

Tunstall Parish Council

Minutes for the meeting of Tunstall Parish Council held on Wednesday 9 September 2015

Present: Cllr A Spicer (Chair), Cllr L Burgess (Vice Chair), Cllr I Davison, Cllr R Sills, Cllr R Spencer and Mrs W Licence (Clerk).

Also present were three members of the public.

Public Time

Cllr Spicer welcomed Councillors and Members of the public to the meeting and reminded everyone that HM Queen Elizabeth II was officially the longest reigning monarch. A toast was raised to the Queen.

#1- A member of the public said she was unable to attend the meeting with the contractors concerning the school and asked for an update.

Cllr Spicer explained that it was not a formal meeting but a drop in session for people to talk to the contractor. There will be a residents' newsletter.

#2- A resident asked how well the session was attended.

Cllr Davison advised that there were about twenty five to thirty residents and parents.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Fincham, Cllr Senior, and Cllr Burgess (anticipated late arrival); apologies accepted.

Apologies had also been received from KCCllr R Truelove, SBCllr M Bonney and SBCllr G Samuel (attending other meeting): apology noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 August 2015

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting held on 3 August. Cllr Davison **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Sills: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. The minutes were duly signed as a true record by Cllr Spicer.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chair updated Members of matters arising from the previous minutes, which included:

i. WW1 Memorial

Another email has been sent requesting an update and the response is that funding is being sought.

ii. School – Contractor/Tunstall Working Party

Neither the Parish Council nor residents had been informed about the change for the kerbing. The Parish Council has made a formal complaint

ACTION: Clerk to contact James Sanderson for progress report.

James Sanderson (KCC) is meant to be sending regular updates to the Chair but this has not happened. It had not been intended to install railings although this has been done; there area was due to be redesigned and the containment kerbing taken back.

Cllr Davison expressed concern about the height of the kerbing and if the railings were taken away a child could fall under a car; either the kerb should be lowered and the railings taken away or it should be restored exactly as it was.

Cllr Spicer informed Members that KCC have said they will look into the matter but this has not happened.

Cllr Sills expressed concern that the changes made to the speed humps imply that it is a pedestrian crossing

ACTION: Cllr Spicer to contact James Sanderson.

iii. Remembrance Sunday – Tunstall Memorial Hall

There has been no further news and Councillors were reminded that the church was in an interregnum and the new incumbent would not be installed until after this event. IT WAS AGREED to take no further action this year.

iv. Speedwatch

No update was available for this item.

v. Size of Parish Council

Katherine Bescoby (Democratic Services) has explained that SBC were not asked to include increase in number of Councillors in the last Governance Review. If the Parish Council wants to increase number of Councillors a formal request must be made to SBC who will have to advertise and consult with residents. If an increase is agreed it will not come into effect until the next election.

The Parish Council will get extra funding due to the increase in the size of the Parish and there is the prospect of further increase in Tunstall Rural if the development of Kent Science Park goes ahead.

Councillors agreed to request a further two Councillors but if Kent Science Park goes ahead there will be three Councillors needed.

ACTION: Clerk to request an increase in the number of Councillors

Councillors were informed that Finance had forgotten to pay the increased precept in May but will pay in September with remainder of precept

vi. Ragwort

Bill Ogden has been contacted regarding the ragwort in the Old School Playing Field. There has been a site visit and Landscape Services has sprayed the stems and will shortly return to cut them back and also cut the grass. This should resolve the problem and the site will be inspected regularly in the New Year to ensure that there are no signs of grow back.

The damage to the gate has also been reported to Bill Ogden who has forwarded this to a colleague to action.

6. PLANNING -

i. Ref: 15/505637/FULL

Address: 40 Ruins Barn Road Tunstall Kent ME10 4HS

Proposal: Loft conversion with rear dormer, insertion of rooflights and Juliet balcony.

Councillors considered the application and raised no objections to the proposals.

ACTION: Clerk to inform SBC Planning Department.

ii. Ref: 15/506315/FULL

Address: 5 Hales Road, Tunstall ME10 1SR

Proposal: First floor extension and adaptations to roof

Councillors considered the application and raised no objections to the proposals.

ACTION: Clerk to inform SBC Planning Department.

iii. Ref: 15/506314/FULL

Address: 128 Sterling Road Tunstall ME10 1SW

Proposal: First floor extension, roof adaptations and rear dormer window

Councillors considered the application and raised no objections to the proposals.

ACTION: Clerk to inform SBC Planning Department.

Ref: 15/504647/FULL

Address: Petergate, Tunstall Road, Tunstall

Proposal: Side and rear extensions

Cllr Spicer informed Members that she attended the Swale Planning Committee Meeting and this application was granted by the Committee.

