

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, 10th October 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

01/10/2023

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 8th August 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:**
 - Highways – Road Warden scheme, weed clearance from bridge, strimmer course, 20 mph progress.
 - Bowhay Close curb damage
7. **Website maintenance and content provision.**
8. **Worn SWW inspection chamber cover in Broad St causing accident.**
9. **Future projects for the parish council/strategic plan** What do we want the PC to achieve next year
10. **Finances**
 - Bills to pay, cheques to be raised

11. Black Torrington Playing Fields

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

12. Planning

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

13. Correspondence

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

15. Close

Black Torrington Parish Council

Minutes of the Black Torrington Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 10th October 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: One member of the public (MoP), Ward Councillor P Hackett & Clerk

1008/01 To receive and accept apologies –

Apologies were received from Councillor W Frost

1008/02 Declarations of Interest – None

1008/03 Parish Council Minutes

It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 8th August 2023. Agreed. Signed by the Chair

1008/04 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

1008/05 Clerk & Councillor reports

The clerk reported that there were some decisions needed that would normally be on the November Agenda.

Christmas Trees for the Parish. It was agreed that 2 christmas trees should be ordered, one for Chilla and one for the tree holder on the Junction of Bowhay Close and Broad Street.

Remembrance Sunday. The old wreath is in good enough condition to use again. It was agreed to give a donation of £150 to the RBL Poppy Appeal to be ratified at the next meeting. It was agreed *nemine contradicente* that Councillor Down should lay the wreath.

Parish Council laptop. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's laptop is not working.

Ward councillor Phil Hackett reported that the new Torridge District Council (TDC) and North Devon District Council joint local plan is going to be brought into existence. Consultations will soon begin. There was a budget overspend of £1.4 million last year. PH I asked for feedback on what the District Council should be doing. Councillor suggestions were NHS, beds for care and the bus service.

Councillor Frost sent an email regarding the replacement Horse Chestnut tree and the offer by a parishioner to donate a tree. As follows:-

"I have a few reservations.

1. Where do we plant it so that it doesn't encroach on the football field? Is the field side of the tarmac car park far enough away from the edge of the football field. The tree will get big.

The playing field for a long time has tried to follow a principle that the field should always be kept of a size that could fit a regulation size league football ground. The temporary parking edge is the limit for the length of the field.

2. Buying a 'decent' sized tree is risky. They are fairly expensive compared to bare root young sapling. £70 - 135 from a quick web search. Compared to 2 - 3 pounds. Big saplings are more likely to be snapped in high winds, if you stake them their roots don't develop properly. Big saplings are more likely to die in the summer if we have a hot and dry period. 1 single sapling may not grow into an attractive tree, it could be misshapen. The PFC has not done a good job looking after the trees planted 2 winters ago, with not enough volunteer time devoted to weeding and protecting them.

3. A decent sized sapling can grow quite slowly due to the shock of transplanting it and cutting its root system. A small sapling can overtake the bigger sapling because it will establish more quickly and develop a good root system.

I suggest if we work out a good place to plant it we buy 3 or 4 bareroot small saplings, plant them at 2 metres spacing, put a protective fence around them and look after them, with mulch and weed killer. After a few years we can choose the best trees and cut out the trees that are not growing well.

We can discuss at the next PFC meeting, there is no rush we have between now and February to plant the trees."

This will be made an agenda item for the next meeting.

Councillor Lock asked whether the Parish Council should give a donation in remembrance of Gerry Mathews who was a former councillor and chair of the parish council. Agenda item for next meeting.

1008/06 Action List, matters arising from the minutes:

Highways

As requested, the clerk has obtained quotes for Chapter 8 training. These were considered too high, so it was agreed to wait until training was available from Devon Highways.

Those booked on the Strimmer course have now had their training.

The Clark reported that the 20 mile an hour speed limit for Black Torrington has been agreed, but there will be no action until Highways have carried out their consultations.

Bowhay Close curb damage

A parishioner has reported damage to the newly relaid curb in Bowhay Close. This is an unadopted road, so repairs a responsibility of the frontagers. The curb was damaged by the recycling lorry.

1008/07 Website maintenance and content provision.

Carried over.

1008/08 Worn SWW inspection chamber cover in Broad St causing accident.

There is a 'manhole' cover in Broad Street which is worn smooth. A parishioner slept and was injured on the cover. South West Water (SWW) have examined the cover and not found there to be any damage they consider in need of repair. The cover has had some tape put on it to make it easier to see.

