



East Tisted Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th December 2019 at 6.30pm in East Tisted Village Hall, Gosport Road GU34 3QW

- Summoned to attend:** Phil Cutts (Councillor, Chairman & Webmaster)
Helen Evison (Councillor, Clerk & RFO)
Peter Finch (Councillor, Chair Highways Working Group)
Sandra Nichols (Councillor, Vice-Chairman)
Colin Rule (Councillor & NW Co-ordinator)
- By Invitation:** Natalie Grace (Chair, Village Hall Management Committee)
Charles Louisson (District Councillor)
Dan Ross (Hampshire Constabulary) – until 8.15pm
- Apologies:** Russell Oppenheimer (County Councillor)

The meeting opened at 6.30pm

1. Apologies and welcome

The Chairman welcomed all and introductions were made. Apologies were received from RO

2. Declaration of interests

PC explained that he was also a member of the Parochial Church Council (PPC); consequently he would hand over the Chair to SN for item 12b. and not participate in any discussion relating the potential donation for upkeep of the Churchyard. CR advised that his wife was Secretary to the PCC and queried whether, as a landowner, he should declare an interest in item 7, NALC's request to participate in strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments. This was noted but it was agreed that he need not withdraw from discussion of item 7.

3. Public forum

a. It was noted that RO would probably send a written report.

b. CL reported that:

- The Council had been in purdah due to the election
- Norse had taken over the waste collection contract from Biffa. The switch had gone fairly smoothly although there were some issues of accessibility involving larger vehicles. There was increased capacity for collection of green waste; should any one require this they were encouraged to apply now. The contract with Norse allowed more separate kinds of waste to be collected for recycling; these options were currently restricted by HCC facilities.
- The District Council was working on the budget for 2020-21; it was likely that there would be a small increase in both charges and services.

c. DR advised that:

- He had joined Alton 5 weeks ago; he had 12 years experience in 'response policing'
- There was little crime in East Tisted; rural burglaries were mainly from outbuildings
- There had been some positive results, a couple of individuals being prosecuted and several groups being 'contained'.
- Alton should have 1 sergeant, 3 constables and 8 PCSOs but they were understaffed. New PCSOs were being taken on but it was not yet known where they would be posted. Other local stations were short, too.

Q: Was this due to recruitment issues?

A: Yes; there had been a recruitment freeze, followed by 'natural wastage'.

Q: Was there now a police station in Alton?

A: No; they had an office at Hatch House on Mill Lane.



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Q: Could he provide any guidance on how to secure properties?

A: Advice was provided to 'targets' face to face. DR said that he would try to provide a contact and suggested that people might look at #EastHantsCops on Twitter.

d. CR reported that:

Neighbourhood Watch was low key; he put out crime reports, weather warnings and road works alerts but received limited feedback. He was in contact with the Newton Valence NW leader and had had some information from Beech.

e. NG reported that:

- She was working through the paperwork handed over by Larry Johnson
- The Committee wanted to hold more events and build up community spirit
- PF had organised a quiz; they might do something for VE day
- The Committee were to meet again in February.

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

4. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22nd August 2019 were accepted as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

CR noted that a large pothole on the Selborne Road had been repaired but was already reforming.

5. Outstanding Actions

5.1 Village Website, Villager Engagement and Village Plan

Website & e-mail addresses

PC advised that he had checked with businesses listed and brought the basic content of the website up to date; the BT Community webhosting service was clunky and accessibility could be an issue; he understood that some other local PCs were using 'Weebly'; he had no specific costs but understood that it would cost about £200 p.a. to cover East Tisted's requirements. He would investigate further and revert.

ACTION: Cllr Cutts

CR advised that he had a contact that was likely to be able to advise should accessibility prove an issue.

PC reiterated the proposal that Councillors move away from use of personal e-mail addresses. He believed that it would be possible to obtain a .gov.uk domain for the Parish Council and had drafted a letter requesting this. He would advise further in due course.

ACTION: Cllr Cutts & Clerk

Engagement

PC reported that messages to the NW distribution list probably reached only about 50% of properties in the village. CR added that it was probable that the majority of the others were not Internet users so any significant increase was unlikely.

