

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council on Wednesday 20th January 2010 in the village hall

Present:

Councillor Mike Broun (chairman), Councillor Colin Pawson (vice-chairman), Councillor Steve Webb, Councillor Jon Chishick, Councillor James Hutchison, Councillor Miriam Kennett

In attendance:

Parish Clerk, District Councillor Tim Metcalfe

64. Apologies for absence:

None

65. Declarations of interest

None

66. Minutes from last meeting

Minutes of 18th November 2009 agreed as a correct record and signed.

67. Matters arising from the minutes

Cllr Kennet confirmed that she will attend the next Kennet & Thames Vision meeting on 22nd March 2010.

All councillors resolved to carry out the weekly playground inspections in accordance with the rota.

68. S106 update

Cllr Broun reported that the recent bad weather has delayed arranging a meeting with the Millennium Green Trustees to discuss the car park. Cllr Broun is still looking for a suitable waste bin for the park. A traditional bin is approximately £400 and a regular bin is less expensive.

Cllr Pawson has received quotes for the bus shelter. All agreed that the bus shelter is structurally sound so rather than replacing it could be improved by applying a coat of wood treatment. This means the money can be allocated to a different project.

Cllr Pawson confirmed that the company Oak Craft can prepare, supply and install the bandstand. If the quote is agreed then the next step is to submit a planning application to West Berkshire Council. The target date for completion is end of May 2010.

Cllr Pawson summarised the email from West Berkshire Council about the S106 contributions from the Glebe Orchard planning application. The money allocated to 'libraries' cannot be reallocated for 'Highways' projects, despite the parish not having a library.

All agreed that there needs to be a mechanism in which the parish council is consulted to see if they have the facilities/projects for specific contributions to be put towards.

69. Parish plan matters

Cllr Pawson provided an update of the last parish plan meeting. The Village Design Statement (VDS) was discussed in depth. Cllr Webb has contacted other parish councils to find out if their VDS has been beneficial. The replies weren't very positive, although one parish claims their VDS has influenced one planning application. District Cllr Metcalfe commented that, although legislation has changed which means VDSs are not as effective as they were, they will still help to influence the architect's design in planning applications.

All agreed to hold an event to provide information about a VDSs for people in the parish. All decided on a provisional date of early June and to advertise the event around the village, in the magazine and on the website. The event will include a speaker from parish plan steering group, West Berkshire Council VDS officer and perhaps another parish council that has had experience with VDSs.

70. District Councillor Report

District Cllr Metcalfe reported that West Berkshire Council (WBC) activities have been centred on dealing with the extreme weather. Of the 800 miles of road in West Berkshire, WBC could only tackle 300. Twice the amount of salt was used than in previous years, and all the reserves were used up. There will be a full scrutiny on how WBC dealt with the bad weather. Potholes are now a major problem and teams are currently inspecting and filling them in.

He also reported that WBC is going through a major restructure of staff and there has been a £1.5 million overspend on social care for elderly people. The overspend was caused by the Government reducing the amount local authorities are allowed to spend on this service.

Cllr Pawson expressed concern about the grit box on Tidmarsh Lane not being filled up, especially when the road becomes quite dangerous road in icy conditions.

Cllr Pawson suggested an article for the parish magazine about statistics on the bad weather. Cllr Metcalfe agreed to ask District Cllr Betts, as he is responsible for the Highways portfolio.

Cllr Hutchison commented on the delay of the resurfacing of the A340. Because of this delay the painting of the speed camera markings will also be put back. He asked whether the speed camera markings be painted on the road whilst we wait for the resurfacing project. District Cllr Metcalfe will ask District Cllr Betts to send an email to explain this.

71. Planning applications

Presented by Cllr Pawson:

The Inspector at the Green Gables Public Inquiry ruled in favour of the applicant. Cllr Pawson will express the parish council's disappointment at the decision.

No planning applications have been received.

72. Highways, Footpaths and Traffic Matters

Cllr Hutchison confirmed that he is arranging a meeting with Andrew Garrett to discuss the requirements of the Roads & Traffic Group. Cllr Pawson suggested that the Parish Council, the Parish Plan Steering Group and Roads & Traffic Group all meet with Andrew Garrett to discuss 4/5 objectives. The proposals would be sent in advance. All agreed to proceed and invite District Cllr Betts too.

73. Finance

Payments made:

Payee	Description	Amount
J Wheeler	Salary	£484.00
Berks County Blind Society	Donation	£25.00

Payments received:

None

All resolved to set the precept at £7000. This means no increase from the previous year.

74. Pangbourne and District Neighbourhood Action Group

The last meeting didn't take place. Cllr Hutchison to report back after the next meeting.

75. Local Environmental Matters

Cllr Pawson reported that the recent snow and heavy rain has affected river levels. The sluices are under direct control so the water has been cleared.

76. AWE update

Cllr Chiswick attended the meeting on 10th December 2009. AWE confirmed they will be removing the pipeline in the next three months.

77. Matters for further discussion

Cllr Hutchison pointed out that he saw eight officers all looking for speeding cars, which isn't an effective use of resources.

Thefts and burglaries in the area are increasing. Concern was raised of the fact that police officers are rarely seen. Thames Valley Police have arranged a conference to discuss rural crime.

Cllr Kennett confirmed she will proceed with arranging a climate change a film viewing night for the village.

78. Conclusion

Chairman closed the meeting at 10.25pm. The next meeting is the annual assembly followed by a parish council meeting on 17th March 2010.

Date

Chairman