

TUNSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

A Parish Council Meeting was held at 7:30pm on Monday 9th January 2012 in the Midwinter Room, St. John the Baptist Church, Tunstall.

PRESENT: Cllr.Panton (Chairman), Cllr.Browning, Cllr.Burgess, Cllr Davison, Cllr Mills and Cllr.Mitchell. SBC Cllr J Willicombe, KCC and SBC Cllr A Willicombe, KCC Cllr M Whiting and PCSO Link. One member of the public.

In the section of the meeting reserved for the public the following statements were given:

Cold Calling – Cllr A Willicombe reported that PCSO Link and himself delivered letters to residents in Woodstock with the aim to get a ‘no cold calling zone’ but they need a 70% return from the residents to get the zone in place. It is hopeful that if successful then it could be moved into other parishes.

Parking – Cllr A Willicombe also reported that the parking problems outside Tunstall School may be resolved soon. They are having a meeting at the end of the month and it will then depend on whether planning permission is required.

Sterling Road Cul de Sac – a Swale Borough Council Highways Officer and PCSO Link took a look at this section of road and both shared the view that there is a problem with it being a narrow road and residents are having to park part on the pavement to allow enough room for cars to pass. Unfortunately this means that people are unable to use the pavements. They are not sure what the solution is but they will find out what Maidstone Borough Council have resolved the issue in an area similar to this.

Meeting dates – Cllr J Willicombe advised that the Parish Council meeting was advertised incorrectly. The Clerk said that the error had been noted and a correction had been circulated. The Clerk had attended the meeting place at the time wrongly advised to intercept and advise anyone who turned up by mistake. One resident did and was grateful for the Clerk’s action.

1. Declarations of Interests.

Cllr Davison declared an interest in planning application SW/11/1441

Conduct of meeting – In the following discussions, Swale and KCC Councillor’s present were permitted to participate in the meeting, as appropriate.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were given by Cllr Spencer

3. Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 7th November 2011.

The minutes were taken as read and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising.

a) Parking along Cranbrook and turning into Tunstall Road – Cllr Mitchell reported that Kent Highway Services refused to have a meeting since no accidents have been recorded at the site and it will therefore not meet the criteria for necessary improvement. Cllr Mitchell commented that he regularly has problems there and has had to reverse back on some occasions. There may have been accidents but it is likely that they were not reported. Cllr Mitchell asked permission to get Cllr Whiting or Cllr Willicombe involved to help take it further. Cllr Willicombe stated that it has been raised before and

various inspectors have been out and each have turned down any request for improvements. **It was agreed with the help of Cllr Whiting and Cllr Willicombe to pursue the possibility of having yellow lines along Cranbrook Drive at the Junction with Tunstall Road. Cllr Whiting agreed to attempt to reverse the decision by Steve Darling to refuse to attend a site meeting.**

b) School Parking problems – Parking consultation –The matter of School Employees parking by the School fence on the Tunstall Road was discussed at the last Joint Transportation Board. Cllr Panton attended and put the PC's case for a complete ban on the parking by the fence on the road through the village because, primarily, of the dangers and nuisance caused by the consequential narrowing of the Village street to one cars width. Five Ladies representing the School were also present and they argued on the contrary, that narrowing the street caused by parking by the fence would slow the traffic down and hence improve safety. Their representative also said that they were in discussion with the local landlord to get permission for the school staff to park on his land next to the School. On Cllr A Willicombe's proposal the Board decided to await the result of the School's discussions with the Landlord. The board also agreed with Cllr Whiting's proposal that investigations should also proceed into other alternatives; use of the Church car park or of the unused school playing field. Additionally, Cllr Whiting undertook to start the formal process of consultation regarding the possible provision of double yellow lines on the road by the fence or some other method to achieve the ban. If it were decided that one was thought necessary. For that process he needed information as to which organizations and people should be consulted. Cllr Mills agreed to provide Cllr Whiting with a list of possible consultees. In taking on this task, Cllr Mills expressed his disappointment with the fact that the JTN had asked for the report on School parking problems, and that, in the event, the PC was not consulted. As a result some of the information in the paper put before the board was incorrect. The PC asked Cllr Mills to draft a letter on this matter for the PC to send to the Chairman of the JTB.

