**Minutes for the Meeting of East Tisted Parish Council,**

**Held on Tuesday 10th December 2024 at 6.30pm**

**Present:** Phil Cutts (Councillor)

Helen Evison (Councillor)

Sandra Nichols (Councillor & Chairman)

Colin Rule (Councillor, Vice-Chairman & Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator)

Pippa Cockhead (Clerk & RFO)

Russell Oppenheimer (County Councillor)

Charles Louisson (District Councillor)

Jessica Hornsby (Hampshire Constabulary)

Fiona Hyde (Village Hall Treasurer)

3 Villagers

**Apologies:** Carl McBean (Councillor)

PC Alex Routt (Hampshire Constabulary)

*The meeting opened at 6.30pm*

1. **Welcome, arrangements for the meeting and apologies**

The Chair welcomed all and outlined arrangements for the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr McBean and PC Alex Routt (named officer for East Tisted).

1. **Declaration of Interests**

None.

1. **Public Forum**

**Jessica Hornsby (Hampshire Constabulary)** updated the meeting with news of a recent quad bike theft and recommended checking local garages. She also notified the meeting that PC Alex Routt would be the named officer for East Tisted and local area. Any suspicious behaviour should be reported via the Hampshire Alert website link [Home Page - Hampshire Alert](https://www.hampshirealert.co.uk/)

Q. Any report on the four loose horses?

A. No update as yet.

Q. What does named officer mean?

A. They will identify threat, harm and risk to tackle local issues and protect the community. They will investigate local crimes and collect intelligence, working closely with partner agencies to identify the best problem solving approach. They will be highly visible in the community, listening to your concerns and addressing root causes of crime.

**Cllr Russell Oppenheimer (County Council)** highlighted various points in his report, previously circulated, including the fact that over 1000 trees were cleared overnight during the recent storms.

He also discussed how Hampshire Highways is preparing for winter, how the Council is supporting farmers against Inheritance Tax changes and talked about the Hitting the Cold Spots initiative.

Q. What can be done about abandoned highways furniture?

A. This continues to be an issue across the county, contract changes maybe the way forward. Cllr Nichols noted that she had reported abandoned signs along the A32, stating that if it was not removed it would taken to the tip - the items were removed within 24 hours. Cllr Nichols will include the Hitting the Cold Spot initiative in the local newsletter.

**Charles Louisson (District Council)** reported on Government White Papers, the financial portfolio, proposed devolution measures, housing number consultation, renegotiation of the waste contract and increases in parking and burial fees.

Q. What are the benefits of devolution for East Hampshire?

A. Combining County and District services could have a financial benefit

**Fiona Hyde (Village Hall)** informed the meeting that the Village Hall AGM had taken place and

things were looking positive for the future. Several ways of increasing advertising the hall for hire were being put in place. Incidental fund raising activities were also making a difference with an inkjet cartridges recycling scheme being considered. Currently funds were being augmented by Easy-fundraising through shopping online and the district council lottery. Cllr Nichols thanked Fiona for the opening of the Village Hall during the recent power cut. Also Sioux Mingaye was thanked for keeping everyone informed on the new village services WhatsApp group. She has written to SSE to enquire why the power cut was random throughout the village and to request a generator for the village. Cllr Rule pointed out the there is a service obligation regards the voltage supply to customers and that there is a tight range of voltage permitted. Low voltage could cause damage to property, the village hall had problems with equipment using motors. Cllr Nichols & Cllr Rule will contact SSE regards the issue. **Action: SN & CR**

Colin Rule (Neighbourhood Co-ordinator) nothing new to report.

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

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2024 were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman. Action points and matters arising:

* **Mobile Post Office;** Cllr Nichols placed a note in Tisted Tales with just one person responding. The council would wait to see if any further interest was shown on the matter.
* **Trustee Indemnity Insurance;** Cllr Nichols has contacted HALC using an example of ‘*a tile coming off the roof of the village hall* …’ , the response was:- “The Council is insured as a public body. If there was an accident i.e. a slate comes off the village hall roof, then it would be the Council that would be liable not the individual Councillors, and an insurance claim would be made against the Council. Although I am aware that you are using the above as an example, this is why Councils have a risk management strategy in place.   If an accident happened, and the insurance company find out that the Council did not fix the roof even though they knew there was a safety issue, it is very likely that the insurance company would not pay out, and so the Council itself would need to pay damages, and that means public funds. Therefore there is no requirement to insure individual Councillors because they are covered by the Council's insurance and liability cover, which is probably why your insurance company doesn't offer that type of cover.  Trustees Indemnity Insurance is different, because this is for charities, where individual trustees can be liable and they are not governed or protected by the same legislation.” In view of the advice received it was decided that no further action is required.
* **Model Standing Orders update;** Wording has been suggested to include ‘An Emergency Item to a published Agenda’ and it was agreed that this needs to be sent to HALC for approval. Initial enquiries to HALC replied that wording of the Standing Orders could be amended as long as the legislation wording was not.**Action: Clerk**

**5. Correspondence received**

1. Cllr Nichols has replied to the Remote Meetings/Proxy Voting government consultation request – the council were in favour of being able to hold Remote Meetings, but only in exceptional circumstances.
2. Alton Ramblers have been appointed by HCC to lead the footpath maintenance team. Any footpath related issues should be reported so that they can be directed to them.

