

TUNSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 9 May 2018 held in the Midwinter Room, St John the Baptist Church, Tunstall.

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

Also present were Mrs Jane Ashton, the High Sheriff of Kent, and thirteen members of the public.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Cook welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and ensured that those present were aware of the emergency evacuation procedure.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ian Davison (personal); apology accepted.

Apologies had also been received from KCCllr Andrew Bowles, KCCllr John Wright, SBCllr Monique Bonney, SBCllr Derek Conway, SBCllr George Samuel; apologies noted.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 4 MAY 2017

Cllr Sills **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2017 as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Burgess: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Cook duly signed the minutes as a true record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Cook reported that 2017/18 has been a busy year for the Parish Council, and whilst the Parish Council will never achieve all the things its sets out to, and those that it does are often not achieved as quickly as Councillors would wish, I like to think that we have, in one way or another, made some improvements for the residents of Tunstall.

Jane, our Litter Picker has really been a success and does a wonderful job in keeping the roads and pathways clear of litter.

The Tunstall Speedwatch team are to be seen regularly from April to October at various sites in the Parish. In 2017 twenty-one sessions were carried out and one hundred and eighty-eight drivers had been reported to the Police for excessive speed, and many of these were visited by the Police and handed a written warning. As a result of feedback from residents, Park Drive has now been added to the speed checking sites.

The planters installed in the village have been well received and the Council will do its best to continue to keep them planted and looking colourful.

The Parish Council has now established a Highways team and has regular meetings with KCC in the form of a walk around the Parish to look at issues that need to be resolved, and to work with KCC to do so. This team has overseen the repairs to Coffin Pond, renewal of road markings at various places, removal of redundant signage for the old school and installation of signage for the new school, clearing of blocked drains and are now looking at installing an additional gully outside the Village Hall, to alleviate the flooding of the road there.

Last year a meeting was arranged in the Village Hall with Erin Scott, the local Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, to decide on the best way to keep residents updated on local crime initiatives. Sadly no residents attended the meeting, so the Parish Council now publishes the

Neighbourhood Watch information on its website so that it is accessible to residents if they wish.

There have been two tree dedications this year. In March a tree in the Village Hall grounds was dedicated to the late Frank Panton, and in April a tree in Sterling Road to the late John Clancy. At the latter, the Parish Council presented a book written by Mr Clancy to the children from Tunstall School, who attended the ceremony with a teacher.

The big issue for the Parish Council at the moment is preparing a response to the consultation on the new Swale Local Plan. This identifies how land is used and determines what will be built and where and will have an effect on the possible development of the Science Park. Members of the Parish Council have been hard at work, attending meetings, studying documents and responding as necessary to try and get the best possible outcomes for the Parish.

The Council will arrange an event in Tunstall to help residents to understand what the plan is about, and how to respond to the consultation.

The Council has a number of things in the pipeline for 2018, not least a memorial in the grounds of the Village Hall to celebrate 100 years since the end of The Great War, which will involve children from Tunstall School.

There is another challenging year ahead of us, but the Council, as a team, will do its best to meet the challenge head on.

Cllr Cook thanked Wendy, Mavis, David, Lee, Roger and Ian, and the Kent County and Swale Borough Councillors who regularly attend our meetings, for the support given during his time as Chairman.

4. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PARISHIONERS

No matters were raised

5. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

St. John the Baptist Church, Tunstall

The Rev Pinnegar reported the main area of concern was the ongoing issues with the roof. Work started in October 2017 and the building was closed to remove the ceilings to open up the roof space which has improved ventilation. The roof work is less serious than first thought. There is still external work to be carried out.

The Rev Pinnegar thanked the Parish Council for the grant towards the work which was completed in time for the Christmas Tree Festival. The Festival grows every year and in 2017 it was extremely successful. The Church has several committees which organise events such as a charity fund raiser in aid of Madagascar, the Harvest Supper, two or three quiz nights to help raise funds for the Church. The building is being used more and more for concerts. The Church continues to reach out to the community and there is a group from the school which meets one evening per week.

Cllr Cook thanked the Rev Pinnegar for his report.

Tunstall School

Mrs Hutchings, the Head Teacher, reported the children are enjoying the new site. The trees are developing making the grounds better. There are raised beds and raised ponds as well as willow structures in the grounds. The school has excellent facilities and the children are now able to cook. The school has close links with the Church and has Harvest, Christmas and Easter services, there being two services at each celebration. In September the school will increase to eleven classes. The school fete will be on 7 July and the playing field will be opened for parking.

Mrs Hutchings thanked the Parish Council for involving the school in community events.

Cllr Cook thanked Mrs Hutchings for her report.

Village Hall

Cllr Nutting, as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, reported the Village Hall has functions on a regular basis and also has regular groups using the hall. It is a good community facility in the Parish.

6. ANY OTHER MATTERS

No other matters were raised.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE KALC COMMUNITY AWARD

Mrs Ashton, the High Sheriff of Kent, said she knew of the demands teachers face as she had been a teacher. When students are asked what made a difference to their school-life they all said it was one person, it was one teacher. Mrs Hutchings has made a difference to the school, to the children and to the staff of Tunstall School. Tunstall will be indebted to Mrs Hutchings. The High Sheriff presented Mrs Hutchings with the KALC Community Award.

Cllr Cook thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.45pm.