

Minutes of Tunstall Parish Council Meeting
Held on 12th July 2017 ~ 7.00pm
Tunstall Community Hall, Ashe Road, Tunstall

Present

Cllr. Stephen Saunders (Chair) Cllr. Kevin Ross Cllr. Julian Hill Cllr. John Hazelton
Cllr. Steve Smith Cllr. Oliver Morgan

Judi Hallett (Clerk) Dist. Cllr. Ray Herring (*part*) Cnty Cllr. Andrew Reid (*part*)

1. To receive Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Lucy Silovsky (holiday) and Cllr. Emma Johnson (holiday)

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest and any Applications for Dispensation on Agenda Items (either pecuniary or non-pecuniary):

Cllr. Smith declared a pecuniary interest in item 6 as the owner of Duck Lane.

Cllr. Smith applied for dispensation to speak during item 6. Cllr. Hill proposed a 'partial dispensation' (as recommended by SALC) to allow for '*clarification and further statement and any questions to be asked*'. This was seconded by Cllr. Hazelton and all present were in favour.

3. Public Participation - To receive:

a. Reports or comment from any member of the public – None

b. Reports from County and District Councillors – The following reports were given:

- Cnty. Cllr. Reid's full report had been circulated and he expanded on Cllr. Debra Cadman leaving office; the new Ipswich Park and Ride (now going as far as Rendlesham); the reorganisation of the SCC Highways team and the closing of the Saxmundham office (further details to follow); 15 Suffolk schools working together to share best practice. Cllr. Hill expressed his gratitude to Cllr. Reid for raising the broadband issues in Tunstall with BT. It was now hoped that high speed broadband would be available to most Tunstall residents by the end of 2017.
- Dist. Cllr. Ray Herring reported on the following items: SCDC's financial position and reserves; Opening of East Suffolk House, how it is a good working environment and how local artists will be asked to contribute works; Development (Enabling Development, Rendlesham, Bentwaters and Melton Hill); Payment of Council Tax; The Men's Cycling Tour (coming through Tunstall); Fly tipping penalties and a pot of £200k to assist outlying dwellings who are not covered by BT Openreach's cabling improvements for Broadband.

4. To agree minutes of meetings dated 10th May 2017

All Councillors agreed that these were an accurate record of the meeting. Cllr. Hazelton proposed and Cllr. Smith seconded that they should be signed; all Councillors agreed.

Cllr. Ross entered the meeting at 7.09pm

5. To discuss Planning Exhibition held by AOEP/T on 4th July and to discuss if TPC wish to make a formal comment:

The Clerk detail the attendance to the exhibition and the variety of comments received:

- 33 attendees
- Comments strongly against = 7
- Comments undecided = 2
- Comments broadly in favour = 5

Cllr. Saunders explained the 'Enabling Development' concept to all and reported that an error (not the fault of TPC) in getting the details of the first exhibition to the Bulletin editor had meant it had not met the copy deadline and therefore was not advertised in the July Bulletin. Clarification of all deadlines had now been passed to the AOEP and steps had been taken to ensure both the August and September Bulletins contained details of a second exhibition.

Cllr. Saunders confirmed that, as a result of the consultation and comments received, Mr Greenwell and his architect had agreed to revise the plans and hold a second exhibition on 12th September. Councillors commented that in previous years SCDC had assured TPC that allowing a development of 33 houses on Street Farm would mean Tunstall had '*met its quota*' and would not be asked to accommodate further housing. It was suggested 'ED' was different.

Cllr. Smith asked if the Parish Council had a position on further development in the village. The District Council's recent process of requesting plots of land for potential development was clarified by Cllrs. Morgan and Saunders but it was felt ED was outside the usual scope for development. It was suggested the Parish Council should perhaps clarify its over-all position on further development in the village.

Cllr. Ross suggested that the Environment Agency should be asked to contribute more to the AOEP's plans as they had, in the past, wasted money on impractical projects.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr. Greenwell to confirm our attendance at the exhibition, give broad details of the comment statistics, confirm the process for advertising the next exhibition, and state that we look forward to receiving the revised proposals.

Action: Clerk

6. To discuss proposed maintenance agreement for Duck Lane, from Mr Steve Smith (of Duck Cottage):

A proposal from Mr Steve Smith (aka Cllr. Steve Smith) had previously been circulated to all Councillors. He clarified the points made in it and answered the following questions:

- a) With reference to the residue, what is the rationale behind this suggestion?
 - It is common practice for any residue of a fund to be the property of the owner of that fund
- b) How do you envisage the provision of a 'shortfall' would be met by TPC?
 - There shouldn't be any shortfall as the lane is in good condition but if a heavy vehicle used it that could cause damage
- c) Would a £5 increase on each session mention mean the cost of hiring the hall is uncompetitive?
 - I don't think so as the regular groups need a large hall and these are few and far between in this area.
- d) Why are you not prepared to share the responsibilities of the cost of repairing the lane as suggested previously?
 - I have been advised that this would affect my legal position as the owner of the land

Cllr. Smith left the meeting

Councillors made the following comments:

