

Tunstall Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on virtually on Monday 4 January 2021

Present: Cllr Mavis Hibben (Chair) Lynda Fisher, Acting Clerk
Cllr Lee Burgess County Cllr. Andrew Bowles
Cllr Louisa Roberts County Cllr. John Wright
Cllr Sarah Stephen
Cllr. Vivien Rich

The Chair welcomed everyone to the January meeting and wished all a Happy New Year. She advised that Lynda Fisher is standing in as Acting Clerk, to take the Minutes in the absence of Wendy Licence.

1. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Parish Council still has two vacancies for Councillors. Agreed to have an article ready for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Clerk to bring this back to the March meeting.

Action: Clerk

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None were declared.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2020

Members agreed the minutes are correct, but as a possible omission was flagged up, which cannot be included by the acting clerk, it was agreed to bring back to the February Meeting.

Action: Clerk

5. MATTERS ARISING

A volunteer, who has already worked and produced Risk Assessments for the Council's Litter Picker in the past, has prepared one for 2021. Agreed Chair to discuss this with him. Bring back to February meeting.

Action: Chair

Outstanding items: new Parish Council Website, Statement of Internal Control and Internet Banking; Clerk to place these on the February Agenda.

Action: Clerk

6. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – None.

7. REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Cllr. Wright has been posting information on Covid on various social media sites and has also sent data to the Clerk. He reported a flooding issue to Highways and hopes the drain has now been cleared. He has had queries from residents regarding the Covid Vaccine and its availability, particularly in Sittingbourne. Overall, it has been quite quiet in Tunstall over the past month.

Borough Cllr. Stephen advised there is now an asymptomatic testing centre in Kemsley as well as Halfway. A vaccine site has been identified in Sittingbourne but cannot be announced yet as are waiting on the NHS. The biggest problem so far has been finding a

suitable site which has sufficient room for those who have received the Pfizer vaccine, who then need to wait 15 minutes to see if there are any reactions. Swale Borough Council has been allocated 3 million pounds by central government to fund local businesses grants. There are issued with enforcement, particularly gatherings, many think the restrictions do not apply to them. Supermarkets have tightened up on what they are doing during the Pandemic; however, the wearing of masks cannot be enforced. The good news is that the rate in Swale has dropped from 955 per 100 thousand before the 24 December and is now 794 per 100 thousand.

County Cllr. Bowles advised that the situation in Faversham is different and the vaccine is being rolled out. The Christmas period has been fairly quiet. He mentioned the Consultation on increasing the weight limit of HGVs; the ability to clamp HGVs parking illegally becomes active today and KCC are continuing to meet using the Zoom platform.

County Cllr. Bowles left the meeting left the meeting at this point.

8. FINANCE

i. Cheques raised and accounts

Chq. No	Payable to	Reason	Amount
1510	Mr B Cook	Defibrillator pads	£34.79
1511	Information Commissioner	Data Protection fee	£40.00
1512	Mrs W Licence	Salary and expenses	£495.50
1513	HMRC	PAYE	£129.20
1514	KALC	Training: £50 plus Vat £10.00 - Total =	£60.00
1515	LexisNexis	Arnold Baker LCA	£149.99
1516	Mossys	Winter planting and hedge maintenance: £921.00 plus VAT £184.20 - Total =	£1,105.20
1517	Mrs J Barnicott	Litter picker w/c 07.12.20 & w/c 21.12.20	£132.20

Councillors considered the invoices and cheques. The vote was 4 for and 1 abstention the signing of the cheques was therefore agreed. As the Clerk was absent due to an operation the Bank Statement was not available. It was therefore agreed to ask her to bring the statement to the February meeting. **Action: Clerk**

ii. Budget 2021/22

Proposed by Cllr. Hibben and seconded by Cllr. Roberts, agreed the Budget of £24061.

iii. Precept

Proposed by Cllr. Roberts and seconded by Cllr. Rich; all agreed a 5% reduction in the 2021/22 Precept - £20859, the Band D rate being £29.55. This is owing to reserves increasing through lack of expenditure on projects and events during the year due to the Covid Pandemic.

9. PLANNING

- i. **Ref: 20/506008/FULL** - Proposed single storey rear extension. Address: Strathblane Hearts Delight Road Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8JA. Councillors considered the applications and had no comments to make.

Cllr. Roberts gave the following updates on Planning applications:

- 20/505149/FULL Demolition of existing stables and outbuildings and erection of new barn and stable outbuilding. (Resubmission of 20/501748/FULL) - Hawthorne Cottage Oakwood Farm Ruins Barn Road Tunstall Kent ME9 8AA - approved.
- 20/505307/PNEXT Prior notification for a proposed single storey rear extension which:
A) Extends by 5.48 metres beyond the rear wall of the original dwelling. B) Has a maximum height of 3 metres from the natural ground level. C) Has a height of 3 metres at the eaves from the natural ground level. - Strathblane Hearts Delight Road Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8JA - refused need full planning application
- Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1RL – approved.
- 20/505385/FULL Erection of single storey side and rear extension. - 125 Sterling Road Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1SS - Pending

10. HIGHWAYS

Cllr. Burgess advised of the issues with Coffin Pond and the run-off from the road draining into it. KCC Officer Alan Blackburn is aware and Cllr. Roberts has chased for an update. Agreed to chase again, copying in County Cllr. Wright in all correspondence.

Action: Clerk

11. ENVIRONMENT

- i. Coffin Pond – See Item 10 above.
- ii. Cllr. Rich advised that there are quite large dead branches behind the Planter; can these be removed? Cllr. Burgess volunteered to undertake this.

Action: Cllr. Burgess

12. KALC COMMUNITY AWARD

No nominations agreed to bring back to the February meeting. **Action: All Councillors**

13. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Rich had attended the Swale KALC in December. Comprehensive Minutes have been circulated by their Clerk to all members. There was a speaker from KCC who discussed Highway Improvement Plans (HIPs) and discussion on the difficulty in recruiting Parish Councillors.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

- 09.12.20: KCC media release- cold weather warning
- 09.12.20: NHS Kent and Medway CCG: COVID update bulletin December 2020
- 11.12.20: Kent County Council- Climate Change Adaptation Survey for Kent and Medway – noted by Members.
- 15.12.20: KCC media release- Asymptomatic testing sites in Kent
- 16.12.20: NALC CEO bulletin
- 16.12.20: KCC Highways- Has Made documents for a Width Restriction Order on Various Roads in Borden, Bredgar, Tunstall and Sittingbourne
- 16.12.20: Kent Resilience Forum- Newsletter
- 17.12.20: KALC events

- 17.12.20: NALC COVID-19 update
- 17.12.20: KALC Swale Area Committee minutes
- 17.12.20: email regarding the Christmas Food Fayre in Tunstall Hall
- 18.12.20: NALC CEO bulletin
- 22.12.20: KALC CEO bulletin

15. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Rich has been monitoring the Swale Local Plan, it seems to be progressing and will be discussed at an Extraordinary Meeting of Swale's Full Council in January.

Cllr. Roberts would like to discuss the H.R. Working Group and Website at the next meeting; Clerk to place on the February Agenda. **Action: Clerk**

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1 February 2021 at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 08.50pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair

Date: 1 February 2021