

TUNSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 5th November, 2012

Present: Cllr. L. Burgess – Chair
Cllr. P. Mitchell – Vice-Chair
Cllr. J. Mills
Cllr. C. Browning
Cllr. F. Panton
Cllr. I. Davison
Cllr. R. Spencer

Lynda Fisher, Clerk
County/Borough Cllr. A. Willicombe
Borough Cllr. J. Willicombe
6 Parishioners

The Chairman welcomed visitors to the meeting and commented that it was nice to see so many residents in attendance; their input is always welcomed.

Parishioners

Residents raised several issues covering localism, communication, the School and the Village Hall. During the discussion the following points were raised which Members hoped would clarify some of the issues raised:

The Village Hall is not run by the Parish Council; the land is privately owned but leased to the Hall Committee, who has over all responsibility; the Parish Council has no say whatsoever in the running of this facility. The Village Hall Committee has been set up as a Charity and as such is registered with the Charity Commission.

The public consultation for the yellow lines outside the school was instigated and undertaken by Kent County Council. County organised the whole process and the outcome of the consultation was then discussed at the Joint Transportation Board, when having taken into account responses received the Committee agreed that there is a need for the lines. It is understood that a further consultation will be undertaken by Kent County Council; this will not be so wide-spread and will only be sent to those properties affected by the proposals.

The meeting concerning future proposals to extend the school was actually called by Kent County Council; the Parish Council only received notification of this a short time before the event on the 19th September, Members who attended reported details back to the monthly meeting held on the 1st October. The Parish Council understands that at the present time these are only proposals, not a planning application.

The Parish Council, as consultee, can only comment on the current planning application for a new car parking area for the school; the actual decision on this will be taken by Kent County Council.

Regarding communication - the new Clerk has just finished website training and hopes to have the Parish Council's site up to date with Agendas and Minutes fairly soon; she will try to improve this facility for the benefit of villagers and is open to any helpful suggestions.

The first edition of the Parish Council's Newsletter, produced by Cllr. Mitchell, was successful and received compliments from several Parishioners; this publication will now be issued on a quarterly basis. A third noticeboard has been ordered and it is hoped this will be ready for use soon.

Borough/County Councillors

Cllr. Alan Willicombe had no updates to report.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman formally opened the meeting. Apologies were received from County Councillor Mike Whiting, who was attending a meeting in London and would not be arriving back in Sittingbourne until late in the evening.

2. Declarations of Interest – Cllrs. Browning and Burgess declared an interest in Item 9, Planning: KCC/SW/0342/2012.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Davison and seconded by Cllr. Browning, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st October, 2012, were agreed by Members and signed as a true transcript.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Boundary Commission Electoral Review - Clerk reported that Gordon Henderson, M.P. has acknowledged the Parish Council's letter urging him to vote against accepting the Boundary Commissions recommendations for the Parish of Tunstall. Mr. Henderson has taken the action of asking that it be sent to a Delegated Legislation Committee for consideration.

Land – Cranbrook Drive – Looking at the Parish Boundary it appears that this land does not fall within Tunstall. Clerk instructed to check with NALC and the Swale Borough Council's Solicitor regarding ownership of this piece of land. ***Action: Clerk***

Dog Waste Bin – Agreed to ask Swale Borough Council to install a bin near to the lamp column which is opposite the pond/Village Sign on Tunstall Road; this will then be sited away from properties. ***Action: Clerk***

5. Finance

Funding of yellow lines outside Tunstall School – Proposed by Cllr. Browning and seconded by Cllr. Spencer that the Parish Council contributed £900 towards the cost of these lines. It is understood that County Cllr. Whiting has kindly agreed to pay the balance. Clerk to advise KCC Highways. ***Action: Clerk***

2012/13 Precept – Clerk advised that the second instalment of the precept, amounting to £4317.50p (£95 of this is the lighting grant) has been credited to the Council's bank account.

KALC Precept Update from NALC – Members noted the NALC Update advising that the bulk of the work relating to the precept can be completed in November/December but only

resulting in a ‘minded to’ decision being made by the Council, which will then be ratified in January when the Tax Rate values can be calculated.

The Clerk advised that as well as repealing the legislation relating to the former Code of Conduct, the Localism Act 2011 also repealed the general dispensation permitting any Councillor with an interest to take part in meetings relating to setting their Council’s precept. As Councillors live within the Parish boundary and are therefore also council tax payers they will have a Declarable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in setting a precept. This means that they will need to request a Dispensation enabling them to take part in the budget and precept setting. The Clerk has taken advice from KALC and subsequently spoken to the Monitoring Officer at Swale Borough Council, who produced the Dispensation Form, which the Clerk circulated to all Members at this meeting. At the next meeting Members will need to decide whether they wish to delegate approval of the dispensation to the Clerk as the Proper Officer of the Council.

Cheques raised at this meeting:

Date	Cheque	Details	Amount
05.11.12	0892	L. Fisher	£178.96p
05.11.12	0893	H.M. Revenue & Customs	£44.74p
05.11.12	0894	Tunstall P.C.C.	£12.50p
05.11.12	0895	Audit Commission	£144.00p
05.11.12	0896	L. Fisher (expenses 1 st & 2 nd Stamps/Ink Cartridge)	£35.19p
Five Cheques in total			

The above cheques were signed and the accounts to the 31st September, 2012, together with supporting Bank Statement, approved.

6. Correspondence

KALC AGM – Cllr. Spencer is attending; Cllr. Panton might be able to attend this meeting.

Further advice from the Monitoring Officer on the Code of Conduct – document circulated to all Members and noted.

7. Meeting Venue

The Chairman suggested changing the venue for the Parish Council meeting; he commented on the difficulty in seeing the footpaths on dark evenings and asked for Members’ views. It was agreed to continue using the Church Hall.

8. Planning

KCC/SW/0342/2012 - Temporary change of use of land from agricultural to car park associated with Tunstall Primary School and construction of a 10 space car park with associated infrastructure for a period of 5 years – Tunstall Church of England Primary School, Tunstall Road, Tunstall, ME9 8DX. The following comments were raised during the discussion on this application:

- Concern that a public footpath, which is used by children to gain access to the School, runs along this track;

- Questions as to whether staff parking would continue on land to the front of the school;
- Parking in this area to be restricted to School staff only.
- It will resolve a number of problems and eliminate parking outside the school on the road;

Following the discussion a vote was taken by Members with the result that 3 were in agreement 3 abstained and 1 objected: the Parish Council will therefore raise no objection to this application.

9. Other Matters Arising

Cllr. Browning reported that a car accident, at which the Police were present, had occurred in Hearts Delight Road, resulting in lots of debris being left on the highway. Clerk to see if this is being cleared by Highways. **Action: Clerk**

There appears to be an increasing problem with Rats in Tunstall Road; they have been seen in several areas including the footpath close to the old school playing field. Clerk to report this to Environmental Health at Swale Borough Council. **Action: Clerk**

The Chairman mentioned that the public footpath sign (ZRT147) has been knocked down in Tunstall Road; Clerk stated that she has reported this to the PROW Officer, who has promised to get it reinstated.

10. Next Meeting

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Monday 3rd December, commencing at 6.45 p.m. in the Midwinter Room, St. John the Baptist Church, Tunstall.

The meeting closed at 08.15 p.m.