

Tunstall Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 3 February 2020 in the Village Memorial Hall, Tunstall.

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

Also present were County Councillor Andrew Bowles, County Councillor John Wright and three 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 reported that there had been no applications had been received and the vacancy will be advertised in the Newsletter.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Lee Burgess and Cllr Susanne Earl (work); apologies accepted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 6 JANUARY 2020

Cllr Roberts **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes; **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

Christmas Tea

Cllr Hibben informed Members that further letters of thanks have been received regarding the Christmas Tea. The school has also offered to help if there were to be a Spring or Summer Tea.

Village sign

Cllr Hibben said the Council has made a formal complaint to KCC Highways on the timescale of their responding to Tunstall Parish Council's request for confirmation of the proposed site. KCC's response was disappointing as it did not reflect the situation accurately.

KCCllr Bowles reported that he had not heard anything since the response had been circulated. KCC have now made stipulations that the sign needs to be 1.2M from the road, although this is not consistent with other structures along this stretch of the road. This would render the verge width inadequate and the sign would need to go on the landowner's property. Cllr Hibben asked whether an alternative site should be considered.

Cllr Rich said that she would prefer not to do anything further and that the Council should have taken advice first.

Cllr Hibben said KCC Highways had been given the specification and site details some fifteen months ago. The sign needs to be removed from the former Chairman's garage.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to store the sign elsewhere.

ACTION: Clerk to advise former Chairman.

War Memorial

The Clerk said the vicar would like to come to a Parish Council meeting to discuss a new memorial.

ACTION: Clerk to invite the vicar to the March meeting.

Planter next to Coffin Pond

Cllr Hibben reported that the contractor had tried to move the planter but was unable to do so. He is hoping to get someone else to help and have another go in the week at some stage.

Swale Heritage Consultation

Cllr Hibben said that Councillors had responded individually.

Cllr Rich reported that she had attended the Local Plan Panel meeting and was pleased that there is a lot of agreement with it, the panel was very supportive.

Memorial Seat in Ruins Barn Road

Cllr Hibben thanked Cllr Rich and Cllr Roberts for working hard to remove the foliage.

Cllr Rich reported that they were there for an hour, the bench should not become the responsibility of the Parish Council.

KALC Community Award presentation

Cllr Hibben said the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 27 April in the small hall at the school. The recipient will be contacted, the High Sheriff has been invited to present the award and local organisations will be invited to give their reports.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time

A resident said she had written concerning a fallen tree on the Public Right of Way behind Sterling Road.

Cllr Rich said she had looked and it is hedgerow with mature ivy. The Public Right of Way officer has stated that under S154 of the Highways Act, any vegetation along a foot path is the responsibility of the householder. Some residents have erected fences inside the hedgerow boundary.

The meeting was reconvened.

7. VISITORS

i. Borough Councillors

SBCllr Stephen reported that the Spirit of Sittingbourne contract will finish when the cinema has been completed. Phase 2 will not happen; the Borough Council will remain in Swale House and the car parks have been reclaimed. There is currently a heritage consultation.

SBCllr Stephen reported that, as Ward Member representative on the Swale Community & Voluntary Services (SCVS), they have now leafleted houses and ensured that Woodstock has been covered. The SCVS have had a good response.

Cllr Hibben thanked SBCllr Stephen for her report.

ii. County Councillors

KCCllr Wright reported the Frank Lloyd Unit in Sittingbourne is being closed. He had attended the NHS Swale Clinical Commissioning Group meeting. The Unit is well placed to help people with severe dementia. Medway Hospital is looking at issues with discharging patients and closing another unit is not helpful. A patient who was fit for discharge on 3 January is still in Medway Hospital as there is no where for them to go.

KCCllr Wright said he would be willing to support a scheme for Sterling Road and even Coffin Pond with his Members' Grant Fund which will be available in May.
Cllr Hibben thanked KCCllr Wright for attending and for his report.

KCCllr Bowles said the Frank Lloyd Unit has been of concern to KCC for some time, it can accommodate thirty-six clients but there are now only two. This site was purpose built and has been refurbished and is perfectly placed to serve the community. There has been a Members' briefing on the Lower Thames Crossing; junctions 5 and 7 of the M2 need to be upgraded before the crossing is built.

KCCllr Bowles said his "You Decide" funding event will be held at Teynham Village Hall on Saturday 15 February.

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

8. PLANNING

i. Ref: 19/506270/FULL

Address: 38 Sterling Road Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1SL

Proposal: Part single storey part two storey side and rear extension and a loft conversion with front and rear dormers (Resubmission of 19/504385/FULL)

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

ii. Ref: 20/500229/FULL

Address: White Acres Hearts Delight Road Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8JA

Proposal: Demolition of 2no. outbuildings and erection of a portal framed vehicle store.

Councillors considered the application and raised concerns about the height and scale of the proposal in relation to the countryside setting. Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the proposal.

iii. Ref: 20/500242/FULL

Address: 11 Roseleigh Road Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1RR

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

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

iv. Any other planning matter received by 3 February 2020.

Ref: 19/505754/FULL Address: Blackthorn Tunstall Road Tunstall Sittingbourne ME10 1YG

Proposal: Erection of a part single storey, part two storey rear extension, insertion of 3no. rooflights and creation of a side dormer

Cllr Roberts informed Members that the application has been approved.

Ref: 19/506083/FULL Address: 27 Roseleigh Road Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1RR

Proposal: Demolition of existing garage. Erection of part two storey, part single storey rear extension with roof alterations (Resubmission of 19/504308/FULL)

Cllr Hibben informed Councillors that the application has been permitted.

