

TITCHMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on Thursday 15th January 2004 at 7.30p.m. in the Chapel, Chapel Street, Titchmarsh.

Councillors Present: Ian Curtis (Chairman) Sylvia Prestwich (Vice Chair)
Julie Cheney Gina Gaskin
Janet Jones John Pridmore
Vince Smith David Walpole

In Attendance: Jane Teague (Clerk)

1.0 Apologies For Absence: Michael Alderman

2.0 Declaration of Interests: Gina Gaskin declared her interest in agenda item 8.0. Playing Fields Committee. Julie Cheney declared her interest in the item of correspondence regarding an application by T-Mobile for telephone mast sharing.

3.0 Minutes of Last Meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 18th December were approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman. Proposed by JP, seconded by GG.

4.0 Matters Arising:

4.1 Traffic Calming

GG wished to record that four villagers had informed her of their opposition to additional white lines marked on village roads and to any further urbanisation of the village. GG proposed that the Parish Council ascertain the implementation date for the white line marking from Highways Department, ensuring that it would allow time for any formal objections, from the Titchmarsh Times article, to be made and considered. Seconded by JJ. Clerk to contact Highways Dept

CLERK

5.0 Finance

5.1 Accounts for Payment

Bosworths Garden Centre, village Xmas tree	£70.00
Powergen, cost of street lighting	£316.70
Jane Teague, Clerk's salary for December	£144.00

It was resolved that all accounts be paid. Proposed GG, seconded SP.

CLERK

It was suggested that the Clerk's salary be paid by Standing Order from the bank account with effect from February 2004. Proposed by GG, seconded by SP, all agreed. Clerk to prepare letter to bank for signing in accordance with mandate.

**CLERK/
IC/SP or GG**

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 Letter from FPD Savills seeking Parish Council views on potential site sharing of existing Orange PCS mast by T-Mobile at Coles Lodge Farm, Huntingdon Road, Thrapston. As the proposal is for sharing an existing site and it is not situated in a populated area, VS proposed that the Parish Council responds favourably to Savills' enquiry. Seconded by JP. Clerk to confirm to Savills that the Parish Council has no objections to the potential site.

CLERK

- 6.2 Letter from NCC Atkins – “Parish Highway Representative Scheme – Future Development”. Proposal for a nominated Parish Council to host one of the monthly meetings. It was agreed that Titchmarsh Parish Council would volunteer to host a meeting. Clerk to reply. **CLERK**
- 6.3 Letter from Northants Police Authority inviting views on their budget proposals for 2004/2005. The draft proposals are available on their website and it was suggested that Councillors access this should they wish to do so.
- 6.4 Letter from ENC “Young People’s Issues in East Northamptonshire” advising that they have appointed a Youth Champion- Councillor Michelle Goring. ENC undertakes to pass to the Parish Council issues of particular interest to young people.
- 6.5 Letter from Defra, the Minister for Rural Affairs and Local Environmental Quality, The Right Hon. Alun Michael MP. In his capacity of Minister for the Horse, the letter gave information about how equine issues are dealt with in Government. The issues included horse passports, medicines and database, off-road access for equestrians, and ragwort. Defra has launched a website, www.defra.gov.uk/rural/horses on which comments were invited. A summary of this information will be included in the next issue of Titchmarsh Times. **CLERK/IC**
- 6.6 Letter from ENC – “Concessionary Fares Scheme 2004/2005” detailing the two schemes available: travel tokens or a free half fare mandatory bus pass. Poster to be displayed on noticeboard (Clerk) and information included in Titchmarsh Times (IC). **CLERK/IC**
- 6.7 Of the 21 households contacted about proposed new street lighting near to their homes, 13 responses were received. These items of correspondence were read out under agenda item 10.0 Village Improvements.
- 6.8 The remaining items of correspondence received were listed and placed in the float file for circulation to Councillors. **ALL**
- 7.0 **Planning**
- 7.1 Outcome of previous applications: No responses received from ENC.
- 7.2 New application: EN/03/01563/PNA/PTMM – erection of steel framed straw barn at Village Farm, North Street. Vote taken, all in favour therefore application supported. Clerk to complete response to ENC. **CLERK**
- 7.3 New application: EN/03/01635/FUL/PPXB – two storey and single storey rear extension and front porch at Vine Cottage, 34 Polopit. Councillors had reservations about the design of the front porch. Vote taken, seven in favour and one against the proposal, therefore application supported. Clerk to complete response to ENC, noting the reservations expressed regarding the front porch. **CLERK**
- 8.0 **Playing Fields Committee**
- 8.1 Proposal to establish a Parish Council committee
General discussion in which all Councillors affirmed the playing fields as a valuable village asset to be retained. Agreed in principle to take over the management of the playing fields through a sub-group of Titchmarsh Parish Council. Proposed by GG, seconded by DW, all agreed. Clerk to write to Caroline Thompson, Chair of the PFC. **CLERK**
GG also asked the Clerk to contact the Clerk to Lowick Parish Council to ascertain how their Pocket Park/Playing Field is run. **CLERK**

