

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held in East Tisted Village Hall, Gosport Road, East Tisted, GU34 3QW on Wednesday, 6th January 2016 at 7.30pm.

Present:- Cllr. Elderton (Chair)

Cllr Anderton
Cllr Jarvis

Cllr Chase
Cllr Newens

Cllr Cubitt
Cllr Oakley

Cllr Durrant
Cllr Williams

Allison Spyer, Clerk 2 Members of the Public.

MINUTES

01/16 **APOLOGIES & WELCOME:** There were no apologies

02/16 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on the November 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of events.

03/16 **PETITIONS, STATEMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

Two members of the public in attendance

04/16 **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS:**

None were declared.

05/16 **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

- *Financial Statement:* CE presented the following financial statement as at December 2015:

Dec 2015	Balances B/F	
	Treasurers Acc, inc Shirnal Maintenance (stmt 68)	£62,087.86
	Business Access, Contingency & MF sale (stmt 45)	£28,329.96
	Treasurers Account, Community Benefit Deed (stmt 1)	£25,000.00
	Total	£115,417.82

Receipts:

Credit	Interest (November)	£1.20
--------	---------------------	-------

The following payments have been made since the last meeting in November:

Invoices Paid :

604	E Macknemara, Acting Clerks Salary, October	£427.27
605	E Macknemara, June to November Expenses	£159.67
606	BDO, Audit Fee	£240.00
607	East Tisted Village Hall	£45.00
608	Allison Spyer, Clerk Salary, November	£315.44
609	E Macknemara, Salary	£147.80
610	PJ Grace, Grass Cutting	£4194.00
611	DJ Williams, work on lower playing fields	£56.48

612	Allison Spyer, December Salary	£427.07
	Total	£5585.66

The following requests for payment approval were submitted:

	E. Macknamara, Expenses	£40.00
	Farringdon Parochial Church, Hire for planning meetings	£30.00
	Allison Spyer, Expenses	£43.96
	HMRC, PAYE	£329.20
	Total	£443.16

Gary Oakley proposed the payments and Peter Durrant seconded that all payments be approved. Carried unanimously.

- *Budget and Precept Request 2016 / 2017*

The draft budget submission for 2016/17 was reviewed in detail against the forecast of outturn (FOO) for 2015/16 and likely future funding requirements. As a consequence CE proposed a budget/precept of £33,000 for 2016/17. DW seconded the proposal with agreement from BC. In light of further discussion CE amended his proposal in order to completely eliminate risk and, as such, potentially provide a contribution to reserves in the event of an underspend, and further proposed that the budget for 2016/17 be set at £35,535.08 unchanged from 2015/16, DW seconded this proposal and it was carried unanimously. **AS to submit the required forms to EHDC.**

- *TSB Bank Mandate*

CE requested the Council consider adding the Clerk, Allison Speyer, as a signatory to the TSB Bank Accounts. This was formally proposed by GO, seconded by BC and agreed unanimously. **AS to request new mandate from TSB.**

- *Honorarium for former Parish Clerk*

CE proposed that Emma Dilnutt, formerly Parish Clerk, receive an honorarium for her continued help and support to the Council and acting Clerk throughout the eight months since resigning as Clerk. DW felt it inappropriate to give money and suggested funding a pub supper. All other Councillors supported the award of a cash sum and PD proposed and GO seconded a sum of £150.00 which was carried by majority with only one objection. **AS to raise a chq for £150.00.**

06/16 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (Including paths; ditch clearance and trees), Cllrs. Williams and Cubitt

- *A32 Flood Action Group update*

Councillors noted the recent report circulated by CE, attd to the minutes and to be circulated via Farringdon Net. DW further highlighted that progress had been very slow and the final technical report was still awaited. Until that was received detailed flood alleviation and prevention plans and associated, upon which funding bids depended, were not possible. DW commented that various schemes are being considered including the option of using the fields south of Chawton as a holding area for flood waters. Water level data requested from the Environmental Agency indicates water levels are 22m (72 feet) below the surface as measured at the end of December 2015. Of note was that in December 2014 during the last serious flooding water levels were 2.47m (8.1 feet) below surface.

