

# Tunstall Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3 June 2019 in the Committee Room, Tunstall Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Mavis Hibben (Chair), Cllr Ash Bull, Cllr Susanne Earl, Cllr Vivien Rich, Cllr Louisa Roberts and Cllr Sarah Stephen; and Mrs W Licence (Clerk).

Also present were County Councillor John Wright and two members of the public.

Cllr Hibben welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr Cook, Tunstall Village Hall, made everyone present aware of the emergency evacuation procedure.

### REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

KCCllr Wright reported that changes have been made at KCC Household Waste Recycling Centres and there is a charge for non-household waste materials such as brick, rubble and plasterboard. The policy will be reviewed in six months as Councillors are concerned that there may be consequences to the charging. Dartford, Gravesend, the Medway Towns and Swale are the worse areas in Kent for flytipping incidents. All incidents will be scrutinised including those on farms as well- usually private flytipping does not get included in the statistics.

KCCllr Wright informed the meeting that there is currently a consultation on 20mph speed limits and that he will send details to the Clerk.

Cllr Roberts said she had reported a dead fox in Coffin Pond to KCC and was told it is the responsibility of Swale Borough Council, Swale Borough Council said it will only deal with cats and dogs. KCC Drainage has been informed.

KCCllr Wright said the matter needs to be reported to Swale Borough Council.

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

Cllr S Stephen, as Ward Member, reported that following the election there have been big changes at Swale Borough Council. There are sixteen Conservative Councillors, two Green Party Councillors, two Independent Councillors, eleven Labour Councillors, five Liberal Democrat Councillors, ten Swale Independent Councillors and one UKIP Councillor. Roger Truelove has been elected leader of the Council and Mike Baldock Deputy Leader. The new administration has formed a cabinet and will work towards replacing the cabinet system with a committee system. The last administration scrutinised its own decisions and the new administration, has asked the Conservatives, as the opposition party, to scrutinise its decisions.

KCCllr Wright asked how much the change to a committee system will cost, there will be increased officers' time to service the extra committees and extra meetings.

Cllr Stephen said there would be no change to the funding as the cabinet system is top heavy and when the committee system is set up the savings will be spread to cover the costs.

Cllr Hibben thanked Cllr Stephen for her report.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Lee Burgess (unwell); apologies accepted.

Apologies had also been received from KCCllr Andrew Bowles (at another meeting) and SBCllr Paul Stephen (at another meeting); apologies noted.

## 2. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

*The meeting continued in public session.*

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to co-opt Mr Ash Bull and Mrs Susanne Earl to the Parish Council. The new members signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and joined Councillors around the table.

## 3. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

It was agreed to wait until the July meeting before appointing representatives and committees.  
*ACTION: Clerk to circulate list of representatives to Members for consideration.*

Cllr Hibben said the KALC Swale Area committee meeting will be held on 17 June and she will attend and invited other councillors to come along as it was an excellent opportunity to ask questions of James Freeman, Swale Borough Council Town Planner.

Cllr Hibben said there is a KALC Planning Course on 1 July at Hythe and a Swale Planning Enforcement briefing on 18 June at Swale House. Please let the Clerk know if you wish to attend.

## 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

## 5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 MAY 2019

Cllr Rich **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 May 2019 as a true record of the meeting; **SECONDED** by Cllr Roberts: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Hibben duly signed the minutes as a true record.

## 6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

### Dual purpose labels for bins

Cllr Hibben said there is no apparent dual purpose label on the bins and this is being looked into by Swale.

*ACTION: Clerk to follow up.*

### Peace Day

Cllr Hibben said the arrangements are progressing well. The children's entertainment has been booked and the Council needs to finalise a budget for the children's tea.

Cllr Hibben **PROPOSED** that the Parish Council spend up to £250 on the entertainment and food with a buffer of £25; **SECONDED** by Cllr Rich: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

## 7. SPEED WATCH

Mr Cook, Speed Watch co-ordinator, reported that the team carried out two one hour sessions, one in Tunstall Road, outside Hales House, and the other in Ruins Barn Road.

Ninety-eight vehicles recorded in Tunstall Road, of which twelve were recorded exceeding the speed limit, the highest speed recorded was 33mph with another at 31mph. One driver received a letter from Kent Police.

In Ruins Barn Road, ninety-six vehicles recorded, of which four were recorded exceeding the speed limit, the highest speed being 41mph.

Cllr Hibben thanked Mr Cook for his report and for his work with the Speed Watch teams.

## 8. FINANCE

### Cheques raised and accounts

Chq No	Payable to	Reason	Amount
1386	Mrs W Licence	Salary and expenses	<b>£459.99</b>
1387	HMRC	PAYE	<b>£123.00</b>
1388	Mr R Sills	Second pack of Tikspac clips	<b>£5.89</b>
1389	J Johnson	Litter Picking April and May, and Gardening	<b>£544.35</b>

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

## 9. PLANNING

i. Ref: 19/502528/FULL Address: Greenways Tunstall Road Tunstall ME10 1YG

Proposal: Demolition of existing detached single garage and construction of replacement two storey side extension (Resubmission to 19/501216/FULL)

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

ii. Any other planning matter received by 3 June 2019.

18/505291/FULL 4 School View Tunstall Road Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8DX

Erection of a single storey front extension, two storey side extension and single storey rear extension incorporating re-positioning of existing garage

Cllr Hibben informed Members that a decision is yet to be made.

Ref: 19/501460/FULL Address: Blenheim Tunstall Road Tunstall ME10 1YQ

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear/side extension

Cllr Hibben informed Councillors that a decision is yet to be made.

