

**MINUTES of a Meeting of Tatsfield Parish Council held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in the Meeting Room, Aileen McHugo Building, Westmore Green, Tatsfield TN16 2AG commencing at 8.00 p.m.**

**Present:** Ms Kim Jennings (in the chair)  
Mr Jason Syrett Mr David Pinchin Mr Ian Hayman Mr Ashley Clifton

**In Attendance:** Samantha Head (Clerk)

And 1 parishioner

The meeting commenced at 8.04 pm

**1. APOLOGIES**

3470/0122 Alex Davies had sent her apologies. These were received and accepted by members.

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

3471/0122 Jason Syrett declared an interest in item 11a – Tatsfield Green, Boundary Dispute. He took no part in the discussion for this item.

**3. Approve and sign the MINUTES of the previous meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

3472/0122 It was resolved that the minutes reflected a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021. They were duly signed by the Chair.

**4. Receive and accept the MINUTES of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021**

3473/0122 It was resolved to receive the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

**5. Public Participation**

None

**6. Officer's report**

- Unity Trust Bank has notified the Parish Council of an increase in the interest rate for the Council's savings account – this has been applied in respect of the December statement.
- The Clerk has spoken to the Chairman and the Secretary of the VHMC – both are very pleased with the reseal of the VH floor (the stage area was also done). The Clerk will write to Renovate Flooring to express the PC's thanks.
- The VHMC Chairman has confirmed that the interior decorating tasks have started and are almost complete. The decorator is scheduled to move on to the exterior works very shortly.
- The Clerk has been chasing TDC finance department as no forms to confirm the PC's Precept request for 2022-23 have yet been received.

**7. PLANNING:**

**(a) Planning Team for January: Kim Jennings and Alex Davies**

3474/0122 It was resolved that the planning team for January would be Kim Jennings and Alex Davies.

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

No planning applications had been received.

**8. Finance:**

**(a) Finance Team for January: Kim Jennings and Alex Davies**

3475/0122 As Alex Davies was absent, David Pinchin offered to assist with finance for January. It was resolved that the Finance Team for January would be Kim Jennings and David Pinchin.

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

3476/0122 Items on Appendix B were duly approved. Payments and supporting invoices were checked and signed by members of the Finance Team for January.

**9. Notified Items****(a) Parish Councillor vacancy**

The Clerk confirmed that she had received confirmation from Democratic Services that no requests had been made to hold a by-election so the PC was now free to co-opt a new councillor. Kim Jennings noted that she had received an expression of interest. The Clerk would send a follow up email.

**(b) Platinum Jubilee**

The Platinum Jubilee would be celebrated over the bank holiday weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Kim Jennings outlined a draft programme of events:

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June: Beacon lighting, possibly on the green outside the Bakery. Add to national register of beacons being lit?

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June: Curzon Cinema? Open Air showing in the school field. If the weather isn't good, would possibly need to move into the VH. Possible evening event – Tatsfield Village Club – live music?

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June: am -Children's baking competition on the Green? Fairtrade / TIB to judge? Evening – BBQ in the Old Ship? Scouts – food / bar?

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June: Big Picnic Party on the Green? Street party setting. Tables / chairs/ bunting/ music / competitions / fancy dress / bar / food. Little Acorns could do face painting.

Ian Mitchell to hold History Project exhibition over the bank holiday.

Kim Jennings to contact the Art Group, the Tatsfield Singers and village organisations to see if they would be interested in holding events. David Pinchin mentioned he had approached NDS.

3477/0122 Members agreed that a programme of events, involving as many village organisations that wish to be involved, was an excellent idea and agreed that the Jubilee working group should contact all village organisations to see if they would be interested in participating.

**(c) Footpaths on the Golf Course**

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

**(d) SCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Issues and Options Public Consultation**

Ashley Clifton had reviewed this consultation and felt that the plan would not have any effect on Tatsfield. The Parish can demonstrate sustainable initiatives e.g., the composting site. Food waste, recycling and general waste are dealt with by TDC contracts and it was agreed that there were no major issues with these services.

Ashley Clifton recommended no comment.

3478/0122 Members agreed to not submit a comment.

**(e) Surrey Hills AONB Boundary Review**

Jason Syrett had read the review and drafted the following response for the Parish Council's comment and agreement:

**Introduction:**

The Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a nationally important landscape, something everyone living in the area should be justly proud of. Currently around 50% of Tatsfield parish falls within the AONB, this being the area broadly south of Clarks Lane/Chestnut Avenue.

There has been a desire locally over many years for a review to decide whether additional areas adjacent to the existing AONB boundary should also be designated. A formal AONB boundary review is now underway by Natural England which will consider the case for extending the existing AONB and it is important that Tatsfield Parish Council contribute to this.

**How it will be assessed:**

Since AONBs are designated solely for their outstanding natural beauty, any decision about an extension to the Surrey Hills AONB boundary will be based on assessments of factors that relate directly to natural beauty - for instance, cultural and natural heritage, the condition of features in the landscape and the scenic qualities of the areas under review. As part of this process Natural England is not looking to de-designate areas of existing AONB.

