

TITCHMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 16 October 2008 in the Clubroom

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

John Greig and Julie Cheney attending Affordable Housing Seminar at ENC 7.15pm to 8.15pm and will join meeting after seminar has concluded

In Attendance: Emma Meen (Clerk)

2008/010/1 **Public Open Time** As there were no members of the public present, the Chair deemed public open time to be closed

2008/10/2 **Apologies For Absence:**

2008/10/3 **Declaration of Interests for items contained on the Agenda:** IT expressed a personal interest in agenda point 2008/10/11 Titchmarsh Village Shop Association and item under correspondence. Declaration of Interests book duly signed by IT.

2008/10/4 **Minutes of Last Meeting:** All agreed minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2008 to be an accurate record. IC proposed and MA seconded that the Chair sign them.

2008/10/5 **Matters Arising (for information purposes only):**

2008/10/5.1 **Affordable Housing Update** received from Joanne Richardson - Northants Rural Housing (NRH) advising that ENC are meeting with Merchant Venturers (MV) who have suggested some sites for open market housing. NRH feel that this may be the only way forward for a planning obligation for affordable housing. Members expressed concern to this statement which implies that MV are considering offering land for open market development with an area designated for Affordable Housing. Clerk to chase and ask for further details.

2008/10/5.2 **Wheatsheaf Sign on the A605 Sign** now removed

2008/10/5.3 **Report of Abandoned Horse Lorry in Polopit** Matter reported to NCC highways, ENC and Police who all advise that very little action can be taken as the vehicle is taxed. SP making enquiries to locate the owner of vehicle for a direct approach.

2008/10/5.4 **Removal of Overhead electric cables to parts of the village** Works are progressing very slowly. JG has personally expressed dis-satisfaction at how slow the works are progressing and has complained personally as a parishioner to EON direct.

2008/10/5.5 **Highways – update from NCC** John Trimble from NCC Highways advised that HGV no parking signs at the junction in Islington/Church Street are now in place. Now that the signs have been erected the Order can be sealed and therefore enforcement by parking attendants can be implemented. Members commented on the reduction of HGV's parked in Huntingdon Road though HGV's are still passing along Islington, though this has also reduced.

2008/10/5.6 **Clerks course – update** Clerk reported that course is progressing well with the first module completed and verified by assessor who has been awarded first module. A topic note has been circulated to all clerks from NCALC regarding the banking crisis and this is included in the float file.

2008/10/5.7 **EON – Electricity Bill** Matter of outstanding electricity bill for the period January to September 2008 has now been resolved. EON have issued a bill and this is included below under payments to authorise.

2008/10/5.8 **Titchmarsh Glebe Land** Letter received from the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) in response to TPC letter expressing objection to possible sale of parts of Titchmarsh Glebe. DBF responded by advising that there are no current plans to sell any of the glebe land in the village or to sell any options to purchase. DBF thanked TPC for expressing objection due to the implications of any further development and possible expansion of the existing industrial site which edges the village. Copy of letter forwarded to PCC for their information

2008/10/5.9 **Feedback from ENC Re: Grass Cutting Contractors** ENC responded to concerns TPC raised over Health and Safety issues relating to the contractors employed to

cut the grass. ENC advised that the comments made have been relayed to Turney Landscapes (TL) and the comments have been noted. ENC confirm that the appropriate risk assessments have been completed which they are satisfied with.

2008/10/5.10

Parish Council Website Members to give further consideration to profiles for inclusion on the website as these are now out of date and 3 members do not have details about themselves on the web site. Defer to next meeting.