19/500050/FULL and 19/500051/LBC Tunstall Church of England Primary School Tunstall Road Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8DX

Cllr Hibben reported that she spoke at the Swale Planning Committee meeting regarding the application giving the Parish Council's objections which were primarily concerned with the safety of access at the site along a well-used public footpath, additionally the site is outside the Local Plan. The Planning Committee agreed that there will be a site visit on 11 June 2019 and the Parish Council is invited to attend. The application will be decided by committee on 20 June. Cllr Hibben thanked Cllr Rich and Cllr Roberts for their work over the weekend on collating information for the Committee meeting.

Cllr Roberts said the Parish Council needs to hold Swale Borough Council to account as the officer's report said there were only four objections but there were actually eight, the report did not accurately reflect this. Cllr Roberts said she had challenged the officer who then told the Committee that there were eight objections.

## 10. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Hibben reported that she had attended the Five Parishes Group meeting with Cllr Roberts. Cllr Roberts said the group is finally removing the word "opposition" from all communication. SBCllr Bonney is stepping down from the Chair due to her increased role as Swale Borough Councillor. There will be two representatives from each parish and the group will be focussing on all issues of common interest to the five parishes. The next meeting will be on 15 July.

## 11. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Hibben informed members that there has been no response from Alan Blackburn, KCC, regarding what course of action will be taken to protect Coffin Pond. Two more bollards have been damaged and have been reported to KCC by Cllr Roberts.

Cllr Hibben said the Council is trying to resurrect the system of regular walks in the Parish with KCC Highways but there has been no response from Alan Blackburn.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact Alan Blackburn regarding these matters.*

Cllr Hibben reported the gully work by the Village Hall has been completed although the rough patching of the area is not acceptable.

*ACTION: Clerk to ascertain if it is a temporary repair.*

Cllr Hibben said the new village sign is in the former Chairman's workshop and there is no news of a site visit.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact Ian Grigor, KCC.*

Cllr Hibben said it is very disappointing and frustrating that KCC Highways does not engage.

KCCllr Wright said these matters should be reported on the Highways portal and to inform him if there are issues.

*ACTION: Clerk to report.*

## 12. ENVIRONMENT

### i. To consider quotation to water planters and replenishment

Cllr Hibben said that two contractors had been asked for quotations but only one has submitted a tender.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation from Mossys, £170 each for the three tier planters and £49 each for the railing troughs, with no extra charge for the emptying and disposing of the old plants and compost from the additional planters. This is the same competitive price from last year.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation from Mossys to water all the planters for £60 per visit up to a maximum of once a week.

### ii. Litter picker's Risk Assessment

Cllr Hibben said that the Parish Council takes Health and Safety very seriously and **PROPOSED** to ask Mr Cook to review the Litter Picker's Risk Assessment; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 13. NEWSLETTER

Cllr Hibben said the newsletter needs to go out to residents from 1 July and the Clerk will co-ordinate the Newsletter. All Councillors need to write two lines about themselves and send a photograph. Articles will also include Peace Day celebration; Tikspak and litter bins; an update on Highways and the Village In Bloom 2020. A local historian has mentioned whether there could be an area in the Parish for wild flowers, as the Parish Council does not own any land it could be suggested that residents might like to consider a plot for wild flowers in their garden. Cllr Roberts asked whether residents in Sterling Road should be consulted about any future proposals for tidying up the triangle plots.

Cllr Hibben said this will definitely be included in the following Newsletter when further research has taken place.

*ACTION: All Councillors to send their personal description and photo to the Clerk as soon as possible.*

## 14. REVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Cllr Roberts said that when Councillors use Social Media they should make it clear that this is their personal view and not the view of the Parish Council. The Parish Council's policy is very comprehensive. Item 16c needs to have the protected characteristics included. Breaches of

the policy are difficult to deal with unless they are against the Code of Conduct. KALC are running training on Equal Opportunities and Discrimination. It was **AGREED** to revise the policy accordingly.  
*ACTION: Clerk to check final version with KALC.*

#### **15. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 14.05.19: KCCllr Bowles's newsletter
2. 21.05.19: May 2019 edition of MHCLG's "Notes on Neighbourhood Planning"
3. 25.05.19: KALC SAC agenda
4. 27.05.19: request for financial information from resident (information supplied)

#### **16. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr Rich reported that a lorry is parking overnight in the layby near Doves Croft.

The Clerk advised that this is not illegal.

KCCllr Wright said the only area this is prohibited is on the A20 near Ashford. If litter is being left Swale Borough Council could take enforcement action.

Cllr Rich asked whether a copy of the Parish Council agenda could be put on the Village Hall noticeboard now the meetings are being held there.

Mr Cook, Village Hall Chairman, said it could if there is room in the case.

Cllr Stephen said that she and Ward Member Paul Stephen had visited the resident with concerns about the gate to the new build in Roseleigh Road. Photos have been taken and the gentleman has been given the number of Customer Services. This is an enforcement issue.

Cllr Hibben said the church has arranged a walk, about 3km, on 22 June through the fields on the footpaths starting from the church car park at 2pm followed by tea and cake at 3pm in the garden or hall dependent on weather. A great opportunity to appreciate how beautiful Tunstall is.

Cllr Hibben said it is exciting to have such an excellent group of Parish Councillors and that she hoped the Council can forge ahead with plenty of ideas from its new Councillors.

Cllr Hibben thanked Mr Cook for putting up the agendas.

#### **17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 1 July, 2019, 7.30p.m. in the Committee Room, Tunstall Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair

Date: 1 July 2019