3479/1022 Members agreed the following response and requested the Clerk submit it on behalf of the PC: Tatsfield Parish Council welcome the opportunity to participate in the Surrey Hills AONB boundary review.

**Location/Setting:**

**Westmore Green, Tatsfield Village: Lat: 51.29330 Lon: 0.02473**

The parish of Tatsfield covers approximately 1,300 acres and lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt to the south of London at one of the highest points on the North Downs and with extensive views across the south to the Kentish Weald. At its northern tip there is a buffer zone with the London Borough of Bromley, where a transition is made between the countryside and the suburban area of Biggin Hill valley.

Tatsfield village is one of the highest villages within Surrey. It is the principal settlement and the only Defined Village in the parish. The village is predominantly rural and surrounded by fields and mature woodland.

A large part of the parish south of the village also lies within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which gives an indication of the significant quality and importance of the local landscape. Fields and open spaces around the village act as a buffer, protecting views into and out of the AONB. Much of this area is designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) in the existing Tandridge District Council Core Strategy.

#### **Neighbourhood Plan:**

Tatsfield Parish have recently completed their draft Neighbourhood Plan for public consultation. The draft plan provides a significant evidence base assessing the local landscape (natural and built form) its condition, scenery, wildness, tranquillity, and its natural and cultural heritage. These are all characteristics that are being assessed as part of the Surrey Hills AONB boundary review by Natural England.

Our Neighbourhood Plan goes on to map and provide photographs of parish character areas and to identify notable views which are important to placing the parish in its wider landscape context.

As you will see from the Plan, we value the quality, ecological value and importance of our local landscape.

#### **Response:**

Tatsfield Parish Council has attached our draft Neighbourhood Plan as a robust evidence base to aid Natural England in assessing and considering the remainder of the parish of Tatsfield for inclusion in the AONB boundary review.

An area of the parish to the north of the existing Surrey Hills AONB is already locally designated by Tandridge District Council as an Area of Greater Landscape Value (AGLV). We believe there is clear evidence in the draft Neighbourhood Plan to include this within the boundary review.

Chapter 02 of our draft Plan (pages 28 and 29) further identifies through the character area assessment that character areas 3 (Outer Village) and 4 (Farmland Setting) both contribute significantly to the setting and landscape character of the northern part of the parish. WE feel these are also worthy of assessment as part of the AONB review.

Tatsfield Parish Council look forward to engaging further with Natural England as the Surrey Hills AONB boundary review progresses.

If you have any queries, please respond to [clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)

#### **(f) Consultation on draft Tandridge DC Statement of Policy 2021-26 – licencing**

David Pinchin had read the draft policy. He noted that it was an update in line with legislation but no major changes.

3480/0122 Members agreed that it was supportive of the draft policy but did not need it to comment.

#### **(g) Furze Corner**

Jason Syrett summarized the current situation:

The PFA lease expired in August 2021. The PFA has not provided full details, as requested by TDC, re the Tenancy at Will to allow for temporary measures. The PFA has not applied for the TDC rental subsidy grant. No meetings have been held since 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (despite requests to do so). It was also noted that the opportunity to apply for a grant from the TDC CIL fund had passed. There was concern expressed that an opportunity for significant funding from Your Fund Surrey may also be missed.

Members surmised that there were the following options regarding the future of Furze Corner:

- To try to get the PFA up and running and developing the plan to rebuild the pavilion.
- Seek another community group to take on the lease and run Furze Corner.
- TDC could take back the lease and run Furze Corner.
- The PC takes a long lease (99 years) from TDC and then applies for funding to build new pavilion.
- The PC buys the freehold from TDC (for a nominal sum) and then applies for funding to build a new pavilion.

3481/0122 Members agreed that Furze Corner was the only public space in Tatsfield that was uncared for. Ian Hayman volunteered to speak to David King regarding the above options and report back at the February main meeting.

**(h) APM 2022**

3482/0122 Members agreed 4<sup>th</sup> April for the APM. The main guest speaker – BHA presentation re overflying exercise and outcomes. Other speakers: Kim Jennings (PC annual report), Jason Syrett (Neighbourhood Plan update), Cllr Becky Rush (SCC report) and Cllr Martin Allen (TDC report).

**(i) Blue heart verges**

Kim Jennings confirmed that the hearts had been ordered and the stakes would be ordered this week. Kim Jennings was liaising with TPS, LA and the Scouts re painting the stakes.

**(j) Request for Ultrafast broadband (FTTH)**

Ultrafast Broadband was being installed by Sky in Maesmaur Road and Ninehams Road.

3483/0122 The Clerk would research possible organisations which could bring FTTH to Tatsfield and provide this information to the PC.

**(k) Hedgerows requiring cutting back – various locations**

A parishioner had reported several hedges which may be in need of cutting back. One was the hedge running adjacent to the grass verge on Approach Road and the boundary of the Golf Club.

The other was the Laurel hedge running along the Beacons Shaw boundary on Approach Road.

