

TITCHMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 15 July 2010 The Clubroom, High Street, Titchmarsh

Councillors Present: Ian Teague (Chair) John Greig
Ian Curtis Julie Cheney
Geoff Love Bert Ash
Gina Gaskin Michael Alderman

In Attendance: Emma Morehen (Clerk)
PCSO Butter arrived at 7.30 pm and left at 7.45 pm

2010/07/1 **Public Open Time** PCSO Butter attended the meeting and delivered a short report on recordings of crime within the area. April to June 2010 has seen 8 burglaries reported and committed within the East Northants Area. This geographical area includes some 43 villages. This recording of crime is a 64% reduction based on the same period in 2009. A mobile police station will be visiting the village week commencing 19 July and will be situated on the village green. PCSO Butter agreed to send a summary of Police activity to John Greig for inclusion in TT. The matter of Neighbourhood Watch was also discussed, which at times appears to be inactive.

2010/07/2 **To receive apologies for absence:** SP on holiday. Members accepted SP apologies

2010/07/3 **Declaration of Interests for items contained on the Agenda:** None noted

2010/07/4 **Minutes of Last Ordinary Meeting:** All agreed minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2010, to be an accurate record. MA proposed and IC seconded that the Chair sign them

2010/07/5 **Matters Arising (for information purposes only):**

2010/07/5.1 **Collapsed Wall Church Street** Repairs to wall by MGWSP, now completed

2010/07/5.2 **Vegetation in church Street** Parishioner requested clarification whether the exposed stumps to the stone wall in Church Street, where the large elder bush has been cut back, will be removed or made good, as the area currently looks unfinished. Also request received if the ivy growing up the telephone pole could be removed to prevent further growth and possible interference with the telephone wires. JG volunteered to remove the ivy. Clerk to contact MGWSP request clarification regarding the treatment of the stumps. Regarding any further removal of vegetation on the raised bank, no further instructions received.

2010/07/6 **Finance to approve the accounts paid and due for payment**
Payments to authorise:

NCALC	Training courses:- Clerk – Law and Finance September 2010 Clerk – Meeting procedures and Code of Conduct October 2010 Chairman – chairmanship training July 2010	£75.00
NCALC	Intensive CiLCA training course Saturday 14 August and Sunday 15 August 2010 – Clerk	£300.00
EON	Electricity for street lighting May 2010	£122.62
Bosworth's Garden Centre	Christmas tree	£88.13
Aylesbury Mains	Remedial Works to Street lighting	£793.52
Sylvia Prestwich	Sundry items for Welcome Packs	£39.06
E Morehen	Clerks salary paid by standing order June 2010	£198.80
Receipts		
TVSA	Annual rent for the lease of the Engine House	£100.00

2010/07/6.1 MA proposed that payments be made. JG seconded, all in favour.

2010/07/7

Correspondence

Letter from ENC – residential land availability 2010 Summarising the annual monitoring of all residential developments in the district. The letter details the number of residential units that have been completed, the number under construction and also any new planning permissions. Details placed in float file for individual review.

2010/07/7.1 **Letter from ENC – Big Lottery Funding available for Wild-life related projects** ENC have announced that there is funding available for wild-life related projects, which will either improve natural spaces or help people to enjoy them. Details noted.

2010/07/7.2 **CCP use of clubroom for children's activities** As per minute number 2010/06/15₁. Notification received from CCP advising that they have taken it upon themselves to cancel the CCP Summer sessions held in the Clubroom due to the dispute over the costs relating to the cleaning of the floor following the Easter session. Matter to be discussed by PC at August meeting and how best to resolve this matter, and future relationships with CCP. GL to suggest to Clubroom Committee for a note to be placed in TT advising that the

