

# TUDDENHAM ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuddenham St Mary Parish Council  
Held via Zoom, on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7:30pm

**Councillors present:** Cllr. A. Long (AL), Cllr. C. Unwin (CU), Cllr. A. Spence (AS), Cllr. M. Fitzjohn (MF), Cllr. L. Michie (LM) & Cllr. N. Crockford (NC).

**Present:** Clerk – Vicky Bright. Rob Gray – Umbrella.

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Public Forum – LGA 1972, Section 100(1):</b> 8 members of public were in attendance. Items were raised regarding recent test bores/cores being taken on the Highway, residents were interested in whether these were being taken for strength assessment or resurfacing assessment. A quieter surface was requested if resurfacing a possibility.
<b>21/12/1</b>	<b>Accepted Apologies for absence – LGA 1972, Section 85(1) and (2):</b> Cllr. Karen Soons. <b>Absent:</b> None.
<b>21/12/2</b>	<b>Members Declaration of Interest (for items on the agenda) – LGA 2000 Part III:</b> Cllr. A. Spence & Cllr. C. Unwin declared an interest in Item 9(ii).
<b>21/12/3</b>	<b>Reports from Outside Bodies:</b>
i)	<b>SCC – County Councillor</b> – Cllr. Colin Noble sent apologies.
ii)	<b>WSC – District Councillor</b> – Cllr. Brian Harvey sent apologies; See full report in <b>Appendix 1</b>
<b>21/12/4</b>	<b>To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021:</b> <b>Resolved 21/12/4.01</b> The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021 were adopted as a true statement and signed by the Chairman of the meeting (AL).
<b>21/12/5</b>	<b>Highways &amp; Footpaths:</b>
i)	<b>Update on Outstanding SCC Highways Issues Reporting</b> Cllr. Spence advised Tuddenham PC are to join forces with Cavenham regarding all outstanding Highways issues and the Cavenham Clerk, Liz Goodman and Cllr. Brian Harvey are arranging a date for in the New Year to meet with Cllr. Colin Noble and Highways.
ii)	<b>Soil &amp; Concrete Debris on the Higham Rd Entrance to the Village (Ref: 00340570)</b> The Clerk confirmed she is awaiting photos of the issue from Cllr. Karen Soons who originally reported it, as the Engineer who attended was apparently unable to locate the problem.
iii)	<b>Highway Gates Funding Update</b> Cllr. Unwin advised that Cllr. Noble still has £8,000 in his Highways Budget and it was agreed that this issue be raised at the meeting with him and Highways in the New Year (Date TBC).
iv)	<b>VAS Data Report &amp; Update on Post re-location</b> The highest speed recorded this period was 63mph. The Clerk confirmed that she had sent the data to the Police this week.

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The Clerk confirmed that the static 'school' VAS Unit is to be removed and the new SID post will be erected in its place, the Clerk confirmed that the post is still being stored by Mill House Homes until Highways need it. The issue of the Cavenham post not being used was raised again by Cllr. Spence; the Clerk and Rob Gray advised that it was not in the correct location as the line of sight was not right, but that Highways had refused an alternative location when previously requested. Cllr. Spence advised that the internal clock on the SID Unit is inaccurate and the Clerk is to enquire with Swarco about getting it serviced and repaired.

**v) Discuss Speed Watch Equipment**

Cllr. Spence confirmed she had received interest from 9 possible volunteers to re-start the Speed Watch Team. The Clerk is to arrange calibration of the Radar Gun. There has been no update from Cllr. Soons regarding the request from Bradfield St Clare PC to borrow the equipment.

**vi) Update on Parking Enforcement for High Street / Lorry Watch Update**

Cllr. Spence confirmed that the temporary enforcement was working well, and it is to be raised at the proposed Highways meeting in the New Year to install permanently.

Cllr. Spence confirmed that the Highways Survey had been well responded to with 1/5 households replying and 12 people attending the event held at the hall. The top 3 issues raised were;

- Speeding
- Damage to property (HGV vibrations)
- Pedestrian Road safety

Cllr. Spence advised that Cllr. Colin Noble and Cllr. Brian Harvey had been sent a copy of the survey results and Cllr. Harvey has confirmed he will endorse the report. The online submission to SCC Highways has been done. Thanks were offered to Cllr. Spence for her hard work.

Mr. John Kendall asked for an update on the Kennett Bridge Weight Restriction TRO, the Clerk responded that the acting Clerk, Sandra had received confirmation that the TRO had been approved, the signage is due to be installed and the County Council have refused to give exemptions to any vehicle.

Mr. Kendall expressed his disappointment at the Parish Council not doing enough to object to this and asked whether the PC would approach local businesses and the Racing Industry to work together to log objections and request the TRO be reconsidered. The Clerk explained that the consultation process for the TRO had already been held and completed and anyone could have submitted their objections at this point, and the TRO had been approved and it would be highly unlikely that SCC would reverse their decision after so much money being spent on it. Mr. Kendall replied that he was addressing the Chair and that he was not interested in the Clerk's opinion. The Clerk advised it was not her opinion just the facts as they stand and asked Mr. Kendall to refrain from speaking to her in that manner. The Chair and Vice Chair reiterated that the businesses and Racing Industry had the opportunity to respond themselves to the consultation and that it was not felt that the PC would be putting their time and effort to very good use by trying to start a petition, but that if Mr. Kendall wanted to approach the businesses himself and managed to get something up the PC would of course be

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interested in hearing any success. The Councillors agreed to remove the item from future agendas.

21/12/6

i)

**Planning Matters:**

**Planning Enforcement Complaint Update Ref: - DC/21/0481/VAR**

The Clerk confirmed that in her absence no contact had been made with Rachel Almond regarding the PC's complaint about how the application consultation extension and further information request had been handled. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Rachel Almond making her aware of the PC's concerns.

ii)

**New Parish Councils Group Update**

Cllr. Spence confirmed that the new Forest Heath Parish Councils group met this month, although she was unable to attend she did receive the Minutes of the meeting. The main grievance raised by the group was the lack of support and representation by SCC regarding funding etc. The next meeting is to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and will be attended by AS/CU. It was agreed that the meetings will be held at each Parish and chaired by the PC Chairs in turn.

21/12/7

i)

**Parish Matters:**

**Play Area Project Funding Update / Discuss Wellness Area & Outdoor Gym Equipment**

The Clerk is to continue to explore funding available now that she is back at work. It was agreed to discuss the possibility of having the Outdoor Gym Equipment installed as Phase 1, in line with the Playing Field Committee's Wellness Area plans. The Clerk is to add it to the January agenda and Cllr. Crockford is to invite the TPFMC to a meeting in the New Year.

ii)

**Playing Field – Tree Survey & Ditch Update**

The Clerk is to start getting surveys and quotes for the tree works at the Playing Field for the January agenda.

A resident raised concerns over the ditch still not being dealt with. The Clerk advised that she had been in regular contact chasing SCC Highways, Anglian Water and the Environment Agency, since the issue of flooding was first raised in March of this year, but that no one would admit ownership or responsibility for maintaining the ditch. The Clerk explained that the PC have no legal powers to go onto the land and carry out repairs and that this would possibly result in legal action or the Council then taking on responsibility inadvertently. Cllr. Long is to look into the legalities of the Parish Councils position. Cllr. Michie is to approach the owner of the Pond to try and establish history and ownership, and perhaps an understanding of the problem and repairs needed. The Clerk is to contact the EA/Anglian Water/SCC Highways again for further assistance.

iii)

**Village Sign Plinth Repair/ Bench Maintenance /Bus Shelter Roof Update**

The Clerk advised that she had not received any response from Rowan Maintenance regarding the works and is to chase him again. If no response the Clerk is to look at further quotes for the works.

iv)

**Discuss purchasing a Dog Bin for the track from the High St to Herringswell**

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The Clerk advised that the owners of Hall Farm had raised concerns over the amount of dog waste being left on their property. The Clerk is to check the location of a proposed bin and also to check that it can be emptied regularly by WSC Waste Team.

**Resolved 21/12/7.01**

It was agreed to purchase a dog bin at a cost of £145 plus £25 for installation.

**v) Mobile Phone Signal Concerns**

Cllr. Unwin is yet to send the follow up letter to the Digital Secretary. Cllr. Spence confirmed that the PCC have been on the list of possible sites for a mast since 2019.

**vi) Allotments**

Cllr. Spence advised that no landowners had expressed any interest following the notice in the Umbrella. She will look into compulsory leasing options for the next meeting.

**vii) Christmas Lights Switch On Event 2021**

Cllr. Unwin confirmed the event will be held on The Green at 4:30pm on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December, with Carols around the tree and Mince Pies and refreshments at the Village Hall after, where Santa might pop by! The event has been on the village Facebook page and in the Umbrella. The Clerk is to put it on the Village website. Thanks were extended to Andrew Garnett of Mill House Homes for the kind donation of the tree again this year.

**viii) Air Quality Monitoring – approve the location of air quality monitoring tube**

**Resolved 21/12/7.02**

It was agreed for the air quality monitoring tube to be affixed to the telegraph pole outside 37 High Street.

