



## East Tisted Parish Council

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### Minutes of a meeting of East Tisted Parish Council held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 6.30pm using Zoom

<b>Summoned to attend:</b>	Phil Cutts (Councillor & Chairman) Helen Evison (Councillor, Clerk & RFO) Peter Finch (Councillor) Sandra Nichols (Councillor) Colin Rule (Councillor & Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator)
<b>By Invitation:</b>	Charles Louisson (District Councillor) Three villagers (Kevin Watts, Sioux Mingaye & Arthur Scott)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mick Crumplin (Village Hall Management Committee) Russell Oppenheimer (County Councillor) Dan Ross (Hampshire Constabulary)

*The meeting opened at 6.30pm*

#### 1. Apologies and welcome

The Chairman welcomed all. Apologies were received from Dan Ross, Mick Crumplin and Russell Oppenheimer.

#### 2. Declaration of interests

None.

#### 3. Public forum

**3.1** RO was unable to attend at short notice. He had not sent a report for this meeting but had already sent his annual report so this is attached to these minutes.

**3.2** An update was received from CL, District Councillor.

- EHDC had been fortunate to receive £4m of Covid-support grants. Much had already been paid these out to the businesses affected; support was continuing.
- They had passed the budget for 21/22; there was a 2% increase in the EHDC element of Council Tax bills. Spending plans included £1m Supporting Communities Fund, £1m to upgrade the council's digital infrastructure, £250k for environmental initiatives and £1.25m 'property resilience reserve' to mitigate the risks of future voids and required works.
- The government-level 'Planning for the Future' consultation was in progress. They had increased the proposed annual target for house building (all outside the National Park) but this had been rolled-back to the original figure.
- CL had used his Councillor's Grant to support the annual toad migration in Newton Valance; he had investigated supporting East Tisted Stores but was unable to do so as they were not a charity or community interest group.

*Q: Was it correct that part of these grants was now only for environmental works?*

*A: Yes, £1,000 of the £4,500 was ring-fenced for environmental projects; no individual grant could exceed £1,000.*

**3.3** PC reported that he had received an e-mail report from DR who was unable to attend as the police were no longer permitted to use Zoom. Briefly:

- They had been busy with Covid-patrols; there had been an increase in the number of tickets issued.
- Manpower in Alton was currently 1 sergeant, 2 constables and 5 PCSOs. Another constable was to join in 4 weeks' time and another by mid-year.
- He had enquired about noise cameras but none were in use and he had been advised that there was no suitable supporting legislation, so these offered no route forward.
- The Rural Crime Panel met every 3 months; a man had been arrested for the attempted theft of a quad bike.

**3.4** In his capacity of Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee, (VHMC), PF advised that the Village Hall remained closed. HE added that MC



## East Tisted Parish Council

had advised that the Hall had received another £2k grant which covered the costs of heating, on-going maintenance and out-of-date stock.

**3.5** In his capacity as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, CR advised that there were still no weekly crime reports; he passed on relevant matters that came to his notice.

*Q: As, frequently, speed was of the essence, might it be useful to have a NW WhatsApp group?*

*A:* It could be but CR was unable to organise anything like this as there was no reliable mobile phone signal.

It was agreed that matters related to the village and the Estate would be considered as and when they arose on the agenda.

The Chairman thanked all and closed the meeting for public participation.

### **4. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were accepted as an accurate record. A copy would be signed for file.

**ACTION: Clerk & Chair**

Action points were complete or follow-up was on the agenda.

### **5. Correspondence**

#### **5.1 Noise nuisance**

Further to discussions at the last meeting, CR had been in touch with Simon Burvill of Gaze Burvill; delivery the new fan/motor which had been ordered was delayed but he hoped that this would be installed by the end of March and that this would reduce the noise.

It was agreed to monitor this and review progress the next meeting.

**ACTION: CR (Clerk)**

#### **5.2 Litter-picking**

PC noted that litter-picking had been discussed at the last meeting and that it had been concluded that this would not be organised due to safety considerations, however, the Council was very grateful to SM and PF who had been working individually. The Council also thanked AS for co-ordinating collection of full bags. It was felt that these local arrangements were working well and, as such, there was no wish to organise an event for the CPRE 'Great British Spring Clean'.

SM reported that she had picked along the village side of the A32 but felt that it was too dangerous to do the Estate side. CL advised that EHDC took the view that it was unsafe to operate where the speed limit was above 30 mph.

It was suggested that 'take your litter home' signs might be used. AS offered to organise signs on gates regarding litter and dog-fouling.

**ACTION: AS**

CL advised that there was a new penalty system for dog-fouling under the public space protection order and agreed to send more information.

**ACTION: CL**

*Q: What was the penalty?*

*A:* Probably £100 for a first offence with escalation for re-offending.

#### **5.3 Broadband**

Further to recent correspondence from Grayshott Gigabit and RO, PC and KW had formed a working party to investigate whether villagers were interested to further improve the broadband provision and, if so, the availability of grants. They had arranged a meeting with Grayshott Gigabit and were planning a brief survey of villagers.

CR advised that costs could well be prohibitive; Open Reach had said that they could provide fibre to his property but that this would cost more than £100,000. AS advised caution when dealing with other potential suppliers as they may require control of the internet feed: working with Open Reach would allow choice of internet provider.

CL reported that even though 560 households in Ropley had signed up this was not enough to obtain funding under the Rural Broadband scheme. Also, this scheme was closing and was to be replaced with one focused on a more limited number of rural postcodes.

