

Meeting of Black Torrington Parish Council

To All Black Torrington parish councillors,

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of Black Torrington Parish Council, which will be held on Tuesday July 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

01/07/2024

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

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 meetings held on 21 May 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. War memorial

- Review of memorial garden maintenance provision
- War memorial inspection and maintenance

7. To consider adopting a ".gov.uk" domain name

8. Possible future projects and initiatives.

9. BT Times publishing and number of issues.

10.Finances

- Bills to pay (see attached list).

11.Black Torrington Playing Fields

- Playing field committee report

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.Meeting dates. To agree a calendar of meeting dates for the year.

15.Close

Minutes of Black Torrington parish council's March meeting

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

The meeting started at 7:00pm

Present:

Cllrs M Hall (Chair), M Down (MD), C Lock (CL), W Frost (WF).

In Attendance:

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

0807/1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Ward Councillor S Gibson and councillors P Mills and A Pallatt

0807/2 Declarations of Interest

None

0807/3 To confirm minutes for the January 2024 parish council meeting.

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

0807/4 Public question time

A member of the public came forward to say they would like to be co-opted on to the council. We have not yet been given permission to co-opt. The MoP was invited to attend the next meeting.

0807/5 Clerk's and Councillors' announcements

County Councillor

Nothing whatsoever

Ward Councillor

Ward Councillor Hackett reported that Bideford is to get "Street Marshals" which should free up the Police to catch criminals.

There should be community benefit fund money available from the [X-Links project](#):

“The Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project will be a new electricity generation facility entirely powered by solar and wind energy combined with a battery storage facility. Located in Morocco’s renewable energy rich region of Guelmim Oued Noun, it will be connected exclusively to Great Britain via 4000km (2485 miles) HVDC sub-sea cables.

This first of a kind project will generate 11.5GW of zero carbon electricity from the sun and wind to deliver 3.6GW of reliable energy for an average of 19+ hours a day. This is enough to provide low-cost, clean power to the equivalent of over 7 million British homes and once complete, the project will be capable of supplying 8 percent of Great Britain’s electricity needs.

We are committed to explore all opportunities to contribute to social and economic development in Devon, including through the tender of work packages during the construction of the project and through the establishment of a community benefit fund.”

PH suggested community benefit money could be used to extend the Ruby Way multi use path. PH reported that Holsworthy has lost one of its dentists.

Parish Councillors

Councillor Down said that there were going to be hospital beds in Holsworthy but this has not happened, MD thought the Xlink project might be able to fund staff for Holsworthy Hospital.

0807/6 War memorial

Review of memorial garden maintenance provision

The memorial gardens are in need of regular maintenance. The Chair has advertised for a gardener to maintain the garden on a regular basis. A call for volunteers has been made but is not a permanent solution. Once under control Councillor Frost thought 4 hours a month would be sufficient. Councillor Frost will talk to the lady that used to maintain it. The Clerk informed the Council that volunteer workers are covered by our insurance but contractors must have their own. The Chair will talk to potential contractors.

It was **resolved** to allow a budget of £200 to hire a contractor to maintain the memorial garden until the next meeting.

War memorial inspection and maintenance

The lettering on the front panel of the war memorial is eroding and becoming illegible. The Chair asked if all councillors could look at the memorial before the next meeting and suggest what, if anything can be done. Councillor Lock said this has been looked at before and it was suggested that slate panels were placed over the eroding granite panel. The memorial is listed so any work will need consent and advice. The Clerk will seek options for the next meeting. Carried over

0807/7 To consider adopting a “.gov.uk” domain name

It is not a requirement to have a “.gov.uk” domain name but it is strongly recommended as it gives extra trust and security. It does not change the website host or emails though councillors could choose to have a .gov.uk email address if they chose. About half of parish councils have moved to a “.gov.uk” domain name but they are more expensive. There are grants available to help the transition.

It was **resolved** to move to a “.gov.uk” domain name.

0807/8 Possible future projects and initiatives.

Just the war memorial

0807/9 BT Times publishing and number of issues.

The unpaid editor of the BT & Chilla Times is finding it troublesome and wishes to cut down. It was agreed that the BT & Chilla times should be published quarterly.

0807/10 Finances

• Bills to pay

The following payment was agreed:

1. Parish Magazine Printing £192.75 to print the latest BT & Chilla Times
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0807/11 Black Torrington Playing Fields

• Playing field committee (PFC) delegate report

The PFC held its AGM. End of year accounts show £2,800 in the bank. The PFC wished to know if the Parish Council will cover the mower maintenance and fuel costs. The grass has been left long in places to benefit wildlife. Not everyone is happy about this. It will be cut short before the end of the year.

There was a discussion about the young volunteer that has been helping to maintain the playing fields and war memorial site. The Clerk circulated advice from our insurers and our legal advisers before the meeting. Everyone present thought it showed great initiative but following advice circulated by the Clerk regarding responsibility, training and PPE it was felt unwise to allow it to continue.

0807/12 Planning

- None
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0807/13 Correspondence

Covered in agenda items.

0807/14 Meeting dates. To agree a calendar of meeting dates for the year.

The next meeting will be on 10 September at 7 pm in the Village Hall. The draft calendar of meetings was agreed.

0807/15 Close

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm

Bills for payment July 2024

Current Account

Date	Payee	Amount Ex VAT	Amount inc VAT	Brief details of supply
21/06/24	Parish magazine printing	£192.75	£192.75	BT Times July ed.

Total for month ex VAT £192.75
Total for month inc VAT £192.75
VAT for month £0

Black Torrington Parish Council

Calendar of Meetings 2024-25

January 2024 1						
M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
<u>1</u>	2	3	4	5	6	7
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February 2						
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December 12						
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January 2025 1						
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March 3						
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April 4						
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May 5						
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June 6						
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	Election
	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
	Full Council