



## East Tisted Parish Council

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### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 6.30pm in East Tisted Village Hall, Gosport Road GU34 3QW

- Summoned to attend:** Phil Cutts (Councillor)  
Helen Evison (Councillor, RFO & Clerk)  
Sir James Scott (Chairman)  
Sandra Nichols (Councillor)
- Also present:** Neil Johnson (Hampshire Constabulary) – until 7pm  
Charles Louisson (District Councillor)  
Larry Johnson (Neighbourhood Watch, East Tisted  
Community Website & Village Hall)  
One member of the public
- Apologies:** David Bowtell (Councillor)  
Russell Oppenheimer (County Councillor)  
Matthew Sheppard (Hampshire Constabulary)

*The meeting opened at 6.30pm*

#### 1. Apologies and welcome

The Chairman welcomed all and as NJ was new, introductions were made. Apologies were received from Russell Oppenheimer and Matthew Sheppard.

#### 2. Declaration of interests

None.

#### 3. Public forum

a. The Chairman summarised Cllr Oppenheimer's written report, Attachment 1.

b. CL reported that:

- East Hants had signed of the 2019-20 budget; EHDC had not increased their share but HCC, Fire & Rescue and the Police and Crime Commissioners all had. Consequently Council Tax bills were expected to increase by about 3%.

- East Hants strategy of investing in property to generate income in order to replace discontinued central government funding was successful. CL confirmed that EHDC were getting professional advice. The majority of investments involved long term leases so the income was relatively secure; they may even be able to improve services without increasing fees. Debt collection had also been successful. Two new funds, £500,000 for welfare and £500,000 for Community Infrastructure were to be launched in April.

- EHDC Local Plan was out for consultation, although this did not cover East Tisted, the village being in the South Downs National Park.

- CL confirmed that he would be standing again in the District elections in May.

Councillors asked what the scope of the Community Infrastructure Fund was expected to be and whether it would require matched funding. CL explained that the details were not yet available.

c. NJ, the new Sergeant for Alton Rural, Four Marks and Ropley, outlined his experience in the police.

NJ reported that he had reviewed records and that East Tisted was very safe, the last reported crime being theft from a vehicle in April 2018. Most reports related to suspicious vehicles. Village residents had been of assistance to the police by reporting these.

The Chairman noted that a PC from Aldershot had been involved locally recently and asked whether this was usual. NJ explained that if they were short-staffed they could 'borrow'



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officers from other areas. In the first instance Alton would borrow from Waterlooville but, if they were busy, they might borrow from Aldershot or Basingstoke.

CL asked whether they saw any 'county lines' activity. NJ said that this was everywhere although limited in the Alton area.

Cllr Cutts asked what sort of response time they had for 101 and was it possible to e-mail in. NJ explained that once a call was taken the urgency of a call was graded by whoever answered. The issue was that the Sergeant had to decide who to put on 999 and 101 answering duty. Consequently people often had to wait a long time for 101 calls to be answered. This was a known issue; senior staff were aware. Yes, it was possible to e-mail in; people were encouraged to do this.

d. Larry Johnson reported that:

- He had been to a Neighbourhood Watch meeting. They encouraged people to photograph the serial numbers of their valuables to assist the police with identification if things were stolen and to make sure that they locked their cars as it was difficult to prove theft unless a car was broken into.

- The Village website had received an unusually high number of 'hits', 54 to the home page, 12 to the Parish Council page and 10 to the Parish Council meeting page. The website was not well used but served its purpose, allowing access to Parish Council notices. The village Facebook page also seemed to be little used.

- The Village Hall Committee was down to four; it seemed to be impossible to get new members so its future was uncertain. The main sources of income were the regular lets and the Chinese meal evenings. The Rock and Roll Night and New Year's Eve party had not been particularly well-supported.

The Chairman thanked CL, HJ and LJ and closed the meeting for public participation.

*7pm NJ left the meeting*

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

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were accepted as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

#### **5. Elections**

The Clerk confirmed that Parish Council elections were scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019. The election timetable had been published with the papers for this meeting, on the website and on the Notice Board; nomination papers were available on the village website and additional information from the Clerk.

The Chair advised that he did not intend to stand again. Cllrs, Evison, Cutts and Nichols said that they did plan to stand. Councillors were uncertain whether Cllr Bowtell wished to stand again. At this stage no-one was aware of any other villagers planning to stand.

Councillors considered whether to take further action to encourage others to stand. After discussion it was decided that, as there were already sufficient candidates for the newly-elected PC to be quorate and in order not to increase the chance of a contested election at significant cost, action would be limited to making the timetable and nomination forms etc available. If fewer than 5 candidates then stood others could be co-opted after the election. The Clerk explained that nomination forms had to be hand delivered to Penn's Place. Cllr Nichols offered to take the forms.

