

TICHBORNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at 6.30pm on
Monday 7th March 2016 at Alresford Golf Club.

16/60) Apologies.

Mr R Foot	Councillor
Mr R Raimes	Councillor
Mrs A Thacker	District Councillor

Present.

Mr P Kilmister	Chairman
Mr J Curtis	Councillor
Mr A McWhirter	Councillor
Mrs G Hugh	Councillor
Mr N Kinder	Councillor
Mr R Huxstep	County Councillor

Mr B Gibbs Clerk

Four members of the General Public

16/61) Declarations of Interest.

None recorded.

16/62) To approve the minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of Tichborne Parish Council held on 5th January 2016.

The Clerk began by apologising for not making the minutes of the last meeting generally available to members in time for their approval. He suggested holding an extra-ordinary meeting of the Parish Council in order to approve them on Wednesday April 27th immediately before holding the Annual Parish Assembly that evening.

16/63) Reports by the County and District Councillors.

Cllr Thacker sent a written report to the Parish Council that was read to the meeting by the Clerk.

Budget & Council Tax: Last October a revenue budget gap was forecast of 2.4million in 4 years. Some of that gap has been closed but with Government funding disappearing faster than expected the City's major projects have become more important - redevelopment of Station Approach, a new GP surgery in City Centre, and the enterprise centre. These projects will not bring in income for some years though so to close the gap the City Council decided at its meeting last month to approve the first increase in council tax in 6 years in order to maintain vital services.

The total council tax charges (including the County) for our services for 2016/17 will be £2.51 a week for the average household - an increase of less than 9p a week for District Council services. This level is one that should balance the budget to enable the WCC to continue to meet the needs of its residents.

Council Tax is collected by the WCC on behalf of Hampshire County Council (£1,079.28 per annum), the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire (£160.46per annum), Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (£62.60 per annum) , Town and Parish Councils (£71.82 per annum - average), along with the £130.65 per annum for the City Council. This equals an average bill for a Band D property of £1,504.81in total. (Or £125 approx pa).

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Flooding: Ground water level on Sunday 6 March at the West Meon Hut bore hole was 88.900mAOD. Levels have stabilised and dropped over the last week.

Alresford Waste Recycling Centre: Consultation on the future of the Alresford Waste Recycling Centre has been set back until sometime after May so it looks as though the villages will have a bit more time to consider how they want to approach this.

Cllr Huxstep began his report by commenting about the latest discussions regarding Hampshire and Isle of Wight devolution. It would appear that in the absence of an agreement throughout the County that a “Solent City” submission is in discussion for devolution that would comprise the Southampton and Portsmouth unitary authorities and the districts along the coast from Havant to Eastleigh.

He then spoke about the Lengthsman scheme and confirmed that in 2016-17 it would still continue with the same funding staying even if new parishes joined the scheme. He said that every parish received a capital sum of £1000 to cover the 8-10 days service each received. If new parishes did join the scheme there would be a funding gap that would need to be covered by new money or a reduced service to each parish.

16/64) Public Session

Mr Stuart Mackrell spoke briefly about his planning application at Yew Tree Cottage in Ladycroft requesting permission to widen the driveway at the property. It was planned to knock down the black barn, widen the driveway and place fence posts for a new Parish Council notice board to be re-hung.

16/65) Finance and Orders for Payment.

a) The Clerk proposed just one order for payment as follows:

V463 Alresford Golf Club room hire 7th March 2016 £20.00p

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the order for payment.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council’s bank account contained the sum of £13,512.43 as at 31st December 2015. Since this date no further statements had been received.

b) Cllr Kilmister had requested that a review of the 2016-17 precept and budget discussion be undertaken at this meeting due to there being a minority of councillors attending the meeting in January 2016.

The Clerk then re-iterated the information agreed at the January meeting.

In 2015-16 there was a total sum of £4696.19 received from Winchester City Council that was made up of a precept of £4339.31 and a council tax support grant of £356.88. Within that calculation there were two earmarked funds. These were the sum of £800 to cover the potential costs of new notice boards and a sum of £900 to cover the potential costs of a contested election in May 2018.

The Clerk said that over the last few years a sum of £1,000 had been accrued to pay for repairs to the two bus shelters at the Ladycroft crossroads. This sum is not earmarked at the moment. The Clerk had advised the Parish Council that it might be wise to do this now as there is the potential for repairs to be undertaken over the next few years. There was also a further £200 in this year’s budget proposal to be added to this figure.

It was proposed by Cllr Kilmister and seconded by Cllr Curtis that a figure of £1,200 should be earmarked to cover future repairs to the existing Shelters.

