

TUDDENHAM ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council of Tuddenham St Mary, held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 17th April 2012.

Present:

Cllr R Lawson, Chair
Cllr M Dunnett
Cllr P Hope
Cllr Mrs C Smith

In Attendance:

Mrs L Francis, Clerk
Three members of the public

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Rona Burt, the Vice Chairman, Cllr R Lawson, presided over the meeting.

Public Forum

A member of the public asked if a final decision to sell the school site had been taken and he asked what the parish councillors' views were on the situation.

Councillors explained that it was made clear at the last meeting that the trustees of the Cockerton Trust had decided to sell the site because they were unable to act as custodians of the building into the future. It was understood that plans were being submitted to the district council for the development of the site and that the agent would report back to the village at the Annual Parish Meeting to hear the views of the village residents.

There were no further questions from members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Rona Burt had sent apologies. She has been caring for her husband since his discharge from hospital.

Cllr M Lawson was unwell.

The parish council agreed to accept the apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on matters on the agenda.

3. Reports from outside bodies

i. **Police:** PCSO Dawn Rowan had sent apologies. She had been working on a day shift.

There have been no new recorded crimes since the last meeting.

PC Gowing had carried out 4 speed checks, two motorists had been cautioned and two others issued with a fixed penalty for exceeding 40 mph, one in the High Street and the other in Higham Road.

There was no further update on the installation of a Speed Detection Radar.

ii. **County Councillor**

There had been no apologies received from Cllr Noble this month. The clerk reported that he had confirmed that he had received the agendas and minutes for the previous parish council meetings

iii. **District Councillor:** Cllr Rona Burt had sent her report to be read in her absence.

David Burnip CEO of FHDC had left the council on 5th April. The new CEO started in his role on 10th April and will spend two and a half days at each authority every week. It had been decided that FHDC will have a cabinet system with effect from 9th May. There will be 7 cabinet members with 6 of those being portfolio holders.

The Hatchfield Farm Appeal has been dismissed by the Secretary of State for reasons of prematurity.

iv. Mrs Gill Peters gave a 5VPT report. This will be circulated in the correspondence folder.

4. Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th March had been circulated and were confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

- i. The trees opposite Tuddenham Mill: Cllr Christine Smith informed the meeting that the owners had been reminded about the need to cut back the dead branches.
- ii. Cllr R Lawson had spoken to Mr Hewkin who was waiting for his son to return from holiday so that he could enlist his help in installing the seats. Cllr Rona Burt has informed Mr Owen Wilson of the situation.
- iii. Cllr Lawson has obtained some orange netting and posts to protect the worn area of the green.
- iv. Cllr C Smith will pass on information with regard to the Diamond Jubilee souvenirs to the chairman, Cllr Rona Burt.

6. Correspondence

A letter of complaint had been received from a member of the public who felt that she had been rudely spoken to by the chairman at the March meeting. The clerk had sent a reply explaining the usual procedures in place at parish council meetings and both the letter and reply were shown to the members of the parish council who had no comment to make.

7. Finance Matters

- i. The council confirmed and authorised payment of the accounts for the current month as per the list attached to the minutes.
- ii. The clerk presented the year-end accounts. A copy will be sent to all members with the minutes and agenda of the next meeting.
- iii. As Cllr Hankard was a signatory to the bank account and has resigned from the council it was agreed that Cllr Dunnett would be a signatory in his place. The clerk will obtain the necessary forms.

8. Dog Warden

Parish councils have been asked to consider whether they would be prepared to offer financial assistance to help pay for the reinstatement of a dog warden in the district. The estimated total cost would be in the region of £40,000 - £50,000. Members were unsure whether the services of a warden were required in Tuddenham. No decision was taken on the matter but Cllr Lawson had laminated several notices from the Safer Neighbourhood Team to be placed around the village warning owners that dog fouling was a criminal offence.

9. Byelaw to prevent parking on The Green

The clerk informed members that before an application could be submitted, a consultation process had to be carried out with individuals and groups likely to be affected by the byelaw.

It was agreed that the clerk would write a letter to be delivered to every house on The Green, asking for their response to the proposal and to respond before the date of the Annual Parish Meeting

when it will be placed on the agenda for discussion. Residents would also be informed about the orange netting and its purpose.

10. Parish Councillor Reports

Cllr Christine Smith confirmed that the latest edition of the village newsletter had been delivered to all residents. This was Cllr Smith's last meeting as a councillor and the chairman thanked her for her service to the parish council.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the parish council will be the AGM and will be held in the village hall at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 15th May 2012. This will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.