

Tunstall Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4 November 2019 in the Committee Room, Tunstall Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Mavis Hibben (Chair), Cllr Susanne Earl, Cllr Vivien Rich and Cllr Sarah Steven; and Mrs W Licence (Clerk).

Also present were County Councillor Andrew Bowles, County Councillor John Wright, Borough Councillor Paul Stephen and two members of the public.

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

1. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Cllr Hibben said the Parish Council can now co-opt a new Member to the Council. The Clerk said that she had not received any applications.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Louisa Roberts (holiday): apologies accepted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2019

Item 16.ii was amended to read "Smeed Trust". Cllr Rich **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes as amended; **SECONDED** by Cllr Stephen: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Hibben duly signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Hibben reported that Southern Water has been invited speak to Councillors on Monday 2 December at 6.45pm prior to the Full Council meeting at 7.30pm.

Cllr Hibben said the Parish Council needs to consider the next edition of the newsletter.

ACTION: Councillors to consider headings for the next meeting.

It was **AGREED** to publish a newsletter in January.

ITEM FOR DECEMBER AGENDA

Cllr Hibben reported that there had been no response from Swale Borough Council regarding the schedule to empty the litter bins.

Cllr Stephen said the issue is being taken in hand by the contractor and the situation is improving.

Cllr Hibben said the family is ready to reinstate the memorial bench. There has been a letter from the neighbour regarding his concerns.

Cllr Burgess said the bench has been sited on part of the public highway and the adjacent drive is a field access only. The resident has asked to be informed when the planter is being moved to ensure sightlines from the field. KCC Highways has granted permission for the planter.

Cllr Rich said the planter is due to be replanted and it would make sense to move the planter at that time.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with the family and the resident.

Cllr Hibben said that she has not yet made the bins labels.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Swale Print Room for a quotation.

Cllr Hibben said a request for a map of the land in Tunstall owned by KCC has been made but there has been no response.

ACTION: Clerk to chase.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.

A resident said that he did not object to the planning application for 68 Park Drive but that he was concerned that the building should not be during unsocial hours.

Cllr Stephen said if there is a problem it should be reported to Swale Borough Council Planning Enforcement.

A resident asked for an update on the beds in Sterling Road. Sittingbourne in Bloom held an event at the King George V Playing Field and promoted the Friends group which some people were interested in joining. Many people in the park were concerned about the state of the toilets.

Cllr Hibben said the park is outside the parish although the Friends of King George V Playing Field could be publicised in the next newsletter as many Tunstall residents use the park.

Cllr Stephen reported that the public toilets across Swale are being looked at by the Borough Council.

7. VISITORS

i. Borough Councillors

SBCllr S Stephen reported the Borough Council is looking at its landholdings. The kiosk in Leysdown has been re-opened and the toilets have been refurbished. The public toilets in Minster are being looked at.

From next year the charge to park all day at Sittingbourne multi-storey car park will be reduced to £7 to encourage usage.

The Fusion Festival was successful. There will be a three-day festival in July 2020 with a 1920s theme and a budget has been allocated to this.

SBCllr Stephen said parking will be free on Remembrance Sunday at the Council's car parks across the Borough.

Cllr Hibben thanked SBCllr S Stephen for her report.

ii. County Councillors

KCCllr Wright reported that he has funds available in his Members Grant Fund.

KCCllr Wright said that he had attended the Police briefing at Kent County Council on serious crime and KCC has allocated further funding for this. There are dedicated officers, the Swale Borough Council Safety Unit, KCC Community Wardens, PSCOs, Police, Social Workers, Neighbourhood Watch and others working together to ensure things are done quickly.

Sheppey College will be participating in the Tunstall Christmas Tree Festival.

KCCllr Wright thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to the Remembrance Sunday service and said that he is unable to attend as he has a commitment elsewhere.

Regarding KCC land ownership, the Clerk should copy him in when emailing again.

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

KCCllr Bowles thanked the Parish Council for informing him of the walk-about with Alan Blackburn, KCC Highways, and it was a positive exercise.

KCCllr Bowles thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to the Remembrance Sunday service but is unable to attend as he will be laying a wreath at Selling where he is Chairman of the Parish Council.