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve this.

Cllr Curtis asked again if consideration be given to the provision of a Bus Shelter at the north eastern side of the Ladycroft junction of the B3047. This would serve the bus route 64/X64 heading towards Winchester. The Clerk would report to the next meeting regarding this issue.

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The Clerk than explained how the precept was calculated using the tax base and the Council Tax Band D property rate. For information the Tax Base for 2016-17 at Tichborne will be 108.16

It was proposed by Cllr Kilmister and seconded by Cllr Curtis that Tichborne Parish Council confirms that it has requested a precept contribution of £4297.19 from Winchester City Council for the year 2016-17.

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve this.

It was proposed by Cllr Curtis and seconded by Cllr Kilmister that Tichborne Parish Council confirms that it accepts a support contribution of £455.97 from Winchester City Council for the year 2016-17.

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve this.

The Clerk confirmed that he had requested a total payment of £4753.16 from Winchester City Council as the funding for the Parish Council for the financial year 2016-17.

Cllr Kilmister reminded everyone present that this was the seventh year in succession that the Parish Council had held the level of precept to a 0% increase.

c) The Parish Council's budget for 2016-17 was then considered.

The Clerk listed each item for consideration.

As usual, the largest expense was the Clerk's salary costs totalling £1100 for 2016-17. This is calculated at a rate of £9.25 per hour with 10 hours work each month. However, The Clerk said that over the last 18 months or so there have been times where the number of hours worked has exceeded the number of paid hours. He continued by saying that he would like a review done at the Annual Council Meeting in order to identify if there was a need to vary his contract of employment regarding the total hours he was contracted to work each month.

The Parish Council's insurance policy was the next biggest single expense. The Parish Council had undertaken a review of the insurance policy in June 2011 resulting in a fixed cost of £270.15p for a three-year term. That agreement had now expired and the cost of the policy for 2014-15 was £278.95. This year the Parish Council had chosen to switch its insurance provider from Aviva PLC to Zurich Municipal Ltd. This had further reduced the premium to £195.04

It was agreed to allocate a budget of £250 to the policy for 2016-17 due to the potential need to insure new assets.

Other regular expense items for consideration were the room hire costs for each meeting and maintenance costs of the assets of the Parish Council.

Alresford Golf Club has indicated that room hire fees will remain the same for the foreseeable future. As a result the Parish Council agreed to allocate a sum of £140 to cover these costs for the year ahead.

The Clerk told the meeting that the average outgoings of the Parish Council (excluding an election year) were approximately £3,000. Councillors were asked to consider supporting several projects that would enhance facilities locally.

The potential to provide new notice boards was discussed and the Clerk was asked to enquire about the supply of a notice board at Bakeland Gardens as well as those at Ladycroft and the Village Centre.

It was proposed by Cllr Kinder and seconded by Cllr Curtis that the Parish Council allocates a Chairman's Fund of £100 in 2016-17 to cover the costs of refreshments at the Annual Parish Assembly and other sundry items.

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve this.

It was proposed by Cllr Kilmister and seconded by Cllr Curtis that Tichborne Parish Council approved the budget for the year 2016-17.

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It was unanimously **resolved** to approve this.

c) It was announced by the Clerk that the current Internal Auditors would not be engaged in 2016-17 and that a request for quotes would be sought from some other audit organisations over the next few months.

16/66) Planning & Licensing.

a) Winchester City Council Planning Applications:

16/00335/FUL

Applicant: Mrs Alex Pearce

Address: 4 Bakeland Gardens Alresford Hampshire SO24 9QX

Proposal: Single storey side extension.

The Parish Council raised NO OBJECTION to this application.

15/02950/FUL

Applicant: Mr Stuart Mackrell.

Address: Yew Tree Cottage Ladycroft Alresford Hampshire SO24 0QP.

Proposal: Widen the driveway along the northern boundary of the property.

The Parish Council raised NO OBJECTION to this application.

16/00319/OUT

Applicant: Mr John Wild.

Address: Hassocks Copse Appledown Lane Bishops Sutton Hampshire.

Proposal: To turn Hassocks Copse from a neglected wood to and eco-woodland getaway.

The Parish Council is concerned that the access is somewhat restricted in that it is a designated as a restricted byway (or as a path with other public access) and full access to the site may be unachievable.

The Parish Council is concerned that the Southern Water sewage farm may be compromised by this development.

The Parish Council would like to say that the comments made by Southern Water are germane to the application and have its support.

It is debateable whether sufficient information has been provided by the applicant in order for a fully considered decision to be made.

