

TOTTERNHOE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF TOTTERNHOE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 16 MARCH 2021 AT 7.30

This meeting was held “virtually” using Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Present: Councillors: R. Clarke (Chair), D. Bodnar, D. Greatorex, V. Kelly, T. Linney, P. Tasker, CBC Cllr Spicer

In Attendance: 2 Residents, The Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs Mustoe and Pratt.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Two residents present wished to discuss matters of planning and the Ellesmere Close Pumping Station. As these are both items on the agenda, it was decided to cover these matters later.

4. CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Spicer reported:

CBC Highways – due to COVID 19 and a number of vacancies, Highways are very stretched. Currently interviewing – May earliest for appointees to take up with new posts.

Castle Hill Road Build Out– ongoing.

Memorial Hall – work has started on the disabled toilets which received CB Councillor Award.

Furlong Lane Resurfacing – schedules for next financial year.

SIDs – new policy awaiting sign off by Executive Committee. Cllr Spicer said he was the biggest campaigner for this new policy. Cllr Kelly asked whether Speedwatch groups had been approached for their input. Cllr Spicer confirmed the police had been advised.

Dunstable Road Drainage – Cllr Clarke confirmed a letter was being sent to AD Highways and Environment, CBC with cc Cllr Dalgarno and Cllr Spicer, expressing TPC’s dissatisfaction with the situation which has been ongoing since 2019. Cllr Spicer agreed to chase. **ACTION: PS**

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16/02/21

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Tasker and seconded by Cllr Clarke as a true record and duly signed by Cllr Clarke.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Ongoing:

5.i New gate at the access into Church End Recreation Ground from Lancotbury Close – No update - Cllr Kelly to chase Cllr Pratt for an update, item has been outstanding for some time mostly due to poor weather and ground conditions. **ACTION: VK/JP**

5.ii Repair to the water trough in Church End Allotments remains ongoing.

ACTION: TL to follow up with JP

From 21/01/20

ASM Signs – Cllr Clarke confirmed the land does not belong to the St Albans diocese. Dr Briggs is looking into whether he owns the land. **ACTION: VK to email TL**

From 18/02/20

7.6 Apple Cottage, 35 Wellhead Road – Cllrs Clarke and Bodnar measured the bridleway – 5m at widest point narrowing to 4m. Ashley Waller agreed to ensure considerate parking of cars connected to him/his business. He confirmed he was not responsible for parking across the bottom of the bridleway. Cllr Clarke urged him

to use his garage and associated space as much as possible. In the Spring newsletter there will be an article re parking on pavements.

From 17/11/20

3. School Parking/Crossing – Cllr Tasker reported that the Chair of Governors wishes to start trial usage of football club car park from April. A school agent will open and close the gate mornings and evenings. It is hoped this initiative will be taken up by parents and therefore alleviate parking in Church and Wellhead Roads and Furlong Lane. A survey questionnaire will accompany the Spring newsletter re a crossing at Castle Hill Road. **ACTION: PT/RC**
- 6.4 Dog Fouling – 3 signs have been commissioned from VGS. Cllr Tasker will oversee siting of posts. Cllr Tasker requested 2 more signs for Church Green – this is the responsibility of CBC and Cllr Tasker to email Cllr Spicer. **ACTION: PT**
8. Fly Tipping, Wellhead Road – an article will be included in the Spring newsletter. Examples of a waste licence have been included and will be posted on the Totternhoe PC website. Cllr Clarke urged all to report any incidents. **ACTION: RC**
Dunstable Road Village Gateway – Cllr Tasker confirmed these are to be cleaned at no cost once the weather gets warmer.

From 08/12/20

Fruit Trees on land rented by Eve Romeril and Mark Miles – email sent on 17.02.21.

From 19/01/21

- 6.5 Hedges – Cllr Bodnar requested that hedge cutting take place in this financial year and next financial year. Cllr Bodnar to contact Cllr Pratt. **ACTION: DB/JP**

7. REPORTS

7.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

CB/21/00526/FULL 188 Castle Hill Road – no objections. **ACTION: Clerk**

CB/21/00621/LDCP 20 Wellhead Road – approved.

CB/21/00002/FULL 2 Church Green – approved.

CB/20/03814/LDCE Brookfield Park – Ongoing/awaiting decision.

CB/20/03892/FULL Jessidore, Easton Bray Road, Totternhoe LU6 2BL – appeal lodged. TPC has no objection to this application.

CB/21/00092/FULL Bradwell House Development – discussion re type of development and impact of increased traffic movements. The draft Totternhoe Neighbourhood Plan recommends a policy of infilling only and encourages starter/joint ownership homes. The proposed development would be visible from Totternhoe Knolls, which is described as a “gem” by English Heritage – bungalows would not be visible. Cllr Spicer reminded the Council that contribution can be requested for village infrastructure from new developments. Cllr Clarke thanked Mr Hayman for his input and expressed concern re development traffic turning on to highways at a dangerous corner and also the lack of a traffic survey. It was agreed the Council would object to the development. Cllr Clarke to draft letter of objection and circulated to councillors for comment. **ACTION: RC**

CB/EN/21/0109 Green Barn, 66 Dunstable Road – Enforcement Notice. It would appear a business is operating out of the Barn with deliveries from HGVs.

Lockington Farm – TPC strongly objected to proposal of hurdles as opposed to replacing flint wall. Awaiting decision.