Councillors considered the proposed 'Improving Communications' note. It was agreed to add a response to the effect that 'I don't have or don't use the Internet' and, in this case, an additional question, 'How do you get your information?' It was agreed that paper reply slips might be returned to the Clerk at Old Station House. Note to be updated.

ACTION: Cllr Cutts

It was agreed to check with the Estate Office regarding access to house on the Estate.

ACTION: Cllr Cutts

It was agreed to carry out the survey in January 2020.

ACTION: Cllrs Finch & Nichols

CR advised that it could be inappropriate to use the NW list for non-NW notifications and, as such, a trial was being run using 'Groups IO'. This was a service that each individual had to opt into; people registered themselves and no 'list' was kept. If the trial was successful the Parish Council might use 'Groups IO'.

ACTION: Cllr Rule



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Village Plan

PF had brought the Newton Valance Village Plan to the attention of other Councillors and it had been agreed to discuss whether such a document might be prepared for East Tisted. CL advised that Village Plans were not statutory and, as such, carried no weight. He had provided a grant to support development of the Plan and believed that they had used in-house expertise in its production.

PF suggested that a 'Village Plan' might be a strategic internal document; it did not need to be statutory.

CR explained that ETPC had in the past considered preparing a Village Plan but had decided against as, from a development and planning perspective, the highest level of protection available was already in place the village being within a National Park.

PC reported that he had discussed the concept with Arthur Scott who was not in favour as such a document was not flexible.

Overall Councillors concluded that the NWVP was a 'nice to have' document however they could not justify the time and expense to produce something similar. It was agreed to consider the topics covered one by one, starting with 'Communications'. **ACTION: Cllr Cutts**

5.2 Update of Financial Regulations

The RFO advised that this was outstanding. It was agreed to carry this forward to the next meeting. **ACTION: RFO**

6. Feedback from HALC AGM

PC advised that HALC was a valuable resource providing response to queries and that a range of information, e.g. relating to the Police & Crime Commissioner, Sports and IT services, had been available at the meeting. He recommended that a representative of ETPC attend again next year.

7. Correspondence Received

Councillors considered whether to respond to NALC's letter regarding the Home office consultation on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments.

PC sought DR's views regarding the existing powers. DR explained that, in his view, the current legislation was strong; they used it when appropriate but tried to keep the response low key bearing in mind respect for all human rights; decisions regarding whether to take action were based upon the community impact, who was involved and where they were from; they tended to let landowners take civil action, rather than to pursue people through the courts.

CL advised that East Hants had approved 8 or 10 sites throughout the county over the last year and that they believed that there was now an adequate supply of pitches.

Councillors concluded that ETPC should respond to NALC's letter. **ACTION: Cllr Nichols**

8. Feedback from meeting with SE Water

PC reported that South East Water (SEW) hosted a drop-in session in East Tisted Village Hall on 29th October in response to complaints about the frequency of interruptions to the water supply in the Village. A team of four SEW staff, headed by Steve Benton, Head of Operations (West), included representatives from, Engineering, Project Management and Communications.

They acknowledged that East Tisted experienced an unacceptable level of water outages, between 8-10 in the past year. They were also aware that the response of Call Centre staff to callers reporting outages was unsatisfactory; this point was emphasised by a number of Villagers present at the meeting.

The team explained that the main factor causing the high frequency of outages, was that the East Tisted supply was a direct feed from the pumping station in Oakhanger and that any outages of the pumping station due to power supplies or water quality problems would result



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in an interruption to the supply to East Tisted. They were planning a project to install a new pumping station in Farringdon and part of this project would be to install an automatic pressure sensing valve, such that if the supply from Oakhanger were interrupted, the valve would feed water from the reservoir / water tower in Four Marks to East Tisted. This project was due for completion by September next year and should virtually eliminate the kind of outages that East Tisted has experienced for years.

As a result of the unsatisfactory handling of customer calls, SEW took an action to improve the information flow in the call centre so that accurate information can be given to customers. They also undertook to send a communication out to all customers in the area detailing the plans for improving the reliability of water supply.

