

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 March 12 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

01/03/2024

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 9 January 2024 as a correct record.

4. Public Question Time and invited speakers

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. To consider Black Torrington's response to Devon County's request for EV charging sites.

7. To consider siting a milk station in the bus shelter

8. Finances

- Bills to pay (see attached list).

- To consider grant requests from:
 - Bell Ringers
 - Clawton Young Farmers
 - Black Torrington Skittles Team

9. Black Torrington Playing Fields

- Playing field committee report

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 confirm May 14 2024 as the date of the Annual Parish Council Meeting and ordinary parish council meeting

13.Close

Minutes of Black Torrington parish council's March meeting

Held on 12 March 2024 at 7.00pm In the Village Hall

The meeting started at 7:00pm

Present:

Cllrs M Moulton (Chair), M Down (MD), T Reeve (TR), E Heesom (EH), 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

1203/1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Ward Councillor S Gibson and councillors P Mills and M Hall

1203/2 Declarations of Interest

None

1203/3 To confirm minutes for the January 2024 parish council meeting.

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

1203/4 Public question time

No questions asked

1203/5 Clerk's and Councillors' announcements

County Councillor

County Councillor Morrish asked the Clerk to make sure and invite District Councillor Gibson to future meetings. The arrangement where one of the 2 ward councillors would be the link for Black Torrington to Torridge District Council ("TDC") is no longer to be applied.

Reporting on Devon County Council ("DCC") matters JM said that the budget has been set and the precept increased by the maximum allowed (4.99%). The budget is still tight. Devon is edging towards it's devolution deal. Plymouth has pulled out so the deal is for

Devon County, Torbay and Exeter. There will be £50m from central government that the new devolved authority will have control over. Little of this is additional money but decisions on how to allocate it will be made locally and not by central government. This will make little difference North of the A30 as the large population centres are in the South so that is where the money will be spent.

There will be community grants next financial year should any local groups be in need of small grants let JM know.

The roads are in a poor condition, this did not seem to come as a surprise to those present.

Councillor Morrish has received a number of complaints about the bus and rail timetables not linking up efficiently leading to college students having to wait for long periods. He is going to have a meeting with representatives of the train and bus companies to try and improve things.

Ward Councillor

Ward Councillor Hackett also reported on TDC's briefing on the devolution deal. The deal will create a combined authority rather than a unitary authority. Most of the TDC councillors were against the deal which will favour the Southern districts.

Parish Councillors

Councillor Moulton reported that a grant of £350.00 has been received from DCC's community grants scheme with help from Councillor Morrish. The grant is for village planters to be placed at the entrances to the village. Details of the planters yet to be decided.

Councillor Frost reported that the speakers invited to the meeting to talk about swift boxes and the school had not been able to attend but it is hoped they will attend a future meeting. It was suggested that the Annual Parish Meeting might be a better meeting for the speakers to attend. It was agreed that a committee should be set up to oversee the swift boxes as we are approaching nesting season and decisions may be needed at shorter notice than the full council could manage.

Councillor Heesom reported that she will recirculate the website options for consideration at a future meeting. We don't yet know what options TDC will be offering for web hosting.

1203/6 To consider Black Torrington's response to Devon County's request for EV charging sites:

Background

As the phasing out of petrol and diesel vehicles approaches there is a need to rapidly increase the number of electric vehicle charging points across the country. This is particularly an issue for rural areas where destination charging is lacking. There are 2 government schemes, the Office of Zero Emissions Vehicles ("OZEV") grants for renters and flat owners and the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure ("LEVI") fund. The OZEV fund

is for individuals to apply for. The LEVI fund is administered by DCC to provide charging points in public spaces.

Request

DCC has asked for owners or administrators of parish or community car parks who wish to host EV charge points to put in expressions of interest. Councillor Heesom has put in an expression of interest for the village hall car park. The clerk has advised that the council has no decision making role over village hall property but it can assist if asked. There will be an online briefing with DCC officers on the 20 March, 2024.

Decision

It was agreed to defer this until the next meeting as there is little definite information at the moment.

1203/7 To consider siting a milk station in the bus shelter

The parish council has been asked if a milk station similar to the one in Hatherleigh in the bus shelter near the entrance to the playing fields. It was reported that a milk station or fridge may be installed by another supplier elsewhere in the village but this may only be temporary. It was agreed that the council should wait to see what happens with the alternative milk fridge. In the mean time the Clerk was asked to contact TDC regarding the possibility spurring off an electric and water supply from the toilets. A cable would need to be dug under the path to the bus shelter to provide power and water to the proposed milk station.

