

TUNSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 2nd July, 2012

Present: Cllr. F. Panton - Chair
Cllr. L. Burgess – Vice-Chair
Cllr. C. Browning
Cllr. I. Davison
Cllr. J. Mills
Cllr. P. Mitchell
Cllr. R. Spencer
Lynda Fisher, Clerk
4 Parishioners

Prior to the meeting the Chairman opened the floor to Parishioners to raise any issues.

A resident from Sterling Road stated that he has taken up the issue of car parking with the Police twice, three times with Cllr. Alan Willicombe and with his M.P. Residents with more than one car do not appear to want to use their drives and park either on this narrow road or part way onto the footpath causing problems for pedestrians and emergency vehicles. He has asked for parking restrictions, but this has been refused.

Members agreed the Parish Council will contact the P.C.S.O. to see if he will approach residents in Sterling Road to try and resolve this issue. **Action: Clerk**

A resident who lives opposite Tunstall School asked the Parish Council to support her in obtaining parking restrictions outside this building. She commented that residents have received a letter from K.C.C. asking for their views on parking restrictions; the School has also sent the same document out to all parents urging them to respond, but most of the pupils do not live in the Parish of Tunstall. Those living closest to this problem are concerned that responses received from parents of pupils living outside the Parish will have a detrimental affect on the outcome of the consultation.

A second resident from the same area addressed the Council. She is also affected by this problem; like her neighbours she has experienced abusive language, damage to her property by cars backing into her driveway and at times she and other residents have been unable to leave or enter their properties due to cars blocking driveways.

Residents would like to see single yellow lines from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during school times. There is no issue outside of these times or with parents: the problem is caused by staff parking their vehicles outside the school building on the highway.

There has been attempts in the past to try and find a resolution to this problem; the Village Hall offered the school six parking spaces for staff (other spaces are needed for hall users) but this was turned down. The Parish Council has suggested using the old school field or the Church car park but these proposals were also rejected.

The Chairman informed residents that this will be discussed by Members under Item 4 on the Agenda for this evening's meeting.

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed Parishioners to the meeting. All Members were present.

The Chairman also welcomed the new Clerk, Lynda Fisher, to the Parish Council and thanked Cllr. Peter Mitchell for standing in as Clerk, not only on this occasion but also previously.

He commented that it is regretful that for the second month running County Cllr. Mike Whiting, who sent apologies as he is on holiday, and Borough Cllr. Alan Willicombe, are not present at the meeting.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – None.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Burgess and seconded by Cllr. Davison, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th June, 2012, were agreed by all Members and signed as a true transcript.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

New Clerk – Lynda Fisher has been appointed as Clerk to Tunstall with effect from the 28th June, 2012. Cllr. Mitchell confirmed he has subsequently written to all those interviewed and unsuccessful candidates.

Update on School Parking – Kent County Council's (KCC) consultation letter noted. The Chairman has raised a letter to circulate to all Parishioners urging them to support the need for parking restrictions. Cllr. Mills asked if we are technically correct in putting a letter out about this; Clerk to check with KCC. Cllr. Browning suggested adding something about the consultation in the Newsletter, making it clear that the problem is caused by staff cars.

Members raised their concern that the School has issued the consultation letter to parents of pupils who do not reside in the Parish, and noted residents' worry that this could have an adverse affect on the outcome. Clerk requested to contact KCC to see if the deadline can be extended to allow time to sort out this problem. It was also suggested that, with the Village Hall's agreement, a collection box be placed in the Hall for Parishioners to post their completed forms in. Clerk to then deliver any forms to KCC.

It was proposed by Cllr. Browning and seconded by Cllr. Burgess and agreed, that an item be placed into the newsletter (after the Clerk establishes the legality of this action) stating that the Parish Council recognises the need for some form of parking restrictions outside the School and urges residents to fill in Kent County Council's parking consultation. **Action: Clerk**

Newsletter Draft – Cllr. Mitchell was thanked by Members for producing the newsletter. It was agreed that subject to the possible amendment above relating to the School; he will now go ahead and get these printed, at a cost of approximately £25. Cllrs. Burgess and Davison have kindly agreed to deliver the newsletter to Parishioners.

Noticeboard – Swale Borough Council have confirmed that planning permission is not required. Members agreed Clerk to place an order for the noticeboard with Bespoke Joinery, at their quoted cost of £350. **Action: Clerk**

5. **Finance**

Cheques – None raised.

6. **Correspondence**

Kent County Council Mineral and Waste Site Plans - Preferred Options Consultation –
The Chairman has read through the second set of submissions and the proposals will not have an impact on Tunstall.

Code of Conduct – Draft Codes from NALC and Swale Borough Council noted. Cllr. Mills agreed to look at both sets and report back to the next meeting. **Action: Cllr. Mills**

Consultation on appointment of external auditor for 2012/13 and future years – with the proposed abolition of the Audit Commission, the Parish Council has received notification that for 2012/13 and future years the company Littlejohn LLP has been appointed as external Auditor.

7. **Planning**

No applications received.

8. **Other Matters Arising**

Verges, Hearts Delight Road – Clerk requested to check with KCC as to what is happening with the request for bunding. **Action: Clerk**

Pond – Temporary repairs are holding at the moment; Clerk to obtain a quote for replacing all the wooden battens, which over time have been rotting, and report back to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

Noticeboard, St. John the Baptist Churchyard – One of the wooden legs is rotting; Clerk to obtain a quote for replacing this and report back to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

Filing Cabinet and Computer Backup Storage – Clerk requested to obtain prices and report back to next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

9. **Next Meeting**

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Monday 6th August, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Midwinter Room, St. John the Baptist Church, Tunstall.

The meeting closed at 08.45 p.m.