

Tunstall Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5 March 2018 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 KCCllr John Wright and one member of the public.

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

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A resident informed Councillors that she is the footpath observer for the parish of Tunstall through the Ramblers Association. ZR147 is a footpath influenced by the planning application for Tunstall School which states it is a bridleway. The footpath is a designated and safe route to the village hall. An objection has been lodged against the proposal.

KCCllr Wright reported that when Cllr Cook had made him aware of the problem with the road closure in Tunstall Road, he immediately contacted Alan Blackburn, KCC Highways, who came out and removed the notices. KCCllr Wright thanked Cllr Cook for alerting him to the issue and also thanked Alan Blackburn for intervening.

KCCllr Wright said Local Government Officers and Council leaders have expressed dissatisfaction with the way local decisions are being ignored. Critical infrastructure is not being put in and this causes all sorts of issues. The KCC budget has been set and will increase by 5% increase, with 2% for adult social care.

The savings on the bus services have been modified to approximately £450,000 as opposed to the £2,500,000 originally planned. Bus operators in Thanet, Parkwood and Sevenoaks will be affected and will modify their timetables. Bus services will change and will become demand led, ArrivaClick is a pilot for this type of service and Arriva increased its fleet for the service.

KCCllr Wright reported he has been involved with Air Quality Management in Newington since 2008 and the data overturned the Pond Farm appeal by Gladmans. There is an extra £50,000 in the Air Quality budget. SBCllr David Simmons, Cabinet Member, has been informed that Tunstall Parish Council is enquiring about AQMA for Ruins Barn Road and information about the process, which is through Ward Members' support, has been sent to the Clerk.

Cllr Nutting asked if the Parish Council could fund this.

KCCllr Wright said there are static tubes for monitoring and also a more expensive constant air monitoring system and said that he will support the case for Tunstall have AQMA.

A resident said that housing and infrastructure are major issues, the southern relief road is to be forward funded on condition of an additional 64,000 houses in the borough. A bid has been made and SBCllr Andrew Bowles' response in 2016 to the secretariat describes a number of developments, a decision will be made in the next few months.

KCCllr Wright said the majority of the money is for Grovehurst Road and Key Street with a small amount for scoping out the southern relief road which could be anywhere from Lynsted Lane to Junction 5a, there is no fixed route for the road.

Cllr Cook thanked everyone for their time and input.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Apologies had also been received from KCCllr Andrew Bowles, SBCllr Derek Conway and SBCllr George Samuel: apologies noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Cook declared a pecuniary interest in item 7ii as it is his planning application.

3. VACANCY FOR CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR

Cllr Cook informed members that a Notice of vacancy has been posted and no poll called. A Notice of co-option has been posted and the Council can now co-opt.

ACTION: Clerk to request an article be put in the church magazine.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2018

Item 5 was amended to read Cllr Sills. Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting of 5 February. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Cook.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Planter watering- still waiting to hear back from Fulston Manor and another contractor.
- Site visit with KCC Highways- Cllr Sills reported there has been no response.

ACTION: Clerk to request a site visit with Alan Blackburn, KCC Highways.

- Gully- Cllr Cook said there is a drainage firm by the gully.

Cllr Sills said the contractor was filling in a hole dug earlier in the day.

Cllr Nutting said there is a drain run there but there is a flood on the opposite side of the road as well.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain if the gully work will be carried out when the road is closed.

- Air Quality Management- The Clerk reported she has written to Cllr Simmons and is waiting to hear if AQMA will be implemented.
- Newsletter- Cllr Burgess said that this has been received and is ready to be delivered.
- Pond Warden- Cllr Burgess reported he has not been able to meet the resident.
- Land for village green or allotments- Cllr Nutting reported that Tunstall House has not been sold and it is understood that the estate will be sold as a whole lot.
- Tree dedications- Cllr Cook informed Members that dates have been agreed.
- Extra Members for the Council- the Clerk informed Councillors that it was too late to request a governance review.

6. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Cook said there was nothing to report.

7. PLANNING

i.) Address: Tunstall Church of England Primary School Tunstall Road Tunstall Sittingbourne
Ref: 18/500738/FULL

Proposal: Conversion of former school building to provide three dwellings with associated demolition/building works, internal and external alterations, provision of additional floorspace at first floor level, including three dormer windows, landscaping, including removal of three trees and car parking

Ref: 18/500739/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for conversion of former school building to provide three dwellings with associated demolition/building works, internal and external alterations, provision of additional floorspace at first floor level, including three dormer windows, landscaping, including removal of three trees and car parking.

Councillors considered the applications and were concerned about access to the site which will be extremely tight and a very narrow access, the hedge and fence need to be removed; it is a public footpath; when the school wanted access for a temporary car park on the adjacent orchard using this existing access route it was not permitted due to the poor sight lines; in the previous application three mature trees, of which two are oak trees were going to be felled but that was when there's were two dwellings proposed behind the school building. In this application the proposal is still to fell the three mature trees, but for no good reason.