Following the meeting, SEW wrote to customers in the village apologising for the outages, explaining the plan for improving the reliability of the supply and giving a credit of £30 to their water bills.

9. Facilities

a. Recreation Ground (Cricket Pitch)

PC read out a letter from Forsters solicitors granting a 'tenancy at will' on the same terms as the lease that had expired on 28th June 2019; this would cover use of the Recreation Ground until such time as a new lease was agreed. Discussions regarding a new lease continued; PC had submitted Councillors' comments on the associated plan to the solicitors and had been advised that the plan attached to the lease had only to meet and Registry requirements so did not show features such as fences and gates. Consequently, he had requested that details of the parking areas, fences and gates be set out in an accompanying letter.

b. Pocket Parks

No response of any kind had been received to the note circulated to Villagers about the possibility of developing a 'pocket park' on the strip of land south of the pond. PF and NG still felt that there were families in the Village who would be interested in such a development. However, it was concluded that it was too late to pursue this funding as the application window closed at the end of the month.

10. Planning

Members noted receipt of application SDNP/19/04381/LIS regarding a partition wall within Thatched House which is Grade 2 listed. No comments were submitted.

11. Highways

Further to the Highways Working Party (HWP) report circulated with the agenda and included as Attachment 1 to these minutes PF confirmed that the only avenue to follow regarding the implementation of speed control measures was that of self-help. The HWP had looked at the options and suggested either village gates and/or electronic speed limit reminder (SLR) signs. Four sets of wooden posts to act as village gates would cost in the region of £6,000 plus VAT; a single SLR would cost in the region of £3,000 plus VAT; additional posts or post extensions would cost extra. An SLR could be deployed on several of the existing posts on Station Road. However new posts (or post extensions) would be required in order to enable one to be deployed on the A32.

An alternative approach was to attempt to reduce the traffic by reducing the signage directing traffic up Station Road. However, there was concern that, should this be successful, it would reduce passing trade at the village shop. Reducing the signage was estimated to cost £750 – £1,000 and, given the poor state of the existing signs, it was possible that HCC would contribute.

Councillors discussed the options; opinion was in favour of the SLR.

PF proposed and CR seconded a proposal to purchase an SLR as specified in Appendix B (iii) of the HWP report. All Councillors voted in favour.

It was noted that a District Councillor's grant could be applied for.

ACTION: Cllr Finch



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There was discussion regarding positioning of poles for an SLR on the A32 and the potential for organising 'Speedwatch'. It was agreed that DR would provide information to PF. Councillors also highlighted the installation of a 'noise camera' on the A32 near 'Loomies' and it was agreed that DR would check with the Petersfield Sergeant.

8.15pm DR left the meeting

12. Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

- a.** Members received and approved for signature by the Chairman the latest Quarterly Financial Statement and the Reconciliations relating to Bank Statements 20, 21, 22 and 23.
- b.** SN took the chair. Councillors Evison, Finch, Nichols and Rule, approved a grant of £350 to East Tisted Parochial Church Council for maintenance of the church yard. PC resumed the chair. Councillors agreed the payment of two invoices for mowing and pond works, total £385.
- c.** Members received and reviewed the Budget Monitoring Report to 08.12.19. The RFO advised that the year-end forecast figures had been made on the assumption that expenditure on speed control measures would not be until 2020/21 and that the year-end position would change significantly if the purchase of the SLR (refer 11 above) was completed in 2019/20.
- d.** Members received and reviewed the proposed budget and precept increase (by 10% to £4,510) for 2020/21 as circulated with the agenda. Again, the RFO explained that if purchase of the SLR was completed in 2019/20 the 2019/20 closing balance and the 2020/21 opening balances would be significantly different and the budget for speed control measures in 2020/21 significantly reduced. Copies of the original and revised (agreed) budget and precept proposal are attached, Attachments 2 and 3. Councillors agreed the 2020/21 budget and precept proposal (£4,510) as in Attachment 3.

13. Meeting Schedule

Thursday 19th March 2020 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Thursday 21st May 2020 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall (followed by the annual Village Meeting)

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Helen Evison

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
December 2019

Agreed as a true and correct record.

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