- 2010/07/8.1 **Affordable Housing – Details regarding sale of Land in Tofts Close to Northants Rural Housing (NRH) for Affordable Housing Scheme** A discrepancy has arisen over ownership of the boundary wall in Tofts Close where the proposed Affordable Housing development is planned. The wall remains in the ownership of East Northants Council, therefore creating a ransom strip. Following discussion of the matter at recent Finance Sub Committee meeting at ENC, the Council have declined to sell this ransom strip to NRH because it is believed its commercial value would not be fully realised in the current economic climate. Further update on the situation to be provided at the next PC meeting. (Detailed information regarding this point can be found on the village website under “current affairs)
- 2010/07/8.2 **Details from ENC re: Appeal Process against applications which have been granted** ENC advised the following information *“As far as it is understood, there is no right of appeal for third parties. Should the Parish Council wish to challenge a planning decision, this can only be done via the high courts. Legal Services at ENC would be able to provide details of the costs involved. ENC advised that if the possible appeal related to Toft Close, the application has not been determined yet, as ENC are still waiting for the S106 agreement and any challenge can only be launch after the decision is issued.”* Details noted
- 2010/07/9 **Titchmarsh Village Shop Association Outcome of Inspection** Engine House Working Party carried out inspection and reported the following:-
- Update from last inspection:- Ivy on exterior walls has been removed.
A screen to hide/protect the external air con unit has been erected.
 - The premises were in good repair and well decorated.
 - A small area of the exterior wall overlooking the Pound needs pointing. Several bee holes were seen in the exterior wall overlooking The Green, which need filling.
- As per clause 5.1 of the lease which refers to the responsibility for repairs, the tenant is responsible for the above matters. Since the inspection, TVSA have confirmed that the matters have now been dealt with under their responsibility.
- 2010/07/9.1 **Paperwork relating to Shop premises** Clerk confirmed receipt of outstanding documentation namely; completion certificate and fire risk assessment. Details noted and on file
- 2010/07/9.2 **Request by TVSA for a sign** to be erected on the gable end wall of the Engine House directing shoppers to the shop entrance. Clerk advised TVSA that whilst the details of this request can be noted, as it has not appeared on the agenda for discussion at this months meeting, no decisions would be taken at July meeting, however the clerk advised TVSA that now the village was subject to Conservation area status, erection of any signage would need to be discussed with ENC planning department initially. Matter deferred to August agenda.
- 2010/07/10 **Increased HGV activity in Huntingdon Road** Monitoring of the increased parking to Huntingdon Road has been noted and referred to NCC highways department. The increased HGV’s appear to be emanating from Haldens Parkway. NCC advised the PC that it is difficult to police the parking due to the irregular pattern and enforcement visits do not necessarily coincide with the parking. NCC hopes to target the perpetrators better if they can see a pattern as there is a necessity for out of hour’s enforcement visits. NCC has noted the information received and it will be acted upon. Update to be provided at the next PC meeting.
- 2010/07/11 **PC Elections 2011** GL produced a detailed and informative article to be included in TT giving a Councillors view of being a member of the PC, in order to promote interest for next year’s PC elections.
- 2010/07/11.1 **NCALC information re: PC elections 2011** The National Association of Local Councils produce an election toolkit every four years. The last one (2007) is available at:-
<http://www.nalc.gov.uk/Toolkits/Democracy/Elections.aspx>
There are plans to produce something for the 2011 elections but NCALC are unsure when this will be published. They have toyed with a campaign themselves in the past, but believe a county-wide body could put in a lot of effort and incur a lot of cost with road show and the like and not make very much difference. Far better for each community to mount their own campaign which is far more likely to pay dividends. Diary note for clerk to include this as an agenda item for November 2010.
- 2010/07/12 **Insurance cover query re: Playing Field Association** The Playing Field Association have requested clarification regarding insurance cover. The contractors working at the school have

requested if they can place a container in the far corner of the car park at the playing field. They are short on space and have approached the playing field for assistance. Request queried with the PC insurers who have advised *“provided that the PC are satisfied that the car park will remain safe to the public and vehicles with the container in place then they do not foresee any problems. However the insurers suggested that it maybe worth while appointing someone to monitor the situation whilst the work is in progress”* Detailed noted.

- 2010/07/13 **Maintenance of The Pound Garden** Members expressed concern that the Pound Garden is looking rather overgrown. The area is currently maintained on a volunteer basis. GG to speak to volunteer to ask if they wish to continue in this role and if so if a good tidy up and cut back of the area could be carried out. GG to report at the next PC meeting the outcome of the conversation. Otherwise PC to discuss possibilities for more formal arrangements for maintenance of this area.
- 2010/07/14 **H & S inspection report of village assets** JG reported to the PC that he has carried out an inspection of assets. Most items appear to be in order, though attention required to the village benches which are covered in lichen and the wrought iron ends require painting. Members agreed that this matter be referred to MGWSP and for this task to be carried out under the Parish Enhancement Gangs remit. The dog waste bins also require cleaning. Clerk to make enquiries with ENC/MGWSP whose area of responsibility this is.
- 2010/07/15 **Plot 15 Islington Allotments** Plot holder contacted clerk to advise that she wishes to relinquish her plot, due to husbands ill health has been unable to maintain plot to a satisfactory standard. Following an inspection of the plot by clerk, IT and GL, it was noted that a substantial clearance programme is required before the plot can be divided in to possibly 3 separate plots and re-let. Agreed prior to August meeting for all the members to meet on site, inspect the area, and discuss the way forward.
- 2010/07/16 **Feedback following JG attendance at Local council’s Conference – 16 June 2010** Details placed in float file
- 2010/07/17 **Grant Awarding policy** Draft policy appears to be missing from float file. Clerk to re-circulate to members for their individual comments.
- 2010/07/18 **Annual report** Draft report approved by members. Clerk to amend as per comments, this will then be placed on the village website.
- 2010/07/19 **State of roads and verges around the village due to horse mess** Report noted that there appears to be an increasing amount of horse manure on the road and verges around the village. Polite note to be placed in TT asking for horse owners to be courteous.
- 2010/07/20 **Articles for Titchmarsh Times**
- Confirmation of conservation area designation granted to village from 14 June 2010
 - Article promoting the PC regarding PC elections 2011 – already noted minute number 2010/07/11
 - Summary re: affordable housing
 - Summary re: relocation of cattle market
- 2010/07/21 **Date of next meeting** Thursday 19 August 2010 meeting commencing at 7.30 pm (unless a planning meeting is required to be called in the meantime) Venue: The Clubroom, High Street, Titchmarsh. Members please note; meet at Islington allotment ground at 7.00pm prior to the meeting to inspect plot 15 – as per minute number 2010/07/15
- 2010/07/22 **Items for report only**
None noted
The Chair closed the meeting at 9.00 pm

1 **Use of Clubroom for CCP sessions** Clerk reminded members that the next CCP sessions for the summer programme will take place in July/August. Clerk has contacted Clubroom out of courtesy to ask if they are prepared to honour the bookings in light of the dispute that has arisen over an unpaid bill for additional cleaning charges to the floor following the last CCP session. No response received from clubroom to advise otherwise. GL to clarify with clubroom committee