Councillors would support the development of the site which would bring the building back into use but only if the application respects the Conservation Area, and addresses the issues with vehicular access to the site. Councillors felt that this application was not as superior as the previous one.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the application on the grounds of the poor quality of the western end of the development; three mature trees are being removed in a Conservation Area for no apparent reason; the safety element of access to the site is exasperated because it is a public footpath; it is not in keeping with the Conservation Area.

ii.) Ref: 18/500832/FULL

Address: 25 Doves Croft Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8LQ

Proposal: Front extension

Cllr Cook left the room and Cllr Burgess took the Chair.

Councillors considered the application and had no comment to make.

Cllr Cook returned to the room.

iii.) Ref: 18/500540/FULL

Address: 32 Ruins Barn Road Tunstall Sittingbourne Kent ME10 4HS

Proposal: Front extension and new main entrance to flank wall with canopy over

Councillors considered the application and had no comment to make.

iv.) Any other planning matter received by 5 March 2018

Cllr Cook said an application for Greenhurst, Hearts Delight Road had been received too late for the agenda and will be considered at the next meeting.

8. FINANCE

Chq. No	Payable to	Reason	Amount
1262	Tunstall PCC	Hire of Midwinter Room: Parish Council meeting	£15.00
1263	Mrs W Licence	Salary and expenses	£328.43
1264	HMRC	PAYE	£86.00
1265	Branchett Ltd	Hedge maintenance	£750.00
1266	KALC	Governance Conference	£72.00
1267	Mr B Cook	Refreshments for dedication ceremony (Sterling Road)	£56.90
1268	Jane Johnson	Litter Picking Gardening Total	171.00 15.20 £186.20
1269	Mr B Cook	Refreshments for dedication ceremony (Village Hall)	£47.40

Councillors considered the cheques raised and Cllr Burgess **PROPOSED** the signing of the cheques; **SECONDED** by Cllr Sills: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will no longer pay for the maintenance of the hedge by the footpath adjacent Tunstall Stables.

Councillors considered the request from the litter picker to be able to increase the hourly rate invoiced from April when the minimum wage is increased. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the contractor's increased rate of £7.93 per hour from 1 April 2018.

9. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Hibben asked whether the Parish Council wanted to continue to be part of the Five Parishes Opposition Group. The Parish Council contributed £2,000 in 2015 and has not been asked to give money but rather to pledge money. The Quinn proposed development is in Rodmersham and Tunstall.

Cllr Cook said that if further funding was needed in the future the Parish Council can do so but it would be remiss to give any more money as currently Tunstall Parish Council is the only substantial donor. Not everyone is against the proposal and some residents have said they think it is a very good idea.

Cllr Burgess reported the Five Parishes Opposition Group Newsletter is ready for delivery.

Cllr Hibben reported she attended the Local Development Framework Panel (LDF) meeting on 8 February and sat in the public gallery. There are six Conservatives, two Independents and one UKIP member on the LDF.

Cllr Burgess said that if the LDF is meant to represent the Borough there needs to be proper representation, there is a formula for proportionality.

ACTION: Clerk to check the membership of the Local Development Framework Panel and if there are no Labour members to ask why not.

Cllr Hibben said the committee discussed whether the Local Plan should be reviewed in light of the points raised by the Planning Inspector. Swale's current Local Plan sets the housing requirement at seven hundred and seventy-six dwellings per annum, Swale has fallen behind by four hundred houses. Swale Borough Council reported the Government may wish to increase this to one thousand and fifty-four dwellings per annum. SBCllr Mike Baldock and SBCllr Monique Bonney fiercely opposed the proposal for a new Local Plan because of the cost, Swale has spent £2,000,000 on the current Local Plan.

Cllr Nutting said that the MP had met with the Housing Minister and was informed that Swale does not have to have the higher number of houses as it already has its local Plan in place.

Cllr Burgess said Swale has a solid Local Plan which has been agreed by the Inspector who said it would have been found unsound if the Kent Science Park had been put into the Plan. Nowhere does it say Swale needs more housing, the Borough Council is trying to bring this forward sooner than they need to. Swale does not need to take notice of new housing numbers, as this cannot be applied retrospectively. There will be no housing for a third of the Borough and there is reference to the Thames gateway which is not relevant.

Cllr Hibben said the LDF discussed future sites and some sites in Faversham have been identified. The Government housing figures were questioned as the country does not have the man power or materials for all these houses. The Peter Brett consultation document had some similarities to the Quinns proposal. The LDF Panel agreed to have a new Local Plan and the public gallery, which was full, was very unhappy.

Cllr Burgess said Swale has a housing allocation which the Inspector has said is sound, if developers want to build on other sites they would lose if appealed.

