

TUNSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7 November 2016

Present: Cllr Lee Burgess (Chairman), Cllr Roger Sills (Vice Chairman), Cllr Brian Cook, Cllr Ian Davison, Cllr Wendy Harwood, Cllr Mavis Hibben and Cllr David Nutting; and Mrs W Licence (Clerk).

Also present were seven members of the public.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

#1- I have written to Balfour Beatty about the condition of the Stockbury Roundabout and the litter on the motorway slip road, and I have sent copies to Swale Borough Council, Maidstone Borough Council cleansing team, Gordon Henderson MP and Kent Wildlife Trust. I have also had a petition about the problem of litter from the residents in Dove's Croft. Gordon Henderson has responded. I will help with a litter pick at Tonge Mill and hopefully will encourage others to raise concerns about the problem of litter.

Cllr Burgess thanked the resident for her hard work in the anti-litter campaign.

#2- I live at School View and I have received a letter from Swale Borough Council regarding the appeal against the enforcement notice served on Hall House. I have photographs of the land from 1960 and 1990.

Photographs were circulated to Councillors.

#3- I live at Hall House and I have photographs and I hope the Parish Council will support my appeal.

Photographs were circulated to Councillors.

Cllr Burgess said he had declared an interest in the matter at the last meeting and would not be taking part in any discussion regarding the matter.

#4- I have read the appeal document concerning Hall House and there are statements in it which are untrue. The land was farmed until 2002 and it was not redundant agricultural land as stated. The application for change of use of the land has been turned down twice, once by SBC and then at appeal.

#5- You have to consider the material planning considerations; the land is adjacent to a conservation area and this is why it was turned down by the planning inspector.

#6- As the enforcement notice has been appealed the matter has gone to public enquiry.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies has been received from SBCllr George Samuel (at another meeting) and from SBCllr Derek Conway (at another meeting): apologies noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Burgess declared a non-pecuniary interest in **7. PLANNING** i. Ref: 15/500624/CHANGE Hall House Tunstall Road Tunstall

3. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2016

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2016. Cllr Davison **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Sills: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Burgess duly signed the minutes as a true record of the meetings.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Burgess said the litter bin has been ordered.

5. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There was no update

6. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Cook said there have been no session since the last meeting. Bredgar Parish Council has been using the equipment. A list of session dates will be drawn up.

7. PLANNING

i. Ref: 15/500624/CHANGE Hall House Tunstall Road Tunstall V2255/C/16/3155962 Appeal against enforcement notice at Hall House.

Cllr Burgess left the room and took no part in the discussion of this item

Cllr Sills took the chair and said that members of the public have addressed the Council on this matter. There has been an appeal against the enforcement notice served on Hall House in respect of the material change of use of the land from agricultural land to land used as part of the residential garden to Tunstall Hall House, in addition an ornamental pond has been created and sheds have been erected without planning permission. The Parish Council needs to consider whether it wants to comment.

Cllr Nutting said the matter is a complex planning issue and there is a history of planning application refusal. For lay Councillors the matter would be better left to the Planning Inspector who will take an independent view. Cllr Nutting **PROPOSED** to leave the matter with the independent Planning Inspector to appraise; **SECONDED** by Cllr Davison: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Burgess re-joined the meeting and took the chair.

ii. Ref: 16/507037/FULL

Address: Unit 5 Oakwood Farm Ruins Barn Road Tunstall Kent ME9 8AA

Proposal: Residential use of outbuilding, side extension and alterations to roof with associated car parking and landscaping.

Councillors considered the application and had no comments to make.

iii. Any other planning matter received by 7 November 2016

There were no other planning matters.

8. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Village Hall

Cllr Nutting said the War Memorial has been cleaned. The Village Hall Christmas Fayre is on 3 December and it is a very popular event. Signs have been ordered and will be erected in the Village Hall area indicating the route to the church and also the route from the church to the hall, this is in addition to the sign KCC will install.

9. FINANCE

i. Accounts and Cheques raised

	Chq. No	Payable to	Reason	Amount
07.11.16	1151	Tunstall PCC	Hire of Midwinter Room: Parish Council meeting	£15.00
07.11.16	1152	Mrs W Licence	Salary and Expenses	£270.70
07.11.16	1153	HMRC	PAYE	£0.40
07.11.16	1154	Ms L Wright	Andrew Heavey- litter picking	£216.00
07.11.16	1155	Newington Parish Council	¼ share of Finance Conference for Clerk	£15.00
07.11.16	1156	KALC	Finance Conference (Councillor)	£72.00
07.11.16	1157	Porchlight	Donation	£100.00

Receipts:

Tunstall Village Hall £100 return of deposit

Cllr Burgess said the 2017-18 budget needs to be drawn up for the precept bid and Councillors AGREED to finalise the budget at the next meeting.

Cllr Nutting said that consideration would need to be given to the repair of the pond wall and for cleaning the pond.