3484/0122 Members felt that the hedge on the Golf Club boundary was not overhanging the footpath. However, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Golf Club to kindly ask for the hedge to be trimmed back before the start of bird nesting season. It was further agreed that the Clerk would write to the owners of Beacons Shaw to ask that the laurel hedge was cut back to the boundary.

A parishioner also noted that the footpath / pavement along Ship Hill (from the pub down to the dip) was 50% obstructed in many places by overhanging vegetation. There also appeared to be a hedge planted on the SCC owned verge.

3485/0122 Members agreed to investigate the above and write to homeowners where appropriate. Kim Jennings would follow up with SCC re the Laurel hedge.

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

Cllr Rush was unable to attend the meeting and therefore there was no report.

**b) District Councillor**

Cllr Allen was unable to attend the meeting but had sent the following report:

- Further double yellow lines are being considered in the village.
- TDC Finances – Cllr Allen reported being a little more confident that the financial problems that have plagued the Council during the last year are now manageable. The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was released on 16<sup>th</sup> December and has helped to close the budget gap. The final budget will be presented to committees in January / February.
- Cllr Allen continues to attend meetings for the budget, Audit and Scrutiny Committee, Community Services Committee and also Group Leader meetings. It has become clear that the Council will need to be smaller and leaner in the future or face ever increasing Council Tax bills. The Administration has pledged that all statutory services will be maintained with as little impact as possible on the residents but other services will be subject to review throughout the year.
- On 27<sup>th</sup> January at 19:30, the Audit and Scrutiny Committee will host, as part of the agenda, the Community Safety Review. The focus will be on policing, with a presentation from the Borough Commander. There will be an opportunity to attend either in person or on Zoom (TBC) and to ask direct questions.

**c) Neighbourhood Plan**

Jason Syrett gave the following report:

The final draft (Regulation 14 compliant) has been worked on over the festive break. It has been sent to Anna Cronin at TDC for review and comment. She will send her comments before the NP Steering Group January meeting (19<sup>th</sup>). The Steering Group then hope to refer to the PC for approval at the February main meeting. The draft plan is on the NP website and also Tatsfield Talk.

The APM is a good opportunity to present this to the wider community. Jason Syrett also confirmed that he is happy to hold Zoom meetings with interested parishioners and / or answer questions about the plan.

**d) VHMC**

David Pinchin reported that the VH had lots of bookings. The bookings calendar was almost back to pre-pandemic levels. Experience is showing that everyone is being very compliant with Covid protocols. There was concern regarding the Rentokil- Initial contract.

**11. Parish Council Land/Property****a) Tatsfield Green**

- Boundary Dispute (Under Part 2)  
This was discussed under Part 2.

**b) AMB**

- Redecoration – toilets – these need repainting – Kim Jennings suggested someone who may be able to provide a competitive quote (as well as quotes for repainting the kitchen and lobby area).  
Kitchen – Ashley Clifton agreed to look at costings for replacement doors, work surface and sink. As well as the cost of a new fridge.

**c) Westmore Green**

- Request to reseed grass area – a parishioner has requested that the PC approaches TDC to ask for the area be reseeded as it is churned up and very muddy. This was need to be fenced off to allow for the seed to take.

3486/0122 Members agreed that this part of the green looked like this every year around this time. The grass always grew back in the spring. Members agreed no further action at the present time but they would continue to monitor.

- Request for trees to be pruned – there was epicormic growth on the trees opposite the allotments. The Clerk confirmed that TDC does not have (and has not had for several years now) the budget for this. In previous years, epicormic growth has been pruned by volunteers from TIB.

3487/0122 Kim Jennings agreed to ask the TIB volunteers to undertake the removal of epicormic growth. She would also ask them to cut back the brambles.

- Request for footpath to be installed from 'Hedgerows' to the green / village centre

A parishioner had asked the PC if a footpath could be installed along Westmore Green from 'Hedgerows' down to the village centre as the green is muddy.

3488/0122 Members discussed this and felt there were several reasons to decline this request. Firstly, that area of the green is used as a summer meadow. Secondly, there are many bulbs planted on the green. Thirdly, as Common Land, installation of a footpath would involve receiving permission from the Planning Inspectorate. The Clerk was requested to write to the parishioner to explain the PC's decision.

**d) Kemsley Wood**

- Request for kissing gate at top of footpath (Toronto House)

A parishioner had contacted the PC to complain about youngsters riding around the parish on motorbikes. In particular, they have been tearing through Kemsley Wood – due, in part, because the wooden kissing gate at the Kemsley Road entrance is broken and because there is no kissing gate at the entrance adjacent to Toronto House. The parishioner requested that the PC replaces the broken gate with a metal kissing gate and install a metal kissing gate by Toronto House.

3489/0122 Members agreed that there was not enough in the budget to install metal kissing gates. However, the broken gate would be inspected to see if repairs were viable.

**12. Meetings to attend/ correspondence**

- David Pinchin to possibly attend the TDC Audit and Scrutiny meeting (with Borough Commander) on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

**13. Matters for reporting or Inclusion in a Future Agenda**

None

Final public participation: None

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

The next Parish Council meeting would be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 8pm.