

SOUTH TARRANT VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY, 10th November 2015
AT THE ANNE BIDDLECOMBE HALL, TARRANT KEYNESTON**

Present: Councillors Cossins, Eaton, Garland, Lee, Munford, Panter, Parker, Thompson and Thomson.

In attendance: Councillor D Skipwith, Clerk Mrs K Huck.

Members of the public was present: 0

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Harding and Sweetland.

2. DISPENSATIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Under the Localism Act 2011 Dispensations from Section 31(4) were granted to all Parish Councillors shown as present in order to allow participation at this and any meeting up to May 2016 at which any matter which has a bearing on the setting of the Precept is being or is due to be considered.

There were no declarations of interest in relation to this meeting.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on 8th September and 24th October 2015 were approved and signed as accurate records with the exception of the following:

Min page 0157, item 7: amendment made: 'publican' to read 'resident'.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillors confirmed receipt of an emailed report from Councillor Croney (Local Council Report to Parishes, October 2015) and wished to comment as follows:

- (a) Change of Working Practice for the County Councillor: It was believed that the change of arrangement from County Councillor attendance at Parish Council meetings to quarterly Divisional meetings with speakers may be considered a retrograde step with a loss of connection between the two levels of local government representation. Whilst it was appreciated that attendance at a large number of Parish Council meetings every month may prove challenging for County Councillors, it was felt that it had been within reach previously and the reasons for the change appeared to be unexplained. It was AGREED that a letter would be sent from the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council to put forward their views on the matter and to seek further comment. District Councillor Skipwith highlighted that she was willing to liaise with the County Councillor on behalf of the Parish Council. It was also noted that Councillor Croney had provided her contact details in the report.
- (b) The Council noted the date of the Divisional meeting and AGREED that the Chairman would attend this.
- (c) The remaining items reported on were noted as follows: Superfast Broadband (Minute 15 below refers); finalising of local electoral arrangements for DCC, and Tri-Council reorganisation.

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillors confirmed receipt of the District Councillor's emailed report which covered the following subjects: Local Plan Main Modifications; Broadband; Transport; North Dorset Business Day; Blandford Fly; Tri Council Partnership.

6. OPEN DISCUSSION OF UP TO 30 MINUTES for members of the public to raise issues.

There were no members of the public present.

FINANCES

7. Financial statements showing full details of the Council's income and expenditure for the months of September and October 2015 set against the budget together with a bank reconciliation were presented and approved.

8. Council approved and instructed the signature of the following cheques:

Cheque 540	Clerk's salary at agreed rate	
Cheque 541	DAPTC	£30.00
Cheque 542	Cllr I Lee - mileage	£18.90
Cheque 543	Clerk's mileage and expenses	£11.70
Cheque 544	ICO	£35.00

9. (a) The Council's draft Budget for the 2016\17 financial year was received and considered, ahead of the final budget being approved and the setting of the precept at the January 2016 meeting. There were no amendments suggested to the draft budget lines as shown. There was a request that two new lines be added as follows: Grass cutting £200; Bus shelter £200. It was requested that both of these items be on the January 2016 agenda to enable decision making with regard to the budget.

(b) The Clerk reported receipt of emailed correspondence with regard to a request for funding from Life Education Wessex which provides health and drug prevention education to children at Spetisbury CE Primary School. As a number of the children living in the Parish attend this school, it was **AGREED** that this would be placed on the January 2016 agenda with a view to consideration of the granting of funding.

10. Council received the Annual Return and it was noted that there were no management items raised. It was then:

RESOLVED that the receipt and approval of the Annual Return be noted, including the certificate and report of the External Auditor following completion of the Audit for the year ended 31 March 2015.

Planning

11. Planning Application ref: 2/2015/1381/HOUSE Proposal: Remove existing tile hanging and replace with weatherboard. Location: Mead House, Valley Road, Tarrant Keyneston. It was noted that this application was the subject of the Special Meeting held on 24th October 2015 (Minutes page 0160 refers) and that the Parish Council's Recommendation was for No Objection.)

12. Planning Application Decisions:

Application: 2/2015/0968/FUL Proposal: Convert existing agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling and form 2 No. parking spaces. Location: Redundant Bull Pen, Preston Farm, Access to Preston Farm, Tarrant Rushton, Dorset. . **REFUSED**. Councillors had made a site visit on 11th August 2015. A recommendation of No Objection had been registered with the District Council.

13. Planning Application Appeals – there were no appeals to report.

14. WAR MEMORIAL

Councillor Thompson reported on progress with the project to clean the War Memorial. He was in ongoing communication with the War Memorials Trust in an effort to secure funding. The Trust had requested information on the Memorial's history and it was suggested that a short item be put in the Tarrant Times magazine to ask residents for any available input. Councillor Thompson was thanked for his determined efforts. However, given that the quest

to seek funding through the Trust was proving to be lengthy and that eventual success had not been guaranteed, it was:

RESOLVED that (a) attempts to gain funding from the War Memorials Trust would continue until the end of the calendar year and that, if this was unsuccessful, (b) there be provision in the 2016-17 draft budget for the use of Council's reserves in order to achieve the aims of the project.