1203/8 Finances

• Bills to pay

The following payments were agreed:

1. Parish Magazine Printing £203.00 to print the latest BT & Chilla Times
2. Will Frost £40.00 councillor's expenses for memorial plaque
3. Mary Moulton £30.00 councillor's expenses for Christmas tree lights
4. Mrs S Jones £47.98 for Christmas tree lights (Chilla)

• To consider grant requests from:

1. Bell Ringers

It was **resolved** to award a grant of £150.00 to St Mary's Ruby Ringers handbell ringers for 2 refurbished bells

2. Clawton Young Farmers

It was **resolved** to award a grant of £150.00 to Clawton Young Farmers

3. Black Torrington Skittles Team

It was **resolved** to award a grant of £100.00 to the Black Torrington Skittles Team for a new set of skittles

1203/9 Black Torrington Playing Fields

- **Playing field committee (PFC) delegate report**

Regarding the replacement horse chestnut tree: The PFC reports that the trees should be planted on the 21 or 22 March 2024.

1203/10 Planning

- None
-

1203/11 Correspondence

Covered in agenda items.

1203/12 To confirm May 14 2024 as the date of the Annual Parish Meeting and the next council meeting

The date of the next meeting was not confirmed.

1203/13 Close

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm

Skittles

[redacted]@icloud.com>

Wed 28/02/2024 10:41

To: clerkblacktorrington@outlook.com <clerkblacktorrington@outlook.com>

Good morning

I'm contacting you on behalf of the Black Torrington skittles team.

We are a new team who play during the winter on a Monday evening and participate in a local league.

At the moment a dozen different people have represented our team and we hope to widen the involvement before next season.

We have inherited the equipment from store cupboard in Village Hall .

The skittles themselves are very old and battered and in an ideal world we'd like to replace them.

To that end could I please add this request to your list of potential recipients of the Parish Council funds and grants rollout.

It appears that a new set of skittles is in the order of over £300. I can supply evidence of that if and when required. We are also intending to hold a fundraising event for this purpose. Any help you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions please do contact me.

With kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Black Torrington

Sent from my iPhone

Project funding

[REDACTED]@gmail.com <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sat 24/02/2024 15:47

To: clerkblacktorrington@outlook.com <clerkblacktorrington@outlook.com>

To whom this may concern,

I hope you are keeping well,

I'm just dropping a quick email as to whether the parish council would consider help funding a sound system for Clawton YFC.

Even though we are not directly based in Black Torrington, due to the closure of more local young farmers clubs in the 1990s, clawton is the closest YFC to BT parish! With a number of young farmers including myself live within the parish!

If you have any further queries do not hesitate to give me a call or drop me an email.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Clawton and district YFC chairman 😊

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com>

Sent: 08 February 2024 11:45

To: clerkblacktorrington@outlook.com <clerkblacktorrington@outlook.com>

Cc: marybtpc@gmail.com <marybtpc@gmail.com>

Subject: Applica on for funding

Dear Mr Osbourne

I am writing to you on behalf of the village handbell group, St Mary's Ruby Ringers.

We were formed after our first fundraising events after Lockdown way back in 2021, when we were raising money to restore the 14 existing handbells. Through the generosity of local villagers, two grants from Devon County Council; the 'Reconnect Rebuild Recover Project' and 'Growing Communities Fund'; our own fundraising and a generous donation, we now possess 25 bells, all reconditioned, which form a two-octave diatonic set.

Our group is open to all and as we play by numbers members do not have to read music. Our current ringers all come from Black Torrington and the surrounding area: Highampton, Chilla, Petrockstowe and Shebbear. Although we are still very inexperienced, we have played at several care homes in the area as well attending events in our village.

Some of our music requires two deeper bells which we would very much like to add to our set. We have been offered these by the restorer for £373 each and are in 'as new' condition. As we have just received the last seven bells to make up the 25 bell set our funds are depleted, but a deposit would secure the extra two.

We would be very grateful if the Parish Council would feel able to offer a contribution to the cost.

[Total for two bells £746. New price £1674]

I look forward to hearing from you

Your sincerely

[redacted]

Don Osbourne clerkblacktorrington@outlook.com

cc Mary Moulton Marybtpc@gmail.com

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com>

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Clawton and district YFC chairman 😊