- Perhaps it would be an idea to know the cost of a total refurbishment of the lane so we knew what the ultimate costs would be? Thought to be between £10k and £20k based on similar recent work in Hollesley.
- Do we leave the status quo or do we perhaps try and persuade Mr Smith to revert to the original offer of considering each repair as and when it is required?
- There is a general feeling that we would like to help but it is a privately-owned lane and therefore responsibility lies with the owner.
- The proposal is contradictory in places: he states he does not wish to share the cost of the repairs but then goes on to suggest TPC meet any 'shortfall'.
- We could look at his offer to swap the land and still have a 2m footpath from Woodbridge Road. This would not be popular with residents and why should we spend public funds when we do not need to?
- We need to ensure we are spending public money wisely.
- The presence of an Easement by Prescription is obvious and is an 'overriding interest' effecting Duck Lane. This would have been obvious on purchase of the property.
- Responsibility for the car park maintenance is TPC's, not the users.
- If this suggestion is adopted I can see three areas for concern:
 - The funds will be held in a private account and therefore not open to public audit.
 - The fund could potentially grow and grow without a ceiling.
 - If Mr Smith decides to move at a future date he would take the fund with him.
- Do TPC have the power (i.e. legislative authority) to contribute to the repair of a privately-owned road?
- What about asking if SCC Highways would adopt it?
- It seems unfair not to help but we have to look at this as a business and not a neighbourly agreement.

Chairman's initials:

In conclusion, it was agreed:

- a) Clerk to check with SALC as to whether or not TPC have the statutory power to commit spending on a privately-owned road.
- b) Clerk to approach SCC Highways about possibility of them adopting the road.
- c) Proposal by Mr Smith not to be accepted due to the above concerns.

Cllr. Smith re-entered the meeting and was advised that his proposal had not been accepted but that the Council were pursuing other avenues and would report back to him.

Action: Clerk

7. To discuss production of a Guide to Tunstall Parish Council:

Councillors suggested a couple of minor adjustments to the draft guide and the Clerk suggested it should be distributed with the September Bulletin.

Action: Clerk

8. Planning:

- a) To discuss the claimed bridleways in the parishes of Tunstall, Blaxhall, Chillesford and Iken:

Councillors discussed the consultation paper provided by SCC Rights of Way Team and the present use of ‘bunds’ to deter people from parking vehicles in the Forest and on the Common land.

In conclusion, it was agreed that we have no evidence to support the claim that the paths are used as bridleways, but we have no objection to them being re-designated; as long as present users (dog walkers for example) are not put in danger by horses using the paths.

Action: Clerk

9. Finance Matters:

- a. To review the accounts for May and June 2017:

Cllr. Hill agreed to check the bank statements and Building Society Books against the accounts sheet previously sent to all Councillors.

- b. Invoices for Payment:

i. J Hallett (Clerk) – Office + mileage expenses	£86.35
ii. HMRC (Clerk’s PAYE Tax)	£179.80
iii. SALC (3 x Councillor’	£12.45
iv. SC Norse Ltd (Grass)	£166.50
v. D Pickard (TGTGT Expenses)	£34.05
vi. K Gwynne-Vince (TGTGT Expenses)	£64.47

The above payments were proposed by Cllr. Hazelton, seconded by Cllr. Smith, all Councillors in favour; cheques were signed by Cllr. Morgan and Cllr. Hazelton.

- c. To note payments made since last meeting:

i. J Hallett (3 months’ salary)	£719.28
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Chairman’s initials:

- d. To note payments received since last meeting:
 - i. Natural England (Stewardship Scheme) £3,368.00
- e. Bank Balances as at 30th June 2017:
 - i. Barclays Bank (Current Account) £3,733.77
 - ii. IBS (Tunstall Parish Council) £10,785.23
 - iii. IBS (Tunstall Common Fund) £32,415.02

Action: Clerk

10. To receive the Clerk’s report and items arising from the last minutes not covered elsewhere:

- a) To discuss letter to Lord Deben with reference to the management of local forest and heath land:

Cllr. Ross and Cllr. Hill were thanked for their efforts in drafting a letter to Lord Deben. The Clerk agreed to amend the word ‘woodland’ to ‘forest’ where appropriate and send to Lord Deben with a copy to Dr Therese Coffey MP.

- b) To receive an update on the Parish Review returns:

The Clerk apologised for not having had time to review fully the Parish Review responses. She promised to do this in the next few days and to produce a comprehensive report for the web site (and publication) and a summary for the Sept Bulletin.

Action: Clerk

11. Community Centre/Recreation Ground:

- a. To receive an update from Cllr Saunders:

Cllr. Saunders informed Council that the main hall should be painted during August.

12. Highways:

- a. To receive an update on the outstanding highways issues:

The Clerk reported that very little had been achieved on the highways list and she was concerned that the reorganisation of SCC Highways would mean even less support as local officers retired.

Woodbridge Road – An e-mail chain between a resident of Woodbridge Road and SCC Highways seemed to indicate that SCC would be willing to review the speed limit as you enter the village from Rendlesham and possibly put in a 40mph buffer before the 30mph limit. Councillors were fully supportive of this and hoped it might set a precedent for other areas of the village to have ‘buffer’ zones created.

Summer House – It was reported that the hedge at Summer House on Orford Road had been cut back but that the base of the hedge had slowly crept across the path and that maybe it needed to come out and be replaced. Cllr. Saunders agreed to speak to the owner.

- b. To discuss the verges and if funds can be found to tidy these (plea from a parishioner):

As the verges had not yet been cut, the Clerk was asked to write to SCC Highways to request that a thorough job is carried out this year.

Action: Cllr. Saunders and Clerk

13. To receive agenda items for next meeting and agree date of Next Meeting:

Cllr. Ross asked if Sir Edward Greenwell could be contacted to see if his employees could fill in the large pot hole on Walk Farm Road before any vehicle was seriously damaged.

The date of the next meeting was set for Wednesday 13th September 2017.

The meeting closed at 9.29pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Date:

Judi Hallett
Clerk to Tunstall Parish Council

Chairman's initials: