

TICKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th November 2014 at 7.30 p.m.
at the Village Hall Committee Room

PRESENT: Cllr Bruce Ralfs in the chair, Cllrs John Banks, Matthew Bracey, Jane Brock, David Franks, Alan Hooley, Ann Loader, Pam Trenchard, Roger Triggol and Mike Woodey.
In attendance: Vena Prater (Clerk)

100/14 APOLOGIES for absence were received from Cllr Mike Perrott.

101/14 MINUTES of the meeting held on 9th October 2014, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record for signature.

102/14 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Telephone Kiosks - Maintenance

Despite further reminders, no response had been received from X2 Connect. The Clerk reported that the kiosks at Kingston Seymour were maintained by a volunteer and she had included a request for a volunteer in the parish magazine.

(b) Defibrillator

The Clerk reported that the defibrillator was repeatedly dropping off the internet, sometimes as much as twenty times a day. The AED engineer had suggested a BT package, which would cost approximately £25 per month for a broadband connection and phone line. The Council suggested that a company such as Virgin might be willing to offer a free connection as part of their charitable giving. The Clerk would follow up. In the meantime Cllr Bracey offered use of the WiFi at the property next to the Hall: the Clerk would consult with the engineer.

103/14 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) Footpath east from 239 Clevedon Road: The area at the west end of the bank above the footpath had been cleared by North Somerset Council (NSC) contractors. Cllr Perrott had previously offered to take photographs of the raised services covers so that this could be followed up with the owners.

Cllr Franks suggested that in view of the recent legal case and the ongoing maintenance of the bank, NSC might now be acknowledging ownership of the path. The Clerk would raise the issue with NSC.

(b) Incidents: There had been another accident at Stone Edge Batch at the junction of Tickenham Hill and the B3130.

Cllr David Franks reported in detail on this accident, the second in a short space of time involving vehicles coming down Tickenham Hill and going straight across the B3130 into the stone wall. At a site meeting with the highways engineer and Cllr Nigel Ashton various options for improved signage had been considered. Cllr Franks hoped to report positive suggestions at the next Council meeting. In the meantime, the highways engineer was chasing the re-instatement of the directional signs on the wall, as already requested by the Council.

(c) Signage: The Clerk would report the broken road sign at Church Lane.

(d) Speedwatch: Cllr Trenchard reported on discussions between the local Speedwatch group and NSC concerning the possible re-instatement of the speed camera on the B3130. However, it was understood that NSC was focussing on vehicle-activated signs and mobile units and the camera would not be reactivated.

104/14 PLANNING MATTERS

(a) New applications:

New Applications

14/P/2142/F: Little Duck Lodge, Church Lane: Single storey extension to west elevation.

No objections were raised.

14/P/2318/TPO: Woodpeckers, Cadbury Camp Lane: Fell one tree.

No objections were raised.

(b) Up-Dates

13/P/1903/LB: 176 Clevedon Road: Rebuilding chimney. Approved

14/P/1902/O: Little Thorpe, Cadbury Camp Lane West: Erection of replacement dwelling following demolition of existing. Approved with conditions.

14/P/1912/F: Tickenham Church: Application for replacement shed. Refused

It was noted that a 'to let' sign had appeared outside the property at the former bonsai centre, despite there being a condition on the planning permission that the original dwelling should be demolished.

(c) Enforcement cases

The list of the current enforcement cases was noted.

(d) Landside, Stone Edge Batch

In response to the Council's enquiry, the case officer had said that this was not designated as a gypsy site but the Secretary of State had called in this and all similar decisions as there was some concern that the green belt policy was not being applied properly. A current consultation document on amending gypsy/traveller policy was with local planning authorities and it was anticipated that no decisions would be released until that consultation was complete.

105/14 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) The following were approved for payment:

Clerk's salary October	£174.82
Clerk's expenses October	£8.60
HMRC October	£43.60
NSC (dog bin)	£9.60
Tickenham PCC (churchyard)	£600.00
Southern Electric (telephone kiosk)	£20.00

The Council queried whether the power supply to the telephone kiosk at Hill Lane was actually live: the Clerk would follow up.

