

BISHOPS TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26 September 2013 at Bishops Tawton Village Hall at 7:00pm

Present: Cllrs R Hambly in the Chair, K Barron, S Clayton, P Leaver, J Tucker and C Verney.

In attendance: Cllrs G Lane (NDC), members of the public, Mr S Dart (EA), Parish Clerk.

61. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ms S Barber, R Edgell (DCC) and D Luggar (NDC),

62. Election of Chairman

Deferred to the next meeting.

63. Presentation by Simon Dart, Flood Risk Engineer, Environment Agency

Mr Dart introduced himself and explained that he was responsible for submitting the Agency's response to planning applications in the Torridge and North Devon council areas.

He was currently looking at the report prepared by Bishops Tawton Parish Council and was assessing what could be done with the funds available. Work would soon be starting on the wall at Valley Cottages. A survey was due to be carried out on the river banks. The cost of a complete scheme had been estimated at £700,000. At present it was estimated that only £200,000 would be available from government funding. The balance would need to be sought from other sources. One source could be from contributions from local developments.

The owner of the river bank on the Tawstock side of the River Taw was not willing to remove the flood bank, and the Environment Agency had no power to enforce its removal. The most that they could do was to stop maintaining it. It was not clear if widening the stream would have any effect. It was noted that the responsibility of removing trees etc from the river lay with the landowner, not the Environment Agency.

Although it was widely understood that dredging the River Taw was a condition of the Anchor Wood development, Mr Dart had no knowledge of this and stated that it was not an EA stipulated condition.

The EA was currently in talks with SWW regarding the pumping station.

Unfortunately Bishops Tawton was low on the list of priorities due to the low number of properties at risk when compared to other towns and villages.

NDC was responsible for monitoring the discharge from storage tanks, not the EA.

Mr Dart confirmed that he was the first point of contact for Bishops Tawton.

64. Parishioners Open Session

1. In answer to a question, Mr Taylor informed the meeting that he was permitted to make a video recording of the meeting following guidance issued by Eric Pickles MP.
2. No update had been received from the police regarding the parking on pavements.
3. It was agreed that a notice of the next meeting be placed in the North Devon Journal.

65. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 25 July 2013.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a correct record.

66. Matters Arising from meeting held on 25 July 2013

None.

67. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Leaver declared an interest in item 74. One of the quotes for repairs had been submitted from a friend of his.

Cllr Hambly declared an interest in item 70. He had a family involvement in one of the potential development sites.

68. Reports

1. District Councillors

Cllr Lane reported that the council's budget was being cut from £15.5m to £10m by 2016. This meant that a further saving of £2.1m was necessary over the next three years. This could only be achieved by making cuts in every department.

2. County Councillor

None – County Councillor not present, having tendered his apologies.

69. Planning

1. Applications

56320 Reserved matters application for erection of 24 dwellings (outline planning permission 54958) at land adjacent Denes Road & Birch Road Landkey

It was resolved to recommend refusal due to the lack of detail regarding surface water run-off from the site.

It was also resolved to request that a contribution to flood alleviation work in Bishops Tawton be made a condition should planning consent be granted.

2. Decisions – approval:

55894 Approval of details in respect of discharge of conditions 3 (roof tiles) & 7 (retaining walls) attached to planning permission 50381 at Newlands Bishops Tawton Barnstaple

55887 Listed building application for works to strengthen the building at Threshing Barn at Hall Bishops Tawton Barnstaple

55587 Variation of condition 3 (materials & design) & condition 4 (obscure glazing) attached to planning permission 52792 for extension to dwelling at Easter Cottage 4 Easter Street Bishops Tawton Barnstaple

70. Call for sites

Cllr Hambly declared an interest and left the meeting while his submission was being discussed. It was reported that following the June public consultation a response had been submitted to North Devon Council regarding the Local Plan. This had stipulated a maximum 5% growth in housing, within the existing development boundary. NDC had requested proof that there were sufficient sites within the development boundary, or adjacent to it to achieve 5% growth.

Following the parish council's Call for Sites various possible development sites had been submitted. These had been exhibited at a further public consultation held on 14 September. Cllr Leaver explained the various sites that had been submitted. The result of the consultation would be published on the parish website. It was considered that there were enough sites within the development boundary to achieve the 5% growth, and that only these would be submitted for development.

It was agreed that the submission to NDC would state:

1. There will be a 5% growth in housing numbers (20 houses) in the village over the plan period, to take place within the existing development boundary of the village.
2. Any development must contribute towards flood alleviation works and must prove that it will not increase the risk of flooding in the village.
3. In addition, the public consultation in June highlighted priorities for enhancements and improvements to the village. The top priorities are:
 1. Flood alleviation works.
 2. Improvements in car parking and a new village car park.
 3. Improvements to the existing village hall.
 4. Improvements to the local footpath network

It was agreed to write to the planning department requesting contributions towards the flood alleviation works from the Larkbear development.

71. Flooding

Already covered earlier in the meeting.

72. Results of open day and submission to district council:

Already covered earlier in the meeting.

3. Payments:

1. Mr J Harding – grass cutting:			
July	£150.00		
August	£150.00		
September	£150.00	£450.00	Cheque No. 858
2. J & J Bins – emptying dog bins:			
July and August	£104.00		Cheque No. 859
3. Play Inspection company Ltd	£354.00		Cheque No. 860
4. Edf Energy	£ 46.00		Cheque No. 861

The four accounts were approved for payment.

82. Correspondence

1. NDC were holding a Parish Forum at 7pm in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre on 9 October.
2. Barnstaple Town Council were holding an Environment and Planning School at 9.15am in The Castle Centre on 12 October. Cllr Verney expressed a wish to attend.
3. An email had been received from Mr Taylor regarding the replacement of a bench that had been washed away during the flood. It was reported that Bishops Tawton Ladies were proposing to purchase a seat after the flood alleviation work had been carried out.
4. Tawstock Parish Council advised that the village hall staging, purchased with Bishops Tawton PC through the TAP fund had been received. It was now available for use at Bishops Tawton village Hall when required.
5. Other circulars and periodicals were noted: Healthwatch Devon; Clerks and Councils Direct; Junk Mail; DALC Annual Report.

83. Items to placed on the agenda of the next meeting

Election of Chairman; Snow Warden; Appointment to Sub Committees; Japanese Knotweed.

84. Date of next meeting: Thursday 24 October 2013.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:37pm