

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council



Minutes of the Meeting

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council on

Wednesday 13th December 2023, at 8.00pm, in Tidmarsh Village Hall.

Present: (Chairman) Cllr Jonathan Chishick (**JC**)

Cllr Sima Elliot (**SE**), Jonathon Pearson (**JP**), Cllr Bronwyn Wynne (**BW**), Cllr Mark Farrington (**MF**)

In attendance: 2 members of the public

23/112 Apologies for absence – Janine Lewis (**Clerk**) attending WBC meeting and Matt Shakespeare (**MS**) out of the country on business

BW agreed to take the minutes

23/113 Declaration of interests from Councillors – none

23/114 Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2023 –

Subject to amendment of 23/105 vi to read:

JP went to PaWS meeting in October and was impressed by it. Potential for orchards, mini copses, more dew ponds, shared spaces. Concern regarding car parking.

Seconded by **SE, JC, MF, BW**

23/115 Public Forum

I. Manor Farm Development

JC read an e-mail from **MS** who had attended a meeting on 13/12/2023 with officials from the Planning Enforcement Office at WBC pertaining to the enforcement notice. They are reviewing the matter and will be back in contact with **MS** on Friday. **MS** is actively pursuing the matter and will report back next week.

II. The proposed Budget for 2023/2024 for WBC is on the WBC website and there are many challenges on the budget and cuts are being proposed. **MS** encouraged people to look at proposals and submit comments.

III. One of the members of the public stated that the presentation in the Village Hall by Mr Richard McCarthy on Sunday 19 November had been in response to various residents asking him to present his plans to the village. At that meeting Mr McCarthy had stated that he wanted to implement all his plans or nothing. An alternative to his building plans would be to pursue agriculture which would be both loud and odorous. It was noted that his plans for dog kennels/dog day care would also be noisy and could impact on surrounding property values. If he cannot implement his plans he would sell and the village could be faced with possibly a more awful future than his proposed plans.

IV. The same member of the public also highlighted the fact that due to heavy rainfall a section of the brick paving behind the new cottages in Manor Farm Lane had experienced subsidence. The dip in the paving was now forming an area for water collection and the cottages were having problems with drainage.

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- V. They also highlighted the fact that on the WBC website in respect of the present planning application for Manor Farm – the demolition of the Rancher and the replacement thereof by 2 houses – an official from Highways had commented on the parking provision on the site. It was not adequate and that there should be 2 parking bays per house and a reasonable turning circle on the site for vehicles to prevent vehicles reversing from the property on to Manor Farm Lane. No mention of traffic was made in connection to the junction of Manor Farm Lane and the A340.
- VI. There was a question of trust with Mr Richard McCarthy. He hasn't abided by enforcement notices and he says he is only going to develop the land in accordance with his present plans. Is he to be believed?
- VII. The second member of the public advised the Council that he had written to Nigel Lynn WBC, MP Alok Sharma and MP Michael Gove and had copied in **MS** on all correspondence. He had advised and highlighted the failure of the WBC Planning Enforcement Officials to take action and that the public were becoming angry at the lack of action. Public opinion was that no action was due to either incompetence or corruption. Replies to the e-mails had been received by that member of the public from all recipients. Despite the apparent lack of action there would appear to be action and discussions taking place behind the scenes.
- VIII. **JP** made a suggestion to think outside the box and proposed various ideas to take action against the WBC.
- IX. **JC** advised that **MS** must be given the opportunity to take action. He was serious in trying to push the matter forward but was experiencing difficulties and challenges as he was for the most part acting remotely.
- X. Mention was made concerning the size of advertising signage by Mr McCarthy promoting his possible future plans. Did it comply with regulations?

23/116 District Councillor's Report

- I. **MS** e-mail read out by **JC** concerning Manor Farm and Budget matters.
- II. Manor Farm matters had been discussed during the Public Forum.
- III. **MS** highlighted possible budget cuts to litter and dog bins and to the clearing of drains and gully clearance. Tidmarsh has various litter bins and dog bins.
- IV. **JC** suggested that a list of the various bins should be made together with which body paid for those bins and the clearance thereof. Once those facts were clear objections could be made in regard to any reduction in bin provision.
- V. Reduction in the clearance of drains and gullies in Tidmarsh was not an option. The area is in a flood risk zone. **SE** highlighted that the very name of the village Tidmarsh should indicate that flooding was a risk. It was agreed that all councillors would independently each submit an objection to the reduction in the clearance of drains and gullies in Tidmarsh.
- VI. The proposed cutbacks may impact on the repair to potholes. There was a need to report the presence of potholes online as soon as possible.
- VII. A formal objection to cutbacks which impact on the village could be submitted by **JC** by the deadline date of midnight 11/1/2024 the day after the next parish meeting.

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23/117 Chairman's Report

JC advised that he had received notice from the Clerk that due to her heavy workload at WBC she would not be able to continue with her role as Clerk. He had exchanged correspondence with her and there was a possibility that Karen Fontaine may take on the role.

23/118 Parish Councillors' Report

SE reported back on the plaque for the commemorative bench and provided photographs of the possible plaque which would cost about £68.00.

SE mentioned that the Village Christmas Tree looked like it may be dying. This would be mentioned to the Millenium Green Management Team.

JP suggested that the agreement to purchase the tree should be reviewed to see if there were any obligations on the seller in this regard.

MF reported back that people were using the Millenium Green with their dogs. The sign on the gate stating NO DOGS should be moved to the fence as when the gate is open the sign is not seen.

The rota for checking on the Millenium Green, the picnic benches and the play equipment wasn't operational due to resignations and a new rota would be created by **JC** for 2024.

MF volunteered to check the Green between now and the end of 2023.

BW volunteered to check the Green in January 2024.

SE highlighted odd behaviours noted in the village. Door bells being rung in the early hours of the morning; people purporting to be conducting crime surveys
uninvited persons on Oak Farm.

MF reported on intimidating behaviour.

JC advised of his personal loss of his caravan in the village stolen while parked on the verge outside of The Grange due to exceptional circumstances. Residents to be vigilant.

JP mentioned that in the e-mail received from the Clerk about the meeting in Tilehurst about Sulham Estates mention was made about an attachment. He couldn't locate said attachment.

No council email addresses have been established for **MF** and **BW**.

23/119 Clerks Report

The gate post in the area near The Grange had been repaired.

23/120 Review Tasks Report

Gate post repaired.

Other tasks **JC** reported related mainly to the Millenium Green and **JC** would follow those up.

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23/121 Planning Applications

No decision has been taken in regard to the Manor Farm Development.

A planning notice Application no: 23/0271/FUL had been sent to **SE** regarding the demolition of Nightingales and a new house built. Objections to be submitted by 29/12/23. **SE** knows that there is a covenant on the property in relation to its height. It was agreed that the application would be reviewed online by all councillors and objections could be sent if required.

23/122 Financial Matters

- I. Insurance for the Millenium Green had been paid.
Insurance for the mower in the amount of £139.60 is to be paid. All agreed.
Dog Bin Clearance costs £19.33 agreed to be paid.
Battery replacement costs of £9.83 agreed to be paid.
- II. At present the Parish has incurred expenditure in the amount of £7000 and has a budget of £11000. All approved the budget monitoring report.

23/123 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 10 January 2024 at 8pm. **SE** advised she could not attend. A list of future dates of meetings was presented to all councillors. **JC** advised he would be away in March and April and would not be able to attend meetings during that period.

23/124 No further business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.15pm.

Signed: _____ Date: **TBA 10th January, 2024**