Ref: 14/503907/FULL

Address: 2 Ruins Barn Road Tunstall Kent ME10 4HS

The Parish Council has not yet been advised of the outcome of the appeal from the Planning Inspectorate.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Planning Inspectorate.

7. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Sills told Councillors that residents have expressed concern about the speed of traffic in the Bredgar Road from the Z bend to beyond Dove's Croft as it is currently maximum speed.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCC Highways to ask if the speed limit could be extended and what plans are there to monitor traffic speed in this section of the road.

Cllr Spicer expressed concern that there is a problem with people parking on the double yellow lines outside the school.

Cllr Spicer reported to members that she attended the Five Parishes Group which had the Kent Science Park on the agenda. The Parish Council had not been informed about a pre-planning application which had been submitted and SBC said an environmental assessment was not needed, even though it is a wetland area; the Parish Council disagreed with the findings. Borough Councillors had not been informed either.

ACTION: Clerk to contact SBC to request that the Parish Council, as well as Borough Councillors, be kept informed with details of all applications for the Kent Science Park.

Cllr Davison asked that a transport report be requested.

ACTION: Cllr Spicer to contact James Speck

7.40pm Cllr Burgess arrived.

8. FINANCE

i. Audit Report

Cllr Spicer noted that no significant matters had been found in the report.

ii. Christmas Tree Festival

Councillors considered ideas of a commemorative anniversary theme for the tree and this will be finalised in October.

iii. Accounts and Cheques raised

Under the Local Government Act 1972, (Sch 2), the following cheques were raised and signed at the meeting:

Date	Chq. No	Payable to	Reason	Amount
09.08.2015	1075	Mr D Buckett	Internal Audit	£207.45
09.08.2015	1076	Mrs W Licence	Salary Expenses	£219.03 £37.66 TOTAL
09.08.2015	1077	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax – August 2015	£54.60
09.08.2015	1078	Tunstall P.C.C.	Midwinter Room Hire September	£12.50
09.08.2015	1079	Mr L Fincham	Newsletter	£150.00
Five cheques in total				

Cllr Spicer informed Councillors that there are now two signatories, Cllr Spencer and Cllr Spicer, on the bank mandates and the Clerk is also on the account but is not permitted to sign cheques. Former Councillors have been removed from the account. There has been a problem with some Councillors signing outside the box on the mandate which was then rejected by the bank. Further mandates were signed by Councillors.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 24.07.2015: KALC: Finance Conference- 22 October 9.30am-4.30pm

Cllr Spencer **PROPOSED** the Clerk should attend the Finance Conference; **SECONDED** by Cllr Davison: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cost of conference, £60, to be shared between Councils.

2. 04.08.2015: KALC Area Committee minutes: *Forwarded to KALC reps*

3. 07.08.2015: email of thanks from resident to PC for Newsletter informing of 1 hour drop-in session about the school.

4. 10.08.2015: KALC Chairmanship workshop- 22 September 1-4pm

5. 13.08.2015: Gordon Henderson MP Office- contact details for information- *link added to website*
6. 14.08.2015: KCC Kent County Council Minerals & Waste Local Plan 2013-30 - Proposed Modifications Consultation- The consultation will be open for eight weeks from 17th August 2015 to 12th October 2015
7. 16.08.2015: Copy of email from resident to Chris Mains concerning the kerb stone used at school- *acknowledged*
8. 17.08.2015: Letter of complaint from resident about the kerb stone used at School site- *response sent*
9. 17.08.2015: Letter of thanks from Victim Support for donation
10. 20.08.2015: AbBaltis- Invitation to presentation ceremony of their Queen's Award for Enterprise for International Trade on 30 September 2015 @ 11am @ KSP.

IT WAS AGREED for Cllr Spicer and one other Councillor to attend the ceremony on behalf of the Parish Council.

11. 28.08.2015: KALC Parish News- *circulated*
12. 31.08.2015: KALC Event Announcement: Code of Conduct - A Workshop, 28 September 2015
13. 02.09.2015: Rural Opportunities Bulletin- *circulated*

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

No update was available for this item, deferred to next meeting.

11. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Burgess informed Members he had attended a Planning meeting and was assured that when the construction of the new school is completed the containment kerbing will be replaced with a brickwall.

Cllr Spencer reported that he had received complaints from residents about footpath ZR154 being overgrown.

ACTION: Clerk to report the problem to Mike Ellis (PROW).

Cllr Spicer reminded Councillors that she had agreed to take office of Chair until the issue of the election had been resolved and this has now been taken as far as it can be. Cllr Spicer tendered her resignation which was accepted by the Clerk.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 5 October, 2015 at 6.45 p.m. in the Midwinter Room, St. John the Baptist Church, Tunstall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8pm.