

TUNSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 3rd September, 2012

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

Lynda Fisher, Clerk
County Cllr. M. Whiting
Borough Cllr. A. Willicombe
Borough Cllr. J. Willicombe

The Clerk has received a letter from Cllr. Frank Panton stating his intention to step down at this meeting as Chair of the Parish Council. Two nominations for the post of Chair have been received for Cllr. Burgess and one for Cllr. Mitchell. Members agreed to elect Lee Burgess as Chair and Peter Mitchell as Vice-Chair, both Councillors accepted the positions.

The new Chairman, Cllr. Burgess, then opened the floor to Parishioners and visitors to raise any issues.

Parishioners

A resident, who is herself a dog walker, expressed concern about dog fouling and asked if dog waste bins can be installed. Councillors advised that one has already been installed adjacent to Woodstock Residential Home, but perhaps a second one can be installed at the other end of the village. Clerk instructed to pursue this matter with Swale Borough Council. **Action: Clerk**

A gentleman queried why new Kissing Gates had been installed on some of the Public Rights of Way; why had this been done and how much did it cost? Clerk to contact the Public Rights of Way Officer to ascertain these details. **Action: Clerk**

Borough/County Councillors

Borough Cllr. Alan Willicombe mentioned the flashing sign in Ruins Barn Road and the junction sign on the lower part of Tunstall Road; both were obstructed and these obstructions have now been cleared. He commented that Highways have recommended refusal for the double yellow lines in Cranbrook Drive; the main reason given that there have been no accidents in this area. He stated that a decision will be made at the Joint Transportation Board meeting on the 10th September and that his Members fund is still on the table to pay for the double yellow lines if passed.

Cllr. Willicombe has spoken to Tunstall's temporary PCSO, Mel Platt, about a couple of speeding issues and she has carried out a speed check along Ruins Barn Road. A couple of people went over the 30 mph speed limit and she stopped and cautioned them.

Borough Cllr. Jean Willicombe informed that a PACT meeting is due to be held soon but had not been made aware of the actual date. Clerk to ascertain and advise Members. **Action: Clerk**

County Cllr. Mike Whiting advised that 'Groundwork' are offering trees (saplings) to various organisations, including Parish Councils. He will forward details to the Clerk. He advised that the planning application for school parking has not been lodged yet; it has been delayed due to Bat and tree

surveys which have now been done. The application relates to the road at the side of the School, which will be extended into the orchard and will provide ten school parking spaces for staff.

Cllr. Whiting then thanked Cllr. Panton for all the work he had carried out on behalf of the Parish Council during his period as Chairman.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The new Chairman, Cllr. Burgess, opened the meeting and stated that he would like to echo the sentiments expressed by Cllr. Whiting and thank Cllr. Panton for being the Chairman through a rough period when the Parish Council had no-one to lead it.

He welcomed Members and County/Borough Councillors to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs. Davison and Mills.

2. Declarations of Interest – None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Mitchell and seconded by Cllr. Browning, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th August, 2012, were agreed by all Members and signed as a true transcript.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

School Parking – Cllr. Mitchell remarked that Members are aware of the issues surrounding this subject, but he felt that as there has been no recent contact with the school, he proposed that some sort of dialogue is set up to discuss the problem. Cllr. Browning mentioned that this has been tried in the past but has not been successful; Cllr. Mitchell wondered whether it might be the right time to try again and is prepared to be the representative from the Parish Council. It was proposed by Cllr. Mitchell and seconded by Cllr. Spencer, with the vote 3 for and 1 against; agreed that a letter be sent to the School asking if they would like a representative from the Parish Council to attend future Governing Body meetings. **Action: Cllr. Mitchell/Clerk**

Parking in Sterling Road – Clerk advised that she had delivered letters concerning parking to residents in the cul-de-sac part of Sterling Road; she had had one telephone call requesting yellow lines and several stating that there was no problem. Cllr. Willicombe advised that he had attended site meetings, when the Police Traffic Sergeant for Sittingbourne and the PCSO had been present, and the general view was that no action could be taken. It was agreed that this matter had been taken as far as it can go at the moment and it is hoped that the letter to residents will encourage them to look carefully when parking their cars.

Public Rights of Way Consultation – Cllr. Browning has checked the details on the proposed Definitive Maps and they appear correct.

Cllr. Spencer mentioned ZR154, from Tunstall Road through to Sterling Road; at the top end someone has dumped two large bags; one is full of empty bottles of wine and beer, and these are causing an obstruction. From the middle of Sterling road, down to Woodside Gardens (ZR136) is the same because rubbish has been dumped. Clerk to contact Public Rights of Way to ask for this to be cleared. **Action Clerk**

5. Finance

Bollards in Hearts Delight Road – Agreed to ask Highways to replace the missing wooden bollard outside The Den.; Members also agreed there is not need for this to be lockable.

A site meeting will be held to look at the area in Hearts Delight Road where it has been proposed to install nine wooden bollards to prevent parking on the grass verges; the outcome to be discussed at the October meeting. Cllr. Panton expressed his objection to this proposal.

Cheques raised at this meeting:

Date	Cheque	Details	Amount
03.09.12	0882	Wages	£178.96p
03.09.12	0883	Cancelled	-
03.09.12	0884	H.M. Revenue & Customs	£44.74p
03.09.12	0885	CommuniCorp	£75.00p
03.09.12	0886	Tunstall P.C.C.	£37.50p
03.09.12	0887	J. Fisher (Filing cabinet and paper)	£143.43p
Six Cheques in total			

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

6. Correspondence

Electoral Review – Members expressed their concern that their proposals had been rejected by the Boundary Commission; it now means that in the event of an Election there will be 2 Parish Council candidates representing the Woodstock Ward and 5 representing West Downs. At present, being a single Ward, Members have pledged their allegiance to the whole of Tunstall and this new proposal could cause a rift. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Democratic Services at Swale Borough Council querying how this new system will work and to bring this item back to the October meeting. *Action: Clerk*

New Password Arrangements for KALC Website – Agreed Members to be issued with the password details to access the Members Area of the KALC website. *Action: Clerk*

KALC 2 New Government Consultations: Social Care White Paper and Changes to simplify RIDDOR – Members agreed to support Kent Association of Local Council's response.

KCC Consultation on the Kent Lane Rental Scheme – noted

Starfish and Spiders Event - Exploring Commissioning and Tendering – noted.

Open First – Swale's Charter for Engagement – Consultation – noted.

7. Planning

TC/12/0073 – to remove two Eucalyptuses, two Ash, an Acacia and a Conifer: The Oast, Tunstall Road, Sittingbourne, ME9 8DX - Approved by Swale B.C.

8. **Other Matters Arising**

Work to Gas pipes in Hearts Delight and Tunstall Roads – Members expressed concern that spoil from the excavations had been dumped on land outside the Village Hall and at the damage caused to verges, which will result in the loss of daffodil bulbs which have been planted in these locations. Clerk will contact KCC to ask them to ensure that the contractor removes the spoil, and reinstates the verges, including planting bulbs as necessary.

Jubilee Cavalcade – The Clerk has received a list of expenses relating to this event. Members were reminded that a cheque for £1,500 now needs to be raised for the Village Hall Committee, in respect of a donation which was agreed at the March, 2012 Parish Council meeting. This expenditure will be covered by S.19 1976LG(MP)A: the Parish Council's power to support recreational activity.

9. **Next Meeting**

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Monday 1st October, commencing at 6.45 p.m. in the Midwinter Room, St. John the Baptist Church, Tunstall.

The meeting closed at 08.55 p.m.