



TONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING::Monday 15/03/2021 Held by Zoom at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr L Oakley (Chair)	Cllr S Blewitt	Cllr M Baldock
Cllr S Habgood	Cllr M Furniss	Cllr P Spooner
Cllr G Eyre	Mr M Heath	Mr J Ferns
Mrs J Smith	Mrs G Smith	Mr B Simpson
Alex Thorley	Mr L Billig	Ms A Hopper
Ms C Taylor	Ms N Antoniou	

Clerk: Mrs Margaret Murray

1. Chairman's announcements and apologies for absence: Cllr Ali Carey, Cllr Sue Gray, Cllr Paul Abbey.
2. The minutes from the meeting on 15/02/2021 were approved. Proposed Cllr Habgood, Seconded: Cllr Blewitt. Signed by Cllr Oakley and will be collected by the Clerk for filing.
3. Code of conduct: disclosure of interest: None.
4. Matters arising: none which would not be dealt with in the course of the meeting.
5. County and Borough matters:
County: Surrey County Council (SCC) have now approved their budget; there will be considerable spending on roads, adult social care and education. The Council is now in the black, and reserves have been built up. The 'Your Fund Surrey' community funding has now been launched and will need local support; there are already many exciting projects suggested. The A31/A331 vegetation clearance is due to start in April.
The Street, Tongham; Cllr Furniss is due to visit the area tomorrow, to check the hedge removal is acceptable according to the plans. Design teams are looking at traffic calming and traffic lights on The Street, humps on Manor Road, and improvements around Walsh middle and junior schools, also improvements are being made to Poyle Road/White Lane, this last funded by Section 106 monies. The resurfacing of White Lane should start next week, the road will be closed for four days. Speed monitors have been installed on Poyle Road. Cllr Habgood assured the meeting that cars were still speeding. SCC are working closely with the police to prevent problems arising from HGVs, the Police have been useful in 'reminding' developers of their responsibilities.
Borough: Cllr Eyre had been at Oxenden Road with Mr Mike Heath, issue at Oxenden Court with flooding, lowering kerbs and state of the road. Cllr Spooner advised the meeting that the Corporate Plan still in place was his, GBC are looking to make when

making a report. changes by June 2021, ongoing. Manor Farm development: reserved matters are being looked at on 31/3/2021 by the Planning committee. The developers have permission to remove the hedgerow for road widening purposes, but the trees should be retained where possible. Going from the A31 turn off down to the Brewery, acceptable to remove, after the Brewery and continuing down the Street – to be retained. Cllr Oakley asked whether we as a Council had missed something, Cllr Spooner said No, only small changes, officers had already agreed to significant changes.

6. Adjournment: Mr Ferns said he had been following the plans online under various reference numbers, he was concerned that the hedgerow should be protected during birds' nesting season. Cllr Furniss advised that this was not SCC matter, but GBC Planning Enforcement should be advised. Cllr Spooner agreed and advised the meeting that he had brought the matter up with the Leader and the Council and the Managing Director, but no response yet. He will update on social media. It is his opinion that the enforcement team is insufficiently staffed. Mr Ferns asked why this was not SCC issue; Cllr Furniss advised that SCC checked Health and Safety issues, due diligence, permits in place; the rest was down to developers and GBC. Mr Heath advised the meeting that he had spoken with the site manager and was told they are preparing the site, which would include road widening. Mr Ferns stated that regarding the upcoming appeal, he was glad GBC were preparing a robust defence, with 2 expert witnesses. Cllrs Spooner and Eyre had attended a meeting with the developers, Cllrs Spooner and Eyre felt that the developers had not done enough and the developers were not happy with their comments. The Council's officers are equally unhappy that not enough changes have been made, and the feeling of the entire meeting was that we shared Mr Ferns' frustration.

Mrs G Smith brought up anti-social behaviour in the Recreation Ground, and asked what the Parish Council has done. Cllr Oakley advised that he and the Clerk and others had attended several meetings with the Police, including the Commissioner. The advice which came out of these meetings was to contact the Police every time ASB happened. Mrs Smith asked about CCTV, and was advised that films had been handed to the Police but that they did not show any vandalism/ASB in the process of being carried out. The only crime was the breaking of COVID restrictions. On Friday evening 4 reports were made to the Police. A lively discussion took place, with the result being that Cllr Oakley felt the Rec. Ground is a wonderful facility for the village, and is used and appreciated by many more people than the small minority who break glass and leave litter. Mr M Heath and Cllr Oakley make sure the ground is cleared every day – as do Mrs Smith and other dog walkers. As the online reporting website refers people to their local council, we were advised to use 101 and make a telephone report. The Police Crime Commissioner elections are to take place at the beginning of May, it was suggested that we contact the candidates and ask for their opinions on the matter then hold them to these opinions. Cllr Oakley remarked that Councillors have no powers and cannot police the Recreation ground, and the best solution is to report online or using 101 and to keep doing so.

7. Reports from sub-committees:
 - a. Planning: Chair Cllr Blewitt: No new plans.
 - b. Lighting and General Purposes: Chair Cllr Carey.
 - i. Tennis Court re-surfacing: quotes to be sought, surface needs binding/resin; 3 quotes in total required.
 - ii. Allotment report: Approved.

- iii. David Wilson homes: water being ejected from site and into Tongham Woods. TWIG and Cllr Paul Spooner also reacted to this, Cllr Furniss has reported to the Environment Agency. Unacceptable behaviour.
 - iv. Manor Farm development: why, when the reserved matters remain undecided, is work on The Street to commence 15/3/2021? Clerk has contacted Cllrs Spooner and Furniss, see above reports from both.
- c. Finance, Policy and Administration: Chair: Cllr Gray.
- i. Financial statements for February 2021: agreed by all
 - ii. Risk assessment 2021: approved, Clerk to show Cllr Gray banking details in case of emergency. (Currently held at Clerk's home.) Approved by all. Prop: Cllr Baldock, Sec: Cllr Habgood.
 - iii. Register of Interests: no changes to Register were reported.
 - iv. Election 2021: costs if uncontested, £208; if contested, £4500.00. GBC instigating procedures shortly.
 - v. Any other business:
 - 1. Anti-social behaviour update. Clerk had been advised that it was almost impossible to report bad behaviour online as the Police website then refers reporter to their Local Council. She will contact Police for advice. There are a small number of wrong-doers, Cllrs Oakley and Baldock have spoken to groups of young people at the Rec., Mr Mike Heath clears up every day when necessary. However the Rec ground remains very well used and appreciated by most of the village.
 - 2. Section 137: Scouts: £200.00. Prop: Cllr Habgood Sec: Cllr Baldock.
 - 3. A litter-cam has been on the news, used by a Council in Kent, it would be useful here as many people using the lay-by just drop their litter out of their cars. The litter cam generates fines using number-plate recognition.

Signed:

L P Oakley, Chair of meeting, Date: 19/04/2021.