signed.

TONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING: Monday 18/09/2023, held at the Old School Hall, Poyle Road, Tongham at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr L Oakley	Cllr M Murray	Mr T Boxall	
Cllr P Buckley	Cllr L Lowdon		
Cllr S Habgood	Cllr E Hall		
Cllr S Gray	Cllr M Furniss		

Clerk: Mrs Jill Smith
18th September 2023

1. Chairman's announcements and apologies for absence: Cllr Furniss apologised on behalf of Cllr S Barker
2. The minutes from the meeting on 17/07/2023 were approved. Proposed Cllr Buckley, Seconded: Cllr. Habgood. Signed by Cllr Oakley.
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: Cllr Furniss reported that the on-demand bus service was launched on 4th September 2023, and was going well and slowly becoming more popular. People can ring to order a ride, £2 per trip (free with a bus pass) within a 5-mile radius. He confirmed that the trips can go across counties but pick up needs to be in Surrey. It will be monitored, and if the demand is high enough, more buses will be added. The Clerk asked if there were any posters that could be used for noticeboards and to put on social media to highlight this service and Cllr Furniss said he would send some through. He also updated on the 20 years and under LINK card which offers 50% off fares. He said it is going to be reduced to £1.25 per trip to encourage more young people to use it and this would be the case for a minimum of 3 years going forward.
   Cllr Furniss talked about the Farnborough airport consultation and urged as many people as possible to comment on it. Clerk will put it on FB.
   He reported that the free bus travel for Ukrainian nationals has been extended until March 2024.
   He reported that Surrey County Council has a grant scheme towards replacing certain commercial vehicles w hich are currently driven on a section of the A3 with an electric vehicle. There is a link on their website.
   He reported that SCC dumps are now accepting DIY waste 2 x 50ltr sack at a time.
   He reported that St Pauls Infant School has applied for expansion to allow it to take up to 11year old children and also reopen the Nursery that recently closed down. The consultation for that is now open. All Cllrs felt this was a very good idea and would support it in any way they could.
   He reported that The Street enhancement programme was hoped to be started 9th October until 3rd November.
   He confirmed a query from the Clerk to clarify that the No Parking in The Street would just be on the pavement and not on the road, following an email the Clerk had from a member of the public.

He also talked about Community funding that he has and confirmed that he would be able to help with some money towards the disabled ramp which is going to be built at the Community Centre. He will send the relevant information through to the Clerk. Cllr Murray asked Cllr Furniss if there was any update on the proposed crossing in The Street from the new houses to enable people to cross safely, he said that realistically it would not be until next year at the earliest, as it needs to be put into the major works fund due to the cost – circa £125k but it had not been forgotten.

Borough: Cllr Furniss explained the Guildford Borough Council had now recruited more staff to its planning department which will hopefully mean that things will start to speed up on the planning front. He explained that the financial situation with GBC seemed to be getting worse from month to month, but they have a meeting in October to talk through plans to get out of the mess. Under the previous administration it seems they did not have any financial controls in place, there was no central financial oversight, and all departments were overspending and taking money out of the reserves to the tune of £20million, which is virtually all the reserve funds that GBC have. They have had to hand back £10million of Covid money back to the government which they had put into their reserves by accident and the budget gap is £2.8million for the next financial year. They are cutting back on funding in dribs and drabs, Concurrent Grant aid all the way down to flower baskets! They have to collect council tax, collect bins and sort our housing, those are the 3 things they need to keep doing. All the leisure stuff will have to go. He said we must let him know if we hear of anyone in council housing who is having problems with any work to be done, especially electrical work.
The clerk had an email from a member of the public who was unable to attend the meeting that he wished to put forward to the council.
Mr Wells asked about the White Hart pub in Tongham, the clerk had been back to him to tell him that the pub had been made an Asset of Community Value, and we have since heard that it has new management and should be open shortly.
Mr Wells asked that now the water works on The Street were finished, how did we go about taking SCC, SEW and Clancy Docwra to task regarding the process – Cllr Furniss reported that the original Desk top study that was done for that amount of pipe work came out at 21 weeks. SCC pushed back and said it was totally unacceptable for that length of time, and SEW then sent teams out to do pressure testing down The Street (which they should have done at the start) and realised that they only had to do 150 meters at the top of the road and the work was done in 4 weeks which was far more reasonable and no-one, especially Clancy Docwra benefitted from it.
Mr Wells also wished to ask the SCC representative about the housing that was going in on the old air field at Wisley and wished to know how to engage the public over the many parishes that would be affected by this – Cllr Furniss and TPC felt this was a bit "closing the door after the horse has bolted" as the housing application has already gone in and the public consultation period had ended at the beginning of September.
Cllr Murray asked Cllr Furniss if he could get plans to show the exact boundaries of Tongham Moors, which he said he would do and send through.
Cllr Habgood asked if Cllr Furniss had any dates for the traffic calming works on Manor Rd/Ash St – he said its all been agreed but they are still awaiting permits to be issued. It could possibly be in February half term week, but to be confirmed once known.

6. Adjournment: Nothing

7. **Finance, Policy and Administration**: Cllr Gray.
    a. FNST for months ending July and August 2023: agreed by all.
    b. 6 monthly budget monitoring: Cllr Gray and Clerk reported that we are slightly above our 6 monthly spend, but it was felt that all was on track for the rest of the year going forward.
    c. Section 137 requests: TCA for a bench £500.00 agreed by all and TCG for cricket screen £500.00.
    d. CGA plans for 24/25: As Cllr Furniss confirmed there will be no CGA going forward although they will honour and money that has already been agreed. It was asked if the Clerk to see if we could extend the end date for the CGA for the disabled ramp at the Community centre. Clerk will contact them as the cost of the disabled ramp has gone up considerably since covid. It was also asked if the Clerk could look into the playground markings that the council had talked about (this is not CGA but was felt it wouldn't be too expensive to do and the Council could pay for that to be done)
    e. Unity bank: Cllr Gray has papers that the Clerk and Chairman need to sign some forms for that, she will arrange a time with them both to get this done.
    f. Register of interests: no change
    g. Any other business/correspondence: None.

8. **PLANNING:** Cllr Murray – Nothing

9. **LIGHTING AND GENERAL PURPOSE**: Cllr Buckley
    a. Fireworks: Nothing has changed on the planning and risk assessment for the evening, the Clerk has contacted the Scouts who will do their usual BBQ and bucket shaking. Cllr Oakley has been in touch with the people who do the rides/candyfloss etc and they are booked in for the evening, so all is going to plan for that. Cllr Oakley will arrange a wood storage compound the same as last year so that members of the public can donate stuff for the bonfire. Clerk will contact HBB to tell them about our event and what day it's on. Cllr Oakley will sort out the fire boxes for this year and it was confirmed there would be no Guy competition.
    b. Autumn newsletter: Cllr Habgood had got a lot of news for the newsletter but needed more information going forward. She will send what she has to all Cllrs for additions.
    c. Update on allotments: letters have been issued and extra time allowed for a holder whose tools were stolen; but the Clerk will monitor.
    d. Lord Lloyd Webber: visit re AONB. Clerk to contact.
    e. Ramp: Planning permission has now been granted. We will do the work as funds allow.
    f. Update on trampoline and drainage work: drainage work done, trampoline to be installed.
    g. Hedgehog highways: decision not to support at this time.
    H .Hanging basket: now fixed, Ash PC depot holding baskets.

7. 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 18th September 2023".
Proposed: Cllr Buckley, Seconded: Cllr. Grey

Signed: .....
L P Oakley, Chair of meeting, Date: ~~11~~16th October 2023

16th