**21/12/8 Councillor & Community Reports:**

**Village Hall Committee Report**

No report. It was confirmed that the steels were being installed on the Old School site, thanks were extended to AJN Steel for their help with costs. There is a Lottery Funding meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

**Tuddenham Playing Field Committee Report**

No report. The next committee meeting is tomorrow night and Cllr. Crockford confirmed she able to attend.

**21/12/9 Correspondence:**

• **Pig Litter Burning Complaint**

The Clerk advised she had received concerns from a resident about frequent pig litter burning on the fields around Tuddenham and Higham Road. The resident has reported it to the Environment Agency and has asked for the PC's support. The Clerk confirmed she had written to West Suffolk Council and received the following response;

*"Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 legislation the Council has a duty to investigate complaints alleging statutory nuisance. This is when smoke causes significant and unreasonable disturbance to a person at their property. When we investigate complaints we have to take into account a number of considerations including: how the smoke affects a complainant's property; how often incidents of disturbance occur; how long the incidents of disturbance occur and the activity giving rise to the smoke."*

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*For this reason, I recommend individual residents complain to the Council direct because they can be provided with a diary sheet, with which they can provide this information, and help us determine our further action. They can also contact the investigating officer if they are being disturbed and, if they are available, the officer can visit in an attempt to witness the disturbance.*

*You can, if you wish, contact the Environment Agency (EA) to ask them if the farmer is permitted to dispose of this type of waste by burning. Their telephone number is 03708 506 506. The EA is a separate agency to the Council. They investigate matters relating to the disposal of waste, the Council investigates complaints relating to smoke.*

The Clerk confirmed she would advise the resident and supply them with the dairy sheets needed. The Clerk is to follow up with the EA as well.

- **Churchyard Fence Donation request**

It was discussed that the Church had requested assistance with fencing an open area of churchyard along the boundary to provide privacy to the “new” cemetery area following a number of complaints from villagers of being overlooked during funeral services and whilst paying their respects. The works are a 1.5 m close boarded fence approx. 10m in length with galvanised posts, with costs being £851. The Clerk confirmed that under LGA 1972 S.214 it is permitted for the PC to give donations for maintenance etc. of churchyards. The Clerk confirmed the budget.

**Resolved 21/12/9.01**

It was agreed to make a donation of £431 towards the fencing costs.

21/12/10

i)

**Finance & Policies:**

**Parish Council Bank Reconciliation from List of Payments/Receipts**

The Payments and receipts were scrutinised and approved. The Lloyds account balance was confirmed as £27,511.91, as of 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

**Resolved 21/12/10.01**

That the Bank balances and reconciliation of payments & receipts be received and adopted and initialled as such by the Chairman of the meeting (AL).

ii)

**Parish Council Account Cheques for signing and approval**

**Resolved 21/12/10.02**

It was agreed to approve the payments of the following outstanding invoices and the cheques were approved and signed by Cllr. A. Long & Cllr. M. Fitzjohn.

WSC	Dog bin installation	£461.99	001079
Tuddenham Village Hall	Hall hire	£136.00	001080
ICO	Data Protection fee	£40.00	001081

**Resolved 21/12/10.03**

It was agreed to approve the cheques signed between meetings and they were signed by Cllr. A. Long and Cllr. C. Unwin following the November meeting

Mrs V Bright	Postage	£4.21	0001073
SALC	Payroll	£54.00	001074
Tilbrook's	Grass-cutting & play area brambles	£649.50	001075

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Mrs A Spence	Wildflower grant (WSC Locality)	£165.00	001076
Village Hall	Fridge donation	£364.00	001077
RBL	Wreaths	£37.00	001078

- iii) **Parish Council Website**  
The Clerk confirmed she is still working on the WCAG 2.1 compatibility on the website. Cllr. Spence offered to act as Back-Up for the website and email Inbox if the Clerk is unable to work.
- iv) **SALC e-bulletins**  
Cllr. Spence asked why the SALC e-bulletins are not forwarded to Cllr's when received. The Clerk explained that she had been asked at the beginning of her employment not to inundate Cllr's with unnecessary emails; therefore, the Clerk explained she usually reads the e-bulletins and only send information on items that are relevant to the Council and parish of Tuddenham. The Clerk advised that she will forward the whole bulletins to Cllr. Spence in future.

**21/12/11** **Items for next Meeting to be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall.**

- Allotments (AS).
- Highways meeting date
- Playing Field Wellbeing Area/Outdoor Gym Meeting Update
- Broadband update on letter to Digital Secretary
- Ditch Update playing Field
- Tree Survey/Quotes Playing Field
- Update on Asset Works / Quotes to be considered
- Update on Planning Complaint letter
- SID / Speed watch Update

Meeting closed at 9:17pm

Signed: *A. Long*  
Chair, TSMPC

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022