2008/10/5.11

Daffodil, crocus and snowdrop bulbs – donations from two Parishioners Quantity of daffodil bulbs have been donated by a Parishioner. Members suggested for these to be planted along the verge in to Islington. A further quantity of crocus and snowdrop bulbs have also been donated by a parishioner and these will be planted around the concrete planters on the 4 entrances to the village and beneath the village sign. Bulb planting to be held once again on Sunday 2nd November between 10.00 and 12.00 noon assembling at Newbrook Farm, Islington. All volunteers welcome. Poster to be displayed on Parish and village notice board advertising the same. Members expressed thanks to the parishioners who have kindly donated bulbs,

Clerk

2008/10/6

Finance

Payments to authorise:

EON	Electricity Charges 08/01/2008 – 30/09/2008	£787.00
Titchmarsh Clubroom	Hire Charges July – September 2 PC meetings x 3 hours and 3 sessions x 3 hours CCP	£90.00
A J Marlow	Web Site Domain Service Charge	£44.16
Emma Meen	Clerks Salary September 2008 paid by standing order	£142.80
RECEIPTS		
Society of Merchant Venturers	Contribution towards gates at Islington Allotments	£147.00
ENC	Balance of Precept 2008/2009	£7500.00

2008/10/6.1

GG proposed that all payments be made. IT seconded, all in favour.

2008/10/6.2

Budget/Expenditure Update Presented by SP which now includes a separate column for committed expenditure. Comparison of budget –v- actual expenditure, within budget. Invoice not yet received for payment of the new columns and lighting brackets. Members proposed for £5000.00 to be temporarily placed in the Tracker account in order to generate some interest. GG proposed IT seconded. All in favour.

2008/10/7

Correspondence

2008/10/7.1

Email from parishioner re: overgrown boundary hedge to property in Drydens Close which is believed to belong to Spire Homes. A verbal request has been made to the occupier to trim back the overhanging vegetation. Members instructed clerk to write to occupier asking for vegetation and overhanging tree to be cut back, also point out the safety implications to the public pavement which is covered in rotting apples dropped by the overhanging tree. Copy of letter to occupier to be sent to Spire Homes.

Clerk

2008/10/7.2

ENC Update – Open Space Strategy letter from ENC following up letter of June 2008 requesting for up to date information regarding open spaces in and around the village. This database of information will promote the sustainable use and management of our green spaces. TPC completed and returned survey July 2008. No further action.

2008/10/7.3

Communities & Local Government – Consultation The Making and Enforcement of Byelaws Consultation paper for consideration by the PC, feedback to paper required. IC to study contents and respond accordingly.

IC

2008/10/7.4

Notification of Licensing Application Re: Playing Field Pavilion Drydens Close Deadline for notification period 24 October. BA expressed concern on behalf of

