

**TUNSTALL PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**Present:** Cllr. L. Burgess – Chair  
Cllr. P. Mitchell – Vice-Chair  
Cllr. C. Browning  
Cllr. A. Spicer  
Cllr. J. Mills  
Cllr. R. Spencer

Lynda Fisher, Clerk  
3 Members of the Public

The Chairman welcomed visitors to the meeting and opened up the floor to the general public.

**Members of the Public** – A member of the public referred to a burglary in Chegworth Gardens; it appears the person has been caught.

Another resident advised that an action group is being formed to oppose the proposal for the relocation and enlargement of Tunstall School.

**Borough/County Councillors/PCSO** – Disappointingly once again no apologies were received from our Borough Councillors or County Councillor Roger Truelove. It is now seven months since these Members were elected as representatives for the people of the Parish of Tunstall and they have yet to attend a meeting of the Parish Council, when their assistance is often required for responses to residents and Members' questions.

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman formally welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Cllr. Davison and the PCSO. None were received from Borough Cllrs. Sylvia Bennett, Derek Conway, Jean and Alan Willicombe or County Cllr. Roger Truelove.

**2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest. A Dispensation has already been granted to all Members relating to Tunstall School.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Spencer and seconded by Cllr. Spicer, the Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013, were agreed by Members and signed as a true transcript, but with the following amendment: Councillor Spencer was in attendance at the meeting; Cllr. Davison was not.

**4. Tunstall School Consultation**

The Chairman had a meeting with Roger Gough, KCC's Cabinet Member for Education, and asked about the school closing. Cllr. Gough gave the response that all schools are facing greater financial difficulty but did not really answer the posed question.

The forecast cost of the school is £4,818,000; of which £2,000,000 is coming from the targeted basic needs fund from the Department of Education and the rest from KCC. It was possible that residents in Tunstall Road and Cranbrook Road might apply for major compensation in light of this proposal. The Chairman will check to see if any money has been set aside for contingencies. **Action: Cllr. Burgess**

Clerk instructed to write seeking a site meeting with KCC's Planning Committee.

**Action: Clerk**

## 5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

1. **Commemorating Frank Panton** – The Chairman has spoken to Mrs Panton and she would like the Parish Council to give some dates. Members to look at weekend dates, advise the Chairman as to when they are available and he will then agree the date with Mrs Panton. **Action: All Members/Chairman**

## 6. **Finance**

1. **Coffin Pond** – Clerk still awaiting a response from the contractor. It was also agreed to apply for funding for these repairs from KCC Member's Funds. **Action: Clerk**
2. **Traffic Survey Costs – Tunstall Road** – Proposed by Cllr. Mitchell and seconded by Cllr. Spicer; agreed to request 'Amey' to install traffic survey equipment between Coffin Pond and Pond Cottages, Tunstall Road, at the quoted price of £430 plus £70 KCC administration costs.

### 3. **Budget 2014/15**

Proposed by Cllr. Spicer and seconded by Cllr. Spencer, Members agreed the Budget for 2014/15 as circulated by the Clerk and to request a Precept for the same year of £8570; an increase of £125. Due to the loss of the Support Grant given by Swale Borough Council this will mean an increase of 5.90%, or £22.03p per Band D property (the actual increase to Band D properties for 2014/15 will be £1.23p per year, or .02p per week). Clerk to now submit the necessary forms to Swale Borough Council.

It was also agreed that the Clerk write to Gordon Henderson MP pointing out the Parish Council's concern at the withdrawal of the Support Grant and the impact this will have on Parishioners.

**Action: Clerk**

### 4. **Cheques raised at this meeting:**

The following cheques were signed and the accounts to the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013, approved.

Date	Cheque	Details		Amount
06.01.14	0973	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax – December, 2013	£44.80p
06.01.14	0974	L. Fisher	Expenses – Tele; home as office; 7 Canon XL Ink Cartridges – ¼ share	£15.78p
06.01.14	0975	Tunstall PCC	Hire of Midwinter Room 06.01.14	£12.50p
06.01.14	0976	McCabe Ford Williams	Prep. of Salary ¼ ended December 2013	£39.00p
Four Cheques in total				

Paid by Direct Debit – L. Fisher – Wages, December, 2013: £178.90p

## 6 **Correspondence**

1. **KALC Training - Conference, February 2014. Resilience and Reassurance for Local Councils** - none to attend
2. **KALC Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency** - Noted.
3. **KALC Summary of response and Government response on the registration of new town and village greens** - Noted.
4. **Shaping the Future of Children's Centres in Kent** – Pleased to see all of Swale's Centres were saved.
5. **Lower Thames Crossing** – Details of sites noted.

6. KALC Government Consultation on Local Authority Parking Strategies – Document noted.

7. KALC Finance Update (Winter 2013): DCLG Local Government Finance Statement – Finance Statement issued by the Under Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government (Mr Brandon Lewis) noted.

7. **Planning**

1. SW/13/1494 – Erection of a single storey rear annexe: Willow House, Tunstall Road, Tunstall, ME10 1YG – Members raised no objection to this application.

8. **Any Other Matters Arising**

1. Members raised concern at the flooding on the highway near to the Village Hall and pot holes near to The Den, Tunstall Road. Clerk to report to KCC. **Action: Clerk**

11. **Next Meeting(s)**

The next Meeting will be on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2014, commencing at 6.45 p.m. in the Midwinter Room, St. John the Baptist Church, Tunstall.

**The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.**