School Planning – Cllr A Willicombe declared an interest and left for another meeting. Cllr Panton reported that he had objected to the planning proposal on behalf of the PC, making the basic point that the School's problem is that the site and the fixed premises are too small to accommodate the numbers of pupils and staff to which they have now risen. One of the consequences of the expansion is that the "temporary" classrooms occupy space which was formally used for staff parking and as playground; staff now park by the fence on the village road. The 30 year old temporary classrooms are surely not suitable for educational purposes and they are a blight on the landscaper. Tunstall Village Hall objected on similar grounds and the planning officer for Swale also objected, saying that the continued use of the mobile classrooms was an unsustainable policy. He suggested that a permanent solution should be investigated and as a possible first measure, the school should extend their loft in their main building to provide space for two classes. Building permission for this is apparently already available. Cllr J Willicombe gave information that the planning application had already been discussed at Swale Planning Committee and the advice of the Swale Planning Officer to object to the proposals to extend the life of mobile classrooms had been rejected by the Swale Committee. However, the Clerk informed the PC that she had contact Swale Borough Council and was told by them that they had voted to object to the planning proposal. Cllr Whiting in his role as KCC Cabinet Officer for Education, gave the PC an account of some of the economic and other problems in the way of school maintenance and building, but said he would welcome a letter from the PC giving their views on Tunstall School's problems.

c) Northern and Southern Relief roads – Cllr Burgess reported that the Northern Relief road is in existence and is almost completed. There is no planned route for the Southern Relief Road but on the models they use a route that is close to Tunstall. It is still believed that the road would not benefit Tunstall who will still be used as a rat run. The proposal is to connect up the road to the Kent Science

Park as it is anticipated that most employees from the park are from outside the area.

5. Financial Statement and Report circulated with the agenda.

A copy of the report was handed out. A copy of last year's end of year accounts was also circulated in order for a decision to be made about the precept.

Precept – The Clerk reported from looking at previous accounts it looks like there is a further £2200 left to spend in this financial year (£740 wages, £1100 Treecraft, £37.50 hall, lighting £300) unless there are any expenditures such as donations that the PC choose to make before April. Leaving a balance of around £16,000 at the end of the year. The Parish Council generously set the budget at £8650 for 2011/12 but it is predicted that the Parish Council are only going to spend around £4000 and last year the Parish Council spent around £5800 (excluding the £13k on the road works). The £16000 that you are carrying over can be used for projects and also for a contingency. Proposals for projects were put forward to give an idea of what funds may be spent in the next financial year including bollards for Hearts Delight Road to stop cars parking on the verges, yellow lines outside the school and along Cranbrook Drive, provision for school parking and the Queens Jubilee celebrations. **Cllr Mills proposed to keep the precept request at the same level as last year in order that the existing funds can be used on projects. The was seconded by Cllr Mitchell with all in favour.**

Lighting – The Clerk had discovered that the lighting has not been paid for since July 2010 and was in the process of trying to find out who supplies the power. The expenditure of around £300 has been taken into account in the budget.

6. Planning Matters.

SW/11/1543 41 Ruins Barn Road, Tunstall, Single Storey rear infill extension – *No comment*

SW/11/1441 Wickham House, Single Storey side extension – *Cllr Mills commented that the boundary curtelage from Cedar House from the field. Clerk to notify planning.*

SW/11/1481 Unit 1D-2D, Broadoak Enterprise Centre - Extension to existing laboratory to provide freeze drying plant roof, product development laboratory and alterations to offices. *No comment.*

For information:

SBC Tunstall School planning renewal – reporting to planning committee

SBC SW/11/1208 Tiffins Hearts Delight – demolition of wall and rebuild – permission granted

SBC SW/11/1238 & 1237 Hales House. Single storey rear extension – permission granted

SBC SW/11/1246 Tiffins Hearts Delight. Block of five stables – application withdrawn. *Clerk to question planning whether the owners are going to reinstate the side road to grass.*

18. Other correspondence

-Lord Lieutenant of Kent Civic Service *Cllr Panton to attend*

-Countryside Voice magazine

-Kent Voice magazine

-Clerks and Councils Direct magazine

-KALC Swale area Committee minutes

- SBC Loan option – *Any comments to be forwarded to the Clerk.*

19. Any Other Business.

School Fence – Cllr Mills reported that a resident had contacted him regarding the new school

fence which they felt was not in keeping with the village. They had spoken to KCC planning who have advised that they should have put a planning application in and have now asked for them to submit a retrospective application as it is in a conservation area.

Meeting ended 9.30pm