There is a new leader at Kent County Council and there are changes within the cabinet. KCCllr Bowles reported that he has been involved in the home to school appeal panel. Cllr Hibben thanked KCCllr Bowles for attending and for his report.

8. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Hibben said the Speed Watch team has reported that both the planned sessions during October were held. The first was on Tunstall Road, outside Hales House and the team recorded the largest number of drivers exceeding the speed limit in any session they have ever held, with a total of eighteen out of the one hundred and eight vehicles which passed during the hour. There were three vehicles in excess of 30 mph, two at 31 mph and one at 32 mph. Six of the drivers received letters from the Police.

The second session was held in Ruins Barn Road and ninety vehicles passed during the session of which six were travelling in excess of the speed limit. The highest speeds being one at 40 mph and one at 42 mph. These were the last sessions this year and Speed Watch will resume again in April 2020.

Cllr Hibben thanked Mr Cook for his report.

9. PLANNING

i. Ref: 19/505250/FULL

Address: 4 Cranbrook Drive Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1RF

Proposal: Demolition of existing detached garage. Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey front extension.

Councillors considered the application and had no comments to make save that neighbours' comments be taken into account.

ii. Any other planning matter received by 4 November 2019.

Ref: 19/504337/FULL Address: 68 Park Drive Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1RD

Proposal: Erection of a two storey side extension and part single storey, part two storey rear extension.

Cllr Hibben reported that this application has been permitted.

Ref: 19/504308/FULL Address: 27 Roseleigh Road Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1RR

Proposal: Erection of a part single storey, part two storey rear extension with a first floor side extension. Relocation of the garage.

Cllr Hibben informed Members that this application has been refused

Ref: 19/504385/FULL Address: 38 Sterling Road Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1SL

Proposal: Erection of a two storey side extension, part single storey part two storey rear extension and a loft conversion with a front and rear dormers.

Cllr Hibben reported that this application has been refused.

Ref: 19/504632/LAWPRO Address: 17 Doves Croft Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8LQ

Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed loft conversion with a rear dormer and 2no. roof lights to front.

Cllr Hibben informed Councillors that this application has been refused

Ref: 18/504925/FULL Address: Land To Rear Of Hales Cottage Tunstall Road Tunstall ME10 1YQ

Proposal: Demolition of the existing garage and erection of a single storey one bedroom dwelling with basement (Revision to 18/502546/FULL).

Cllr Hibben reported that the appeal has been allowed and planning permission granted

Cllr Hibben said further planning applications have been received and need to be considered before the next scheduled Parish Council Meeting to ensure a response is made before the deadline for comments. An Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting will be arranged to discuss the planning applications.

ACTION: Clerk to check availability of a public room and date of meeting to be arranged

iii. To consider forming a Planning Committee

ITEM DEFERRED TO DECEMBER MEETING

10. FINANCE

Chq No	Payable to	Reason	Amount
1418	McCabe Ford Williams	Payroll fees	£40.68
???1419	Swale Borough Council	Remembrance Sunday order of service printing	£12.20
1420	Mrs W Licence	Salary and expenses	£473.60
1421	HMRC	PAYE	£126.20

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to the signing of the cheques.

11. ADMINISTRATION

ACTION: Clerk to resend the Data Audit form to Councillors.

12. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Five Parishes meeting- 23 October

Cllr Hibben and Cllr Roberts attended this meeting. Cllr Hibben reported that there were also representatives from Bapchild, Bredgar, Rodmersham and Tunstall. The meeting was chaired by Michael Bennett of Rodmersham Parish Council

AIR QUALITY

Discussion on recent meeting with Prof. Stephen Peckham of Canterbury University, who is questioning many of the current methods of measuring air quality. He recently represented the CPRE on air quality relating to new developments at Newington and he is now working as a consultant for Swale Borough Council. Discussion was held regarding measuring of air quality within the Five Parishes – representatives of Five Parishes to communicate back to their respect parish councils with regard to the possible installation of diffusion tubes. Five Parishes would fund the provision of these tubes.

LAND SENSITIVITY

Consultation - General discussion of this recent submission. Tunstall and Bredgar have both queried the assessment of land known as BR1 and await responses.

