

Tunstall Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5 August 2019 in the Committee Room, Tunstall Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Mavis Hibben (Chair), Cllr Lee Burgess, Cllr Vivien Rich and Cllr Louisa Roberts; and Mrs W Licence (Clerk).

Also present were County Councillor John Wright and one member of the public.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Hibben welcomed everyone to the meeting and made everyone present aware of the emergency evacuation procedure.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Susanne Earl (holiday) and Cllr Sarah Stephen (unwell); apologies accepted.

Apologies had also been received from KCCllr Andrew Bowles (holiday); apology noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

3. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 JULY 2019

Cllr Burgess **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2019 as a true record of the meeting; **SECONDED** by Cllr Roberts: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Hibben duly signed the minutes as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Village sign

Cllr Hibben informed Members that KCCllr Wright had been assisting the Council with this issue. The matter now back with Ian Grigor, KCC Highways and a form has been sent to the Clerk.

ACTION: Clerk to complete and progress with urgency.

Bin labels

Cllr Hibben said the litter bins are dual purpose and bagged dog waste can be put in them. Swale Borough Council does not have the appropriate labels.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain labels.

Verges in Sterling Road

Cllr Hibben reported that Lewis Monger, KCC Landscapes, had been contacted and reported that the tall shrub bed on Sterling Road is already being looked into and that he is in discussions with the asset manager to find a reasonable resolution

Paul Whitehead, KCC Landscape Manager, has said that Parishes can take over the maintenance from KCC and KCC will pay the Parish Council the bench mark rate. If the Parish Council wants to carry out extra maintenance the Parish Council has to pay for it. This is done on an annual basis, usually March/ April and the Parish Council can at that point decide to hand back the maintenance to KCC. The shrubs are cut back annually, last time being February, and they expect the previous year's growth to be taken back.

A schedule of land and works within the Parish will be sent to the Clerk and KCC Landscapes expects the whole of the landscape maintenance to be taken on and not just a couple of plots,

as it becomes nonviable for either side. There are two more grass cuts due and the shrubs/trees will be cut back in February.

Cllr Rich said the shrubs need to be cut back several times a year.

Cllr Roberts said that neighbouring parishes can work together for landscape maintenance. Some of the triangles in Sterling Road are already managed by residents, there are at least two triangles overgrown.

KCCllr Wright reported that Kent County Council has recently passed Kent's Plan Bee, a bee and pollinator strategy and this will affect the verges. The strategy is that you do not cut everything because there are wildflowers in all verges. One side of a road would be cut but not the other to encourage biodiversity.

Cllr Hibben said the Council needs to wait for the schedule of land and works for the verges before making a decision on future maintenance by the Parish.

Area at top of Sterling Road which has not been properly re-instated by SGN

The Clerk reported that there had been no response.

ACTION: Clerk to continue to progress.

Roads near Kent Science Park

The Clerk reported that there had been no response from Kent Science Park to the request for funding for litter picking and a litter bin.

ACTION: Clerk to continue to progress.

Trench by the Village Hall

The Clerk there had been no response. The matter will be discussed with Alan Blackburn, KCC Highways, during an imminent site visit.

Newsletter

Cllr Hibben thanked Councillors for all their help distributing the Newsletter, there has been positive feedback from residents. The printer has informed the Council that he is no longer able to print the Newsletter.

Action: Clerk to investigate an alternative printer.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time

A resident said that he has contacted Swale Borough Council about the sliding gate of the new build in Roseleigh Road a month ago and has not had any response.

Cllr Hibben said she would refer the matter again to the Borough Councillor who has actively been pursuing this issue.

All the whips around the trees in Park Drive are growing tall affecting the sight lines for drivers.

ACTION: Cllr Roberts to report to KCC Highways.

The meeting was reconvened.

6. VISITORS

KCCllr Wright reported that he had been helping with the issues from July's Parish Council meeting, the sign installation should be resolved soon.

