

Meeting of Black Torrington Parish Council

To All Black Torrington Parish Councillors,

You are hereby summoned to attend a Parish Council Meeting of Black Torrington Parish Council, which will be held on Tuesday, 8th August 2023, 7:00 pm at the village hall 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

01/08/2023

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 in respect of items on this agenda.
3. **Parish Council Minutes** - To approve and sign the minutes of the Black Torrington Parish Council meeting held on 12th June 2023 as a correct record.
4. **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.
5. **Clerk & Councillor Reports** - At the discretion of the Chairman, to receive reports from Councillors (Parish, District, and County) - for information only.
6. **Action List, matters arising from the minutes:**
 - BT telephone kiosk
 - Highways – Road Warden scheme, potholes, grass verge cutting, weed clearance, strimmer course
 - Bowhay Close curb damage
 - Stump of old chestnut tree
7. **Website maintenance and content provision.**
8. **Finances**
 - Bills to pay, cheques to be raised
 - To confirm a grant payment to a dementia charity in memory of a former member of the parish council under s 137 of the LGA 1972

9. Black Torrington Playing Fields

- Playing field committee report
- Air ambulance night landing light
- Planning application for MUGA lights

10. Planning

Any planning application which is received after this Agenda is published may be discussed here though no formal agreement can be made.

11. Correspondence

12. To agree the date of the next parish council meeting

13. Close

Black Torrington Parish Council

Minutes of the Black Torrington Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 8th August 2023, in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs, M Moulton (MM)(Chair), M Down(MD), T Reeve(TR), E Heesom, P Mills(PM), C Lock(CL) and A Pallatt(AP)

In Attendance: Clerk

0808/01 To receive and accept apologies –
Apologies were received from Councillor W Frost

0808/02 Declarations of Interest – None

0808/03 Parish Council Minutes
It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 12th June 2023. Agreed. Signed by the Chair

0808/04 Public Question Time
There were no members of the public present

0808/05 Clerk & Councillor reports
Councillor Frost sent a report on solar panels for the Village Hall.
On solar panels for the village hall I have done a little bit of investigation. The hall only uses around 2000 kWh of electricity per year, I guess due to low use. So their bills are low, therefore any payback period from panels would be long. The installation incl. batteries would be between £8 - 12k depending on the number of batteries. There are no special grants for village halls as far as I know. The system for putting in car charging points is being put out to private companies to rent sites and pay for the costs. So I can't see how the village could do that either. Overall, it doesn't look very promising.

0808/06 Action List

BT telephone kiosk

The telephone kiosk work is completed at no additional cost beyond that already agreed. A book exchange has been arranged with Bradworthy so stock is kept fresh.

Highways

It does appear that the Parish Council is already a member of the Road Warden Scheme. In order to be covered by Devon Highways insurance to carry out work on the Highways (which includes verges) at least 2 people must have Chapter 8 accreditation. Devon Highways will provide training but it might take time. The clerk was asked to enquire about private training for Chapter 8 (Traffic Safety Measures and Signs for Road Works and Temporary Situations.) accreditation.

Bowhay Close curb damage

The Clerk has yet to hear from Westward Housing as to whether they are responsible for maintaining Bowhay Close. Councillor Heaton has a contact at Westward Housing and will ask them. Councillor Pallat will talk to Biffa to see if they will stop reversing onto the curb.

Stump of old chestnut tree

It's gone!

0808/07 Website maintenance and content provision.

The Local Government Transparency Code requires the parish council to publish certain information on a free to use publicly accessible website. The parish council's website set up to meet those requirements is in need of maintenance and fresh content. The website was set up as a community website as well as to meet the statutory requirements. Many of the links to public services are out of date and community groups are no longer updating their content. Many of the community groups that use the website have their own social media sites so no longer provide content. The Clerk is willing to teach anyone who wishes to know how to update the community part of the website.

Councillor Heasom and Councillor Pallatt will have a look at the website and bring recommendations to the next meeting.

0808/08 Finances

Bills to pay, cheques to be raised

Date	Payee	Amount inc VAT	Brief details of supply
24/07/23	Parish magazine printing	£119.47	BT Times July ed.
28/07/23	BT Village Hall	£28.00	Hall hire May/August
02/01/23	Trudy Reeve	£377.95	BT kiosk refurbishment
02/08/23	Pidsignz	£48.00	"No lorry" signs x 2
08/08/23	TBA dementia charity	£100.00	Grant

Total for month ex VAT £665.420

Total for month inc VAT £673.42

VAT for month £8.00

To confirm a grant payment to a dementia charity in memory of a former member of the parish council under s 137 of the LGA 1972

There was some debate as to whether the grant provisionally agreed at the June meeting was for £100 or £150. This was important as the PFC had agreed to match the grant. It was agreed that the amount was £100. It was **resolved** to award a grant of £100 to the dementia charity favoured by the family.

0808/09 Black Torrington Playing Fields.

Playing Field Committee Report.

Councillor Frost sent the following report.

Regarding the memorial plaque for the new bench. "I have ordered and paid for a brass plaque to go on the new bench. It cost £40 from Bideford cobbler, PFC has reimbursed me."

Regarding damage to the new mower. "[There are] a limited number of trained operators and regular signed on maintenance check [procedures are] already in place. Only 3 operators drove the machine and the log book shows that the checks were made. Honestly no one really knows how it exactly happened. Either it really is a freak mystery engine failure or someone is not telling the whole truth to hide an embarrassment. The outcome is that Vincent have in effect admitted fault, because although the engine was not covered by the warranty (because oil had drained out of it), they are offering to pay for a completely new engine and are asking the PFC make a symbolic payment for the fitting of the engine. No charge for the fault finding or diagnosis. In summary the main seal of the engine must already have been in bad condition when it was delivered. Although oil levels were checked, at some point (most likely during the 10 days it was not used, when the grass was not growing due to it being so dry) all the oil drained out of it because the seal had degraded. The engine failed either when we were parking it, or when Vincent tried to get it restarted again. We don't know. We are using a borrowed mower until our[s] is ready. No extra cost."

Air ambulance night landing lighting

The air ambulance light is the property of the Parish Council. The Devon Air Ambulance is now equipped with night vision aids so the lights are no longer essential. The requirements to report when the site cannot be used because it is obstructed remain but the light is free to be used for other purposes. Perhaps it could be used

Planning application for MUGA lights

The pre planning application has been assessed by Torridge and lights for the MUGA is something that would be considered favourably. The next step will be a full planning application. It was agreed that planning should not be sought until funding for the lights is in place.

0808/10 Planning -

0808/11 Correspondence

0808/12 To agree the date of the next parish council meeting

The next meeting will be the ordinary meeting on the 10th October 2023 at 19:00 in the parish hall

0808/13 Close

The meeting closed at 20:45 pm