It was agreed that the working group would continue to collect information and report back at the next meeting.

**ACTION: PC & KW**



## East Tisted Parish Council

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### 5.4 Code of Conduct

The Committee on Standards in Public Life had recommended that parish councils adopt the code of conduct of their principal authority. Consequently, EHDC had requested that the Parish Council adopt their Code of Conduct as its own. It was agreed to adopt this, its being based upon the well-established 'Seven General principles of Public Life'

### 5.5 Telephone Kiosk

CR reported that a villager who had heard of the 'adopt your 'phone box' scheme had asked whether the Parish Council would be interested to do this; it was not known what they were hoping it might be used for. A similar proposal was considered several years ago but the then Councillors were not in favour, their view being that the liabilities, such as inspection, maintenance, insurance and electricity, would outweigh the benefits.

SN advised that the 'phone box was still operational; calls could be made using cards. Councillors concluded that, although they were unenthusiastic, the possibility should be included in the agenda for the Annual Village Meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## 6. Facilities

### 6.1 Recreation Ground

AS confirmed that extension of the lease was on the solicitor's list; the plan would need to be updated to include the new fence and gates. All being well the new lease would be available for consideration at the next meeting.

**ACTION: AS (Clerk)**

Councillors expressed their appreciation of the works undertaken, particularly replacement of the stile.

### 6.2 Pond area

AS advised that there were 2 or 3 more bat surveys to be completed before the last ash tree could be removed.

*Q: How did they plan to deal with the stumps?*

A: This had not been decided; they might be removed, ground-out or enclosed.

AS was concerned that people might fall in to the pond; the current plan was to fence it with chestnut pale fencing 1.2m tall. Concern was expressed regarding the appearance of this. AS proposed that they put up a sample.

SM suggested that any fence would need a gate for ducklings and reported that the duck ramp to the central island had gone, so this was no longer accessible to any ducklings.

HE asked whether AS was aware of the memorial and whether anyone knew who it belonged to. It was probably a memorial to Mary Buckle, placed by her daughter.

PF offered to clean the wooden bench on the Radian bungalow bank of the pond. AS said that he would arrange this as the Estate had appropriate equipment.

**ACTION: AS**

## 7. Planning

Councillors acknowledged receipt of SDNP/21/00451/FUL, an application for an above ground water tank at Old Place Farm. No comment was to be submitted, the Parish Council being in support of this development.

## 8. Highways

PF reported that HCC Highways had agreed to implement the decluttering proposals submitted although the works were not yet scheduled.

*Q: Was there any update regarding the unofficial layby on the A32?*

A: No, but the request to close this off had been included with the request to replace the 'bollards' on the verge.

PF shared a series of slides summarising the data from the three speed monitor sites that we already in use.

Data from the site at the east of the village for traffic coming from Selborne about 200yds inside the 30mph limit for two weeks in January registered an average of 324 cars per day, with a top speed of 50mph, 10% being over the speed limit. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was 29.6 so, according to Highways usual measures, 30pmh was a suitable speed limit.



**East Tisted Parish Council**

By the shop the fastest speed recorded was 55mph at 0635, the average number of vehicles was 329 and the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was, again, 29.6mph. In the other direction, the fastest speed was 55mph at 0520 but more drivers were speeding. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was 33mph, so Highways might be interested in this. All of the data was collected during lockdown; the number of vehicles was probably usually higher.

Councillors noted that the 85% percentile rule did not take account of the quality or geometry of the road and that Highways were unlikely to take any action or provide any support unless there were accidents and injuries.

Q: SM asked whether action could be taken to make it a less attractive route.

A: PF explained that one of the objectives of the decluttering exercise was to remove most of the sign posts in the hope that this would reduce use.

Q: Were we allowed to put in traffic calming?

A: Only if HCC approved the plans and the Parish Council would have to pay; also, the road had to remain useable by agricultural vehicles.

It was suggested that the Parish Council push, again, for a 20mph limit by the pond. PC volunteered to contact RO, as County Councillor, regarding how best to approach this.

**ACTION: PC**

It was suggested that all villagers could be requested to drive at 20mph in order to bring the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile down. PF volunteered to investigate this.

**ACTION: PF**

Councillors also expressed concern regarding damage to the kerbs and banks believed to be caused by large tractors. It was agreed that PF would provide AS with a plan showing the location of the most damage and that AS would speak with contractors. **ACTION: PF & AS**

PF showed pictures of some 'poster' signs from nearby. It was suggested that these could be used to reinforce the fact that Station Rd was shared by walkers.

Q: Would we need to buy the posters?

A: Yes, we would have to get them manufactured and to put them up.

It was agreed to continue to collect data and to review progress next meeting.

**ACTION: PF (Clerk)**

Councillors thanked PF for the effort he was putting in to this.

**9. Responsible Financial Officer**

- Councillors received and approved for signature by the Chairman the summary of recent transactions, bank reconciliations numbers 37-40 and the Budget Monitoring Report to 11.03.21. It was forecast that, at year end, expenditure would be 92% of budget despite administration being over-budget the website redevelopment not having been budgeted, as mowing costs and speed control measure were under-budget. Income was 114% of budget, a District Councillor's grant of £750 having been received.

- There were no payments to approve.

**10. Forthcoming meetings**

In the light of advice from HALC that the provisions allowing virtual meetings were unlikely to be extended when they expired on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021, it was agreed to bring forward the date of the Parish Council AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting to Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.22pm.

*Helen Evison*

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer 22.03.21

Agreed as a true and correct record.

Signature....., Chairman Date.....