Cllr Roberts said the damaged bollards at Coffin Pond have not been repaired and that there is still one bollard missing.

KCCllr Wright said he will chase the issues again.

KCCllr Wright said many villages are keen to have the speed limit reduced from 30mph to 20mph and the campaign ignores country lanes where the national speed limit applies. People drive fast and do not consider walkers, horse riders, dog walkers and farm traffic. KCCllr Wright said that he will raise the issue in September.

Cllr Hibben thanked KCCllr Wright for attending and for his report.

7. SPEED WATCH

Mr Cook, Speed Watch coordinator, had sent a written report that July and August are usually quieter months because of the school holidays. The team undertook the two sessions. The first was in Tunstall Road, opposite Hales House. Eighty-four vehicle passed through during the hour, of which five were exceeding the permitted limit. Two of these were recorded at 29mph. The Police did not send out any letters, as all the vehicles recorded were first time offenders. The second session in Ruins Barn Road saw ninety vehicles pass in the hour with eight exceeding the speed limit, the highest speed being 41mph. Kent Police sent a letter to one driver.

The Speed Watch Team received a lot of positive feedback from residents and drivers in Ruins Barn Road, who praised the Parish Council for carrying out checks there.

Cllr Hibben thanked Mr Cook and the team for their sterling work.

8. FINANCE

Chq No	Payable to	Reason	Amount
1396	Mossys	Watering Planters	£216.00
1397	Mrs W Licence	Salary and expenses	£481.33
1398	HMRC	PAYE	£126.20
1399	CCS	Newsletter	£198.00
1400	J Johnson	Litter Picking July	£311.65
1401	Mr B Cook	Children's Peace Party celebrations	£98.40
1402	McCabe Ford Williams	Payroll fees	£40.68
1403	L Roberts	Expenses	£40.32
1404	S Earl	Expenses	£13.50

Cllr Burgess **PROPOSED** the signing of the cheques; **SECONDED** by Cllr Roberts: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Rich asked if there could be a discussion on the Council's finances.

ACTION; Item for September agenda.

9. PLANNING

i. Ref: 19/503112/FULL

Address: 17 Doves Croft Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8LQ

Proposal: Loft conversion including front and rear dormers

Councillors considered the application and were concerned at the over-dominance of the dormers. The proposal is not in keeping with the area. There is a shared driveway with a sewer underneath which would be an issue for construction HGVs. Neighbour's concerns must be taken into account.

ii. Ref: 19/503581/FULL

Address: Greenhurst Hearts Delight Road Tunstall Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8JA

Proposal: Conversion of existing swimming pool building to annexe accommodation

Councillors considered the proposal and agreed that appropriate planning conditions be made to ensure the annex cannot be a separate dwelling. Future developments need to be monitored to ensure conditions are not breached.

iii. PINS Ref: APP/V2255/D/19/3229988 SBC Ref: 19/501216/FULL

Address: Greenways Tunstall Road Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1YG

Proposal: Demolition of existing detached single garage and construction of replacement two storey side extension.

Councillors agreed that they had no further comment to make save that neighbours' objections be taken into account.

iv. Swale Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Cllr Hibben said the Parish Council responded to the Landscape Designation Review.

It was agreed for Councillors to form a working group to respond to the Swale Landscape Sensitivity Assessment.

v. Any other planning matter received by 5 August 2019.

Ref: 19/503094/LBC Address: Woodstock House Winch Road Kent Science Park ME9 8EF

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for proposed creation of new ground floor children's toilet.

Cllr Hibben reported that the application had been permitted.

Ref: 19/500051/LBC Address: Tunstall Church Of England Primary School Tunstall Road

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for conversion, part demolition and extension of former school building to provide two 4 bedroom dwellings

Cllr Roberts informed Members that the Council had been notified, on the Friday, that the application was being discussed at Swale Planning Committee meeting the following Thursday evening. The officer was asked why the matter was going back to committee and the following Tuesday a response was received by which time further comments had been submitted. There was a change of name on the application with no documentation submitted. Graham Thomas told the Committee that this was not planning permission but Listed Building Consent and full planning permission would need to be obtained before any work could be carried out. Cllr Hibben spoke at the meeting.