The following update has been received from Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee who set up and is driving the A32 Flood Action Group (FAG) under the Chairmanship of Damian Hinds MP. The HCC officer who will now run the A32 project is now Paul Prouting, assisted by Pippa Greenway-Cross. Paul attended the FAG Meeting in July and therefore provides continuity. He will shortly issue the report by the University of Portsmouth on the engineering issues associated with the project. Meanwhile work continues to develop the submission case for funding a solution to the ground water problem which will not now be provided by the Environment Agency (EA). Concurrently HCC are urgently seeking funding for a study which will seek to develop costed plans to divert and control the flow of excess water from the Farringdon cross roads to the eastern side of the A32. This is likely to be along a route behind the houses adjacent to, and to the east, of the Gosport Road which would seem to be the historic flow line. At the HCC led officers meeting in October Thames Water agreed to send out a survey to residents in the area of Home Farm, Chawton, to ascertain the degree of hydraulic failure in their sewage system. As a consequence the links with Thames Water are now far better established. We await the outcome of a further meeting between Cllr Kemp-Gee and Paul Prouting to layout the timetable for 2016 with a view to having all the necessary reports assembled and analysed before March in order to finalise submissions which seek to obtain funding for the agreed attenuation plan.

- *A32 Flood Action Group Parish Council representative*
CE proposed and it was unanimously agreed that henceforth DW would represent the Parish Council on the A32 Flood Action Group. **SA to inform County Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee.**

- *Other matters - Update*

DW circulated an update in advance of the meeting and provided the following supplementary comments:

- Brightstone Lane has been cleared of debris, and most drains in the village have been washed out by HCC.
- Rights of Way (ROW) have been informed of all outstanding footpath problems, nearly all were cut by the end of the year. ROW have since advised that all cutting will be rotated in future as concerns were raised as to the lateness this year.
- The Ramblers Association have reported several stiles on the Fourmarks / Farringdon parish boundary that require repair and are seeking the resources necessary to repair them.
- A site meeting was held with the contractor, Hampshire Woodlands, to assess the additional work required on the bushes and trees at the Lower playing field. CE proposed the Council accept their quote of £680 + VAT. SA seconded with unanimous agreement from the rest of the council.
- It was agreed that DW would work with the clerk to obtain quotations for the repair to the boundary fence at Shirnall Meadow (adjacent to The Cottage) on a like for like basis.
- Ownership and responsibility for repairs to the broken fence adjacent to 1 Shirnall Meadow had yet to be determined.

Afternote: It has been confirmed that the broken fence adjacent to 1 Shirnall Meadow is the responsibility of The Swaythling Housing Society Ltd, Collins House, Bishopstoke Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 6AD. The clerk will write to Swaythling Housing Ltd inviting them to arrange repairs as a matter of urgency given the health and safety hazard in an area adjacent to a children's play area.

- NN reported that the gate leading into field by side of the Pheasant / stables is in bad state of repair. **DW to write to owners.**

07/16 PLANNING (Including the built environment and housing) - Cllr. Chase

The planning committee have met to discuss the following applications since the meeting in November.

- Case No. EHDC/ 54507/006, Land south of Gaston Lane, Farringdon
Variation of Condition 2 of permission 54507/002 to change the expiry date to 31st March, 2045 to allow for 30 years of operation.
No Objection subject to compliance with the existing conditions.
- Case No. SNDP/15/05607/HOUS, Brownings Orchard, The Street, Upper Farringdon, Alton GU34 3DT
Change of materials to the single storey pitched roof. Change an existing approved gable end to a hipped end roof. New window to the west elevation. New garden wall
No Objection.
- Case SDNP/15/06113/HOUS, 10 Eastview Gardens, Crows Lane, Farringdon, Alton GU34 3ED
Two storey and single storey rear extension and single storey front extension
No Objection but with comments reflecting concern over material considerations including the loss of sunlight, overlooking & loss of privacy to neighbours property at 9 Eastview Gardens.

