TONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING: Monday 17/07/2023, held at the Old School Hall, Poyle Road, Tongham at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr L Oakley (Chair)	Cllr S Habgood	Mr B Mayers	J March-Jones
Cllr S Gray	Cllr L Lowdon	Mr D Evans	Mr P Wells
Cllr M Murray (acting as clerk)	Cllr E Hall	Mr C Pritchard	
Cllr P Buckley	Cllr M Furniss	Mrs J Pritchard	

Clerk: Mrs M Murray
17/07/23

1. Co-option of new councillor: Ed Hall was unanimously accepted as our new Councillor.
2. Apologies: MF advised that Sallie Atkins (GBC) was attending Seale and Sands meeting. Minutes of meeting from 19th June agreed.
3. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
4. Code of conduct: No interests declared.
5. Matters arising:
    a. Water pipes in The Street: South East water advise that the task has been re-worked and will now take up to 6 weeks, they hope to finish before the end of the school summer holidays, and for future resilience will be linking up with the Seale works.
6. County and Borough matters:
    a. County: Matt Furniss has asked for a meeting with Natural England to further discuss the issue of AONB; he will advise Cllr Oakley when this is to be.
    b. Manor Road traffic calming and tables down The Street should be started Sept/October time; electronic designs will be sent when available.
    c. Flooding: the team has been out to look at The Cardinals, to establish whether the issue is to do with lack of capacity or broken drains.
    d. Borough: GBC have raised a warning about their financial situation; there will be an emergency meeting next week. It is hoped that bankruptcy will be avoided.

e. Mr Mayers: advised there was flooding in The Street every time we have heavy rain, he lives about 50 yards up from the village hall. (This does affect the entire Street.)
f. Cllr Murray asked about the pedestrian crossing for the new Manor Farm estate, Cllr Furniss will try to push this forward. MM will send contact details for concerned parishioners to him.
g. The hedges beside Bridge Mews were mentioned- they have also been reported to SCC. The issue is that people park on the pavement when the existing lay-bys are full, but the greenery covers over more that 50% of the path, making it impossible for pedestrians to use the pavement. MF advised that notes have been put through doors, giving 28 days to comply. LO asked if we knew who exactly owned the verges outside Bridge Mews as there is a 6' fence surrounding the properties with the shrubs all on their verge. MF will find out for us. He advised that SCC carried out 650 visits on similar matters last year. CP asked if we could not do an emergency repair/cut back on both sides of The Street, the hedge outside his property is not his but he has been cutting it but now it is out of his ability to manage.
h. BM advised that Thundery Hill is also very dark and overgrown, MF advised best thing to do is go online and report to SCC. He also advised the meeting that the website is to be improved and we will be able to upload photos soon – and send to him, too, with reference numbers where possible.

7. Adjournment: BM said the verge running down from the Manor Farm estate is completely overgrown and looks awful, as though we do not care about our village. The old wall (which has been kept with a new wall 'inside' it, as it's historically interesting and registered) is in bad condition and he wondered whether it was possible to repair it. MF suggested he will contact Bellway and keep us informed.
8. Reports from Working Parties:

FNST:

a. Litter pick cost was queried, LO advised it was good value for money.
b. BM asked if he could have bags for litter picking, MF said contact GBC and he could access bags and litter pickers. (Mechanical).
c. Section 137 from football club: unanimous agreement, £500 awarded.
Planning: 23/P/00252: showing as awaiting decision, MM advises cannot open any documents, will chase up.
d. Drainage runaway at Scout Hut: MF will have a look at this.

LGPS:

e. Teen shelter: all done.
f. Village Sign: in production, no installation date yet.
g. Trees encroaching on Alder Grove: now cut back, it was a dead limb.
h. New noticeboard at Manor Farm estate: discussions ongoing with Bellway, Taylor Wimpey and Cllr Lowdon.
i. Residents of Manor Farm Estate want a safe crossing: there is no pavement on their side of the road, and it is dangerous crossing the road where the exit is (opposite the brewery) due to the speed of traffic coming off the Hogs Back and up The Street. Cllr Furniss is looking into this, Cllr Murray will put him in contact with the residents concerned.

k. The PC have visited the allotments, a generic letter has been sent advising that we have an extensive waiting list and reminding holders of their duties; we already have two plots handed back. A further visit will be made in August.
l. Water works on The Street: see Matters Arising.
m. Line marking to be done on tarmac area adjoining play areas, e.g. hopscotch; this is to be implemented, and it was noted that regular leaf sweeping would need to be done at certain times of the year.

9. Execution of documents: To consider, if necessary, passing the following resolution: "That the Council do seal in the manner prescribed by law, or the clerk or member as appropriate, do sign on behalf of the Council any Order, Deeds or Documents, required to give effect to any of the matters and recommendations contained in the reports as presented to, and approved by, the Council on 19th June 2023". Proposed: Cllr Buckley, Seconded: Cllr. Gray



Signed: .....
L P Oakley, Chair of meeting, Date: 18/09/2023