



East Tisted Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of East Tisted Parish Council held on Thursday 27th August 2020 at 6.30pm using Zoom

Summoned to attend:	Phil Cutts (Councillor & Chairman) Helen Evison (Councillor, Clerk & RFO) Peter Finch (Councillor) Colin Rule (Councillor & Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator)
By Invitation:	Charles Louisson (District Councillor) Four Villagers/Members of the Public
Apologies:	Sandra Nichols (Councillor) Mick Crumplin (Village Hall Management Committee) Russell Oppenheimer (County Councillor) – until 7.45pm Dan Ross (Hampshire Constabulary)

The meeting opened at 6.32pm

1. Apologies and welcome

The Chairman welcomed all and outlined the protocols for the meeting. Apologies were received from Sandra Nichols, Mick Crumplin, Dan Ross and Russell Oppenheimer.

2. Declaration of interests

None.

3. Public forum

An update was received from CL, District Councillor.

- Council staff had been busy, some had been redeployed; they had been providing support to local businesses. They had paid out £1.3m in grants to small businesses and had distributed £26m of government funding for hardship.
- Community Grant Fund allocations totalling were £310k had been made to local organisations last year; £400k was available for this year.
- Enforcement teams, which had been suspended, had restarted.
- There had been some traveller activity.
- Council meetings had been largely virtual, but some were now hybrid.

Q: Were there any plans for Penn's Place to be re-populated?

A: There had been some discussion; a regionally distributed approach might be better from communities and staff, but no decision had been made.

Q: Was there any pattern or apparent plan in traveller movements?

A: They were visiting the same places as they had before.

Q: Was the council's income from property at risk as a result of reduced occupancy?

A: Rent collections were more than 90% for the March quarter and 80% so far for the current quarter; the government would cover a proportion of the shortfall.

The Chairman summarised highlights from RO's County Councillor Report, Attachment 1.

The Chairman read an e-mail report from Sgt James Cullinane, Attachment 2.

Matters arising:

- CL advised that the District Councillor for Froxfield and Steep was co-ordinating a meeting with Damian Hinds about motorbikes/road noise. It was agreed that he would forward the details and that, if possible, a representative from East Tisted would attend.

ACTION: CL & PC



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- It was noted that the police report did not contain any update regarding the possibility of noise cameras. It was agreed to enquire. **ACTION: PC**
- Although it was noted that 4 police constables had been allocated to East Hampshire as part of the uplift in recruitment it was unclear whether there were new positions. There was concern about the limited police strength in the area and it was considered that little was provided relative to East Hants contribution of £27m to the Police and Crime Commissioner's office. It was agreed to seek clarity regarding police numbers in the area. **ACTION: PC**

In his capacity as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, CR advised that the weekly crime reports were coming through only occasionally as their collation was limited by Covid-19; he would continue to circulate any reports available.

In his capacity of Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee, (VHMC), PF advised that:

- The Village Hall was open for social evenings on Friday nights, although uptake was limited.
- Risk assessments were in place for Friday nights and current hirers.
- There had not yet been a Committee meeting. This was expected to take place tomorrow; it was likely that Mick Crumplin would be appointed as Chairman of the VHMC.

The Chairman asked whether any Villager/Member of the Public wished to make any statement, raise any further question or suggest a topic for discussion. There being no matters raised, 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 21st May 2020 were accepted as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman. Matters arising were incorporated in today's agenda.

5. Correspondence

The Chairman highlighted receipt of J Edwards e-mail of 10th August 2020 and notice regarding removal of trees by the village pond and that ideas to revitalise the area were to be considered later on the agenda.

The Chairman advised that, in response to HALC's invitation, he had registered to attend the (virtual) AGM at 7pm on 24th September.

6. Facilities – Recreation Ground

It was noted that the request to dog-walkers to behave considerately had been reissued. Members discussed whether other steps, such as putting up more notices or providing dog-waste bins, were desirable or expected to be helpful. It was noted that the Recreation Ground was a public facility and, as such, should be safe and clean. It was concluded that continuing the 'education' of dog-walkers remained the appropriate response.

7. Village & Parish Council Website

PC advised that the new website had been live for about a week; there had been 40 or 50 'hits', but no feedback. He highlighted that it offered users the opportunity to register for 'Newsletters', a useful facility as this met GDPR requirements. At the moment it was not possible to send out e-mails but he had asked the developers (TEEC) to look into this. The new website met both transparency and accessibility standards.

CR thanked PC for handling redevelopment of the website; Councillors appreciated the significant effort involved.

HE advised that, as the website was now live, TEEC invoice, £263.98, had been cleared for payment.



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Councillors noted that the website could be used to advertise village events and facilities; hopefully the content would be expanded and enhanced. PF suggested development of a local history archive. It was noted that Rotherfield Estate were building new, digital archive and may, in future, be able to provide some material.

CL advised that, as a first step, in Ropley they had invited people to bring old photographs to a village meeting.