08/16 VILLAGE HALL (including Community Issues) - Cllr. Durrant and Cllr. Oakley

- *FVH, To receive the advice of the charity commission*

EM reported that the Charity Commission had highlighted the guidance in their information notes and verbally advised that the Village Hall Trustees have full responsibility for the assets of the Trust and for considering and deciding how best and most appropriately the Charitable Purpose of the Trust should be taken forward in light of the recent sale of the former Village Hall; the major Trust asset. Trustees should then report back to the Parish Council and keep them informed of their decisions.

It was agreed:

- That all current cllrs, who are defacto double-hatted as Trustees of the Village Hall Charitable Trust, should have a personal copy of the Village Hall Trustee Document, **AS to circulate**.
 - That the Village Hall Charitable Trust should convene their first meeting in the form of an AGM to ensure Trustees have a common understanding of the Trust and their corporate responsibilities; to appoint officers of the Trust (Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, auditors etc) and to agree the way forward in terms of governance, internal organisation and detailed responsibilities, including agreement to a plan which will best enable future village hall plans to be taken forward.
 - That the AGM be a public meeting held in All Saint's Church (to allow maximum attendance from the community) at 8.00pm on 10th February.
 - That Sally Oakley be invited to provide a short overview brief of the Trust to Trustees based on her experience and legal training.
- *Farringdon Poors Charity proposed sale of land*

The Council was grateful to David Hartley and Tim Charrington for informing the Council of their intention to revise arrangements for the Poors Charity. In the interests of transparency within the village the Chairman agreed to distribute the attached document

(addendum 1) with these minutes, and via Farringdon Net, which outlines the plan. Should anyone wish to discuss the proposal they should contact either Tim Charrington or David Hartley directly by the 31st January 2016.

09/16 CRIME AND SAFETY (including Neighbourhood Watch Issues excluding Road Safety) Cllr.Chase

- BC reported that he would be attending a meeting with local Hampshire Neighbourhood Watch Association.

10/16 TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT (Including Road Safety) - Cllr. Jarvis Vehicle activated signs

- RJ reported that his work to develop a vehicle activated sign (VAS) system for the village was continuing and that Four Marks have recently purchased and installed a system at a cost of some £7000.
- It was agreed that further work was required to fully cost the proposal for Farringdon, including all running, maintenance and insurance costs.
- Concurrently potential sources of grant funding should be explored.

The Council were unanimous in support for this project and it was agreed RJ would finalise a formal costed proposal, including an indication of grant funding, for the next meeting in March.

- BC highlighted his continued concern over the speed of traffic through the village and enthusiasm for a Speedwatch project. It was noted that an earlier proposal within the last two years had been rejected by the Police. It was agreed BC liaise with the Police to identify the latest legal requirements of a Speedwatch project and reconsider whether it may yet be feasible in Farringdon.

11/16 ENERGY - Cllr. Anderton

- Energy Alton has an upcoming event that will be distributed by Farringdon net

12/16 BUSINESS MATTERS - Cllr. Newens

- There were no items to report. NN agreed to liaise with local businesses to update the Farringdon Net contact database.

13/16 COMMUNICATIONS: The Key Messages arising from the meeting were agreed.

- After subjecting the budget submission to detailed scrutiny it was agreed unanimously that the precept should remain unchanged for 2016/17 at £35,535.08.
- The Village Hall Charitable Trust will hold their AGM on 10th Feb at 8.00pm in All Saint's Church, Farringdon, to agree arrangements for taking forward the Charity in light of the sale of Massey's Folly including arrangements for developing plans for a future village hall. The agenda will follow.
- Hampshire Woodlands have been contracted to carry out works on bushes and undergrowth in the Shirnall Meadow area and estimates are to be obtained for replacement fencing.
- Final costed plans for a Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) system are being developed.