7.2 HIGHWAYS

Overhanging Hedges on Footpaths – article to be included in the Spring newsletter. **ACTION: PT**

Castle Hill Road – Cllr Pratt has cut the verge and tidied up. This is the responsibility of CBC Highways and it was suggested Cllr Pratt should invoice CBC accordingly.

FixMyStreet – article to be included in Spring newsletter.

SPEEDWATCH

Police Speedwatch Co-ordinator has confirmed socially distanced sessions can now be held and Cllr Kelly will email Speedwatch group. She expressed concern re the weight of the equipment and Cllr Clarke offered help and urged for sessions to be held on Dunstable, Church and Castle Hill Roads. **ACTION: VK**

7.4 RECREATION GROUNDS

Play Equipment – Reids Playground Maintenance have completed repairs to the equipment. New equipment – Free Runner is no longer in production so Step and Twist unit will replace and should be installed in May.

Middle End – VGS to be asked to remove tyres, backfill holes and reseed.

ACTION: DG/PT

Lower End – VGS to install new gatepost. Equipment to be reviewed in 2021/22

ACTION: DG

7.5 ALLOTMENTS

Paddock Fencing – Cllr Bodnar said the new fencing on the paddock rented by Eve Romeril was very good.

Second Ring Camera – has been lifted higher which means a stronger signal.

Bird Flu – restrictions still apply.

For Rent – currently 1.5 allotments for rent + one currently unrentable due to bees – 4 on waiting list. 3 on waiting list for paddocks.

John Cook Paddock – pictures circulated to councillors prior to meeting of builders waste/rubbish on the paddock. This is the second time this has happened. It was agreed Cllr Clarke to draft letter for Clerk to send.

ACTION: RC/Clerk

7.6 RIGHTS OF WAY

Cllr Linney confirmed new gate for Lancot Hill and police have set of keys.

Green Lane – a resident has reported a fallen tree. Cllr Linney to pass on to Cllr Pratt/RoW Office Robin Richardson.

6.7 TOTTERNHOE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Official Examiner has now been appointed and it was agreed the Council are happy for Cllr Clarke and Amy Shuffleton to reply to questions on their behalf. It was agreed to pay Alison Eardley, TNP Consultant, an extra day's consultancy (£510) to assist.

6.8 BKFG

The competitions will take place in July (gardens) and August (allotments) this year. It is hoped that the Dunstable Mayor and Consort will judge the gardens, as last year, but until the new Mayor is confirmed in May this will not be possible. Unfortunately, the excellent judges for the allotments last year have given up judging to concentrate on their own allotment.

6.9 POLICE

February statistics circulated to the councillors. Cllr Clarke to find out date for next priority setting meeting.

ACTION: RC

6.10 FOOTBALL CLUB

Nothing to report.

6.11 COUNCIL FINANCES

The finance spreadsheet was circulated prior to the meeting.

Community Account: £837.53

Business Money Manager: £36,710.92

Payments approved – invoices sent to Cllrs Kelly and Clarke prior to meeting and approved:

Alison Eardley	TNP Consultant AEC0182 + AEC0195	£3,060
HMRC	Clerk's Tax	£135.80
Moodeys IT	TNP Pages - Invoice 7245	£78.00
Julie Todd	February Salary + Xs	£457.11
VGS	Warden Services	161.28
Moodeys IT	Domain Renewal - Invoice	33.60
RPM	Playground Repairs etc	£5,148

It was agreed to transfer £10,000 from BMM account to Community Account.

Internal Auditor – it was unanimously agreed to appoint John Marshall as the Council's Internal Auditor.

ACTION: Clerk

Risk Assessment – the draft Risk Assessment schedule, circulated to councillors prior to the meeting, was unanimously agreed.

Financial Regulations – agreed by all councillors except Cllr Tasker who will give comments by end of the month.

ACTION: PT

HSBC Primary User – awaiting HSBC to confirm Cllr Clarke as primary user.

7.12 WEBSITE

Gordon Fountain has now taken over. Cllr Tasker to talk through processes with Mr Fountain. **ACTION: PT**

7.13 NEWSLETTER

Cllr Mustoe reported (via email) that the newsletter is taking shape and requested that councillors send a paragraph re their specific duties together with details of events/activities for the benefit of new villagers.

ACTION: ALL

8. ELLESMERE CLOSE PUMPING STATION

Cllr Clarke wrote to Anglian Water on 21.02.21 and the Council received a reply dated 11.03.21 which was circulated to all councillors. It was agreed the reply did not address the specific issues raised and a second letter to be sent.

ACTION: RC

9. DOG POISONING

Cllr Linney said the police contact is Sgt Chris Pollard and it is important he is informed of any incidents.

10. LITTER PICKING

Email received from Annette Francis, CBC Environment Services Officer dated 24.02.21 saying CBC could not support this initiative. It was agreed to enquire whether CBC would sell blue bags. Litter picking equipment has been received. The Council agreed the volunteers are doing a great job.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received by clerk circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Clarke highlighted the letter from the Police & Crime Commissioner re the forthcoming elections and inviting candidates to a future meeting. It was agreed that an alternative would be for the candidates to hold a virtual meeting which all councils can join. Cllr Clarke to write a letter.

ACTION: RC

12. ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

Lamp Posts – after the last meeting Cllr Tasker reported the broken lamp post in Ellesmere Close. There are a number of broken lamp posts in the village and Cllr Spicer will be asked to follow up. **ACTION: PT/PS**

13. MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD TO NEXT MEETING

None

13. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 20 April	7.30pm Parish Council Meeting
	8 pm Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 4 May	7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting
	8.30 pm Parish AGM

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.54 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....