

# Tunstall Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on virtually on Monday  
1 June 2020

Present: Cllr Mavis Hibben (Chair), Cllr Peter Mitchell, Cllr Vivien Rich, Cllr Louisa Roberts and Cllr Sarah Stephen; and Mrs W Licence (Clerk).

Also present was County Councillor Andrew Bowles, County Councillor John Wright and Ward Councillor Paul Stephen.

Cllr Hibben welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllr Hibben informed the meeting of the death of Mark Radford, Chief Executive Officer of Swale Borough Council, who had worked for the Borough Council since 1987 and was well respected. Sincere thoughts are with the family, friends and colleagues of Mr Radford.

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Lee Burgess (personal) and Cllr Susanne Earl (work); apologies accepted.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

## 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 MAY 2020

Cllr Hibben **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting; **SECONDED** by Cllr Mitchell: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Hibben will sign the minutes when physical Council meetings are permitted.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Hibben reported that there had been no meeting in April and a short meeting in May and there are matters arising from the meeting in March.

### COVID-19

Cllr Hibben said that it is good to see Councillors fit and well. Councillors are helping in the community and working with Swale Borough Council to ensure residents in the parish are helped when needed.

*7.35pm Cllr Rich joined the meeting.*

### Coffin Pond

Cllr Hibben said the Kent Wildlife Trust has been approached to consider a way forward regarding Coffin Pond. Cllr Roberts has agreed to meet with the Kent Wildlife Trust but the current lockdown has meant that it has not been possible to arrange this yet.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact the Trust again.*

### Hedge opposite The Den

Cllr Hibben reported that a section of the hedge has been replaced and thanked Cllr Rich and Cllr Roberts for watering the hedge.

#### Friends of King George V Playing Field

Cllr Hibben asked SBCllr S Stephen for an update on the Special Projects Grant for the playing field.

SBCllr S Stephen said that she will pass on the contact details.

#### War Memorial

Cllr Hibben said a meeting was going to be arranged between Councillors and the vicar prior to lockdown.

Cllr Rich said she had met with the vicar and wording for a new memorial is being drafted.

#### Railings adjacent to the pond near school

Cllr Hibben reported the damaged railings have been replaced

### **5. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No members of the public were present.

### **6. REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

SBCllr S Stephen expressed Swale Borough Council's sadness over the death of Mark Radford.

It has been a traumatic weekend for the Borough Council as there was a major cliff fall on the Isle of Sheppey and Officers have been very busy.

The Borough Council is now meeting remotely and is working hard on Visitor Economy and Tourism Framework plans which will go out to public consultation soon and this will be even more relevant now as people will want to holiday at home post-COVID-19. The Swale Heritage Strategy 2020 – 2032 has been approved. There is an Economic Recovery Plan Group, again for post-COVID-19. The Council is looking at town centres, Sittingbourne, Sheerness and Faversham, and will receive Government money through KCC to help after the lockdown has eased. The Community Hub and grants team have been amazing with a lot of behind the scenes work happening.

Cllr Hibben thanked SBCllr S Stephen for her report.

KCCllr Bowles expressed his condolences to the family of Mark Radford

The County Council is getting busier and is holding an increasing number of meetings remotely and the first planning meeting has been held online. It has taken some time to set this up as some Councillors only have iPads. It is hoped to run the existing calendar of meetings in July. The COVID-19 epidemic is extremely costly to Kent County Council, there has been a massive increase in expenditure and a decrease in revenue and it has only been reimbursed 50% from Government. There is also an issue with the reduced collection rate of taxes and this will make the budget for 20-21 irrelevant. Some schools are not going back until next week. There is a health Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting next week

Cllr Hibben thanked KCCllr Bowles for attending and for his report.

KCCllr Wright said that he echoed the sympathies for the family of Mark Radford, both he and KCCllr Bowles had worked with Mr Radford at Swale Borough Council for many years and always found him to be an honest and fair-minded person.