Cllr Evison advised that at the time of the last election she had needed to call Electoral Services to check how to complete the form, consequently she urged councillors not to leave the forms to the last minute.



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CL advised that the nomination forms required candidate's, proposer's and seconder's electoral roll numbers and warned that the updated electoral roll would not be available until shortly before nominations opened. It was agreed that the Clerk would check and advise further if required.

**ACTION: Clerk**

### 6. Correspondence Received

None.

### 7. Facilities

#### a. Defibrillator

Cllr Cutts reported that:

- The Ambulance Service had not yet been able to propose a date for an additional training session and that he was unsure how much demand there was.
- Local defibrillator 'co-ordinators' were to become 'guardians' and it was suggested that there be two for each machine; he would be one and Julian Evison had agreed to be the second.

- He had been carrying out the weekly and monthly checks which had generated no issues.

#### b. Recreation Ground (Cricket Pitch)

Cllr Evison advised that she had been chasing the new lease and would continue to do so.

She hoped to be able to bring it to the May meeting for signature.

**ACTION: Cllr Evison**

#### c. Notice Board

The Chair advised that, as agreed at the last meeting he had approached Gaze Burvill regarding the possibility of their supplying a new PC notice board.

Councillors were delighted to note that CL would be willing to support an application for a grant towards refurbishment or replacement of the notice board.

The Clerk advised that any new notice board needed to be bigger than the current one as there was not sufficient room to display minutes and notices and circulated some pictures of different styles of notice board. It was estimated that a new board and installation would cost in the region of £1,000.

After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Cutts would complete the grant application form and selection of a board considered further at the next meeting.

**ACTION: Cllr Cutts (Clerk)**

### 8. Planning

No planning applications had been received.

### 9. Contracts

The Clerk advised that the grounds maintenance contract relating to mowing around the pond and the playground area had been extended for three years within the brief granted at the last meeting; prices were unchanged for 2019, were to be increased by 10% for 2020 and then to remain at the 2020 level for 2021.

### 10. Highways

Cllr Evison advised that EHDC's radar speed monitor had been deployed in the village again in February 2019.

Cllr Cutts reported that he had received helpful information in response to his enquiry to Farringdon PC; the only disappointing aspect was that they were not interested to share equipment as this would complicate the management and insurance arrangements.

Farringdon had purchased a package (2 monitors, 5 sets of brackets, chargers etc) at a total cost of £9,000. They had received financial support from HCC and the District Council.

The equipment that they had allowed for data to be downloaded to a laptop when a monitor was moved; they had hoped that the police would be able to use the data but they had declined. They did, however, feel that the monitors were helping to reduce speeds.



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Councillors discussed what might be needed in East Tisted. Cllr Cutts suggested putting together a project proposal to present to the Village Meeting in May. This proposal was agreed.

**ACTION: Cllr Cutts (Clerk)**

### 11. GDPR

The Clerk confirmed that no meaningful reply had yet been received from the ICO.

### 12. Annual Review of Internal Controls

It was agreed that Cllr Cutts would carry out the annual review of internal controls.

**ACTION: Cllr Cutts & Clerk**

### 13. 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 10, 11 and 12.

b. Members approved the flowing grants and payments:

- a grant of £650 to Rotherfield Park Cricket Club for mowing of the outfield in 2019
  - the annual subscription of £36 to the campaign for the protection of Rural England
  - a payment of £120 to East Tisted Village Hall for hire of the Hall for PC meetings in 2019/20.
- It was noted that in view of the increase the hire charge would remain at £120 for 2020/21.

c. Members received and reviewed the Budget Monitoring Report to 19.02.19; expenditure was currently at 99% of budget and was expected to be at 103% at year end. Reserves were sufficient to meet the statutory requirement and to pay for a contested election if required. The RFO advised that two meetings with the internal auditor were scheduled in April; it was anticipated that the 2018/19 accounts would be presented at the May meeting.

### 14. Code of Conduct for Dog Walkers

Cllr Cutts explained that he had observed that some dog walkers were failing to clear up after their dogs on paths around the village and proposed the 'code of conduct' for dog walkers, as circulated with the agenda.

Those present discussed their experiences and those reported to them by other villagers and concluded that there was indeed an issue. It was agreed that Cllr Evison would submit some suggestions to Cllr Cutts and that a carefully worded note from the PC requesting dog owners' co-operation by clearing up after their pets would be circulated. Cllr Nichols requested that this also include a reminder that dogs should be kept on a lead in the vicinity of livestock. This, too, was agreed.

**ACTION: Cllrs Evison & Cutts**

### 15. Candidate Projects for District Councillor Grants

Refer items 7c. and 10 above.

### 16. Meeting Schedule

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be on **Weds 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm** in the Village Hall. As usual the May PC meeting would be followed by the Annual Village Meeting.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8pm.

*Helen Evison*

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer  
4<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Agreed as a true and correct record.

Signature....., Chairman    Date.....