

TUNSTALL PARISH COUNCIL
Wednesday 26th June 2019

Councillor P Johnson (Chair)
Councillor T Wedgwood-Jones (Vice Chair)
Councillor D Lambert
Councillor H Grant (District)
Councillor P Middlemass (District)
J MacNamara (Clerk)
12 Members of the Public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a warm welcome to Councillors Grant and Middlemass as the newly elected Councillors following the May District Council elections for the Scotton Ward which incorporates the Tunstall Parish.

1.2.19 To receive and note **apologies for absence**

The Clerk reported that he had received no apologies for absence.

Cllr Johnson reported that he had received an apology from Councillor Bower.

2.2.19 To receive '**Declarations of Interest**' in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

3.2.19 To approve the **minutes** of the meeting held on **8th May 2019**

The minutes of the meeting were approved.

4..2.19 To receive the **report** from the **internal auditor**
To approve the **annual governance statement**
To approve the **annual accounting statement**

The Clerk outlined that this matter had been rolled over from the AGM as further clarification was required to undertake the internal audit. Following extra time the internal audit had been completed for the year 2018/19 and signed off.

The annual income for the Parish Council had been £16,822 of which £10,886 had been rolled over from the 2017/18 financial year.

Expenditure for the year was £10,759 which left balances of £6,063 been taken forward in the 2019/20 financial year.

The Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer had signed the accounts as required following the internal audit and recommended that the Council approve the accounts for the year and sign them off accordingly to be presented to the external auditor.

The Council approved the internal auditors report, annual governance statement and annual accounting statement.

Following the approval of the reports a member of the public asked about the availability of information of other Parish precepts as it was his belief that Tunstall had one of the highest precepts in the District.

The Clerk outlined that this is publically available information, but that based on his knowledge of other Parishes it was not correct to presume that Tunstall had the highest precept in the District.

It was agreed as these were matters which were fully discussed as part of annual budget preparations then the matter could be examined further for the next budget setting process. It was reported that the Council will determine its budget in January 2020.

5.2.19 Public Forum

The Chair gave a report on matters arising since the last meeting.

The Chair having welcomed the new District Councillors invited them to give a short appraisal of their roles. Both District Councillors gave an overview of their experience at both District and Parish level.

Speed Watch – The Chair was pleased to report that this had moved on and that training had taken place and a speed awareness session had been held. The Chair said a more detailed report would take place later in the meeting.

Village Hall Committee – The Chair explained that following on from previous discussions a new committee was being formed and there would be a meeting on 3rd July at which all residents were invited to attend.

Pre-Planning Advice – At the May meeting the Chair explained that Mr Geoff Rudd had attended the Parish Council meeting to discuss his proposals for planning at Highfield Farm, whilst no application had been lodged, the Chair explained that Mr Rudd was left in no doubt about the strong feeling of the meeting and concern, particularly with regards to flood risk across the Village.

Litter/MOD – The Chair reported that he continued to liaise with the MOD about providing more assistance with litter picks to help volunteers and that these discussions remained on-going.

Dog Fouling – The Chair remained concerned that this was an issue across the Village and that residents should remain vigilant to people who disregarded the Village and that they should not be afraid to approach people if observed disregarding the rules concerning dog fouling.

Defibrillator – The Chair reported that he had been approached by a third party agency to help maintain the Defibrillator. Whilst he was still waiting for all of the details he felt that this maybe something to consider.

A brief discussion was held with regards to the matter, whilst the costs were not fully known, the Clerk indicated that it was his understanding that they were low and that they would not affect the budget.

Police Reports – The Chair remained concerned that these reports were few and far between and felt the Police had a responsibility to attend more meetings and that the Clerk and he would follow this matter up.

Grass Cutting – The Chair explained that there was agreement to pay extra for grass cutting across the Village.

The Clerk explained that the position at the last meeting was that, this matter would be the subject of further discussion. The Clerk outlined that he had received a letter with regards to this matter to consider under correspondence, but he was happy to deal with the matter at this stage.

The Chair agreed the matter be dealt with under correspondence.

