

MINUTES of a Meeting of Tatsfield Parish Council held on the 11th December 2023 in the Meeting Room, Aileen McHugo Building, Westmore Green, Tatsfield TN16 2AG commencing at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mr David Pinchin (in the chair)
Mr Jason Syrett Mr Martin Elmer Mr Simon Cook Mr Andrew Moore Mr Dave Mitchell

In Attendance: Samantha Head (Clerk)
Cllr Martin Allen (TDC)

And parishioner

The meeting commenced at 8.03 pm

1. APOLOGIES

3903/1223 Kim Jennings had sent her apologies. These were received and accepted by members.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (relating to items on the agenda)

3904/1223 Jason Syrett declared an interest in item 12a – Tatsfield Green, Boundary Dispute.

3. Approve and sign the MINUTES of the previous meeting held on 11th November 2023

3905/1223 It was resolved that the minutes reflected a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 11th November 2023. They were duly signed by the Chair.

4. Receive and Accept the MINUTES of the Finance Committee meeting held on 25th September 2023

3906/1223 It was resolved to receive and accept the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 25th September 2023.

5. Receive and Accept the MINUTES of the Finance Committee meeting held on 30th November 2023

3907/1223 It was resolved to receive and accept the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 30th November 2023

6. Public Participation

None

7. Officer's report

- The Clerk reported that the PC had received the last six months VAT refund - £5107.00
- The Clerk had renewed the private gritting contract on behalf of the PC. For the next two years at a 4% uplift on the prices in the previous contract. She had also arranged for 5x tonne bags of salt to be delivered to Church Farm.
- The Clerk has confirmed the PC having a smart meter for the gas supply installed. This should happen in the next 4-5 weeks.
- The Clerk has booked the Furze Corner mower in for a service towards the end of February 2024. This is a requirement for the warranty.

8. PLANNING:

(a) Planning Team for December: Jason Syrett and David Pinchin

3908/1223 It was resolved that the planning team for December would be Jason Syrett and David Pinchin.

(b) To determine the Parish Council's position on Appendix A:

No planning applications had been received at the time of publication of the agenda.

9. Finance:

(a) Finance Team for December: Jason Syrett and David Pinchin

3909/1223 It was resolved that the Finance Team for December would be Jason Syrett and David Pinchin.

(b) Authorise payments (including authorisation of Internet banking) detailed in Appendix B

3910/1223 Members approved the Clerk's request. Items on Appendix B were duly approved. Payments and supporting invoices were checked and signed by members of the Finance Team for December.

(c) Approve quotes for Emergency Lighting work at AMB and repairs to car park bollard lights (to be ratified)

3911/1223 Members ratified the two quotes for the above work.

(d) Approve Budget for 2024-25 as recommended by the Finance Committee (as per item 5)

The budget had been reviewed line by line by the Finance Committee. A new budget line has been created for Furze Corner.

3912/1223 Members approved the budget for 2024-25.

(e) Approve Precept amount for 2024-25 of £63,000

Martin Allen questioned why the PC felt it necessary to raise the precept. The PC stated that it felt it necessary to raise the precept to cover inflation related increases, the anticipated additional tree work that will be required and to allow funds to cover Furze Corner expenditure.

3913/1223 Members approved the precept of £63,000 for 2024-25.

(f) Approve grant awards as recommended in the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting (as per item 5)

The recommended grant awards were listed.

3914/1223 Members approved the grant awards for 2024-25.

10. Notified Items**(a) Furze Corner**

The Parish Council has received a 2nd draft of the lease. Jason Syrett reported that it was very close to being signed. The provisional date is 1st January 2024. There are just several minor points to be agreed – one is that the boundary titles match and the second is whether the PC wishes to register it as a trust or other.

The PFA is having a smart meter fitted and continues to pay the utilities.

(b) Meeting dates

3915/1223 Members agreed the following meeting dates for 2024: 8th January, 12th February, 11th March, 15th April, 20th May, 10th June, 8th July, 9th September, 14th October, 11th November, 9th December.