	the residents of Drydens Close that it would be preferable for the license to run until 11.00 pm and not 11.30 pm as requested.	
2008/10/7.5	<u>NCC Top 10 Local Priorities – Highways & Transport</u> Request from NCC for TPC to participate in survey. Members suggested in their opinion the most important areas for consideration are:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle routes • Improvement to junctions (ie M1/A14 link. A45/A6 are not given high enough priority) • Traffic reduction schemes • State and appearance of road particularly litter awareness Clerk to respond to NCC with suggestions above.	Clerk
2008/10/7.6	<u>Northamptonshire Minerals & Waste Development Framework</u> details received. IC to peruse and make notes if appropriate then article to be circulated in float file.	
2008/10/7.7	<u>Letter from Parishioner complaining about cars parking in and around the Green</u> with particular reference made to the vehicles belonging to United Church Schools Trust (UCST) employees. Members acknowledge that this is a matter of great concern, with verbal comments having been made to the PC by other residents. Members instructed clerk to write to UCST airing TPC concern over the matter and requesting for UCST comments and what their intentions are for the future. Clerk to seek consent from parishioner for a copy of their letter to also be forwarded to USCT.	Clerk
2008/10/8	<u>Planning</u> First floor extension above existing garage at 5 Abbots Close Titchmarsh - Permission granted	
2008/10/9	<u>Grass Cutting Review and Verge Clearance</u> General opinion that the grass cutting is satisfactory though the members felt that the current level of grass cutting (currently 8 cuts per year) is not sufficient. Clerk to obtain quotations from ENC for 8, 9 and 10 cuts per year. Members also instructed clerk to obtain quotations from 2 other grass cutting contractors to compare rates.	
2008/10/9.1	The verge from Islington to A605 is very overgrown and members feel that the area requires an annual cut to enhance the display of spring bulbs, as previously carried out in 2007 by V R Marriott. Quotation obtained for the cutting of this area £156.00 plus VAT. IC reluctantly proposed that the verge be cut. All in favour. Clerk to arrange	Clerk
	John Greig and Julie Cheney joined the meeting at 8.55 pm after attending the Affordable Housing Seminar at ENC	
2008/10/10	<u>Freedom of Information Act</u> New Act to come in to effect 1 January 2009. New Model Publication Scheme (MPS) to be adopted by no later than 31 December 2008. The MPS is a commitment to routinely and proactively provide information to the public. By committing to the Information Commissions Office (ICO) TPC gives details and methods by which the specific information can be found and whether or not a charge will be made for the information and what the charge will be if applicable. MPS to be circulated in float file for each member to read and familiarise themselves with ready for adopting the scheme by the end of the year. IT and clerk to meet to discuss the classifications of information to be made available to the public and determine whether or not the information should be included on the website or available by hard copy only. Report to be provided at the next meeting.	Clerk & IT
2008/10/11	<u>Titchmarsh Village Shop Association (TVSA)</u> Engine House Working Group (EHWG) reconvened as an advisory group to the PC. Meeting held with TVSA at the Engine House Monday 13 th October. Several questions raised by TVSA to PC:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TVSA would like approval, if they should obtain a new chiller unit, to vent this outside in the Pound Garden. TPC agree in principle providing the venting is on the Pound Garden side and as low as possible. • TVSA would like permanent tables and chairs (eg. 2 table/chair units and 2 benches) sited in the Pound Garden. TPC agree in principle to permanent 	

seating and table being erected rather than the existing arrangements whereby the tables and chairs are locked up when the shop is closed. TVSA invited to provide detailed proposals and who will pay for the new seating and tables.

- TVSA asked about a year ago to pursue a Stopping up order on the pavement around the Engine House which will allow the path area to be utilised as additional seating. TPC see no benefit to pursuing this but if TVSA wish to carry out the necessary preparatory work themselves then this is authorised, providing that no time or cost is required by TPC.
- TVSA asked for permission to erect screening around the bin area and air conditioning unit in the Pound Garden. TPC agree to this providing that it is not obtrusive and within keeping to the appearance of the Pound
- TVSA asked for permission to erect a marquee in the Pound Garden to accommodate a forthcoming function. TPC agree to this providing that care is taken when erecting the marquee, around the planted areas.

Clerk too make a diary note for an internal/external inspection of the Engine House to be carried out around April next year.

2008/10/12 Christmas Tree Members agreed for Christmas Tree to purchased. GG GG volunteered to make the necessary arrangements. Agreed for tree to be purchased from Bosworths Garden Centre.

2008/10/13 Parish Council Christmas Dinner Arranged for Christmas dinner to be held and personally funded, to include partners on 10th December at 7.30 pm at The Dog and Partridge. MA to book MA

2008/10/14 Date of next meeting Thursday 20th November 2008

2008/10/15 Items for report only

JG – Reported that the Affordable Housing seminar was well presented though did not provide any further information than that already known. Brochure from this evening's seminar circulated in float file

JG also reiterated his concerns at the speed the streetlight works are progressing

GG – requested for an agenda item to be included for November meeting to discuss the venue for all future PC meetings (PF Pavilion or clubroom)

BA – expressed concern that the verge in Drydens Close has been damaged by the street lighting contractors and will this be re-instated.

Clerk – will be changing employment at starting at Manor School, Raunds on 3rd November.

The Chair closed the meeting at 10.00 pm