14/16 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

- The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2nd March, 2016 at East Tisted Village Hall at 7.30pm.
- Annual Village Meeting 6th April in All Saint's Church.
- Parish Council AGM 4th May.

15/16 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

- Valadictory: The Chairman, on behalf of all Councillors and the Parish, wished to thank Mr Edwin Macknamara most sincerely for his outstanding support to the Parish Council throughout his second spell as Acting Clerk.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Allison Spyer, Tuesday, 09 February 2016

Signed as a correct record of events

Clive Elderton - Chairman

Farringdon.net is now fn@farringdonnet.uk.

Addendum 1

Proposed sale of land by the Farringdon Poores Charity

It is proposed to sell a small parcel of land owned by this Charity.

This isn't really a parish council matter and ultimately the decision as to whether to proceed falls to be made by the Trustee's of whom there is just one. It is felt however that the proposal should be made public in a formal village forum for transparency and also so the trustee can take into consideration any views expressed by councilors and or villagers.

It must be stressed from the outset that the following proposals are entirely philanthropic in nature and there are no underlying sinister development intentions lurking.

Many residents may be unaware of the existence of this small charity, established something like 400 years ago. Tim Charrington is currently the sole trustee and it has the princely sum of £125 in the bank. It is in many ways an anachronism from the past, its objective being to use its annual income (but not capital) to provide bread for the poor of the Parish to be distributed on or about St Thomas's day (which is the day of the Winter Solstice, normally 21st December)

It has one income producing asset, it owns the freehold of a small parcel of land in Brightstone Lane. This extends to about one acre and is located just beyond the kennels where Alton Rifle Club's range is located.

A lease over this land was granted on the 10th March 1640 by the then rector of Farrington, Jethro Beale to Edward Knight of Chawton for a term of 1000 years at an annual rent of 16 shillings. This leasehold interest in time formed part of the land farmed by the late Donald Hartley of Street House Farm and is now owned by David and Mary Hartley.

The annual rent, 80 pence in today's money, is paid each year to Tim Charrington who banks it in the charity bank account.

Some years ago Tim sought advice from the charity commissioners as to whether the rent could be adjusted to a more meaningful sum of money but was told this was not possible, it was fixed by the lease at the same amount for the whole period of the lease until its expiry in 2640.

David and Mary Hartley have now proposed to buy the freehold of this land for £5,000 and to then in turn gift to the Rifle Club the land on which its range sits which occupies a broadly, but not exactly the same footprint. They will also pay for all the legal costs of conveying the land.

The figure of £5,000 is essentially plucked out of the sky, David felt it needed to be a meaningful sum of money but not unreasonably large. It equates to 10 times the rent the charity would otherwise receive over the whole of the remaining 625 years of the lease and even if it is just put in a bank account at today's poor rates of interest should earn quite a bit more per year than the current rental.

It is noted that the land owned by the charity was originally twice its current size, in 1877 the half of it which was arable was sold to the Knight's of Chawton with the proviso that the passing rent for the remainder, scrub woodland in a pit, remained at 16 shillings.

For transparency both David and Tim disclose that they are members of Alton Rifle Club. This proposal is not made for any personal gain, rather it is a mechanism for the Charity to realise an otherwise fairly worthless asset and for David to be able to grant to the club as a whole ownership of their range for the benefit of all members of the club at any time.

It is envisaged that the onward gift of land to the rifle club will include a covenant something along the lines of "The land shall only be used for the bona fide community sporting activities of Alton (Hants) Rifle Club and any residential or commercial exploitation of the land is expressly prohibited".

Should anyone wish to discuss the proposal they should contact either Tim Charrington or David Hartley direct by the 31st January 2016