

SOUTH TARRANT VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14th JANUARY 2014 AT THE ANNE BIDDLECOMBE HALL, TARRANT KEYNSTON

PRESENT: Councillors Cossins (Chairman), Bayer, Garland, Harding, Lee, Sweetland, Tory and Thompson.

In attendance: District Councillor Skipwith, Mrs K Huck (Clerk)

There were 0 members of the public present.

The Chairman welcomed and introduced the newly appointed Clerk, Mrs Kate Huck.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Eaton (due to alternative commitments), Munford (due to being unwell) and Panter (due to being overseas).

2. DECLARATIONS OF OFFICE AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no new declarations of office and no dispensations required.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th November 2013 were approved and signed subject to the following amendment: Min 115 DAPTC – it was agreed that the report provided by Councillor Lee for the meeting on 12th November and delivered in his absence should be attached in full to these minutes (See Annex A).

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

None received. Parish Councillors requested that progress with the repair programme for the surface of the B3082 road be investigated and commented that the current hazards were causing drivers to take avoiding action which often resulted in them swerving whilst driving at higher speeds.

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: received by e mail. Subjects: Local Plan, Superfast Broadband, Trailway Project, Boundary Commission Proposed Ward changes, Developing Patient & Public Involvement in North Dorset, Blandford Leisure Centre and Blandford Car Club. Planning Ref 2/2013/0421/PLNG Clearstream, Valley Road, Tarrant Keynston (granted) was discussed and it was:

RESOLVED that an officer of the NDDC Planning Department be requested to attend a future meeting of the Council for the purpose of explaining the granting of permission for Planning Ref 2/2013/0421 in context of the District's Planning Policies.

6. OPEN DISCUSSION

There were no members of public present.

7. PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

ST11/2013 Min 4 refers. Following Mr Lovelace's presentation at the November 2013 meeting of the Parish Council, it was decided to move ahead with a trial of a Parish Website, with a review of its performance one year after development. A budgetary provision in the 2014/15 financial year would be made to allow for its costs.

It was proposed by Cllr Bayer, seconded by Cllr Garland, unanimously agreed and:

RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact Mr Lovelace of ICL Web Design to obtain written confirmation on costings and to initiate the development and maintenance of a website for the Parish Council.

8. HIGHWAYS

Valley road to Tarrants Rawston and Rushton - requested that the damaged road surface and flooding be reported to Dorset County Council Highways Department along with a request for an on site visit if

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Chairman

possible. Cllr Harding offered to meet with a Highway Department officer. AGREED that the Clerk would action this request.

(Post meeting note: Cllr Harding is to meet with Mr Rolly Skeats from DCC Highways.)

FINANCES

9. Financial Statement for November – December 2013. Chairman presented the Statement. He confirmed that with the ending of the previous Clerk's appointment, financial 'tie-in' with other parishes would cease.

10. Cheques for payment: AGREED that signatories be authorised and instructed to sign cheques in payment as follows:

Cheque no 483 DAPTC £11.00

484 Clerk's salary Sep-Oct13 as agreed rate

485 Clerk's expenses Sep-Oct 13 £43.20

486 Hall hire Apr – Sep 13 £40

11. DRAFT BUDGET AND SETTING OF PRECEPT FOR 2014\15 FINANCIAL YEAR

Chairman presented the draft budget for the coming financial year. Noted that there would be no Transitional Grant received from North Dorset District Council for the year. Therefore, if an expenditure amount of £4400 was accepted, this would result in an increase of 96p per annum for a Band D property. Proposed by Councillor Garland, seconded by Councillor Lee and:

RESOLVED that the Budget as presented for the financial year 2014\15 be accepted and agreed and a Precept of £4400 be requested of North Dorset District Council.

12. RISK REGISTER – previously accepted by the Parish Council. Min page 116, item 11 refers.

13. ANNUAL RETURN – Min page 116, item 9 refers. Confirmed public notices with regard to accounts being available for inspection had been displayed and that the Chairman was holding the 2012\13 accounts during the inspection period.

PLANNING

14. Ashley Golf Club – retrospective PERMISSION GRANTED re biomass boilers.

15. Application no 2/2013/1230/PLNG – 6 Church Close – GRANTED 19 Dec 13.

16. No appeals registered.

17. FOOTPATHS

- Broken stile on Hill Farm hedgeline
- Finger post broken at Cllr Harding's farm

18. DAPTC Councillor Lee reported he had attended the November Northern Area meeting – see Annex A to these minutes.

19. DT11 Forum – No information available (Councillor Eaton was absent).

20. RIVER TARRANT

- Flooding – considered worse than that of 2000.
- Problems noted with septic tanks.

21. DT11 TRAILWAY BROADBAND

Councillor Skipwith reported that the project would not see the South Tarrants receiving superfast broadband in the near future. It was:

RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact the Superfast Broadband Project and request that a member of the team attend a Parish Council meeting to provide further information on this.

(Post meeting note: team member to attend the Parish Council meeting on 11th March 2014)

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Chairman

22. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Parish Website
- DAPTC
- DT11 Forum
- River Tarrant
- Parish Council Laptop
- Appointment of Parish Clerk
- War Memorial maintenance etc.
- Bus shelter repairs
- Superfast Broadband – presentation by Superfast Broadband Project Team member

23. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 11th March 2014

(Further meetings confirmed as: 13th May (Annual Meeting), 8th July, 9th September and 11th November 2014.)

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed.....
Chairman – Councillor James Cossins

ANNEX A**SOUTH TARRANT VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Meeting of 14th January 2013

DAPTC Report – Cllr I Lee

Concern has been expressed about the possibility of older residents of rural parishes becoming disenfranchised.

In the Police & Crime Commissioner election last year this Parish, in common with others in Dorset, received no traditional form of canvassing, i.e., door to door calling or leaflet distribution from two of the four candidates. Without access to the internet, people would not have known anything about the Labour and Lib Dem candidates.

In the County Council elections last year there were four candidates for the seat of the Ward in which this Parish falls. Again only two candidates bothered with traditional canvassing. Again, without the internet two of the candidates were virtually unknown.

It is disingenuous of candidates to rely on every likely voter to have a computer or to be computer literate. Many older residents do not wish to be involved with seeking information on the internet.

The feeling is being expressed by some of the older residents: 'If they cannot be bothered to take the time to traditionally canvass us, why should we be bothered to vote for them?'

The very poor turnout at the Police & Crime Commissioner election is perhaps reflection of this feeling.