Ref: 19/506218/FULL Address: 72 Roseleigh Road Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1RR

Proposal: Conversion of part of existing garage to kitchen/diner, including part demolition and erection of a single storey rear extension.

Cllr Hibben informed Members that the application has been approved.

Cllr Stephen said the land next to the last house in Ruins Barn Road has been purchased and the owners wants to put mobile homes on it although no application has been lodged yet, this is in the Strategic Countryside Gap.

KCCllr Wright said the Planning Officer could put an injunction on the land.

Corporate Plan

Cllr Hibben said the Corporate Plan incorporates issues on housing, including social housing. Her concern on social housing is that the London Boroughs might commandeer this and there is nothing then available for local people. There is nothing specific for the elderly in terms of housing. Care homes are being knocked down and the quality of some is dire.

Cllr Roberts said there is a wider dynamic to this, social and health care need more attention. The focus on brown field sites being developed first is welcomed.

It was agreed to respond that the Parish Council particularly welcomes that brown field sites be developed first but is concerned about the lack of provision for the elderly.

Parish Highway Improvement Plan

Cllr Roberts said she was concerned that the Council would have to conduct a survey first. The Clerk said that this is not onerous, Councillors need to identify areas they feel are of concern and put this to residents asking them to rate the issues in order of priority to be dealt with and also to ask for other areas of concerns to residents. The information is collated and the Council works with KCC Highways to try to address the issues. County Councillors can help with grant funding.

Cllr Hibben said a working party could be convened in mid- March to consider projects.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate dates.

9. FINANCE

Chq No	Payable to	Reason	Amount
1441	Mrs W Licence	Salary and Expenses	£471.20
1442	HMRC	PAYE	£126.20
1443	Mrs J Barnicott	Litter Picking	£124.66

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

Cllr Roberts reported that the litter is beginning to collect again, this will need to be monitored. Cllr Rich said the litter bin in the layby near Doves Croft is being emptied on a regular basis.

10. WEBSITE

Cllr Hibben said the new website is under construction and thanked Cllr Rich for supplying photographs.

The Clerk said the domain name needs to be agreed, there is a prescribed format for .gov.uk websites.

It was **AGREED** to have tunstallparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Rich said that she has drafted text for the website and will circulate this to Councillors.

The Clerk said the planning tracker on the website is not working yet and that she has chased this.

11. REVIEW OF MEETING VENUE

Cllr Hibben said the Village Hall is available on Mondays from 7.45pm so if the larger room was required then the meeting would need to start at 8pm.

Councillors agreed to stay in the Committee Room and review the situation in six months time.

12. PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Cllr Hibben said the first draft has been circulated.

Cllr Roberts said that she will write an article about reporting highways issues.

13. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Hibben reported that there had been a meeting of the Five Parishes Group.

14. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Roberts informed Members that the pot holes which have been logged on the KCC Highways portal are being repaired and the response has been quick. There are gully issues still outstanding, especially by Kent Science Park and this is classed as rural flooding. There is also flooding in Woodstock Road. There are four large branches down in a bridleway and this has been reported.

15. ENVIRONMENT

i. To receive an update

Cllr Hibben said the Kent Wildlife Trust has been contacted twice and the Clerk is waiting for a response.

ACTION: Clerk to chase again.

ii. Sterling Road soft landscaping

Cllr Hibben said lots of maintenance work has been carried out.

Cllr Roberts reported that she and Cllr Roberts had met with Lewis Monger, KCC Highways Soft Landscape Team, the only work outstanding is the hedge opposite The Den which has been planted and a fence will be erected to protect the hedgelings. There is a large area in Sterling Road, near the bus stop, which should be left to KCC Highways responsibility. It has lots of services under it and bark chippings could be laid to stop the weeds growing again. Ali Corbel, Swale in Bloom Coordinator, has offered to meet the Parish Council to discuss options. If bark is laid in a holding pattern it will look neat and tidy.

Cllr Hibben said the residents need to be engaged.

Cllr Rich said residents are maintaining the triangles.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

1) 07.01.20-Letter of thanks for the Christmas Tea and concern regarding pot holes

Cllr Roberts said the issues raised regarding the pot holes has been covered, residents need to be encouraged to report matters on the KCC Highways portal.

2) 16.01.20- Resident email regarding lack of footpath around King George V park

Cllr Hibben said that the park is not in the parish.

Cllr Stephen reported that she had spoken to SBCllr Bonney and SBCllr Palmer as there is a Swale Special Project Fund which could help. Most parks are setting up a "Friends of" group and raising money. Cllr Stephen said she will contact the resident.

Cllr Roberts said there is also an issue regarding disability access and buggy access.

3) 17.01.20- Kent Police Rural report and the Winter 2019/20 edition and Rural Matters Magazine from the Kent Police Rural Task Force.

4) 17.01.20- Cllr Bowles's Annual Funding event

5) 20.01.20- KCC Highways Seminars, details of the KCC Parish Highways Improvement Plan

6) 20.01.20-KALC: CEO Bulletin

7) 22.01.20- SBC: invitation to briefings at Swale House

8) 24.01.20- KALC: Details of training and Annual Planning Conference

9) 26.01.20- Resident concern about external lighting on Tunstall House

Cllr Hibben said the Parish Council has no jurisdiction with regards to this matter.

Cllr Roberts said this was not illegal and it was possibly for a party as the lights have not been on since.

10) 28.01.20- Andrew Bowles's Newsletter

17. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Rich asked if four hi- vis vests with Tunstall Parish Council could be bought.

ACTION: Clerk to place order.

Cllr Hibben said the school has offered to help if a Summer Tea is arranged, this will be discussed at the working party meeting in March

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 2 March 2020 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair
Date: 2 March 2020