The Parish Council would be concerned if any work commenced on the project prior to any permission received.

b) The South Downs National Park Authority Planning Applications:

SDNP/15/06486/FUL

Applicant: The Matterley Estate.

Address: Matterley Alresford Road Ovington Hampshire SO24 0HU

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Proposal: Change of use of land from agriculture to temporary mixed agricultural and summer festivals and endurance running events use, including retention of wooden structures within woodland associated with festival use.

The Parish Council of Tichborne wishes to **STRONGLY OBJECT** to the above application and cites the following material planning considerations as germane to this application.

The opening words of the SDNP Local Plan discussion states:

"The National Park needs properly managed development that conserves and enhances the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage for which it was designated.

The Local Plan will help shape the future of the SDNP by

- putting landscapes first while still serving the needs of our communities and local economy;
- protecting the special qualities of the South Downs;
- Valuing nature both for its own sake and for the things it gives us like clean water, food and space to breathe;
- applying a single set of planning policies across the National Park to ensure all planning decisions reflect its special qualities.

The Parish Council asserts that this application does not satisfy any of the above tests.

It is also worth noting that the "South Downs Local Plan: Preferred Options" sets out the statutory purposes for national parks as set out in the Environment Act 1995:

These are:

1. To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.
2. To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the national park by the public.

The SNDPA also has a duty when carrying out the above purposes to "seek to foster the economic and social well-being of the local communities within the national park."

Where there is an "irreconcilable conflict between the statutory purposes [being 1 and 2 above], statute requires ... the first purpose of the National Park [to be] given priority."

In other words, in the event of a conflict, the "preserving/enhancing" purpose takes precedence over the "promoting enjoyment" purpose.

The Parish Council urges the Development Control Committee of the SDNPA to take this into account and use it as a primary reason for refusal.

The South Downs Local Plan: Preferred Options lists the seven special qualities of the SNDP as

- Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views;
- Tranquil and unspoilt places;
- A rich variety of wildlife and habitats including rare and important species;
- An environment shaped by centuries of farming and embracing new enterprise;

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- Great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences;
- Well conserved historical features and a rich cultural heritage; and
- Distinctive towns and villages, communities with a real pride in their area.

The Parish Council would argue that it seems clear from the general purposes of a National Park (quoted above) that the activities proposed in the planning application (such as tank driving, pop festivals, "tough mudder" and motor cross) do not seem to foster or promote those purposes or qualities and, indeed, would seem more likely to be inconsistent with or opposed to many of the purposes/qualities.

Recreation is discussed in the local plan preferred option document.

In summary it states that development proposals for recreational activities will be permitted provided they comply with other relevant policies and they are compliant with the Development Strategy (SD22) and are located in sustainable or gateway locations.

With reference to this application the Parish Council takes a contrary view as follows.

- (a) The facilities proposed will not provide opportunities for visitors to increase their awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities;
- (b) The design and location of the development does not reduce the need for travel by private car and does not encourage access by sustainable means;
- (c) The development proposals do not make use of existing buildings where possible; and
- (d) It has not been demonstrated that any proposed on-site facilities or ancillary buildings are necessary and therefore the on-site facilities will undermine the vitality and viability of town or village centres or assets of community value nearby.

Where the development is in the countryside as defined on the Policies Map, it should, in addition, be clearly demonstrated and evidenced that it is in accordance with Policy SD22 (Development Strategy) and that there is a need for development in that area; the scale, intensity of use or activity is appropriate in that location; it can be satisfactorily accessed by sustainable means, including public transport, walking, cycling or horse riding; and it is closely associated with other attractions/established tourism uses, including the public rights of way network.

The view of the Parish Council is that this application meets none of those tests.

There is not a need for development in this area;

The scale, intensity of use or activity is not appropriate in this location;

The location cannot be satisfactorily accessed by sustainable means, including public transport, walking, cycling or horse riding;

The location is not closely associated with other attractions/established tourism uses, including the public rights of way network.

"Development proposals must not, on their own or cumulatively with other development uses, prejudice or disadvantage people's enjoyment of other existing and appropriate recreation, environmental education or interpretation activities, including the informal quiet enjoyment of the National Park.

Development proposals for recreational activities and interpretation that would have an unacceptable adverse impact on the National Park's special qualities or that do not provide adequate opportunities for visitors to increase their awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities will be refused.

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Development proposals that involve the loss of existing recreational facilities which serve the Purposes of the National Park will be refused except where provision is made for an equivalent or improved replacement of the existing facilities on site or in another equally accessible location."