Private Gardens – The Chair outlined that following complaints to the District Council and the intervention of volunteers in the Village the overgrowth at a private garden in the Village had now been resolved and handed back to the family.

Four issues were raised by members of the public: -

1. Trees
2. The forthcoming Bike Ride
3. The Catterick and Tunstall Times
4. Highways Agency Survey

Trees – a resident was concerned about overgrown Leilani Trees across parts of the Village. It was explained that this was an enforcement issue, but the trees could legitimately grow to 2 metres in height. It was agreed that the matter be looked into.

Bike Ride – a request was made that at the forthcoming bike ride the cyclists be encouraged not to block exists and entrances. It was agreed that the marshals for the event would police the situation.

Catterick & Tunstall Times – Mr Bob Rafferty a member of Catterick Parish Council and editor of the Catterick and Tunstall Times attended the meeting to request more reports from the Parish Council to publish in their publication. Mr Rafferty explained that the magazine covered more than 300 households across the local area and the copy deadline each month was 20th.

It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Mr Rafferty.

Highways Agency Report – a member of the public asked if we had received further information of our request for the Highways Agency Report. The Clerk outlined that we had the old copy as requested following the last meeting and a request had been made to the County Council for the most recent report.

6.2.19 Report from District & County Councillors

Cllr Middlemass updated the meeting on her work on the Council including the committees which she was sitting on including Planning, the Local Plan Working Group, External Scrutiny and the North Yorkshire County Council Scrutiny of the Health Committee.

Cllr Middlemass also informed the meeting about the current consultation with regards to the designation of land as Local Green Spaces.

There was a discussion with regards to this matter and that there had not been notification of the consultation. The Clerk agreed that he would look into the matter and send full details of the consultation to the mailing list.

With relation to the merit of the strategy there was a discussion as to whether or not it could prevent inappropriate development. Councillors Middlemass and Grant both pointed out that whilst the strategy cannot prevent anyone from submitting a planning application, it can strengthen the planning authorities grounds for rejection if such a development were on a designated green space.

Cllr Grant gave an overview of her work on the District Council and within the local community. Cllr Grant explained that she was also a Deputy Leader of the District Council and outlined some of the new initiatives which the new administration were seeking to introduce.

Cllr Grant explained that the District Council were looking into a new Champions scheme where all District Councillors were included, changes to the scrutiny process within the Council as well as extending consultations to look into waste strategy and other areas.

7.2.19

Correspondence

INFORMAL CONSULTATION: - PROPOSED DIVERSION OF BRIDLEWAY No's. 20.67/8 & 20.67/12, MANOR HOUSE FARM TUNSTALL, DL10 7QR. GRID REFERENCE: SE 42160 46913

The Clerk read the letter from the Highways Department with regards to the informal consultation to divert the bridleways and maps were distributed.

Following a discussion it was agreed to object to the proposed diversion.

Richmondshire Leisure Trust – The Clerk read a letter from Austin Gordon following on from his presentation at the March meeting of the Parish Council about donations to the Leisure Trust.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the Council would not contribute to the Trust going forward either on a one off basis or with an on-going contribution.

Grass Cutting – The Clerk read a letter from Mr Downie at Farm and Land Services with

regards to additional grass cutting that would now be undertaken by the Parish Council.

Following reading the letter the Clerk outlined that the Parish Council had not made a determination at its previous meeting and whilst it was in the power of the Parish Council to authorise the matter at this stage it was in abeyance as there was no formal minute.

A discussion took place with regards to this matter. The Chair still considered that the County Council had a responsibility to maintain this area. The Clerk explained that the follow up from the County Council was quite clear and that they did not intend to take responsibility for the matter.

The resident affected stated that due to cost they felt no longer able to continue to pay for the grass to be cut.

The outcome of the discussion was left that, the Chair would directly approach the contractor about the costs of extending the contract to cover the area in question and would report back at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

8.2.19. Finance

The Clerk reported that there had been 5 transactions since the start of the year: -

1. Clerk Salary (April) - £143.17
2. Clerk Expenses - £58.18
3. Village Plants - £96.73
4. Fam and Land Services £264.00
5. Clerk Salary (May) - £143.17

A total of £705.25 had been transacted through the current account.

