

TICKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th January 2018 at 6.30 p.m.
in the Village Hall Committee Room

ACTION/BY

PRESENT: Cllrs Bruce Ralfs, John Banks, Jane Brock, Ranjit Chuhan, David Franks, Alan Hooley, Mike Perrott, Pam Trenchard .and Mike Woodey.
In attendance: Vena Prater (Clerk)

01/18 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ann Loader.
The Council recorded its congratulations to Cllr Loader on being awarded the Medal of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours List for services to charity and the community of Tickenham.

02/18 **MINUTES** of the meeting held on 14th December 2017, copies of which had been circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

03/18 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(i) **Draft minutes:** When circulating further minutes with the agenda, the Clerk was asked to clarify whether there had been any amendments to the first draft issued following the meeting.

(ii) **Bus services:** The Clerk had written to Nailsea School as requested and a reply was awaited.

(iii) **Data protection:** A response from North Somerset Council, (NSC) regarding the possibility of their input was awaited. In the meantime, guidance on the new regulations had been received from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC): it was noted that councils were permitted to commission services from the same Data Protection Officer (DPO); however it was not recommended that Clerks be appointed as DPO because although they might satisfy some requirements of the role, they would not satisfy them all, e.g. conflict of interest, independence, expert knowledge of law and practices.

(iv) **Joint Spatial Plan:** A 'councillor briefing' paper from Taylor Wimpey regarding their proposed development at The Vale and its omission from the Plan had been circulated. The paper urged support for their proposal. It was noted that the consultation deadline had now passed.

Clerk

04/18 **HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

(a) **HIGHWAYS:**

(i) **Speed Limits:** The Clerk had previously circulated a letter from Abbots Leigh Parish Council to NSC requesting the lowering of speed limits at various locations, notably Beggar Bush Lane and Belmont Hill, and seeking the support of this Council. David Bailey (NSC Highways Engineer) had also been in touch asking whether there would be any objection to delaying Tickenham's scheme so that Traffic Orders could be co-ordinated. After discussion it was **AGREED**

- that the Council supported Abbots Leigh's proposal in principle but could not agree to the co-ordination of Traffic Orders if that would result in delaying the implementation of Tickenham's scheme beyond 31st March 2018.

Information from NSC concerning Tickenham's own scheme had also been circulated for comment, including Notices of Intent, Statements of Reasons, Draft Orders and plans relating to proposals for limits on the B3128 and B3130. The Council was content with the various documents, but it was pointed out that from Washing Pound Lane to Tickenham Hill was in an easterly direction, not westerly as stated in the documents. The Clerk would make NSC aware of this.

Clerk/15.01.18.

(ii) **HGV signage:** No further information had been received to date.

- (iii) Causeway/Church Lane: The Clerk understood from NSC that work to the roadside opposite the Church was not a priority and any major work was unlikely.
- (iv) B3130: No response had been received from NSC regarding the uneven surfaces left by contractors.
- (v) Incidents: No incidents were reported

(b) FOOTPATHS

Cllr Perrott referred to a very muddy gateway on the walk from Moor Lane. However, it was considered that farmers would be very reluctant to treat gateways with, for example, hard scalplings.

05/18

PLANNING MATTERS

(a) NEW APPLICATIONS

17/P/5230/FUL: Hamilton House, Cadbury Camp Lane: The decision target date for this application was 10th January 2018. The Clerk understood that local councils were allowed further time for response but despite contacting the case officer, a decision notice had been received on the morning of the 10th. The question of additional time had therefore been raised with NSC and a response was awaited.

(b) UP-DATES:

17/P/2032/F: 30 Clevedon Road: Erection of new dwelling following demolition of existing: Approved by NSC.

17/P/5013/FUH: The Corn Barn Tickenham Hill: Conversion of stable/ garage/office to residential annexe (retrospective.) Approved by NSC

17/P/2354/F: 215 Clevedon Road: Side and first floor extensions: Approved by NSC.

06/18

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) The following were approved for payment:

Clerk's salary December	£223.37
HMRC December	£55.80
Clerk's expenses December	£8.20
Society of Local Clerks (subscription)	£84.00
North Somerset Council (dog bin)	£14.40

Clerk/17.10.17

(ii) Budget

A draft budget had been previously circulated showing possible percentage increases in Precept and clerk's salary. However, the inclusion of contingency sums amounting to £3,250 and the £3,000 grant to the church, previously approved, resulted in anticipated expenditure of £14,015 against anticipated income (allowing for a 2% increase in Precept) of £7,519.91. Furthermore, the Field Committee had submitted a request for £653 for necessary surface treatments. It was noted that (i) the £3,000 church grant would come from Reserves and (ii) it was expected that there would be an underspend in the 2017-18 accounts of some £2,789. The Reserve Account currently stood at £22,403.43.

A full discussion ensued during which it was agreed that it was unwise to budget for a deficit and that some of the contingency sums which were unlikely to be needed could be removed. This resulted in a reduction in the budgeted expenditure of £1,975. It was also agreed to increase the field maintenance budget from £500 to £1,100 to include the necessary surface treatments and to increase the clerk's salary by 2% and the Precept by 2%. This, together with the exclusion of the church grant, and the inclusion of the 2017/18 anticipated surplus, resulted in a 2018/19 budget showing a small surplus – total available funds of £10,308.91 against budgeted expenditure of £9,707.

Cllr Brock strongly believed that the Council should not be increasing its Precept request, particularly in view of the reserve of £22,403.43. She considered that Council Tax levels were already high and no increase by a small parish council with such high reserves could be justified.

It was noted that there remained outstanding a Jean Burrows grant in the sum of £200.20 and the Clerk had written to Adrian Brooks (the Woodland project) requesting a final decision on whether this was required before 31st March 2018.

It was **AGREED**

- that the budget incorporating the above amendments be approved. Clerk/12.01.18
- that the Clerk be asked to investigate alternative deposit accounts with a higher return on deposited funds. Clerk/25.01.18

During the above considerations the question of a tree survey arose. It was **AGREED**

- that the Parish Council was responsible for all trees in its ownership and for carrying out any necessary maintenance: this would be done in liaison with the Field Committee,
- that a tree survey was not required immediately but that a tree management plan would be drawn up, possibly with provision for a specialist survey every five years.

07/18 **VILLAGE HALL REPORT**

There was nothing to report regarding the Hall.

08/18 **VILLAGE FIELD REPORT**

Cllr Hooley reported that due to the condition of the games area, walking football was taking place on the lower field but it was proving necessary to change the areas used. Various fund raising events were planned for the coming year, including the Village Day on 22nd July.

The Clerk had received the audited accounts for filing.

09/18 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Newsletters from Tickenham School had been received together with a thank you for the Council's contribution to the adventure play area.

10/18 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Policing: Cllr Trenchard mentioned the Avon & Somerset Police Crime Commissioner's drop-in meetings at four locations across the police area but none planned for our immediate area. She was disappointed at the lack of policing in the village. Cllr Trenchard said it was proposed to increase the Force's precept, equating to £1 per Band D property.

Speedwatch: Cllr Trenchard had been in touch with Avon & Somerset Police regarding training and a replacement speed gun. Cllr Trenchard hoped that with the introduction of the new speed limits it would be possible to add a fourth designated operating location at Tickenham Hill. After discussion Cllr Trenchard was asked to enquire about the cost of a new, more user-friendly speed gun. PT/08.02.18

Emergency Plan: Cllr Perrott asked whether there was a cascade system for use with the Major Emergency Plan and whether the Neighbourhood Watch database might be used. Cllr Chuhan agreed to take up the point with John Rose, Neighbourhood Watch chairman, but Data Protection regulations would need to be observed. It was noted that the response to the Plan from residents had been disappointing and discouraging for the small organising team. RC/08/02/18

11/18 **DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS 2018**

Thursdays at 6.30 p.m. as follows:

8th February, 8th March, 12th April, 10th May, 14th June, 12th July, 9th August, 13th September; 11th October, 8th November, 13th December