LOCAL PLAN

General discussion relating to the Local Plan Committee meeting on 17th October. Agenda items being Transport Modelling and Garden Developments. - The Five Parishes discussion covered the points already documented in Tunstall Parish Council's notes of that Committee Meeting.

Next Meeting 29th January 2020.

Cllr Hibben said the Parish Council could consider whether to have two diffusion tubes.

Cllr Rich said that she would be against it , without proper consideration, and that Swale should take the lead on this.

Cllr Hibben said that due to time constraints this be discussed at the next meeting.

ITEM FOR NEXT AGENDA

Local Plan Committee Meeting 17th October 2019

Cllr Hibben reported that she and Cllr Rich attended this meeting in the public gallery due to the importance of the agenda items being Transport Modelling and Garden Communities.

Peter Brett Consultants were in attendance and are the company working on the Garden Development Plans and provided the information for the Looking Ahead Public Consultation.

TRAFFIC MODELLING

The Principal Transport & Development Planner explained that the M2 required three lanes in all four scenarios of the four Garden developments under consideration to support the necessary growth and to accommodate increased traffic especially with a proposed Lower Thames Crossing. Traffic modelling also took into account growth outside the borough. It was pointed out that whilst public transport could help mitigate the problem in reality services were constantly being cut.

GARDEN COMMUNITIES

The current four garden communities under consideration are:

NS1 South East Sittingbourne (known as Highsted Park) Dwellings now reduced to 8,000 with 20% affordable housing and the road re-aligned to reduce the landscape impact.

NS3 Land at Bobbing west of Sittingbourne.

NS4 South East Faversham

NS5 Land at Ashford Road South of Faversham.

A motion was put forward that there should be no developments within Swale of over 5,000 properties. Head of Planning explained there was no evidence base to support 5,000 dwellings.

A motion was moved for a further recommendation that planning control of any of the developments if decided upon be within the planning control of the Local Planning Authority and not a Development Corporation and the term Garden Communities be dropped and they be renamed to Strategic Development Options. This was agreed.

Cllr Hibben said this was an extremely informative meeting on the way forward for Swale - the minutes are on the portal from this meeting which she would urge that everyone read as it gives a very full account of future planning options and risks the council are facing.

Kent Science Park

Cllr Rich reported that she and Cllr Stephen met with Neil Tolley, the Operations Director of Kent Science Park to discuss the litter problem near the Kent Science Park (KSP), Mr Tolley will write to the Clerk. KSP has its own litter picker. Cllr Rich and Cllr Stephen will monitor the issue.

Village Hall Users Forum

Cllr Rich said she attended the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council the minutes of the meeting had been circulated. Some groups gave reports back to the forum on their activities Cllr Rich had commented on the room size and difficulties in locking the gate.

Cllr Hibben said that as these points had not been discussed in a Parish Council Meeting they need to be brought to the next meeting as an agenda item.

DECEMBER AGENDA ITEM

13. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Hibben reported that she and Cllr Roberts had met with Alan Blackburn, KCC Highways and KCCllr Bowles was in attendance.

Cllr Roberts had circulated the following report:

Village sign

Mr Blackburn confirmed this is now definitely with Paul Brand, KCC Highways.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Paul Brand

Grove end farm drains

Call logged on the system and forward reference number to Mr Blackburn.

Village Hall flooding opposite entrance (455512)

Mr Blackburn has taken the reference number and will follow up on the work that is due to be progressed. In discussion about the call “disappearing” from the Public Portal Alan Blackburn confirmed the Parish Council can call the contact centre for further information on what is happening with the issue as they will have access to better information.

Village Hall unfinished road surface

Mr Blackburn will investigate who carried out the work and ask for a job to be raised to finish off the surface of the road. He did explain that utilities contractors do sometimes leave work unfinished if they have cause to think repeat work may be required but he believed in this case it just had not been finished.

Hedgerow opposite The Den (shielding pedestrians from the idling traffic on the road)

A three-metre section of the hedging has collapsed or been knocked over. Cllr Roberts to log it as a call on the KCC portal (459186)

Drains from Tunstall House post box to Coffin Pond

Log as faults and Mr Blackburn to follow up. (459184, 459185)

Coffin Pond

Mr Blackburn confirmed this is unallocated land. It is adequate at the moment for KCC Highways purposes (drainage). The Parish Council can clean the pond if desired.