**6. Planning**

None

**7. Highways**

* **Village Speed Camera information:** Any discussion of specifics relating to East Tisted cameras was deferred to the next council meeting, due to Cllr McBean’s absence. However, the number plate recognition speed cameras being piloted in Beech, highlighted that more could be done to assist the police. An operational licence is needed to process the data. CL would provide Cllr Nichols with a name for more information. **Action: SN**
* **HCC road safety grant:** Cllr Sandra Nichols had contacted HCC on 6 August after the public meeting and received a reply on 4 October stating that the engineer has visited and considered the priority markings and signing. Their initial view is that they may be able to explore priority signs at the A32 end, as sight lines are good and relatively short length of narrowing but maintain the current signing as has been designed for Monkey Lane end. HCC would recommend for traffic heading east to give way to traffic heading west. Cllr Nichols has asked them to revisit their proposal taking this into account, but hadn’t had anything further back at the time of the meeting. **Action: SN**

**11. Facilities**

* **Recreation ground:** Cllr Nichols had replied to Rotherfield Park Estate on the agreement with a few points that the council felt needed amending. The agreement that Phillip Kirk sent still included that the Parish Council would be liable for dilapidations on the buildings when it was this specific point that has been agreed would be excluded. The agreement also included that the council should keep all fences, gates and stiles in good repair and condition. It was felt that in practise this should be the estate’s responsibility, primarily for any livestock in surrounding fields. And finally, there was the original problem that the council had when first working on this with the estate’s former legal adviser in that there is no such formal entity as Rotherfield Park Cricket Club. Chris Fuller manages things, but it is totally informal, therefore the Parish Council cannot grant a licence to the Cricket Club, because there isn’t one. Cllr Nichols has suggested that their adviser comes up with some alternate wording and is awaiting a response. **Action: SN**
* **Village hall:** The valuation has been undertaken for the purposes required. This was forwarded to Hants County Council Legal Dept. and progress subsequently chased at the beginning of the month. Unfortunately the adviser dealing with is away until 24 December. **Action: SN**
* **Village green/pond:** The council met with the contractor who will be doing the refurbishment work on the pond and the South Downs National Park Ranger who is advising on the project on 9 December. Work is set to start in February, although some initial planting will be undertaken during January on the ‘wildlife corridor’. An update will be prepared for the village to go out both by email and through doors explaining what is going to happen. Some of the tree work will require SSEN to cut the power as it so close to the cables and the contractor will work with them to co-ordinate this. The estate has been kept fully informed, and was offered the chance to join the meeting on Monday. They have also agreed to make a contribution towards the match funding for the grant. **Action: SN**
* **Grass cutting:**  Cllr Nichols has contacted four service providers to see if they would like to quote and two responses have been received so far. She also put a notification in the last Parish magazine saying that the council were looking for someone to take on the grass cutting, but had received nothing back to date. **Action: SN**

**12. Responsible Financial Officer**

**a.** Councillors received and approved for signature by the Chairman the Statement of Financial Transactions and the Bank Reconciliation since the last meeting.

**b.** Councillors received and approved the latest Budget Monitoring and Forecast report.

**c.** Councillors agreed the following subscriptions and payments:

- Parish Clerk Salary for November 2024 - £140.10

- Brian Davey Grass Cutting Aug-Dec 2024 - £300.00

- Reimburse Cllr Nichols for Poppy Wreath - £24.49

- HALC Clerk Training/Update fee - £24.00

**d.** The Precept 2025/26 was discussed and agreed a 6% increase. Cllr Nichols will include this in the Tisted Tales newsletter. The deadline for the submitting the Precept request is 10th January 2025. **Action: RFO**

**e.** Cllr Rule will need to contact Unity Trust Bank directly to resolve the issues with regards to being able to authorise payments. The RFO will need to provide Cllr Rule with relevant information. **Action: RFO & CR**

**f.** The clerk reported that the speed of the computer was causing issues and the email account was not working properly. The council agreed the clerk could see if improvements could be made. **Action: Clerk**

**g.** The clerk notified the council that she would be on leave from 19.01.2025 to 23.02.2025. Cllr Nichols offered to monitor emails during that period.

**13. Date of next meetings**

Thursday 13th March 2025 at 6.30pm, in the Village Hall.

Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 6.30pm, followed by Annual Village Meeting at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall.

Cllr Nichols will encourage more attendees from the village through Tisted Tales.

*Meeting Closed at 8.25pm*

Pippa Cockhead

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

December 2024

Agreed as a true and correct record.

Signature……………………………….……………. Chairman Date………............................……..