(c) Christmas Carols / Lights switch on

Andy Moore gave the following update:

- Father Christmas – he was still looking for someone to be Father Christmas.
- Carol books – the headteacher had given a couple of extra carol suggestions. He would print 50x copies and put into plastic sleeves.
- He would collect the gazebo on Friday – Ian Hayman and Simon Cook would help set up.
- He asked if anyone had a spare string or two of Christmas lights, could they lend them to decorate the gazebo.
- Tina at The Ship will provide mulled wine and mince pies.
- Kim Jennings and Martin Elmer would sell raffle tickets.
- Andy Moore and Simon Cook had made sweetie bags for all the children.
- Music – there would be two devices to plug into the PA system.

(d) SCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan Consultation

The Clerk had circulated details of the consultation. Members felt there were no suitable sites within the parish.

3916/1223 Members agreed to submit a short response to reiterate the above.

(e) Footpath 21 Proposal – update (for info only)

The Parish Council had received the following update: he had had a site meeting with Nick Knox who will now give a rough costing to fix the steep section with oak sleeper steps, a new surface and rail. He would need one of the fence lines moved for access and movement of the digger. Adrian Riddle (SCC) thinks that the fence lines may have encroached on the width of the footpath. A fuller report will follow next year.

11. Reports from County Councillor, District Councillor, Village Organisations and External Organisations**a) County Councillor**

Becky Rush was not at the meeting and no report was given.

b) District Councillor

Martin Allen gave the following report:

- The 22nd November he attended a very interesting Licencing subcommittee where a proposal to use a car as a taxi was rejected. Another one was approved.
- 23rd November he attended an Audit & Scrutiny meeting. The Chair and Cllr Allen discovered that TDC was running behind with the 2021/22 audit – due to differing priorities determined by the CFO. This could have consequences of

adding greater costs to an already increasing budget costs which have risen from £36.5k to £93k. The Chair and Cllr Allen are meeting the CEO this week to discuss.

- 27th November he attended a TEAMS meeting with the officer dealing with the waste collection issues in Barnfield Road and Old Lane. Some Old Lane residents are presenting their bins in the wrong location. They need to put bins out only in Old Lane. This past weekend, the Barnfield Road residents carried out repairs to the section of the road that had caused this issue.
- 28th November he attended an Audit & Scrutiny meeting – most of the Resident Alliance members had nothing, or almost nothing to say on all 139 pages of the report.
- 30th November he attended a Strategy & Resources meeting where budgets (including the usual Council Tax uplift) were discussed and where £750,000 of savings were agreed. Also discussed was an application for a McDonalds in Caterham.
- 5th December he attended a WI lunch which was very nice.
- 7th December another Audit & Scrutiny review and future programme. In the evening, there was planning committee meeting where 2x applications for major builds in the Green Blet were passed (again due to votes of the Residents Alliance).
- 12th December – there will be an Independent Group meeting with the CEO / CFO and an update on the new management structure and information regarding the Council's acceptance of the union Unison.
- 14th December there will be a full council meeting. Cllr Allen will vote against the McDonalds Caterham application.
- 19th December – will be holding an interview for an Independent person and then a budget briefing.
- TA/2023/775 Manor Stables – Cllr Allen is waiting for a date to be set for a meeting with the CPO and planning officer regarding them recommending approval for this application.
- Cllr Allen has circulated details of the £1.2m grant for small businesses and community groups and the Household Support Fund.
- Cllr Allen reported the poor visibility of the cats eyes along Clarks Lane. A Highways engineer has assessed them and confirmed that they are visible. SCC would not be altering the road lines.
- Cllr Allen has organised a litter pick of Clarks Lane and reported another faulty barrier at Clacket Lane MSA.
- Like other authorities, TDC is experiencing very high enforcement workloads, difficulties in recruiting, backlogs, staff shortages and high staff turnover levels. The capacity of the enforcement team is severely reduced at the moment.
- The Local Government Ombudsman has refused to take forward Cllr Allen's complaint regarding the Firs, Maesmaur Road application as it was made by a district councillor not a private resident.

