

# **Tunstall Parish Council**

## **Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Tunstall Parish Council on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 at 7pm in the Midwinter Room at St John the Baptist Church**

In attendance: Cllr Rich (Chair); Cllr Whiting; Cllr Wright

Also in attendance: J Miller (Locum Clerk), 2 members of the public

### **1. TO ELECT CHAIR**

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Rich as Chair.

### **2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to our first TPC meeting since our aborted one in October.

TPC first became Inquorate after March 2022 and was unable to hold meetings or take new decisions. TPC remained a corporate body and day to day working on matters already resolved was continued through our locum clerk. Remaining councillors attended all Swale and KALC meetings for PCs so that Tunstall has been appropriately represented throughout.

We would like to thank Swale Borough Council for their efforts on our behalf over the last year, particularly in securing representatives to join TPC in order for us to resume new decisions. We welcomed Richard Palmer and John Wright to TPC for our October meeting which had a very full agenda to relaunch TPC with gusto. Sadly, after local objections were made, this was not to be, leading to TPC becoming inquorate again. Now, we welcome Mike Baldock and Mike Whiting as new members to enable budget and precept setting to be ready post elections.

As it has not been possible to hold an AGM in the regulated time period this year, I would like to summarise some of the business of the last 18 months for that purpose also. TPC experienced some very difficult internal issues in this period, necessitating councillors giving up a great of their personal time to deal with this. For privacy and legal reasons, we cannot discuss any of this. But we confirm that the situation was resolved early in 2022.

During that time, councillors still ensured that TPC participated fully in the Local Plan process; considered planning applications; personally delivered leaflets to 700+ households encouraging residents to have their say, whichever view they had, on the original Highstead Park Application; participated in and progressed the Tunstall Conservation Review to its adoption; and saw through the complete internal re-modelling of Coffin Pond to its dual purpose of Drainage/run off and Pond. We also supported the successful Tunstall Jubilee celebrations. (And even personally planted up and watered the village planters through a heat wave.)

In addition, our locum clerk (with councillor input) has updated our website for compliance, re developed our financial spread sheet with monthly bank reconciliations and introduced new processes, such as secure email addresses and One Drive filing. A full internal and external audit for 2022 was carried out at the appropriate time and all documentation is on our website as required.

We were proud to personally proclaim the new King at all our noticeboards on September 11th 2022 so that this event would be included in Tunstall history for posterity.

TPC is ready to move forward with confidence post elections. And we hope people will come forward to become councillors once more.

Cllr Wright proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Rich and the locum clerk for all their hard work. Cllr Whiting seconded this, and it was **RESOLVED** to thank Cllr Rich and the locum clerk for their efforts that have ensured that the work of Tunstall Parish Council continues.

### **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr Baldock, with reasons given. County Cllr Lehmann also gave apologies.

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Cllr Wright declared that he is also a county councillor for part of Tunstall.

### **5. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2023-24**

After reviewing the budget forecasts, it was noted that the underspend of 2022-23 could be used to part fund the budget for 2023-24 in order to keep the precept as low as possible for residents. An annual budget of £14,930 was agreed, with only £7500 being used by the precept. The remaining expenditure budget will be funded from reserves.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a budget of £7595 and a precept of £7500 for 2023-24. This equates to £10.79 per year for a Band D, a 65.51% reduction on the previous year.

*Meeting closed at 19:40pm*