KCCllr Wright said that he is a Governor at Medway Hospital which has been the main hospital for Sittingbourne where patients with COVID-19 have been admitted. The virus will be present until there is a vaccine and the message regarding hand-washing and using sanitisers is extremely important. As lockdown eases the disease will probably increase and everyone must stay alert. Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council will be involved with contact tracing. He has been lobbying Roger Gough, Leader Kent County Council, for more convenient access to tests and it is also important that the results to come quickly. Everyone must follow the rules and self-isolate if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and follow advice if experiencing breathing problems. The Parish Council is well-placed to help pass on advice, the advice is changing as the country comes out of lockdown. Kent County Council has

responsibility for public health and has been securing supplies of personal protective equipment.

Cllr Hibben thanked KCCllr Wright for attending and for his report.

## 7. FINANCE

### i. Cheques raised and accounts

Chq No	Payable to	Reason	Amount
1466	Mrs J Barnicott	Litter picking April and May	<b>£198.45</b>
1467	Mrs W Licence	Salary and expenses	<b>£484.71</b>
1468	HMRC	PAYE	<b>£126.20</b>

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to the signing of the cheques.

Cllr Hibben reported that David Buckett will carry out the audit remotely and all papers are being emailed to him.

The Clerk said it is hoped that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return will be signed off at the next meeting.

### ii. To consider a request for a grant from Marie Curie

### iii. To consider a request for a grant from the British Red Cross

Cllr Roberts said all charities funding streams have dried up so would be supportive of a request.

Cllr Rich said the Parish Council could receive hundreds of requests from charities and needs to consider which charities it should support and whether they are causes residents would choose. These two charities have marketing departments and have written to parish Councils. They are both good charities but the Council needs to think carefully about what it does with its money.

Cllr Mitchell said the charities are relevant during the current crisis.

Cllr Stephen said the grants need to be relevant to the parish and it might be more relevant to give when the country comes out of lockdown

Cllr Mitchell **PROPOSED** to give a grant of £50.00 to each of the charities; **SECONDED** by Cllr Hibben: **4- FOR, 1 ABSTENTION: MOTION CARRIED.**

*8.05pm KCCllr Wright left the meeting.*

## 8. PLANNING

*SBCllr P Stephen left the meeting for the duration of this item as he is on Swale Borough Council Planning Committee.*

### i. Ref: 20/501748/FULL

Address: Hawthorne Cottage Oakwood Farm Ruins Barn Road Tunstall Kent ME9 8AA

Proposal: Demolition of existing stables and outbuildings and erection of new barn and stable outbuilding.

Councillors considered the application and had no comment to make save that neighbours comments be taken into account.

### ii. Ref: 20/502119/FULL

Address: 169 Sterling Road Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1ST

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Councillors considered the application and had no comment to make save that neighbours comments be taken into account.

iii. Any other planning matter received by 1 June 2020

Ref: 20/501398/FULL

Address: 1 School View Tunstall Road Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8DX

Proposal: Single storey rear/side extension (resubmission 19/505320/FULL).

Cllr Roberts informed Members that the application has been permitted.

i. Ref: 20/501831/LBC

The Coach House Tunstall Road Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1YQ

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for installation of a wood burner stove and associated flue.

Cllr Roberts reported that a decision is yet to be made.

ii. Ref: 20/501844/FULL

Address: 52 Roseleigh Road Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1RR

Proposal: Erection of a part single storey, part two storey rear extension with roof alterations

Cllr Roberts reported that a decision is yet to be made.

Cllr Hibben said the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment has been published and has two hundred and fifty sites listed including Hearts Delight Road, rear of Sterling Road and Highsted Park. The Parish Council has commented on some inaccuracies in the document relating to our area, Cllr Roberts drafted the response which was agreed by a quorum and submitted.

