

TONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING: Monday 17/02/2025, held at the Old School Hall, Poyle Road, Tongham at 7.30 pm. PRESENT:

Cllr L Oakley	Cllr M Murray	Cllr M Furniss	
Cllr P Buckley	Cllr L Lowdon	Cllr S Habgood	
Mr T Boxall	Mr D Evans	Mr P Bearman	Ms C Simmonds

Clerk: (Acting) Mrs M Murray.

1. Chairman's announcements and apologies for absence: Cllr Sallie Barker, Cllr Ed Hall and Cllr Sue Gray.
2. The minutes from the meeting on 16/12/2024 were approved. Proposed Cllr Lowdon, Seconded: Cllr Habgood. Signed by Cllr Oakley.
3. Code of conduct: disclosure of interest: None.
4. Register of Interests: No change. 1.
5. Matters arising: none which would not be dealt with in the course of the meeting.
6. County and Borough matters:
 - a. Oxenden Court: is due to be repaired/renewed.
 - b. The pinch point in Poyle Road is to be moved.
 - c. Much clearance has been done on Tongham's roads – appreciative thanks were passed to Cllr Furniss and we requested he pass our thanks to the teams who carried out the work.
 - d. Local Government reorganisation – Cllr Furniss will keep us updated.
 - e. Funding is available for small businesses for apprenticeships. Cllr Furniss can provide more information on request.
 - f. SCC vehicles are being fitted with AI to enable prompt remedial action on potholes and the like.
 - g. Borough: Manor House flats proposal: a new proposal has been prepared, less homes, all trees bar one to be retained. Cllr Furniss will provide us with the dates for a public consultation when available.
 - h. All the drains on the Hogs Back and down The Street have been cleared.
7. Adjournment:
 - a. Mr Boxall advised us that his wife had had a nasty fall on an uneven pavement, he reported this and it was immediately fenced off and repaired the next day. He was appreciative of SCC's swift action.
 - b. Mr Evans asked if there was anything we could do about the graffiti. Cllr Furniss advised that he had reported this, and anyone could go online to the GBC website and make a report.
 - c. Ms Simmonds has made reports regarding the signage on the junction of Poyle Road and White Lane, also she is concerned about light pollution especially at the new pinch point. Cllr Furniss assured the meeting that lights can be adjusted.
 - d. Mr Bearman advised that a bus service was needed that enabled residents of Admiral Park to access amenities. Cllr Habgood will send details of the website for consultation – Transport in the South East.
8. **Reports from working groups:**
 - a. **Finance, Policy and Administration:** Cllr Gray.

1. FNST for December 2024 and January 2025: all agreed.
 2. Section 137 payments: fully utilised.
 3. Section 106: we have been granted sufficient funding to proceed with the new play area (for younger children) and also to complete the scalping pathway to link the ‘horseshoe’ and put a pathway round the outdoor gym.
- b. **PLANNING:** Cllr Murray. Nothing to report.
- c. **LIGHTING AND GENERAL PURPOSE:** Cllr Buckley
- a. Local plan: Cllr Gray has sent round copies of Ash’s plan, we will continue looking into and thinking about this.
 - b. Asset of Community Value: It had been suggested that the Hogs Back Brewery should be made an ACV, we are just waiting to the agreement/opinion of the Brewery.
 - c. Parish in Bloom: it was decided not to enter this year, the expectation being that the village enhancement plans and the graffiti removal will have been accomplished by next year.
 - d. Tree immediately following the billboard area, which is covering hanging baskets: needs a cut back, Cllr Oakley and Mr Bearman will look at this.
 - e. Mayor’s award for service to the community: we are not putting anyone forward this year.
 - f. Retirement of Mr M Heath: Mrs Murray has written to Mr Heath expressing appreciation and thanks for his years of dedicated work, on behalf of Tongham Parish Council and Tongham Community Association.
 - g. Inconsiderate parking in village: outside church, pub and school. Cllr Oakley advised that two wardens had been in action outside the Recreation ground and several people had been ticketed; the parking on these particular yellow lines has improved. He spoke to the wardens and asked that they go up to St Paul’s School at opening/closing times as the selfish parking up there is dangerous. An informal parking survey will be carried out. Also, Cllr Hall spoke to NISA management, to ask if they could help by putting cones out in layby when delivery expected; not always possible, as they do not have an exact time for deliveries.
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 17th February 2025".
 Proposed: Cllr Buckley, Seconded: Cllr Lowdon.

Signed:
 L P Oakley, Chair of meeting, Date: 17th March 2025.

Footnote: Re the school, St Paul’s Tongham is not a priority as many schools are worse than ours. However Cllr Furniss suggests sending photographs of any dangerous parking, particularly on the zig zag lines, as this may help raise our priority.