The Authority will normally support proposals which are consistent with the second purpose [e.g. promoting enjoyment by the public of the special qualities of the park].

Developments should provide opportunities for visitors to increase awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities, for example, by reflecting the valued characteristics of the National Park's natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage.

"Tranquil and unspoilt places" is one of the special qualities.

The National Park provides a valuable sense of tranquillity within a heavily populated part of the UK and it is something that visitors and residents greatly value. The quiet enjoyment of the countryside can be vulnerable to disturbance from other recreational activities.

The Parish Council supports all of the statements above and asserts that this application does not satisfy any of the tests outlined by them.

It has not been satisfactorily demonstrated, in accordance with Policy SD8 (Relative Tranquillity), that the proposals will not generate an increased level of activity by creating or exacerbating a "tourist hotspot" which would detract from the experience of other visitors or affect the character, appearance and amenity of the area.

On the question of "promoting the economic well being of communities in the park", the Parish Council has never understood what economic benefit the local area derives from these activities.

It is clear that the onus is on the developer to show that the development proposed provides economic well being to those within the Park.

It is up to the developer to demonstrate and, in many cases evidence, that the purposes etc of the SDNP are satisfied by his proposed development.

As far as the Parish Council is concerned the application does not do that.

It is the view of the Parish Council that the planning application is difficult to understand.

In particular, it is not clear what activities are proposed to be carried out and for how long each activity is to be carried on.

Some sections of the application form seemed to be incorrectly completed e.g. section 10 dealing with "Parking" which states that there are to be no parking spaces. This seems odd since there are probably in excess of 20,000 people attending and there are many cars parked in the fields during the pop festival.

Section 11 deals with "foul sewage". In answer to the question "How is foul sewage to be disposed of?" the answer is "unknown!"

The Parish Council would like to see this pretty important question answered.

The application form asks in question 24 whether the site can be seen from a public road, public footpath, bridle way or other public land.

That question has been answered "No"

The Parish Council would argue that this statement is incorrect as the site can be seen from the A31 and the A272 (and possibly other roads) and also from footpaths and bridle ways.

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In summary, the Parish Council finds it difficult to see how the development can be said to comply with the purposes etc of the SNDP as cited above in view of the noise pollution, light pollution and disruption caused by so many people at the site.

An approach to this application should be to ask why these events need be staged in the SDNP rather than asking why the application should not be allowed to proceed.

c) Tichborne Park Cricket Club has now reached the point in its pavilion re-development project where it is incurring expense and would like to present some invoices for payment to the Open Spaces team at Winchester City Council.

The Open Spaces officers have requested a minute reference from the Parish Council acknowledging the fact that the officials of Tichborne Park Cricket Club have informed the Parish Council that they would like to do this and that the Parish Council has been shown existing invoices and will see copies of all future invoices prior to them being presented to Winchester City Council.

Cllr Kilmister proposed and Cllr Curtis seconded the proposal that minute reference **16/66C (i)** records the progress Tichborne Park Cricket Club has made with the re-development project and that the Parish Council of Tichborne fully supports the submission of all invoices sent so far to Winchester City Council's Open Spaces team for payment.

The Parish Council of Tichborne unanimously **resolved** to approve this proposal.

Cllr Kilmister proposed and Cllr Curtis seconded the proposal that minute reference **16/66C (ii)** records the fact that Tichborne Park Cricket Club has been instructed to pass all future invoices it receives in connection with the pavilion re-development project to the Parish Council of Tichborne for it to approve prior to these invoices being sent to Winchester City Council's Open Spaces team for payment.

The Parish Council of Tichborne unanimously **resolved** to approve this proposal.

16/67) The Parish Council received the following correspondence.

There was no correspondence to receive.

16/68) Environment, Highways & Transport.

a) Parish Lengthsman. Cllr Curtis told everyone that the Lengthsman had visited in February and was due to visit again sometime in April.

b) Parish Council notice boards. Cllrs Hugh and Curtis were appointed to make recommendations regarding the purchasing and installation of new Notice Boards through the Civil Parish of Tichborne.

c) Bus Shelters at the Ladycroft crossroads. Cllr Curtis and the Clerk were asked to make recommendations regarding the purchasing and installation of new Bus Shelters serving the 64 and X64 routes to and from Winchester.

16/69) Community Safety.

There was no report to receive.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.53pm

Members of the Tichborne Parish Council are summoned to the Annual Council Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Tuesday May 24th 2016 at the Alresford Golf Club beginning at 6.30pm.

**Brendan Gibbs,
Clerk to the Parish Council of Tichborne.**

Chairman's signature

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