

TONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING: Monday 19/02/2024, held at the Old School Hall, Poyle Road, Tongham at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr L Oakley (Chair)	Cllr L Lowdon	George SCC Flood team	Mrs C Meckiffe
Cllr S Gray	Cllr S Habgood	Mr C Pritchard	Mr D Evans
Cllr M Murray	Cllr E Hall	Mr P Bearman	
Cllr P Buckley	Cllr S Barker	Mr T Boxall	

Clerk: Mr. Zed Watyoka

1. Chairman's announcements and apologies for absence: Cllr Barker apologised on behalf of Cllr Furniss.
2. The minutes from the meeting on 18/12/2024 were approved. Proposed Cllr L Lowdon, Seconded: Cllr. S 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:
 Cllr Sallie Barker and Cllr Furnis had arranged a surgery in the hour preceding the Parish council meeting; they had expected questions regarding the flood on 04/01/2024, so George from the SCC flood team had joined them. SCC are gathering information and would be grateful for any information any residents can give. Mr Evans confirmed that the ditches adjacent to his home had worked well. Cllr Oakley confirmed that The Street and Poyle Road were worst affected. George advised that Surrey CC has recovery grants for victims of the flooding – the deadline for applicants is the 31st of March 2024.
 Cllr Barker advised us there was now a Police case investigating Guilford's Finance and Housing heads, they have stepped down and a new Chief Executive Officer has been appointed for Guilford and Waverly. (Pedro Rebel). A budget has been agreed for the year 2024/25. Cllr Barker will advise us when the consultation is open for the upcoming review on Guilford's Plan. Workshops are planned to assist applications for Crowdfund. Household support grants are available for families that are struggling to meet their needs, £400 is available per family. Cllr Barker will be sworn in as the Mayor in May and has offered to attend the fireworks event.
 Cllr Oakley told the meeting he had been contacted by the Landlady of White Hart, which is up for sale; he has told her that the pub is covered as an Asset of Community Value until 2027, but this only prevents change of use.
6. Adjournment:

Mr Bearman asked that the old wall from Tongham Manor be protected. It is at the front of the new development opposite the brewery and goes round Manor House Flats. He is happy to do some more research. Cllr Oakley advised him that Parish Council powers are very limited, but we can serve as a conduit to GBC/SCC. Cllr Barker will advise Cllr Furniss. Mr Pritchard advised that the area between the shops and Lambourne Way has now been cut back – which is good- but the operatives dumped the cuttings into the ditch or over the fence and it looks awful. Cllr Barker will advise Cllr Furniss. It was also remarked that the islands in this area were very littered and overgrown. Cllr Lowdon advised that workers in her area had been dumping the grass cutting into the fields.

Mrs. Meckiffe – former Clerk of the Moors Trust – handed over a cheque with the balance of the monies from the Moors Trust, which has been taken over by the Parish Council.

7. Reports from sub-committees:

a. Finance, Policy and Administration: Chair: Cllr Gray.

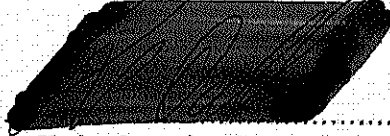
- i. FNST for month December 2023 and January 2024 agreed by all.
- ii. Register of Interest: no changes declared.
- iii. Section 106 funding. There is £88,000 available for spending. Proposed ideas
 - Proper paved access to outdoor gym area
 - New equipment for outdoor gym
 - Fencing round football pitch
 - Upgrade junior play area.
 - Sight screens for Cricket Club
 - Improvement of drainage at the recreation ground. Clerk to complete forms for GBC
 - ramp
- iv. Section 137 request: Tongham Village Hall LED lighting approved. Cllr Gray will seek BACS details from Mrs Meckiffe
- v. REPF funding: the fund is for improving jobs and economy, not suitable for e.g. new chairs for community centre; however, we could consider applying for extending the building on the existing groundwork that has been done to create more space and use them as multipurpose rooms. After discussion it was agreed not to proceed.

b. Planning: Chair Cllr Murray: None.

c. Lighting and General Purposes: Chair Cllr Buckley.

- i. Fireworks: The 2023 firework display was good, but all felt the crowds are growing too large for us to cope with. We will be taking steps to ensure public safety whilst still holding our very popular event. Proposed changes or ideas:
 - St Johns ambulance presence
 - More volunteers / paid stewards to control traffic and movement.

- Maintain the event free and continue with the donations but to restrict advertising to posters and banners to avoid too many outsiders.
 - To use a skip or disposing debris from the bonfire
- ii. Play equipment at The Moors: Cllr Oakley to deal with it before the nesting season. GBC cuts one narrow strip, we will ask for a more thorough cut. TWIG and Blackwater Valley Trust will possibly help.
 - iii. Allotments: Currently they are 23 people on the waiting list. Portaloo to be emptied and a skip placed in. Clerk to action.
 - iv. EV chargers: no suitable site in place at the REC.
 - v. Village clean up: Resident contacted the PC about litter clearance Cllr Oakley confirmed that this is a GBC task. However, we have replied that we would support in setting up a team of volunteers, but the PC cannot organise this at the moment.
8. 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 February 2024".
Proposed: Cllr Murray, Seconded: Cllr. Buckley

Signed: 
L P Oakley, Chair of meeting, Date: