

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 January 9 2024 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

28/12/2023

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 12 December 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:

7. Finances

- Bills to pay (see attached list). Does the council wish to pay for Christmas trees
- To agree the budget for 2024/25
- To agree the precept demand for 2024/25

8. Black Torrington Playing Fields

- Playing field committee report

9. Planning

- Torridge District Council the determining authority has asked for comments on the following applications:

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

10. Correspondence

11. To confirm March 12 2024 as the date of the next parish council meeting

12. Close

Minutes of Black Torrington parish council's January meeting

Held on 9 January 2024 at 7.00pm In the Village Hall

The meeting started at 7:00pm

Present:

Cllrs M Moulton (Chair), M Down (MD), M Hall (MH), T Reeve (TR), E Heesom (EH), P Mills (PM), C Lock (CL), W Frost (WF) and A Pallatt (AP).

In Attendance:

Ward Councillor P Hackett (PH), County Councillor J Morrish 1 member of the public (MoP) and the clerk

0901/1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Ward Councillor S Gibson

0901/2 Declarations of Interest

None

0901/3 To confirm minutes for the December 2023 parish council meeting.

The minutes were signed as a correct record by Cllr M Moulton

0901/4 Public question time

No questions asked

0901/5 Clerk's and Councillors' announcements

County Councillor

County Councillor Morrish reported that he has left Mole Valley Farmers to concentrate on his Council work. He has received 19 contacts from Black Torrington parishioners in the last 3 months on a number of issues.

Roads are still a problem, floods and ice have caused a deterioration in the road surfaces. There will be no additional money for road repairs in Torridge. The main road network is

the priority so minor and rural roads will get less attention. Devon County has received an extra £6.5m for roads but none of that will be coming to Northern Devon.

The subject of the 20mph limit in Black Torrington was discussed. JM reported that Black Torrington and Bridgerule are the only 2 parishes in Northern Devon to be allowed a 20 mph limit. The limit is at the consultation phase. There was a disagreement between PH and JM as to whether the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) would be consulted.

Councillor Morrish informed the meeting that he had £4,800 available as community grants for this financial year but time was running out to make an application.

Ward Councillor

Ward Councillor Hackett reported that the planning application for a dwelling in the field off Victoria Road has not yet been determined or called in. In his opinion this almost certainly means it will be refused permission.

0901/6 Action List, matters arising from the minutes:

Website deferred to next meeting

0901/7 Finances

• Bills to pay. Does the Parish Council wish to pay for the Christmas trees?

It was agreed that the Parish Council would offer to pay for the Chilla tree but not the Black Torrington tree.

The following payments were agreed:

1. Black Torrington Village Hall £42 for 2 meetings in October and the current meeting
2. Parish Magazine Printing £223.40 to print the latest BT & Chilla Times

• To agree the budget for 2024/25

It was **resolved** to adopt the proposed budget (appendix 1) which totals £10,760.00

• To agree the precept for 2024/25

It was **resolved** to make a precept demand of £10,203.00. This is the same as last year.

0901/8 Black Torrington Playing Fields

• Playing field committee (PFC) delegate report

Regarding the replacement horse chestnut tree: The PFC reports that the corner of the overflow car park is too near the football pitch corner flag so it has been decided to place the tree in the opposite corner of the playing fields.

0901/9 Planning

- None but see Councillor Hackett's comments on the calling in of the development off Victoria Road
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0901/10 Correspondence

None

0901/11 To confirm March 12 2024 as the date of the next council meeting

March 12 2024 was confirmed as the date of the next meeting

0901/12 Close

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm

Black Torrington Parish Council
C/O Leasefield Farm
Halwill
Beaworthy
EX21 5XU

22nd January 2024

Webbers Estate Agents
17 High Street
Torrington
Devon
EX38 8HN

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Longhall, in Black Torrington, a property for which you are acting as estate agents.

It recently came to the attention of Black Torrington Parish Council that Longhall is the summer nesting site for swifts. They nest under the eaves of Longhall on the west side of the house going up to the church. Swifts are red listed as birds of conservation concern in the UK and they are a protected species under UK law. This means their nests cannot be disturbed during the breeding season.

The parish council has just started a new initiative to support swift nesting in the parish. The parish council can provide funding for advice, work and purchase and installation of swift nest boxes. Please can you pass this information on to any prospective buyers, as we would not want the existence of swift nesting sites to be considered a problem. Our contact details are below.

Nesting swifts could affect any renovation work a new owner might do to the property. The parish council thought it best we inform you so that you may inform any prospective buyers. Work would be able to take place outside of the breeding season but the parish council would like to encourage any new owner to take advice about the nesting swifts and how best to reduce disturbance of them, as Black Torrington is one of the few villages in Devon with a significant number of swift nest sites.

Yours sincerely,

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M. Moulton, Chair

.....
D Osborne, Clerk

For and on behalf of Black Torrington Parish Council

Statutory

PROPOSED BUDGET	AGREED BUDGET FOLLOWING G MEETING	REVISED FCAST
2022-23	2022-23	2022-23
£	£	£

PROPOSED BUDGET	REVISED FCAST	VARIENCE
2023-24	2023-24	2023-24
£	£	£

PROPOSED BUDGET
2024-25
£

Insurance	620	620	584
DALC Affiliation	110	110	106
Domain Name/Hosting	67	67	67
Software/IT	56	56	
Audit	200	200	
Admin expenses	300	300	50
Hall Hire	150	150	90
Clerk	2573	2573	
Training	100	100	
Travel/Subsistence	50	50	
Mem. Garden upkeep	100	100	100

584	642	-58
110	127	-17
67	67	
56		56
200		200
100		100
150	150	
2573		2573
100		100
50		50
100		100

642
178
67
500
200
50
150
2573
100
50
100

4610.46

Discretionary

BT Times Nett			
Playing Field maintenance	1500	1500	2,923
Christmas Tree	100	100	252
War memorial incremental			
Toilets incremental	500	500	500
Grants/s137fete prize	250	250	839
Reserves/projects	3166	3166	1,239
Total	9842	9842	7,847
Precept			

500	576	-76
1500	324	1176
150	255	-105
500	500	
500	625	-125
3000	3000	
10,240	6,267	3,973

500
1500
150
500
500
3000
10,760

6150