1008/09 Future projects for the parish council/strategic plan

1008/10 Finances

Bills to pay, cheques to be raised

Date	Payee	Amount inc VAT	Brief details of supply
31/08/23	Parish magazine printing	£223.40	BT Times September edition.
02/08/23	Vincent's Tractors Ltd	£630.00	Mower repairs Paid by PFC.
02/08/23	Epic Fireworks	£894.00	Fireworks.
Section 137 of the LGA (1972) grants agreed in principle to be ratified at the next meeting			
10/10/23	Poppy appeal	£150.00	Grant to RBL Poppy Appeal

Total for month ex VAT £968.40

Total for month inc VAT £1117.40

VAT for month £149.00

1008/11 Black Torrington Playing Fields.

Playing Field Committee Report.

"Points for the playing field. Please can the PC approve payment of the invoice for the fireworks for the 4th of Nov. This cost will be recouped ex VAT from the PFC. We are asking the PC to pay in order to save VAT.

This is following advice [from the Clerk] received to say this is OK.

A fireworks display is planned for 4th November, managed as always by the PFC. We are buying separate insurance for the event.

The hedges inside the playing field were recently cut by Phil ?? I instructed him to send the invoice to the PC to pay.

He cut the trees next to the maltings ditch bag quite hard so it is now easy to access if needed.

At a recent meeting of the PFC we decided not to pursue planning for the MUGA lights due to the cost and instead investigate making use of the air ambulance post to greater effect and maybe buy battery powered moveable light if the PFC finds funds.

PFC is in the process of asking Sovereign play equipment about their warranty as the metal parts of the wooden equipment is rusting very quickly now."

1008/12 Planning -

None

1008/13 Correspondence

- Rough sleeper estimate
None known in the parish. No action required.
- Register of interests for councillors W Frost, C Lock, P Mills and A Pallat
No action required.
- Overgrown vegetation
No action required.
- 20mph limit
See item 6.
- Grant request Citizens Advice
Agenda item for next meeting.

1008/14 To agree the date of the next parish council meeting

The next meeting will be the ordinary meeting on the 5th December 2023 at 19:00 in the parish hall

1008/15 Close

The meeting closed at 20:45 pm

Black Torrington Parish Council

Minutes of the Black Torrington Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 31st October 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: One member of the public (MoP), Ward Councillor P Hackett & Clerk

10EXT/01 To receive and accept apologies –
Apologies were received from Councillor W Frost

10EXT/02 Declarations of Interest – None

10EXT/03 Planning

Torrige District Council, the determining Authority, has asked for comments from this Parish Council on the following planning application:

Reference	1/0990/2023/OUT
Address	Land At Grid Reference 246626 105553 Black Torrington Devon
Description	Outline application for demolition of existing agricultural building and replacement with 1.no. dwelling with all matters reserved except access

Black Torrington Parish Council discussed this application at a meeting on 31st October, 2023 and would recommend refusal on the following grounds:-

1. The proposed dwelling will be on land outside the development boundary and should be refused as there is no Principle of Development.
2. The Black Torrington Parish Plan strongly seeks to protect from development the large area of greenspace within the centre of the village, which also incorporates the playing field. This application will encroach onto this greenspace and will fundamentally change the unique character that the village seeks to protect.
3. This outline application is confined to the issue of access. The previous application for the conversion of the building provided for off-street parking. The Parish Council considered that the vehicles would exit onto the highway from off-road parking at a much slower speed than could be the case from the proposed driveway. This change would necessitate a reappraisal of the impact of the proposed development on Victoria Road, as highways estimate that a development would attract between 6 to 8 traffic movements per day exiting from the driveway.
4. The parish council has concerns about safety of vehicles exiting onto the narrow Victoria Road, a road so narrow the TDC recycling lorry got stuck between two properties. Furthermore, the property on the corner of Broad Street from Victoria Road and the war memorial boundary wall has been clipped by traffic failing to negotiate the tight junction

10EXT/04 Close - The meeting closed at 20:45 pm

Black Torrington Parish Council

Leasefield Farm, Beaworthy, EX21 5EX
Email: clerkblacktorrington@outlook.com

To All Black Torrington Parish Councillors,

You are hereby summoned to attend an **Extraordinary Meeting of Black Torrington Parish Council**, which will be held on Tuesday, **31st October 2023**, at the **Village Hall**, Black Torrington, at **7.00 pm** 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.

28th October 2023

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

AGENDA

- 1. To receive and accept apologies**
- 2. Declarations of Interest** - To receive declarations of personal interest and disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI's) in respect of items on this agenda.
- 3. Planning**

Torrige District Council, the determining Authority, has asked for comments from this Parish Council on the following planning application:

Reference 1/0990/2023/OUT

Address Land At Grid Reference 246626 105553 Black Torrington Devon

Description Outline application for demolition of existing agricultural building and replacement with 1.no. dwelling with all matters reserved except access

The Parish Council is a consultee, it can comment but only material planning considerations. The Parish Council will consider whether it wishes to comment on this application and also whether it wishes to ask that the application be "called in" to be determined by Torrige District Council's planning committee.

- 4. Close**