Cllr Hibben reported that Cllr Roberts and Cllr Rich took part in the Local Plan meeting. Cllr Roberts said the parking standards and the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment were discussed. SBCllr S Stephen said Park Homes were also discussed and these are a different standard to caravan parks, there are sites across the borough.

## **9. HIGHWAYS**

i. To receive an update

Cllr Roberts informed Members that there has been resurfacing work from Tunstall Road to Ruin Barns Road. There are outstanding issues with the drainage outside Pond Cottages; works have been logged by KCC Highways for Bredgar Road; there will be more resurfacing work from Dove's Croft to the farm. Residents have logged the overgrown vegetation on the Sterling Road triangles.

Cllr Rich reported that Hearts Delight Road has also been resurfaced.

ii. To consider a Parish Highways Improvement Plan

Cllr Hibben said the Council has previously looked at a Parish Highways Improvement Plan but were unable to proceed due to lack of resources. However now the Parish Council has a full complement perhaps this could be reassessed.

Cllr Mitchell said he would be happy to look at this project.

KCCllr Bowles reported that Selling Parish Council held a public meeting and the plan can be shared with Councillors

*ACTION: Cllr Mitchell to work on initial draft.*

## **10. ENVIRONMENT**

i. To receive an update

Cllr Hibben said the planters are being replanted and the Parish Council has received compliments from residents on the beautiful floral displays.

*ACTION: Clerk to pass on feedback to Mossy Garden Centre.*

Cllr Mitchell said the Sterling Road planter is still empty but it has been moved back a bit. The road sign is still not fixed and it is leaning against a hedge.

Cllr Hibben said that this was probably the last planter to be completed.

Cllr Rich said the road sign can be logged on the portal.

Cllr Hibben said the Council has been contacted by residents regarding the flytipping adjacent to Waymarks. The Clerk has logged this and the matter is with the Swale Environment Enforcement Team, who have confirmed that the appropriate legal action is being taken to remedy the situation, although removal of the rubbish may take some time as this was not done by the landowner. The welfare of the horse in the field will also be addressed.

#### ii. To consider quotations to lay bark on Sterling Road verge

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation of £350.00 from KCC Soft Landscaping Team for fresh wood chippings. KCC has said it will also clear the weeds.

*ACTION: Clerk to check if this bark is the same as laid in Park Avenue.*

Cllr Hibben said the gardener would like a couple of bags of bark for the Cranbrook Road area.

Cllr Rich said the Council can buy and lay the bark.

*ACTION: Cllr Rich to purchase and lay the bark.*

### **11. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS**

There were no reports.

### **12. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 07.05.20: KCCllr Wright: notification that KCC Household Waste Recycling Centres will open
2. 11.05.20: KCCllr Wright: notification of NHS and social care launch app to support people who care for others
3. 13.05.20- Kent Police Rural Task Force: Rural Crime report and Rural Matters publication
4. 15.05.20: KCCllr Wright: notification of KCC pot hole data
5. 18.05.20- KALC CEO May Bulletin
6. 18.05.20- KCCllr Wright: notification of change to death registration process
7. 19.05.20- KALC: copy letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
8. 21.05.20- KCCllr Wright: notification of KCC media release for Foster Care Fortnight
9. 22.05.20- KCC Highways: notification of urgent Road Closure - Blind Mary's Lane, Bredgar - 26 May 2020
10. 26.05.20- KCCllr Wright: KCC press release asking residents to avoid county's hotspots
11. 26.05.20- KCCllr Wright: KCC press release regarding Facebook live sessions offering free healthy lifestyle support
12. 27.05.20- concern regarding footpath behind Hales House
13. 27.05.20- copy of correspondence regarding blocked footpath ZR159 by the KSP
14. 01.06.20- KCC Household Waste Recycling Centre briefing note.

### **13. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr Hibben said the new website is progressing and the planning tracker is still to be activated.

### **14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 6 July 2020 at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair

Date: 6 July 2020