

TIDMARSH WITH SULHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Tidmarsh Village Hall on Wednesday 18th July 2007, commencing at 8.00.p.m.

Present: Mr. M. Broun (Chairman),
Mrs. M. Kennet, Mr. J. Hutchison, Mr. C. Pawson.

Apologies: Mr. S. Webb (holiday).

In Attendance: Clerk to the Parish Council
No parishioners.

20. Declarations of Interest

There were no items on the agenda that resulted in Members, at this stage, declaring either a personal or a prejudicial interest.

21. Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Parish Council

The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th May 2007, having been circulated, were confirmed a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22. Matters Arising on the Minutes

- i. The information that the Chairman undertook to obtain for the application to the Village Speed Reduction for the Sulham review was not yet available.
- ii. Miriam Kennett confirmed acceptance of appointment to the Tidmarsh and Sulham Village Hall Management Committee.

23. To co-opt a Parish Councillor for the ensuing term of office.

Resolved that Jonathan Chiswick of Conyers Green, Tidmarsh, be co-opted to serve as a Parish Councillor for the ensuing term of office.

24. To receive a report from a District Councillor.

There was no District Councillor in attendance and no report had been received. District Councillors were to be requested to submit a written report if their attendance was not possible.

25. To consider Planning Applications and related issues.

There were no planning applications to consider, but the following issues were raised.

The exterior appearance of Tidmarsh Barn had deteriorated, and it appeared that the cladding had been removed. The property is a listed building and should not be permitted to exist in such a state. West Berkshire District Council would be asked to clarify the situation.

The report to the Senior Enforcement Officer in regard to unauthorised commercial activities in Tidmarsh had not yet produced a reply to the second request and a further request would be submitted.

26. To consider any Highways, Footpaths and Traffic Matters.

A recent highway clearance operation had seen the contents of the roadside gutters swept into the middle of the road, from where the passing traffic had blown it back to the gutters. This was considered to be an inadvisable exercise and would be reported to the District Council as a total waste of Council Tax payments.

The highway opposite the Greyhound continued to flood following heavy rainfall, and further requests would be made for this dangerous situation to be alleviated.

The Highway and Capital Programme bids to be submitted to the District Council for the 2008/9 financial year were considered, and it was **resolved** that the exercise would be undertaken by the Chairman.

The request for section 106 funding was **resolved** to be in respect of two Vehicle Activated Signs to be sited alongside the A340 in locations agreed with traffic management.

The local bus service had been considered a low priority by the Parish Plan compilers, but it was agreed that Paul Hyde, the District Council Transport Officer, be requested to let the Parish Council know of any improvements that may be available.

27. To resolve to purchase a parish council notice board.

The Chairman had experienced difficulty in obtaining three quotations for the supply and erection of a replacement parish council notice board. Specific requests from suppliers had not been complied with and there was insufficient information available to make a decision.

Resolved that the Chairman be authorised to purchase a notice board for the parish of Tidmarsh in accordance with the already agreed specifications at a cost not exceeding £1,300. *(If difficulties were encountered, the matter would be finalised at the next meeting.)*

28. Pangbourne and District Neighbourhood Action Group

Councillor James Hutchison, the Parish Council representative, had not been informed of the meeting held earlier this day and consequently had not attended.

A brief review of the previous meeting included mention of the motor cycle activity in Sulham Woods and the coordination of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

29. Parish Plan

The Chairman reported that Councillor Colin Pawson had presented the Tidmarsh and Sulham Parish Plan to the meeting of the Eastern Area Forum held on 4th July, and the document had been formally adopted by the District Council.

30. **Appointment of a representative to serve on the AWE Liaison Committee**

Resolved that Councillor Jonathan Chiswick be appointed to represent the Parish Council on the AWE Parish Liaison Committee.

31. **Local Environmental Matters.**

There were no matters requiring attention.

32. **To Resolve to Adopt the Code of Conduct for Members with effect from 18th July 2007**

The new model Code had been amended by the inclusion of paragraph 12(2), which provides a parish councillor with the right to make representations, answer questions and give evidence like a member of the public when a member has a prejudicial interest. It will also be necessary to reflect this amendment in Standing Orders. The provision is conditional on allowing the public to speak at meetings. The following is an extract from the Standards Board explanation.

If your authority wishes paragraph 12(2) to apply, it will need to pass a resolution adopting the Model Code of Conduct including paragraph 12(2) or, if your authority is a parish or town council, adopt the Standards Board's Model Code of Conduct for parish and town councils 2007. It is not enough to adopt, for example, "the Code as applicable to parish councils", as paragraph 12(2) is not mandatory for parishes and they must therefore expressly 'opt-in' for it to have effect.

If paragraph 12(2) is included in your authority's Code, the Standards Board recommends that, in order to provide clarity, standing orders or procedural rules should be in place which clearly set out the circumstances in which members of the public can attend meetings of the authority to make representations, give evidence or answer questions.

If your authority does not provide members of the public with any right to speak, paragraph 12(2) will have no effect at your authority. This means that members with a prejudicial interest would have to continue to leave the meeting after declaring the nature and extent of their interest.

- Resolved**
- i. That the Parish Council adopts the new Model Code of Conduct with effect from 18th July 2007, including paragraph 12(2).
 - ii. That all Members be made aware of the requirement to renew their registration of interests.
 - iii. That at the next review period, Standing Orders are amended to reflect the revised procedural requirements for public attending and speaking at meetings.

33. **Financial Matters:**

i. Accounts Reconciliation

The account reconciliation statement for the period ended 30th June 2007 was presented, and appears as an appendix to the official minutes.

ii. Accounts for Payment

Resolved that the item listed below be approved for payment,
such sum to be debited to the account of the Parish Council.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Accounting Solutions Ltd. | |
| Internal Audit service 2006/2007. | £129.75 |

34. Conclusion

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.52 p.m.

Chairman
19th September 2007