Cllr Hibben said the Parish Council is a statutory consultee and should be informed if an application is going back to committee again.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Hibben to write to James Freeman and Graham Thomas.

Ref: 19/501341/AGRIC Address: Grove End Farm Bredgar Road Tunstall ME9 8DY

Proposal: Prior Notification for a proposed portal framed agricultural building for grain storage and agricultural machinery. For its prior approval to: - Siting

Cllr Rich asked why the Council had not been informed of the application.

Cllr Roberts said that legally the Parish Council is not a statutory consultee in such applications.

10. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Roberts reported that she had attended the KALC Introduction to Planning Course.

Cllr Roberts said that she and Cllr Rich will attend the Swale Community Led Housing Event.

Cllr Hibben said that there are also courses on Finance and Transport should anyone wish to attend.

11. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Burgess informed Members that he had reported a water leak in Tunstall Road. The bollards by Coffin Pond have also been reported.

Cllr Hibben reported that she had submitted comments to support the M2 junction 5 upgrade and expressed concern about the flora and fauna in the area.

12. ENVIRONMENT

i. Coffin Pond

Cllr Hibben said the memorial seat by Coffin Pond has been removed by relatives for refurbishment.

The Clerk reported that the neighbor has said he will tidy up the area.

Cllr Hibben said Coffin Pond needs maintenance and possibly a ramp for animals to escape the pond.

ACTION 1: Councillors to raise the matter with Alan Blackburn.

ACTION 2: Clerk to arrange a meeting with Alan Blackburn.

ii. Drainage

Cllr Hibben said there are issues with the drainage and this will also be discussed with Alan Blackburn.

iii. To consider a dog bin at the beginning of Ruins Barn Road.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Swale Borough Council if a black bin can be placed in Ruins Barn Road.

iv. To consider purchase of land for recreational space

Cllr Burgess said the Parish Council previously contacted the former owner of Tunstall House regarding the possibility of purchasing land. The property has been sold but only with some of the land and it might be possible for the Parish Council to purchase some land for a village green or recreational space.

Cllr Roberts said the borough lacks recreational green space, the Parish Council cannot solve the issue but the Parish does lack green spaces. There is a movement to improve biodiversity.

ACTION: Cllr Burgess to circulate a draft letter for the Clerk to send.

13. EVENTS

Cllr Rich said Councillors had attended a recent coffee morning at Grove End Farm.

Cllr Rich said the weather had been inclement on the Peace day celebrations and the event was held in the hall. Nevertheless, it was an enjoyable and successful evening

i. Armistice Day 2019

Cllr Rich said that last year the Parish Council paid for the refreshments at the Remembrance Day event and that it would be good for this to be an annual event. The Village Hall Committee will organise this year's event.

The Clerk said the Parish Council actually organised the event last year and that she had been in contact with the Chairman of the Village Hall who confirmed that it would be the Parish Council and not the Village Hall Committee organising the event again this year

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with the WI and the bugler.

ii. Christmas event

Item deferred to next meeting.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 03.07.19: Kent Police- Rural Task Force report and Rural Matters
2. 12.07.19: ACRK- Swale Community-Led Housing Event
3. 16.07.19: KCCllr Bowles's newsletter
4. 18.07.19: NHS- changes to the NHS healthcare system across Kent and Medway
5. 27.07.19: Post Office- Franchising of Sittingbourne Post Office

15. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Rich said she had approached the Kent Wildlife Trust about Cromers Wood and that she had requested information and has asked if they will give a talk to the Parish Council.
Cllr Hibben said much of Cromers Wood is not in the parish.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 2 September, 2019, 7.30p.m. in the Committee Room, Tunstall Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm