

TUNSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 6th August, 2012

Present:

Cllr. F. Panton - Chair	Lynda Fisher, Clerk
Cllr. L. Burgess – Vice-Chair	County Cllr. M. Whiting
Cllr. C. Browning	Borough Cllr. A. Willicombe
Cllr. I. Davison	Borough Cllr. J. Willicombe
Cllr. P. Mitchell	
Cllr. R. Spencer	

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

Parishioners

Mrs. Panton thanked the Council for their support by way of a grant to assist with the Jubilee Cavalcade, which was a great success with approximately two thousand people lining the route of the procession. The promised grant enabled them to give free teas, assisted with obtaining/making costumes, etc. She also thanked County Cllr. Mike Whiting for his generous donation of £2,000 from his Members Fund, which was much appreciated and again helped with the costs.

She mentioned the Village Hall and the current parking situation. As Members are aware, due to the amount of cars generated by the school (parents and staff), and to try and ease the congestion in Tunstall Road it was agreed the parents could use the hall car park only as a drop off and pick up point at the beginning and end of the school day, and that six parking spaces would be available for staff.

The Village Hall was built for the enjoyment and pleasure of all the people of Tunstall and indeed the building is in constant use, as is the car park. Regretfully instead of the car park just being used for dropping off and picking up children; it was also used, without consent, for school events such as Sports Days and May Day, leaving frequent users of the hall with no spaces to park their cars. The increase in the size of the school has only exacerbated the situation, with approximately 140 cars going through the car park twice each day and more staff seeking car parking spaces.

Borough/County Councillors

Borough Cllr. Alan Willicombe addressed those present. He mentioned Ruins Barn Road, where it turns left/right into Tunstall Road and Cromers Road; the 30 mph sign has been extended and there is now an interactive sign. The branches hanging over the wall at Pond House have now been cut back; on Tunstall Road, at Cromers Court, a bush has now been felled and also hedges have been cut back.

Borough Cllr. Jean Willicombe referred to Cranbrook Drive and the unkempt area where trees have been felled leaving behind stumps; residents are asking if any action is going to be taken to improve this area. Members agreed to place this item on the September Agenda for discussion. **Action: Clerk**

County Cllr. Mike Whiting referred to the school parking consultation (which has now closed) the outcome of which will be contained in the Officer's report to the Joint Transport Board, which meets in September. He also mentioned a planning application which is being submitted by the school, for a temporary car park (for use by staff) in the orchard.

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed Members and County/Borough Councillors to the meeting.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllrs. Browning and Burgess declared an interest under Item 9. Planning – Ref: TC/12/0073.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Burgess and seconded by Cllr. Davison, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd July, 2012, were agreed by all Members and signed as a true transcript.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Newsletter – the Clerk has received very positive feedback from Parishioners regarding the first edition of the newsletter. Members thanked Cllr. Mitchell for producing it and Cllrs. Burgess and Davison for delivering it. It was proposed by Cllr. Davison and seconded by Cllr. Burgess that the newsletter continue with publications going out every three months; all agreed.

School Parking Consultation Update – see comments from County Cllr. Mike Whiting above.

Noticeboard – Clerk advised that an order has now been placed with Bespoke Joinery at Newington for a new noticeboard, at a cost of £350. She has also asked the firm to confirm that Polycarbonate will be used to glaze the door instead of glass.

Parking Sterling Road - The temporary PCSO has visited the area but has taken no action. Due to the problem with parking, Members agreed that the Clerk should send a suitably composed letter to all residents asking them to use their drives if possible; if this is not possible then asking residents to take care is taken if parking on the road, allowing access for emergency vehicles, or if parking partially on the pavement leaving enough room for pedestrians with prams or wheelchair users. **Action: Clerk**

5. **Finance**

CPRE Membership Renewal 2012/13 – Agreed to renew the membership at a cost of £29.

Subscription Renewal, Local Councils Update – Members agreed to renew the membership for a further year at a cost of £75.

Filing Cabinet - Members agreed to purchase a four drawer filing cabinet at a cost of £179.99 (includes V.A.T., which is reclaimable).

Hard Drives for backing up Parish Council records – Agreed to purchase two 64GB Memory Sticks at a cost of £45.98p (£22.99p each; includes V.A.T. which is reclaimable).

Bollards in Hearts Delight Road – After consideration of all alternatives, Members agreed by a vote of 4 for and 2 against (Cllrs. Panton and Davison), to the installation of bollards in Hearts Delight Road, opposite the Village Hall, to prevent damage being caused by cars parking on the soft verges. Two quotes were received; one for £1680 and one for £500.01p; it agreed to accept the lower quote from Steve Wakeling for £500.01p. **Action: Clerk**

Quotations for work to Pond and Noticeboard located at Church – Members agreed to accept both quotes from Steve Wakeling: Noticeboard - to replace one rotten post, re-fix other and cement both into the ground - £112; pond – replacing battens securing liner to the brick wall (using new wood, galvanised plates, studding and resin anchor) - £450.

Cheques raised:

Chq. No	Payable to	Reason	Amount
0878	Lynda Fisher	Wages part June/July, 2012	£214.76p
0879	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax part June/July, 2012	£53.68p
0880	C.P.R.E.	Subscription 2012/13	£29.00p
0881	Peter Mitchell	Printing Newsletter June/July	£43.20p
4 Cheques in total			

6. Correspondence

Code of Conduct – Members agreed in principle to adopt Swale Borough Council’s Code of Conduct, pending any further guidance from KALC Area Committee. Members will also complete the Declaration of Pecuniary Interests form, in readiness for submission to Swale by the 31st August, but will seek further guidance on this from the K.A.L.C. Area Committee.

Action: Clerk

KCC Soft Estate/Landscape Maintenance Wood Control/Tree Planting for 1012/13 – noted.

Consultation on Local Government Finance Bill – Details relating to the 10% reduction in Band D equivalent houses, which in effect will mean increasing the precept, was noted by Members.

Constituents encouraged to have their say on rail services – Noted.

DCLG Consultation on Payments by Parish, Community Councils and Charter Trustees – Noted the Government’s proposal for a legislative reform order relating to payment procedures and NALC’s draft Financial Regulations.

Public Rights of Way Consultation - Draft Map – Cllr. Browning agreed to look at the draft map and report back to the next meeting. **Action: Cllr. Browning**

7. To look at Adopting Financial Regulations

In light of the DCLG Consultation on Payments and the proposed revision of Financial Regulations, Members agreed to await the arrival of this revised document; which is anticipated towards the end of the year.

8. To look at Adopting Standing Orders

In light of the proposal to review the current Standing Orders, Members agreed to look at this matter again when the revised document arrives towards the end of this year. However, Members agreed to adopt Section 30 ‘Financial Matters’ of the Model Standing Orders for Local Councils 2010.

7. **Planning**

TC/12/0073: – to remove two Eucalyptus, two Ash, an Acacia and a Conifer: The Oast, Tunstall Road, Sittingbourne, ME9 8DX – Members raised no objection to this application.

SW/12/0883: – single storey rear extension and replacement of existing first floor flat roof with pitch roof: 119 Park Drive, Tunstall, Sittingbourne, ME10 1RL - Members raised no objection to this application.

SW/12/0858: loft conversion with front and rear dormers: 111 Sterling Road, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1SW - Members raised no objection to this application.

TC/12/0080: to fell six Cypress to as close to ground level as possible: Hales Cottage, Tunstall Road, Tunstall, Sittingbourne, ME10 1YQ - Members raised no objection to this application.

8. **Other Matters Arising**

Meetings – it was proposed by Cllr. Burgess that due to the continual increase in the amount of items on the Agenda, as from September the monthly meeting commences at 6.45 p.m. Agreed by all.

9. **Next Meeting**

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

The meeting closed at 09.35 p.m.