A resident informed Councillors that Kevin Gore, KCC, had promised to look into repairing the pond and to clean it. KCC were going to cover the cost.

Cllr Sills said the cleaning of the pond should be deferred until a response from KCC has been obtained.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCC.

10. AMENITIES

i. To consider the provision of planters

Cllr Burgess said that there has been no response from KCC with regards to the cost of trees and siting of planters.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCC

ii. To consider quotes to clean Coffin Pond

Cllr Burgess informed members that KCC are investigating the damage to the wall. Item deferred to next agenda.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCC for information.

iii. To consider provision of a dog bin in Cranbrook Drive

Cllr Burgess informed Members that Swale Borough Council have said that the dog bin may cause an issue being close to residential properties. SBC does have a multi-purpose litter bin that could possibly be put at the location but would want the resident to be ok with this before installing. Cllr Burgess has written to the resident and is waiting for a response.

11. COMMONWEALTH DAY 2017

Cllr Burgess informed Members he had discussed the Commonwealth day at the Village Hall Forum and arranging a day proved to be problematic. The school is very keen to celebrate the day.

ACTION: Cllr Burgess to contact the school.

12. HIGHWAYS

i. To receive an update

Cllr Cook said the gas trench outside the church has been repaired.

ii. Crossing points at school

Cllr Burgess said that the issues with the crossing points at the school have been raised by residents. There is confusion as to who has right of way. Alan Blackburn has been emailed and he has contacted the School Safety Critical Team for a meeting. KCC has put money aside for road improvements.

13. SOCIAL MEDIA

Cllr Harwood said that a local Parish Council has a Facebook page and it is a way to communicate instantly with residents. Many people access Facebook on their phones. Cllr Harwood said she is willing to take on the role of administrator.

Cllr Hibben expressed concern that residents do not know the powers the Parish Council has and may ask for things the Parish Council has no authority over.

Cllr Burgess said he knew of another Parish Council which has a Facebook page and it became a way in which residents constantly criticised the Parish Council and it became very nasty. However, it could be useful.

Cllr Hibben said the Parish Council currently operates in a transparent way through its website.

ACTION: Clerk to check on the number of hits the Council's website currently has.

Cllr Nutting asked what will be posted on the page and who will decide this.

Cllr Cook said that postings on some sites have to be approved before being published.
Cllr Nutting said the Council has a web presence and Facebook could be rolled out in stages.
Cllr Burgess **PROPOSED** to have a simple Facebook page with the option of expanding as necessary.

7.40pm Cllr Burgess adjourned the meeting due to a disturbance.

7.45pm the meeting resumed

Cllr Cook **PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT** to Cllr Burgess's motion, that Facebook be suspended for six months: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION 1: Clerk to draft a Social Media Policy

ACTION 2: Residents be consulted in the newsletter as to whether they want a Facebook page.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 12.10.16- Came & Co Newsletter
2. 13 10 16: KALC Community Awards Scheme

Councillors agreed to take part in the KALC Community Awards Scheme.

ACTION: Request for nominations to be put in the next Newsletter

3. 14 10 16: Rural Police report
4. 19 10 16: Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Survey
5. 29.10.16- Sue Sills: Copy of letter to Balfour Beatty concerning litter on motorway
6. 03.11.16- J Frost: email concerning school crossings
7. 03.11.16- KCC Budget consultation

Councillors agreed to respond to the consultation individually.

8. 04.11.16- Porchlight- Appeal for a donation

Cllr Cook **PROPOSED** to donate £100; **SECONDED** by Cllr Hibben: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. 04.11.16- SBC- letter and notes of resumed hearing Local Plan

15. STAFFING MATTERS

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press will leave the meeting during the consideration of Staffing Matters

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Nutting suggested an item reminding residents about the defibrillator at the Village Hall could be included in the next Newsletter. Residents also need to be informed how they can report potholes.

Cllr Cook said there needs to be more volunteers for Speed Watch.

ACTION: A request for Speed Watch volunteers be put in the Newsletter.

Cllr Nutting said there is no village correspondent for the Sittingbourne News although a Parish Council report appears in the paper.

Cllr Burgess said that organisations can submit their news and events.

Cllr Cook asked who the litter picker worked for, the Parish Council has a duty of care towards him.

Cllr Burgess said the litter picker is a self-employed contractor.

ACTION 1: Clerk to forward contract to Cllr Cook.

ACTION 2: Cllr Cook to brief the litter picker with regards to health and safety issues.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that the litter picker would be covered by the Parish Council's insurance.

Cllr Burgess said that last year, a Councillor read a reading at the Remembrance Sunday service on behalf of the Parish Council.

Councillors **AGREED** to lay a wreath.

ACTION: Clerk to research sourcing a poppy wreath for the Parish Council.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 5 December 2016 at 6.45 p.m. in the Midwinter Room, St. John the Baptist Church, Tunstall

Signed as a true record of the proceedings:

Chairman
Date: 5 December 2016