TONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING: Monday 17/03/2025, held at the Old School Hall, Poyle Road, Tongham at 7.30 pm. PRESENT:

Cllr L Oakley	Cllr M Murray	Cllr M Furniss	Cllr S Gray
Cllr P Buckley	Cllr L Lowdon	Cllr S Habgood	
Mr T Boxall	Mr S Powell	Mr P Bearman	

Clerk: (Acting) Mrs M Murray.

1. Chairman's announcements and apologies for absence: Cllr Sallie Barker, Cllr Ed Hall and Cllr Matt Furniss will be attending, but later.
2. The minutes from the meeting on 17/02/2025 were approved. Proposed Cllr Buckley, Seconded: Cllr Habgood. Signed by Cllr Oakley.
3. Code of conduct: disclosure of interest: None.
4. Register of Interests: No change.
5. Matters arising: none which would not be dealt with in the course of the meeting.
6. County and Borough matters:
    a. .Cllr Oakley brought Cllr Furniss up to date re the discussion started by Mr Powell (see adjournment (b) regarding the general lack of care, e.g. excessive littering, trees/shrubs flailed back and the detritus abandoned. Cllr Habgood advised that she had complained about the ditch adjacent to her home being filled with branches etc, and that following a complaint to Cllr Furniss, this had been removed and made clean.
    b. Cllr Furniss has asked for speed monitoring in The Street at the top end, from the Hogs Back down to the pinch point.
    c. A331/A323 roundabout: works are due to improve this roundabout, Cllr Furniss will keep us informed.
    d. On 28th/29th April, there will be a flooding meeting probably in the community centre held by Surrey County Council and the Environment Agency. More details soon.
    e. Works on Poyle Road are ongoing
    f. Regarding the new Unitary Councils, discussions and plans are ongoing, it is likely that they will replace Borough Councils around 2028/29.
    g. Cllr Murray asked about the tree on the verge outside the electricity station, which interferes with the hanging baskets; Cllr Furniss is happy that the tree is cut back 1 metre or so to prevent this. Mr Bearman kindly offered to carry out the work.
    h. Cllr Habgood brought up parking outside the church, although not breaking any rules there is an issue in that cars exiting the church car park, especially when turning right up Poyle Road, do not have a clear vision of approaching vehicles. Also, people driving up Poyle Road from The Street are often forced into the bus lane across the road from the church by other drivers coming down. She asked whether there was any action SCC could take to make it clearer that thois is a bus stop, not part of the road.
7. Adjournment:
    a. Mr Bearman enquired whether the Clerk was returning; he is not. A discussion ensued about the allotments, he was assured that new Regulations are being

written up and we intend to make regular inspections as a group. He feels strongly that we adopt the Allotment Society rules, and join the Allotment Society. He also enquired whether the hop fields at the Brewery would be developed for Housing; we have no information on when, we think not for some years, but it is our understanding that Taylor Wimpey have purchased the land with development in mind.

b. Mr Powell advised the meeting that he finds the level of anti-social behaviour, e.g. littering, and general lack of care in the village disheartening, all agreed. We as Councillors frequently litter pick when out and about, and although we were all delighted that the pavement down Manor Road and The Street had been cleared, we would all have preferred the detritus to have been removed and dealt with rather than thrown in the ditch.

8. **Reports from working groups:**
   a. **Finance, Policy and Administration**: Cllr Gray.
      1. FNST for February 2025: all agreed.
      2. Mayor's reception: 10.4.25 at 3 pm: Cllrs Oakley and Habgood will attend, MM to advise GBC.
   b. **PLANNING:** Cllr Murray. Nothing to report.
   c. **LIGHTING AND GENERAL PURPOSE:** Cllr Buckley
      a. Local plan: Ongoing. Cllr Buckley will investigate financial support.
      b. Asset of Community Value: Application to be made to GBC to have Tongham Woods adopted as an ACV. Cllr Murray to action.
      c. Paths to link up horseshoe round the Rec ground woods and the outdoor gym: quote received iro £18k, second one expected.
      d. Fireworks night: Cllr Oakley suggested that instead of the bonfire, it would be cheaper, easier and far more environmentally considerate to have the torchlight parade light beacons on arrival at the site. He will have beacons made at two different heights and we will make a trial this year. The banners will need amending.
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 March 2025".
   Proposed: Cllr Lowdon, Seconded: Cllr Gray.

   Signed: ……..
   L P Oakley, Chair of meeting, Date: 19th May 2025.