

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 September 10 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

01/09/2024

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 9 July 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
- To agree a donation and/or the purchase of a new wreath for Remembrance Sunday

- 7. Co-option of members following the resignation of councillors Reeve, Heesom and Moulton**
- 8. To consider installing an outside tap and drinking fountain with a water supply from Torridge District Council's toilets block**
- 9. Defibrillators.**
- 10. Community SpeedWatch; what, why, how**
- 11. Temporary closure of the Youth Club. To consider holding records and money on behalf of the Youth Club**
- 12. Finances**
 - Bills to pay (see attached list).
- 13. Black Torrington Playing Fields**
 - Playing field committee report
- 14. Planning**

Any planning application which is received after this Agenda is published may be discussed here though no formal agreement can be made.
- 15. Correspondence**
- 16. To agree the date of the next meeting.**
- 17. Close**

Minutes of Black Torrington parish council's September meeting

Held on 10 September 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), P Mills (PM).

In Attendance:

County Councillor J Morrish (JM), 3 members of the public (MoP) and the clerk

1009/1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Ward Councillor P Hackett and councillor A Pallatt

1009/2 Declarations of Interest

None

1009/3 To confirm minutes for the July 2024 parish council meeting.

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

1009/4 Public question time

A member of the public attended to discuss a letter they had sent regarding the planting of trees and the irregular grass cutting on the recreation ground. This was discussed under Item 13 with the Chair granting public participation.

1009/5 Clerk's and Councillors' announcements

County Councillor

County Councillor James Morrish reported on progress on the 20mph speed limit for Black Torrington. The project has taken a long time (over 2 years). Because of the delay there will be a further advertisement period. The money is in place. The project should be completed by Christmas.

Councillor Morrish has had 4 communications from parishioners on topics including affordable housing and hunting with hounds.

Devolution is proceeding slowly. It probably will not be affected by the change of government.

Some members of the public are not happy with Devon County Council's investment policy.

DCC is making cuts necessary to remain within budget

Ward Councillor

None present

Parish Councillors

It was agreed to use Chairman's expenses to pay for daffodils for Chilla

1009/6 War memorial

Review of memorial garden maintenance provision

The contractor commissioned by the Chair has purchased public liability insurance.

Work to date:

9 hours at £20 an hour - £180 from a budget of £500

It was **agreed** to retain his services for next year

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

Councillor Down has the old wreath, the wreath is suitable to be reused.

It was **resolved** to give a grant of £150 to the Royal British Legion

1009/7 Co-option of members following the resignation of councillors Reeve, Heesom and Moulton

One member of the public put their name forward for consideration, Mrs E Barnes. Mrs E Barnes was proposed, seconded and it was **resolved** to co-opt her onto the Parish Council.

1009/8 To consider installing an outside tap and drinking fountain with a water supply from Torridge District Council's toilets block.

Councillor Frost reported that the Playing Field Committee (PFC) was investigating installing an outside tap to water the planters near the public toilets and a drinking fountain for thirsty parishioners. The easiest water connection would be to the toilet block managed by Torridge District Council (TDC). Torridge have given a list of stipulations for a connection to their water supply that amount to a requirement that there will be no installation or running cost to TDC and they will accept no public liability.

The chair had concerns over legionella with a drinking fountain and abuse of a tap if it is publicly accessible.

Councillor Frost will investigate and report back at the next meeting

1009/9 Defibrillator update.

Councillor Frost gave an update on his research into the best option for a defibrillator to be located at the Parish Hall. London Hearts offer the best deal. They are a charity who will donate a defibrillator and cabinet but ask that you make a "requested donation" of £750 to them.

It was **resolved** to ask for a London Hearts defibrillator and grant them a donation of £750.00 WF to arrange.

1009/10 Community SpeedWatch; what, why, how.

Community SpeedWatch involves local volunteers with a radar speed monitor recording the speeds in problem areas. Volunteers have to be approved by the police. Community SpeedWatch is the most effective way to reduce speeds in a community provided it is carried out regularly. Anyone caught over the limit will get a letter from the police and may get points on their licence if a calibrated speed gun is used.

The system relies on volunteers. The Clerk and Chair are registered to use the equipment but it needs more volunteers as ideally you need 3 people for a session.

1009/11 Temporary closure of the Youth Club. To consider holding records and money on behalf of the Youth Club

The Black Torrington Youth Club (the Club) is going to temporarily close. They have requested that the Parish Council hold money on behalf of the Club until such time as the Club reopens. There is about £600 to bank. There are also files and records belonging to the Club which need to be stored. The clerk advised that the Parish Council does have the power to hold money and documents on behalf of community groups.

It was **agreed** that the PC is willing to hold money and documents on behalf of the Club until they are needed.

1009/12 Finances

• Bills to pay

The following payment was agreed:

1. Parish Magazine Printing £192.75 to print the September edition of BT & Chilla Times
2. Black Torrington Village Hall £28.00 for hall hire

3. AJP Shaw £120 for 2 sessions of War Memorial Garden tidying, 6 hours at £20 hr.
 4. D C Osborne £35.70 expenses
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1009/13 Black Torrington Playing Fields

• Playing field committee delegate report

The PFC will hold a meeting to organise the parish fireworks next week. The PFC will arrange insurance for the bonfire and fireworks. It is intended that the fireworks will be on 2 November.

The letter from the member of the public regarding maintenance and tree planting on the recreation ground was discussed with public participation. There was a heated debate. The PFC has authority to act in this matter and is entitled to make its own committee decisions.

The matter will be discussed at the next PFC committee meeting and any decisions reported back to the PC and the public. Whether the letter is published in the BT and Chilla Times is a matter for the editor and not the PC.

1009/14 Planning

- None
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1009/15 Correspondence

Covered in agenda items.

1009/16 To agree the date of the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on 12 November at 7 pm in the Village Hall.

1009/17 Close

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm

Bills for payment September 2024

Current Account

Date	Payee	Amount Ex VAT	Amount inc VAT	Brief details of supply
30/07/24	AJP Shaw - Paid	£60.00	£60.00	War Memorial tidy
03/09/24	AJP Shaw - Paid	£60.00	£60.00	War Memorial tidy
19/08/24	Parish magazine printing - Paid	£192.75	£192.75	BT Times September ed.
13/07/24	Black Torrington Village Hall	£28.00	£28.00	Hall Hire
10/09/24	Mr D C Osborne	£11.99	£14.39	Domain name
		£17.76	£21.31	Stationery (1/3 ink)

Total for month ex VAT £370.50

Total for month inc VAT £376.45

VAT for month £5.95

This is a Letter from Dave Powell at The Poplars.

I have Grave concerns as to the Management of our Playing Field. We now have unmanaged areas within The Playing Field which make the whole Playing Field look untidy. This is all due to the Random Planting of Trees. How the Planting of Trees within a Designated area of Playing Field was Granted? To me BEGGERS BELIEF. If that Permission was ever SOUGHT??

We are now faced with Health and Safety issues within our Playing Field, will you be faced with Fencing of these Areas? If so, what right have you to Fence these Areas within the Field when the whole area was Gifted to The Village as a Playing Field, which should be kept Tidy and Presentable as a Playing Field should be and a Safe area for all to Enjoy.

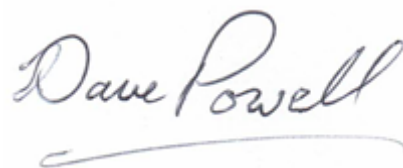
The impact of these areas of Trees in future years within our Playing Field will be Colossal. The Trees along The M.U.G.A. which is open to The Public, who's going to sweep the leaves from this area Daily? Yes, once again wet leaves on a designated Play Area, once again Health and Safety issues.

The whole of our Lovely Playing Field is surrounded with Trees and Hedgerow. I do not want our Playing Field as a Tree Huggers Paradise or a Flora and Fauna Nature Reserve. I want to see it Managed as a Playing Field as it was gifted to the VILLAGE. I would like to see these Trees removed and these areas re-installed as Manageable areas within our Playing Field and some common sense prevail over the Management of Our Lovely Playing Field

This Letter I have handed to Councillor Mr Chris Lock, as one of the few left that were born. in our Village and is aware of how The Playing Field has been cared for over his Lifetime. I must thank The Football Team as regards to the work they have put into their Maintenance of The Playing Field this year, but this still leaves me with grave concerns as to the Direction the Playing Field is heading under its present Management.

I would also like this Letter printed in The Parrish Magazine, I'm afraid I don't do emails, maybe an address as regards for inclusion in The Parrish Magazine would be Helpful.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Powell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Dave Powell