The first part of the precept had been paid in April which meant there was a starting balance on the account of £5057.55 and the account currently stood at £6,952.30.

The balance on the Business Account was £1,006.35 which meant there were total resources of £7,958.65.

The Financial Report was approved.

A member of the public raised whether or not it was the opinion of the Clerk that the Budget was on track for the current financial year.

The Clerk outlined that as part of Budget setting the Council had taken some difficult decisions which included a rise in the precept, because in his professional opinion there was an on-going danger of eating into the reserves of the Council. Having taken that decision and based on first quarter figures the Clerk was confident that the budget would be met and that the Council would retain a viable reserve going forward.

9.2.19 Reports

Tiger Project

An overview of the Open Day was provided and it was agreed that the event had been a complete success as well as financially successful. Thanks were recorded to everyone involved for their assistance with the event.

The Chairman wished it to be recorded in the Minutes that thanks be given to Mr Greenwood for all of his hard work on behalf of the Tiger project and being pivotal to making the project and the open day a success on behalf of the whole Village.

Tunstall Village Hall

A brief resume of the activities to form a new Village Hall Committee was outlined and the intention to hold a public meeting at which everyone was invited to attend at the Village Pub on 3rd July.

A member of the public asked about how the Village Hall accounts would be presented in future. It was explained that the accounts would continue to be prepared quarterly and presented to the Committee and that there was a requirement to present the accounts on an annual basis to the Parish Council.

Village Speed Watch

A detailed report was given by the new Community Speed Watch Group which had been set up in the Village. It was reported that training had now taken place and that the first speed watch sessions had been undertaken.

It was reported that following 8.5 hours of observation a number of incidents had been reported to the Police. In one session which took place 242 vehicles had passed through the Village and there were 6 vehicles travelling at 36 MPH and above, 51 vehicles between 31 MPH and 35 MPH and 1 vehicle travelling at over 50 MPH. It was reported that 3 vehicles had been caught twice and the driver doing over 50 MPH would be contacted directly by the Police.

Representatives said that it was noticeable how the traffic visibly slowed throughout the exercise.

As part of discussing the Speed Watch initiative one resident expressed concern at some of the areas where volunteers were undertaking the exercise. It was reported that the Police had provided a number of locations to stand and that throughout the initial sessions the group had determined that some sites were inappropriate and would not be used in the future.

One resident requested that the Village explore the option of having a sign placed over the Tunstall sign stating 'Community Speed Watch Village' similar to that in Killinghall near Harrogate. It was agreed the matter be explored.

The next speed awareness session would be taking place later in the summer.

The Chair thanked everyone for their hard work and congratulated the group on the work it had undertaken to date.

10.2.19 Planning Applications & Updates

19/00387/FULL | Full Planning Permission for Erection of 1 no Dwelling and Associated Works with Access from South View | Land East Of Lonicera South View Tunstall North Yorkshire DL10 7QJ.

The Clerk went through the proposed planning application at South View. The proposed will be a detached, double fronted dwelling of two storeys in height, with additional accommodation in the attic, an attached garage extension with first floor above which will be subservient to the main dwelling. The planning document stated that the applicant had gone through the pre-planning application process and that the proposed dwelling would be proportionate to the size of the plot.

At the same time the applicant also indicated that as part of pre-planning he had also had support from local residents for the proposed development.

Following the Clerk going through the proposed planning application Councillor Middlemass declared as a member of Richmondshire District Council's Planning Committee she could not participate in the discussion and withdrew from the meeting.

There was a general discussion with regards to the proposed planning application as there were concerns about the scale and mass of the proposed development as well as access to the site as it was not clear from the development brief how the site could be accessed due to ownership issues.

Some residents expressed concern that the developer had not received tacit agreement through the pre-planning process as set out in the development brief.

One resident explained that it was their intention to view the plans at the Council that week. The Chairman agreed to attend with the resident.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to the District Council not to object to the proposed development, but to highlight the concerns of the meeting.

11.2.19 Date & Time of Next Meeting

The Parish Council would next meet on Wednesday 4th September.