c) Neighbourhood Plan

Jason Syrett gave the following update: the plan has gone to Regulation 16 consultation and also to the Independent Examiner Referral Service. The aim is for it to go to referendum in May 2024. Members noted that they would need to publicise this next year. It was agreed that the NP should be the key topic at the 2024 APM.

d) VHMC

It was reported that the VHMC had raised the issue of some of the car park bollards lights not working. The pile of debris belonging to Little Acorns was also highlighted. The new Chairman of the VHMC was Mark Stokoe, the vice- Chairman was Peter Maynard. A new committee member has been co-opted: Jennifer Miller.

e) Fairtrade

Simon Cook reported the following:

The committee thanked Bob David for all his wonderful work since the group's inception in 2008.

They had contacted The Bakery regarding stocking FT tea, coffee and sugar. Park Wood Golf Club does stock FT sugar.

The October tea tent was poorly attended although £120 of FT products were sold. The next tea tent would be on 4th May 2024.

Sheree's Store is stocking some items for Christmas sales. The committee expressed their gratitude to Sheree for her continued support.

The committee agreed to return to the FT breakfast for FT fortnight in September 2024. They may approach the PC for a grant. The next meeting will be on 16th April.

f) Police

Simon Cook reported that he attended the Policing in Your Community meeting on 20th November. It was hosted by Lisa Townsend (the PCC), Tim De Meyer (Chief Constable for Surrey Police), Lyndsey Whatley (inspector, Tandridge Borough Commander). There were also many representatives from Surrey parish councils and various community groups. Various topics were discussed: Responsibility – the PCC outlined her responsibility to oversee and deliver the implementation of the Police and Crime Plan until 2025. For Surrey, the main priorities are: 1 reducing violence against women and girls in Surrey, 2 protecting people from harm in Surrey, 3 working with Surrey communities so that they feel safe, 4 strengthening the relationship between Surrey Police and Surrey residents, 5 ensuring safer Surrey roads. The Police Commissioner stated that another main priority was to tackle anti-social behaviour and the ever-growing problem of the County Lines drug dealing.

Updates were given on the current state of recruitment, training and financial constraints. Assurances were given that there would be an increase in personnel. There was also a briefing on the recently published 2022/23 report.

During the Q&A session, Simon Cook asked the following questions: a lack of police presence, with only one PCSO and no dedicated officer, Tatsfield was experiencing serious ASB issues which are being reported but with little action from the police.

Simon Cook also outlined the PC's concerns regarding County Lines and the fact that Tatsfield is a vulnerable community due to the lack of police presence. He also questioned the effectiveness of the 101 reporting system, stating that even when numerous reports were made, no action was taken. Finally, Simon Cook mentioned that Tim De Meyer had been invited him or a representative to meet with the PC but his office had said he was too busy. He replied that he was unaware of this invitation and would look into this with his office..

After the meeting, the Borough Commander gave Simon Cook details of a newly appointed Sgt covering the north of the borough. Simon Cook is contacting him to invite him to one of the PC meetings in the new year.

12. Parish Council Land/Property

a) Tatsfield Green

Boundary Dispute (Under Part 2)

There was no update.

b) Westmore Green

Vehicles turning on the green.

This had been briefly discussed informally by members following reports that a long wheel base delivery van had got stuck on the green after trying to turn on a narrow section of Lusted Hall Lane.

Members discussed possible solutions, including bunding or a trench at the edge of the green or perhaps a post and rail fence at obvious turning points. Members were cognisant that TDC manages and maintains the green on behalf of the PC and any of these measures would make that maintenance more difficult.

3917/1223 Members agreed to install a sign at the beginning of the unmade section of Lusted Hall Lane informed drivers that it was not a through road and that there was a turning circle further down. If this did not prevent vehicles turning on the green, the PC would look again at other measures.

13. Meetings to attend/ correspondence

None

14. Matters for reporting or Inclusion in a Future Agenda

- TRO – Ship Hill diversion – school buses.

Final public participation:

None

The meeting closed at 9.33pm

The next Parish Council meeting would be held on Monday 8th January 2024 at 8pm.