15. SUPERFAST BROADBAND (Sbb) PROJECT

The Clerk confirmed that a resident had been in contact with regard to the progress of the Sbb Project. The Council noted the County Councillor's October report in this respect, i.e., *'Dorset County Council has established a Task and Finish group to review the progress of the Sbb project and also make recommendations as to how the project can obtain best coverage for the last 18,000 homes which are unlikely to benefit from the BT roll-out...the group includes two representatives from affected areas...key lines of enquiry include exploring the commercial, financial and technical challenges for reaching the final 5%, the possible technologies that exist to overcome these challenges, what investment is required, by whom and over what time frame and what role should specific bodies and organisations play in extending Sbb. This group will be producing a report with recommendations for the County Council to consider before the end of December.'*

16. TELEPHONE BOXES IN TARRANTS KEYNESTON AND RUSHTON

The Council noted that both boxes now had working telephone lines. It was further noted that the condition of the boxes themselves had been reported to BT as the owners and that advice had been received that the maintenance would be carried out by contractors in the spring, summer and autumn months. However, BT were unable to advise on specific dates for this work.

17. FOOTPATHS

The Council noted that the stile in 'Barry's field' had been repaired. It was also noted that there were now deep holes in the ground in the area of the stile behind The Hill bungalow and that this would be reported to DCC by Councillor Thompson.

18. HIGHWAYS

(a) The Council had received information from DCC Highways Officers with regard to the possible siting of speed recording signage in Tarrant Keyneston (*Min 17, pg 0159 refers.*) It was noted that the existing signage would cost would be approximately £5000 to move and that new signage could cost approximately £3000. The cost of rumble strips had also been investigated (£500-£700) but that these would not be sited within 200metres of residential buildings due to the noise generated. If signage or traffic slowing measures were installed, costs would be need to be borne by the Parish Council.

The Council revisited the possibility of a community speedwatch programme being put in place but were unchanged in their opinion from when this had been minuted in January 2015, i.e., the numbers of volunteers required and the time commitment was considered to be unsustainable.

It was therefore:

RESOLVED that the decision of the Council was, given expenditure which potentially equated to a full year's precept of the parish residents was required, that the cost of installing road signage \ traffic slowing rumble strips was prohibitive of further action being taken and that this be communicated to those raising the subject.

(b) Tarrant Crawford 'Historic Church' brown tourist sign – the Council noted information which had been received from DCC confirmed that the sign was poorly placed and that there was potentially expenditure on the Council's part to have this moved. Given that the sign had been incorrectly placed by DCC as some previous point, the Council therefore:

RESOLVED that expenditure should not be borne by the Parish Council in respect of the sign being correctly placed and the District Councillor would therefore contact the DCC's Highways Department on behalf of the Parish Council.

19. **DAPTC**

A Northern Area meeting was reported upon by Councillor Eaton. Subjects had included the 'Working Together' report (Minute 20 following refers) and proposed expenditure on the Leisure Centre at Blandford. It was AGREED that the Centre would be put on the next agenda so that a funding request to support it could be considered as part of the 2016-17 budget.

Councillor Lee then reported on the recently held AGM. All 5 motions had been passed. There was comment that there was no Member of Parliament at the meeting and very few other 'heads'.

The Councillors were thanked for their attendance at the meetings.

20. **'WORKING TOGETHER'**

The Council considered a summary report which contained recommendations on changing the way Dorset County Council and Parish & Town Councils work together. The Council felt the area of Planning and its use of information technology could be improved upon. This was on the basis that plans shown on the District Council's planning website were so small that on occasions they had proved to be illegible. The situation was not improved when plans were printed. The District Councillor undertook to feed this information back to the Planning Department for comment rather than it be returned as comment upon the report itself.

21. **DT11 Forum**

Councillor Eaton had attended the AGM of the Forum as the Council's representative. As an item of note, it had been confirmed that outline planning permission had been sought for the project connected to the Arts Centre.

22. **RIVER TARRANT**

It was reported that a meeting was to take place on 6th January between the organisations responsible for the river, given that it was not flowing freely at Hinton though was satisfactory in this respect from Monkton downwards. It was confirmed that it was clear of fallen trees at Crawford.

23. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING \ ACTION**

- (a) An email from Mr Kelly with regard to voluntarily cutting the grass around the War Memorial in Tarrant Keyneston and letting the Council know that he would not be carrying on with this. Councillors wished to record their thanks to Mr Kelly and asked that the item be put on the next agenda so that it could be discussed further.
- (b) Final Recommendations of the Electoral Review of Dorset (*sent to Councillors by email on 30th September 2015*).
- (c) Bus shelter Ashley Wood – an email on the condition of the bus shelter from the secretary of the Residents' Association had been forwarded to Councillors. It was requested that it be an item for the next agenda so that a decision could be taken on future repairs etc and this be linked to budgetary considerations.

24. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Council website; 2016-17 Budget (items marked with a star to relate to this item); Life Education Wessex*; Bus shelter*; Risk management and internal audit review; grass cutting

at the War Memorial*; War Memorial*; Superfast Broadband (if not part of the County Councillor's report);

25. DRAFT DATES OF 2016 PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

These were suggested as 12th January (*now to be 19th January*); 1st or 15th March (due to availability of the Clerk)*; 10th May; 12th July; 13th September; 8th November. They would be confirmed at the 2016 January meeting. * Councillors requested that the 15th be the first choice.

(Post meeting note: the March meeting can now take place on 8th March.)

25. It was noted that the date of the next meeting was proposed for Tuesday 12th January 2016. *(Post meeting note: it has now been agreed as being Tuesday 19th January.)*

Chairman(Date)