- 8.2 Request for £2k loan to cover legal fees in respect of extension of lease
The PFC requested assistance in this matter pending receipt of the grant from the FA upon which the loan would be repaid in full. DW proposed that the request be agreed, seconded by JP, all in favour. Clerk to confirm to Chair of the PFC and advise that the invoice should be made out to Titchmarsh Parish Council. **CLERK**
- 9.0 St Mary's Church**
- 9.1 A letter had been received from the Parochial Church Council expressing their gratitude for the offer of support from the Parish Council. The PCC confirmed that they would like the Parish Council to put the case in favour of replacing Reverend Trenchard to the Archbishop. Clerk to prepare letter. **CLERK**
- 10.0 Village Improvements**
- 10.1 Street Lighting
As detailed under item 6.0 Correspondence, of the 21 households contacted about proposed new street lighting near to their homes, 13 responses were received. The responses were mixed, ranging from wholehearted support to total rejection. The Clerk read all written responses in full to Councillors and recounted the verbal responses.
- 10.2 After lengthy discussion, GG proposed that a new light should be installed opposite numbers 87 and 89 High Street at London End. Seconded by JC, all in favour. Clerk to write to the occupants of numbers 87 and 89 High Street and instruct ABB Ltd to install the light. **CLERK**
- 10.3 SP proposed that ABB Ltd be instructed to replace the visors on the existing streetlights along Chapel Street. (UV damage to the visors causes them to deteriorate and the light given out is impaired.) The impact of this low cost measure should then be evaluated. Seconded by JP, All in favour. Clerk to write to the householders to advise outcome and instruct ABB Ltd to replace the relevant visors. **CLERK**
- 10.4 It was further agreed that the proposed installation of all remaining streetlights should not be progressed at this time but should be reviewed in conjunction with the Parish Plan. These include: 27 Polopit, 9 Chapel Street, 2/2a High Street, opposite 39 High Street, opposite 12 St Andrews Lane, 8 St Andrews Close. Proposed by JC, seconded by JP, all in favour. Clerk to write to householders to advise outcome. **CLERK**
- 10.5 Dog Fouling
Concern was expressed at the apparent increase once again in this unpleasant problem. Following discussion, DW proposed that dog waste bins should be provided, near the entrance to the playing field and possibly elsewhere. Further penalty warning signs should be positioned around the village. Seconded by JJ, all in favour. **CLERK**
- 10.6 It was further proposed by GG that the Clerk contact the Dog Warden at ENC for advice in this matter and that the Dog Warden be asked to address a Parish Council meeting, if he/she considered there to be a benefit in doing so.
- 10.7 Underground Cabling
This had been suggested as an agenda item by MA who was not present at this meeting, The Chairman elected to defer this matter to the February meeting. All in favour.

- 10.8 Best Kept Village Initiative
The Chairman advised that information on conditions for entry will be received later in the year and proposed that the item be discussed when these details are to hand. All agreed.
- 11.0 Parish Plan**
11.1 Report from Steering Committee
VS informed Councillors that a taster campaign to stimulate interest had commenced. In accordance with ACRE requirements, a contribution of £270 was sought from the Parish Council, representing 5% of the Parish Plan budget. VS therefore proposed that the Parish Council allocate £270 to the Parish Plan Committee to fund initiatives. Seconded by SP, all in favour. Clerk to write to John Gaskin, Chairman, and Ian Teague, Treasurer, to confirm this. **CLERK**
- 12.0 Conservation Area**
12.1 Details had been received of an extensive Conservation Area Programme to be embarked upon by ENC. As part of the consultation process, Parish Councils were being asked their views on which areas they would like to see given Conservation Area status. A questionnaire was included for completion.

Councillors felt that there had been insufficient time to give this matter due consideration and asked the Clerk to request an extension of the due date from the end of January to the end of February. If ENC declined this request then the questionnaire would be completed based on discussion at this meeting, as a result of which the following areas were proposed by GG:
- Top Green, including the Engine House and Pound
 - The verge on the approach into the village along Church Street where the Jubilee bench is positioned
 - The pasture between London End and Polopit
- Seconded by SP, all in favour. Clerk to contact ENC. **CLERK**
- 13.0 Reports from Local Organisations**
13.1 Clubroom
JP advised that work is due to start 19.1.04 for approximately six weeks.
13.2 Village website
SP reported that this is well on the way to being launched towards the end of February/beginning of March.
- 14.0 Date of Next Meeting**
Thursday, 19th February 2004 at 7.30 p.m. in the Chapel.
- 15.0 Councillors Review**
- The abundance of leaves in Chapel Street (Church Street end) may block drains and cause problems in heavy rain. **CLERK**
 - Are there any guidelines for utilising the grit/salt bins in the village? **CLERK**
 - SP advised that the minutes displayed on the noticeboard should be annotated "Not yet accepted" as this does not happen formally until the start of the next meeting, as agenda item 3.0. **CLERK**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50 p.m.