Cllr Cook said the Government has stated it will impose on developers to build and not to land bank. There is no substance for a new Local Plan

Cllr Nutting expressed concern that £2,000,000 was spent only recently on the Local Plan and now Swale want to start the whole process again.

Cllr Hibben said KCCllr Bowles has assured the Parish Council that as the Local Plan had been passed, Tunstall is safe from development.

Cllr Nutting said the Borough Council is wasting tax payers' money. There are two willing landowners and a developer, there will possibly be an extra 30,000 houses and this will bring in extra revenue in Council Tax for Swale Borough Council.

Cllr Cook thanked Cllr Hibben for attending the LDF and for her report.

Cllr Hibben said there could possibly be three major workloads for the Parish Council emanating from the Local Plan; the potential development of land south and east of

Sittingbourne; and possibly a Neighbourhood Plan and the Parish Council should consider forming a working party to assist.

Cllr Burgess **PROPOSED** to set up a working group to look at the issue; **SECONDED** by Cllr Hibben; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. It was agreed that Cllr Burgess, Cllr Hibben, Cllr Nutting and Cllr Sills be appointed to the working group and that non-councillor members be co-opted to the group, Cllr Hibben will Chair the meetings which will also be attended by the Clerk.

ACTION: Cllr Burgess to draft description and Terms of Reference.

10. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Hibben reported it is hoped the planned work on Coffin Pond will go ahead. Concerns about the recent road closure in Tunstall Road had been highlighted several months ago and it still happened causing problems which the Council had been assured would not occur.

Cllr Cook reported that the Clerk had contacted KCC and SGN immediately when notified of the problem. and Cllr Cook also contacted KCCllr Wright. KCCllr Wright advised he contacted Alan Blackburn, KCC attended immediately and re-opened the road. It was due to the Parish Council's prompt actions that the road was re-opened so quickly. The Council needs to write to KCC to express disappointment that it has to spend time and effort to resolve this because of the conflicting information. It was disappointing because it had been agreed that this would not happen and it caused great concern for residents and users of the village hall

Cllr Nutting said that having identified the potential problems several months in advance the Council should complain about the incident.

ACTION: Clerk to make formal complaint about the road closure.

Cllr Cook reported the road signs outside the new school have been checked and are in order. Cllr Cook thanked Cllr Hibben for her report.

11. FOOTPATHS

Cllr Nutting said he understood that the footpath to the village hall had been taken out of the sale of Tunstall House and the owner would liaise with KCC.

The Clerk advised that this matter is not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

12. ENVIRONMENT

Air Quality Management had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

13. BATTLE'S OVER 2018

Cllr Cook proposed the Parish Council could organise a celebration the Centenary of the end of the Great War, on Sunday 11 November 2018 in the grounds of the Village Hall. The local school children should be involved and asked to research the names of the fallen from Tunstall. A sheet of paper would be printed for each person and laid on the ground near the memorial and a child allocated to each of the names. At 10:58, the time of the last salvo, a firework rocket could be launched, followed at 11:00 by 2 minutes silence. The children allocated to the fallen, would then step forward individually, read out the name of the person allocated to them, and lay a single poppy on the sheet of paper. When this is complete, the poem 'In Flanders Fields' would be read out by either a child or adult. A permanent memorial in a spot deemed suitable by the Village Hall Committee could be erected and this would comprise of a brick plinth, with bricks from Wienerberger, filled with French earth from Lochnagar Crater and capped over with a slab on top of which would be erected a 6ft silhouette of a 'Tommy' and a plaque with the names of the fallen.

Councillors agreed to the proposal.

ACTION 1: Cllr Cook to manage the project.

ACTION 2: Cllr Cook to write to the Village Hall Committee with a draft of the proposal.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 12.02.18: Cllr Bowles's newsletter- *circulated*
2. 15.02.18: Kent PCC Newsletter February 2018- *circulated*
3. 16.02.18: Resident email regarding Swale Borough Council's Forward Funding bid- *circulated*

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting with an agreement to set up a working group and to invite the resident to join.

3. 22.02.18: KALC Newsletter- *circulated*

4. 23.02.18: SBC briefing invitation- *circulated*

5. 26.02.18: Resident letter regarding Broadband speed- *circulated*

ACTION: Clerk to contact BT for an update.

15. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Nutting said that following the recent snow, it needs to be ascertained how often the roads are gritted. Salt bins are a good idea for Hearts Delight Road where vehicles become stuck but bins in other areas would rely on residents using them and may not be effective.

Cllr Cook said that this could be discussed with KCC Highways when a visit has been arranged.

Cllr Cook said there needs to be a new end date for receipt of applications for the Clerk vacancy and this should be the end of March, arrangements for interviews will have to be made.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 4 April 2018, 6.45 pm, Midwinter Room, St. John the Baptist Church, Tunstall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.36pm.

Signed as a true record of the proceedings

Chairman

Date: 4 April 2018