PF offered to take the lead on developing the history pages.

ACTION: PF

8. Highways

PF reported that the Speed Indicator Device (SID) had been purchased and thanked CL for his contribution. The SID had been 'tested' outside Bowtell's in July; a top speed of 65mph had been recorded during the day. Since then it had been deployed at two other sites on Station Road since then providing two sets of data on traffic volume and speeds; the volume of traffic was higher than expected, particularly at rush hour, and the speeds were quite scary. Sadly, the speed limit was unlikely to be reduced unless there were deaths or serious injuries; it was hoped that the sign would, at least, make people think. The programme of deployment had been agreed with Hampshire Highways (HH); poles for the SID were to be installed at either end of the village on the A32 but HH had a backlog, so these may not be ready for some time.

Station Road had been 'redressed'; the only white lining that HH would fund was that at junctions; if more is required the Parish Council would need to fund this.

CR reported research that indicated that drivers would slow down in a 'shared space'. It was suggested that this might be achieved by white-lining the sides of the road.

PF explained that he was hopeful that HH would replace and reduce the signage on the junction of the A32 with Station Road; Hawkley and Colemore Parish Councils did not object to their village names being omitted from any new signs. It was noted that several buildings near the junction were listed and that the area was understood to be a conservation area; it was suggested that traditional 'finger posts' would be more appropriate than modern signs. It was agreed to keep in touch with the Estate (office@rotherfield.com) about developments.

ACTION: PF

CL advised that the Parish Council might apply for a DC's grant for signs.

CR highlighted that, although HH had acted upon most of the issues raised, the collapsed drain outside the alms houses had yet to be repaired.

ACTION: PF

HE explained that she had submitted a request for reinstatement of the verge and footpath on the east side of the A32 outside the 'new' bungalows as the area was being used as an unofficial lay by which was unsafe and might cause damage to the utilities, but that this request had been rejected. It was agreed that one of the residents, Mark Bizley, would provide photos illustrating the issue to PF.

ACTION: MB & PF

9. Planning

Members noted receipt of SDNP/20/02688/LIS relating to various works at Ivy Cottage and that an objection to the proposal to create double gates in to the back garden requiring access from the shop/Post Office/B&B car park had been submitted.

10. Village Pond Area

Further to discussions at the last meeting, it had been confirmed that although the Parish Council owned a narrow strip of the grass near the bungalows, the pond and surrounding grass/parking area were owned by the Estate.

PC reported that, further to JE's e-mail and Rotherfield's notice referred to in item 5, he had met with Arthur Scott by the pond yesterday. PC invited AS to explain the position.

AS advised that they had arranged for a pond expert to come to review the pond, establish its type and condition and suggest what might be done with it. AS explained that he would like to develop the area as a 'central feature' of the village; liabilities would need to be managed.



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Fencing off the garden of Ivy Cottage would establish a southern boundary.

Q: Were there plans to remove the tree stumps?

A: These would be considered in the light of the advice from the pond expert; if the stumps sprouted this would help keep the water level under control; ultimately they would probably be removed using a digger.

AS advised that there was a serious issue with ash dieback in the area. As the ash trees were removed the Estate pursued one of three options: natural re-vegetation, planting of close-grown oaks or planting of hazel and chestnut coppice.

CL advised that the District Council had a tree planting programme; they planned to plant about 120,000 trees. They would be happy to engage in discussions.

CR highlighted that the pond had been 'refurbished' at the end of the 1990s; it had been established that it was a natural pond and it had been clay-lined.

11. Risk Assessment Training

It was noted that PF had participated in Risk Assessment (RA) training provided by ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) and that the training material had been circulated to all other Councillors.

PF confirmed that the VHMC had completed the appropriate RAs.

12. Cancellation of the Annual Parish Meeting

The Chairman explained that it was not possible to hold the Annual Parish Meeting, postponed from May, as a virtual meeting so consideration had been given to holding a socially distanced meeting. However, as only two villagers had said that they thought they would attend such a meeting and this was too few to provide useful feedback, it had been decided to cancel. It was suggested that the Council prepare an annual report and circulate this to villagers with a request for feedback. Given the exceptional circumstances this approach was agreed.

ACTION: PC & HE

13. Responsible Financial Officer

- Members received and approved for signature by the Chairman the summary of recent transactions and bank reconciliations numbers 28 to 31 inclusive.
- Members approved for payment of donations two as budgeted, £350 to the PCC for upkeep of the churchyard and £650 to RPCC for upkeep of the cricket pitch
- Members received and approved for the Chairman to sign the budget monitoring and forecast report to 18th August 2020.

14. Forthcoming meetings

6.30pm Thurs 17th December 2020

6.30pm Thurs 18th March 2021

6.30pm Thurs 20th May 2021 to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting for 2021/22

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.59pm.

Helen Evison

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

1st September 2020

Agreed as a true and correct record.

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