(b) Nailsea & District Community Transport – application for grant

It was believed that three Tickenham residents used the local bus service. The Council approved a grant of £50.00

(c) Model Financial Regulations and other requirements

A further up-date to the Model Financial Regulations issued by NALC had been received. The Clerk had attended a training day organised by ALCA which had raised several issues including

- first appointments of external auditors under the new arrangements for 2017/18,
- the role of the internal auditor,
- financial risk assessments,
- investments,
- adoption of financial regulations,
- VAT.

All parish councils were urged to review and adopt financial regulations appropriate to their needs as this was something likely to be questioned by the external auditors in 2015.

The Clerk would forward the model regulations and a sample from another council to Cllr David Franks who would carry out a first review and report back.

106/14 VILLAGE FIELD AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

Following recent press publicity about an incident in a nearby public park and in view of the somewhat secluded location of the children's play area, Cllr Trenchard raised the issue of safety and whether children should be accompanied at all times. It was agreed that the Council had a duty of care and after discussion it was agreed that Cllr Hooley would seek advice from NSC on whether appropriate signage was recommended.

Cllr Hooley reported that the Field Committee was carrying out weekly thirty five-point safety checks in line with RoSPA recommendations. Quarterly inspections were carried out by an external company who would also carry out a full annual review.

Cllr Hooley circulated a suggested schedule of grass and hedge cutting and asked for responses directly to him.

With Cllr Hooley anticipating an increase in use of the field, the question of bookings for the field was raised. The Clerk was currently responsible for bookings but Cllr Hooley asked whether it would be appropriate for bookings to be handled by the Field Committee in future, particularly as there would need to be liaison with the Hall bookings clerk regarding parking, use of toilets etc. There was also the matter of possible provision of an outside toilet. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Hooley, Paul Loader (Village Hall Management Committee) and the Clerk should meet to review the position and report back to the next meeting.

A further 105 trees had been received from the Woodland Trust and Cllr Hooley would welcome ideas for planting locations in addition to continued planting at the eastern edge of the village.

107/14 JEAN BURROWS FUND

Seat at Barrow Court: Cllr Hooley reported on quotations for seats, one to be provided on land owned by Adrian Brooks and one on land above Heavens Ground. The Council approved the purchase and installation of two rustic seats from Woodland Oak Benches at a cost of £290 each plus an estimated £30 - £50 each for inscriptions and £90 each for delivery and installation. Cllr Hooley would liaise with Adrian Brooks.

The Clerk reported that the information sheets and application forms were ready and a notice had been included in the parish magazine. The closing date for applications was 31st January 2015. The current balance in the Fund was £26,603.06, excluding VAT to be claimed back. However, the Clerk had been informed at a finance training day that VAT could be claimed only on that part of the cost which was met from the Council's own funds, i.e. not on that part raised by the Field Committee through public fund-raising and donations.

The Clerk circulated a paper showing that because the total cost of the play equipment was less than anticipated and with the contribution from the Field Committee, the full grant of £12,900 from the Jean Burrows Fund had not been taken up. Cllr Hooley said that there were some outstanding works, e.g. the circular tree seat, which might well absorb the balance of £872.44. It was agreed that Cllr Hooley and the Clerk should discuss the options and report back to the next meeting.

The council approved payment of £600 to the Fund administrator for work carried out during 2014.

108/14 CORRESPONDENCE

The following were noted:
Voluntary Action N Somerset newsletter
School newsletters
CPRE newsletter

On behalf of Cllr Mike Perrott, Cllr Woodey reported that the school's move to academy status was progressing as expected.

109/14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOTIFIED TO THE CLERK

Cllr Matthew Bracey asked whether the Council might be prepared to ring-fence a sum of money from the Jean Burrows Fund. He had in mind to suggest that the whole car park of the Village Hall should be completely refurbished: this would greatly enhance the area, improve parking, possibly provide more parking spaces, and alleviate the current problem of surface water flowing onto the road.

Cllr Franks advised that if the Hall committee wished to proceed with the suggestion, they should obtain three written, costed proposals from reputable companies, possibly including 'NSC approved' contractors. With plenty of time before the 31st January 2015 closing date, firm proposals could then be submitted for consideration under the Jean Burrows procedures.

110/14 DATES OF MEETINGS

2014: 11th December.

2015: 8th January, 12th February, 12th March, 9th April, 14th May, 11th June, 9th July, [13th August], 10th September, 8th October, 12th November, 10th December.