ITEM FOR PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

Mr Blackburn confirmed that the bollards in place are the only solution at the moment. Bell type weight and different curbs would not help the situation. When the wall is next damaged and needs repairing the option would be for KCC Highways to move the wall edge back allowing for a larger verge for lorry/trailer wheels to navigate. No immediate action save logging as and when bollards are knocked.

Sterling Road verges

It was very important for Mr Blackburn to see the verges. Mr Blackburn did not believe the verges had been added to the yearly schedule since the contract reverted from Swale Borough Council back to Kent County Council and he agreed that it was for KCC Highways to get them back into a manageable state before any additional work would be considered. This acknowledgment of responsibility is crucial for Tunstall Parish Council due to the costs involved and the neglected state of the verges.

A resident in Sterling Road has, at her own expense, been maintaining the triangle outside her house and her neighbour has helped with occasionally cutting back the long stretch by the bus stop.

Mr Blackburn said he would speak to Lewis Monger, KCC Highways, to complete an audit of the Sterling Road verges.

14. WAR MEMORIAL

Cllr Hibben said the Parish Council has carried out some work on the suggestion of a World War II memorial at the Village Hall. Cllr Rich provided some background information.

It was agreed to for a meeting to be arranged with the vicar

15. ENVIRONMENT

Cllr Rich said that she had met with Lewis Monger, KCC Highways, regarding the Soft Landscaping Audit. The Sterling Road verges are scheduled for work. The school crossing patrol is concerned about sight lines. One of the barrier baskets at the school restricts vision. It was a positive meeting with an assurance that KCC Highways have issues in their schedule.
ACTION: Barrier basket to be moved.

16. EVENTS

i. Armistice Day 2019

Cllr Hibben said that Swale Print Room has printed the order of service and the refreshments have been ordered. Help is needed on the day to distribute the order of service and Cllr Stephen volunteered to help on this.

Cllr Hibben confirmed that the WI have agreed to help serve refreshments and the bugler will play at the church and at the Village Hall. Accompaniment to the hymn has also been arranged.

ii. Christmas event

Cllr Rich said she has drafted the leaflet and tickets.

Cllr Stephen reported that she has spoken to Swale Community and Voluntary Services who are willing to give flyers to their clients.

ACTION: Cllr Rich to circulate draft flyer to Councillors.

Cllr Hibben said AE Barrows and Sons Ltd have quoted £5 per person for the Christmas Tea. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation.

Cllr Hibben informed Members that local entertainers have agreed to perform free of charge and the WI has been asked to help on the day.

Cllr Hibben confirmed she would obtain a quotation for printing of the flyers and they would need to be distributed as soon as possible.

ACTION: Councillors to confirm the areas they can undertake.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 14.1.19: KALC CEO October Bulletin
2. 14.10.19: Planning list
3. 14.10.19: KCC Pothole data
4. 15.10.19: Southern Water results on stakeholder workshops
5. 15.10.19: Trading Standards Lottery Scams alert
6. 16.10.19: Kent County Council - Interfaith Week
7. 18.10.19: KCC Highways- Temporary Road Closure – A2 London Road, Sittingbourne – 28 November 2019
8. 18.10.19: KALC- update for Local Councils & VE Day 75 - 8 May 2020
9. 18.10.19: KCC Public Protection Highlights - Resilience and Emergency Planning
10. 18.10.19: KCC Highways- salt bags for parishes
11. 21.10.19: KALC Planning and Finance course details
12. 22.10.19: Tunstall Village Hall- notification of increase in hire fees.
13. 24.10.19: KALC AGM - Saturday 30 November 2019
14. 25.10.19: KCC Pothole data
15. 25.10.19: Kent County Council Budget Consultation 2020-21
16. 01.11.19: KALC News

18. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Hibben said the Tunstall Christmas Tree Festival will be on 7-8 December.

Cllr Earl said she will make the Parish Council's entry.

Cllr Rich said the Parish Council should thank Graham Thomas, Swale Borough Council Planning Officer, for his assistance in helping with viewing of old plans.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Mr Thomas.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair

Date: 25 November 2019