

TUNSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

A Parish Council Meeting was held at 7:30pm on Monday 12th March 2012 in the Midwinter Room, St. John the Baptist Church, Tunstall.

PRESENT: Cllr.Panton (Chairman), Cllr.Browning, Cllr.Burgess, Cllr Davison, Cllr Mills, Cllr.Mitchell and Cllr. Spencer. SBC Cllr J Willicombe, KCC and SBC Cllr A Willicombe and KCC Cllr M Whiting.

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

Updates from Cllr Willicombe

- a) Cllr Willicombe has been round the parish in the last couple of days and has managed to report a few drains blocked, bollards damaged outside the Church, damaged give way sign outside The Den and a couple of potholes. He has received an email back from Highways and an inspector has been out to site to take a look and has put them on the list to do.
- b) School Parking – There was a Joint Transportation Board meeting tonight where it was found that Highways nor Planning have received an application from the School for parking in the orchard. They have now been given until the end of the month to send in a planning application but if planning have not heard anything by then, the consultation into parking restrictions outside the school will be initiated.
- c) Parking at Cranbrook/Tunstall Road junction – The inspector at Highways will not put in yellow lines however Cllrs Willicombe and Whiting have agreed to pay for the lines to be installed but a consultation will have to take place first. Cllr Mitchell was still not happy with the site lines at the junction and the awkward layout of the traffic calming islands. It was agreed that the Parish Council will insist on a site visit to discuss their concerns
- d) Sterling Road Cul-de-sac – Mike Knowles is still investigation a solution for the parking problems. He has a meeting with Maidstone Council this week and hopes to gain help from them.
- e) Cllr Willicombe has been asked what is happening with the strip of land along Cranbrook Drive where the trees were cut down. Cllr Spencer had been working with a resident who was going to get a group of interested people involved to plant up the strip of land but he has not heard back from her.
- f) Cllr Willicombe asked Councillors to keep an eye out for any street lamps that are on during the day and report them to highways.

Cllr Whiting updates

- a) Cllr Whiting apologised for being late. He had spoken to Mr Speck at the Science Park who has confirmed he has paid the £30k for the road repairs at the bottom of Ruins Barn Road.
- b) Cllr Whiting confirmed that the Joint Transportation Board have agreed to start the parking consultation if the School do not put in an application by the end of the month. Cllr Panton felt that alternative parking solutions and the parking restrictions should still be investigated whilst the school are exploring their proposal.
- c) KCC Planning have approached Cllr Whiting as Cabinet Member for Education and have asked him to come up with a solution to accommodate the school in the next 6 months as a condition of the mobile classrooms planning application being renewed for another 2 years. Cllr Panton reported that it was clear at the planning committee meeting that the present situation was unsustainable.
- d) Cllr Whiting reported that there is currently a consultation out 'Make Kent Faster'. They are trying to get faster broadband speeds to Kent. The Government have put forward £10m and KCC have currently put aside a further £10m investment and are hoping for a further £20m investment from the commercial company to get the whole of Kent up to speed with their broadband. Cllr

Whiting suggested that everyone signs up to say that they want the faster broadband so that the Commercial Companies will want to invest in Kent.

1. Declarations of Interests.

Cllr Davison declared an interest in planning application SW/

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

There were no absences.

3. Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 9th January 2012.

A copy of the minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were taken as read and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising.

Already discussed in public open time.

5. Financial Statement and Report circulated with the agenda.

A copy of the report was handed out.

<u>Cheques for signing:</u>	<u>Amt</u>	<u>Chq no</u>
KALC (Cllr Mitchell training 28/jan)	£72.00	100861
Tunstall PCC (Hall hire March)	£12.50	100862
SBC (election charges)	£71.51	100863
Clerks wages (Jan & Feb)	£296.00	100864
HMRC (Clerks tax)	£74.00	100865

It was agreed by all to pay the above mentioned cheques.

ACRK membership renewal – Cllr Mills proposed to renew the membership of £35 for Action with Communities in Kent. This was seconded by Cllr Burgess with all in favour. Cheque number 100866 was written out for £35 made payable to ACRK.

6. Planning Matters.

SW/12/0219 33 Mintern Ave. Sittingbourne. Erection of a rear conservatory (outside boundary of Parish)

SW/12/0247 Wickham House. Single storey side extension. *No comment*

For information:

SW/11/1543 41 Ruins Barn Road. Single Storey rear infill extension. This has been granted permission.

SW/11/1441 Wickham House. Single Storey side extension. This has been refused permission.

TP/11/0128 Davidge, Tunstall Road. To crown and lift by 3m and remove lower branches from Horse Chestnut. Consent has been granted.

SW/12/0092 Tunstall C Of E School. Fencing. The planning committee did not raise any objection.

18. Other correspondence

- Invitation to SBC's Draft Core Strategy – Bearing Fruits
- Local Councils Update - *circulate*
- Clerks and Councils Direct – *circulate*
- Future Library Services – update
- SBC re Consultation documents – *Copy already circulated by email. Copy to go in distribution folder.*

It was agreed that any emailed consultations should be circulated with the correspondence file for Councillors to decide whether they wish to view the full consultation.

Cllr Panton reported that there is a meeting being held on 26th March with SBC Chief Executive to discuss the Localism Act and Infrastructure levy. Cllrs Panton and Mitchell will attend on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Mills reported that the KALC website has a training section where you can find a list of all courses available some of which are free. Cllr Willicombe reported that Swale Borough Council are one of the leaders of Localism and are very keen.

Code of conduct – Cllr Mills reported that at the end of April/May, the current code of conduct signed by Councillors will cease. In the last re-organisation of Government legislation, the Standards Board ceased to be. KALC are re-writing and Swale Borough Council are both in the process of re-writing the code of conduct so it is likely Parish Councils will have to choose which version to adopt. Swale Borough Councils new code of conduct has already been put forward to the Standards Committee and it is due to go to full committee soon.

19. Any Other Business.

Annual meeting – It was agreed that the Annual Parishioners and the Annual General meeting will be held at our next meeting on 14th May.

Queens Jubilee – A letter has been received by the Village Hall Committee informing the Parish Council of their plans for the Jubilee celebrations. They will be holding a parade starting at King Georges field and through the streets of Tunstall to end up at the village hall where a small service will be held and a flog hoisted. Tea and buns will be served to those taking part in the parade free of charge and other members of public will need to pay for the tea and buns. They also have plans for entertainment at the hall in the evening. They would like to give all children of the Parish a memento to keep. They have asked whether the Parish Council would consider making a contribution to help with the costs of the free tea and buns and the children's gift. Two proposals were put forward for contribution, £1000 and £1500 a vote was taken on both. Both proposals received a vote of 3 in favour however the Chair had a casting vote and voted to contribute £1500 as this would cover the full costs.

Localism conference – Cllr Mitchell attended the localism conference run by KALC. Cllr Mitchell felt that localism enables legislation for local Councils to take on more responsibility and functions. It will allow things to be done more efficiently using local Councils and local knowledge. Community groups are also entitled to take on functions. The Parish Council will be left to negotiate with Swale Borough Council for them to give things up. Such functions could be planning, road maintenance, libraries etc. The act goes into operation in April 2012. It was commented that a Parish Council of this size and with no land/buildings, could choose not to take on any extra responsibilities.

Communication/newsletter – Cllr Mitchell suggested that the Parish Council produce a newsletter to distribute to all parishioners. The Parish Council currently reports in the Church magazine and in the

newspapers but not all parishioners have access to these. Cllr Whiting suggested contacting Iwade as they have a very active website and on the back of that they have a magazine know as The Observer. They might be able to offer their assistance. **Cllr Mitchell proposed that he come up with a business plan with costs for the Parish Council to consider. This was seconded by Cllr Mills with all in favour.**

Coffin Pond – Cllr Browning reported that the pond was in a state. The lining is coming away allowing water to seep out causing the water level to go down. KCC smartened up the pond but may have actually ruined it. **Clerk to find an expert to take a look.**

Verges/layby – Cllr Mills reported that the grass verges adjacent to the village hall along Hearts Delight are becoming bare and there are large ruts which could cause some damage if a car pulled over to let a large vehicle through. Last time KCC re-stated the verge using a gravel mix but this encouraged people to park there. The Clerk has been in contact with Highways to find out whether wooden posts could be installed along there to prevent parking. Councillors were impressed with Swale Borough Council officers who have been visiting the site regularly and telling people not to park there.

Noticeboard – Cllr Mitchell pointed out that Ruins Barn Road has around 20% of the Parish's electorate but they were far away from either of the two existing noticeboards. He asked whether the Parish Council would consider putting a noticeboard along Ruins Barn Road. **Cllr Mitchell to carry out a survey for its proposed location and bring back a formal proposal to the next meeting.**

Meeting ended 9.20pm