watch Signs in the parish to slow traffic	M Hall M Moulton	Delayed by the COVIDS Examples circulated. MM to ask school for ideas
1409/11	Poppy Wreath £100 donation	Clerk	Send them a cheque when able (they are not accepting cheques at the moment)
1409/13	Infant's swing New Mower	PFC PFC	Completed Agenda Item January
	Website compliance with WCAG2.1 regulations	Clerk	Mr Bowen commissioned to do the work at his quoted price - £270 Waiting for confirmation
	War Memorial	All	Sign off completed work or agree what remedial work is needed
1110/4	Boundary tree uplift.	M Hall	Keep under review until February
1110/08	Highways – overgrown hedges	Clerk	Report to Highways – website has been down



Holsworthy Rural Policing Update 1/11/20 – 31/12/20:

The following crimes have been reported:

ASHWATER:

Dog not under proper control
Drive a motor vehicle whilst unfit through drugs

BLACK TORRINGTON:

Harassment without violence

BRADFORD:

Threats to destroy property

BRIDGERULE:

Use threatening/abusive/insulting words or behaviour
3 x Criminal damage to motor vehicle
Common assault

BROADWOODWIDGER:

Harassment without violence

HALWILL:

Import prohibited weapon

HOLSWORTHY HAMLETS:

Common assault

MILTON DAMEREL:

Theft of batteries

PYWORTHY:

Use threatening/abusive/insulting words or behaviour

ST. GILES ON THE HEATH:

Non counting action Fraud

VIRGINSTOW:

Theft from a motor vehicle

WEST PUTFORD:

Theft of heating oil
Attempted Blackmail

There were also 11 domestic related crimes reported during this period.

You will notice another Fraud offence on this month's report. These are not usually counted as part of our crime statistics, but we thought it was important to bring parishioners attention to the fact that fraud, particularly telephone and online fraud, is something they need to be aware of, and to take steps to avoid falling victim of. Fraud advice can be found on our website, here:

<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/advice/your-money/fraud/>

General Crime Prevention advice, with links to Farm Watch and property marking, can also be found on our website.

If you have an incident to report, don't hesitate to ring the Police on 101, or email 101@dc.police.uk.

Always call 999 if you see a crime taking place.

Crimes can also be reported via our website:

<https://services.devon-cornwall.police.uk/crimereporting/>

and information can be passed using this link:

<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/contact/contact-forms/report-something/>

or by calling Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111

**PC Amanda Brown & PCSO Mark James
Holsworthy Police Station
torridge@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk**