



## East Tisted Parish Council

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### Minutes for the Meeting of East Tisted Parish Council, Held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 6.30pm

**Present:** Phil Cutts (Councillor)  
Helen Evison (Councillor)  
Sandra Nichols (Councillor & Chairman)  
Colin Rule (Councillor, Vice-Chairman & Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator)  
Pippa Cockhead (Clerk & RFO)  
Charles Louisson (District Councillor)  
Mike Crumplin (Village Hall)  
Fiona Hyde (Village Hall Treasurer)  
3 Villagers

**Apologies:** Russell Oppenheimer (County Councillor)  
Carl McBean (Councillor)  
Jessica Hornsby (Hampshire Constabulary)  
Sioux Mingaye

*The meeting opened at 6.30pm*

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#### 1. Welcome, arrangements for the meeting and apologies

The Chair welcomed all and outlined arrangements for the meeting. Apologies were received from Sioux Mingaye, Cllr Russell Oppenheimer, Cllr McBean and Jessica Hornsby.

#### 2. Declaration of Interests

The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibilities, but did not see that there were any relevant items on the agenda.

#### 3. Public Forum

a. Due to Cllr Louisson attending another meeting later, his update was brought forward.

**Cllr Charles Louisson (District Council)** reported on the continued discussion regarding Devolution for Hampshire which would involve the abolition of the county and district councils and replacement with a county-wide Mayoral Authority and Unitary wards. Mayoral elections are planned for May 2026. This is a subject to much debate over procedures and responsibilities. Devolving social care responsibilities would be no easy task, due to demographics of regions. Council Tax has increased by 5% overall, but still remains one of the lowest. Charles noted that he had granted £750 towards the work on East Tisted pond and that further Councillor grants will be available from April 2025. The Chairman thanked him for his contribution. He went on to say that the government has published who will be getting fibre broadband in the next phases.

Q. Is there a budget deficit in East Hants?

A. No, but savings of £1m will still need to be made.

Q. What is the cost saving for devolution?

A. These are unknown at present.

Q. What other implications are there as a result of devolution?

A. Responsibility for local highways would be a benefit. There are currently 14 boroughs that are staffed – although there may be some restructuring, there will still be a need for the majority of these staff. Additional costs would be likely as well.

Q. Could it make the local area more profitable?

A. Urban areas will need to be attached to rural area to meet housing needs.



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- b. Members of the public were given an opportunity to make comments.
- On Sioux Mingaye's behalf, Cllr Nichols updated the meeting with the news that BT has agreed to replace the perplex windows with glass. Cllr Rule observed that Sioux should be recognised by the parish council for all the work she does on behalf of the village. All members of the council agreed. **Action: SN**
  - Arthur Scott (Rotherfield Estate) updated the meeting that the keys to the former post office have been returned and work has started on refurbishing the property. The Estate will hold a meeting to discuss a future plan for the property. The meeting will be scheduled for a Saturday morning, between 10-11am. The date will be circulated once set. He was also pleased to announce that native trees were being planted throughout the Estate, donated by a villager as carbon offset.

No further contributions were made by the public.

c. **Cllr Russell Oppenheimer's (County Council)** report was summarised by Cllr Nichols. The full report will be added to the minutes. Highlights included the Hampshire Pledge, highways update, Standing up for Hampshire, re-introduction of beavers to the South Downs, devolution and a summary of grants awarded by County Council.

**Fiona Hyde (Village Hall)** informed the meeting that a book corner had been introduced in the hall, which is proving to be popular. Brian Davey has stepped down as a trustee and the hall is looking for replacement, ideally with marketing experience. In terms of finance useful funds have been generated from the various new schemes such as the lottery and easyfundraising, as well as from Octopus Energy. However, numbers attending the Friday night events have reduced. Mike Crumplin was thanked for attending the meeting and his work in maintaining the hall. It was suggested that the hall was open for a coffee morning type of event on the day of the VE Convoy driving through the village on Saturday, 10 May. This was thought to be a good idea. Tisted Tales will continue to highlight the Village Hall. **Action: SN/FH**

Fiona mentioned receiving a request for information about rateable value of the hall with respect to business rates. Both the Council and the village hall committee will monitor this as the hall should not be liable for business rates. LED lights have been given to the hall and are now being used. Cllr Nichols thanked all volunteers who helped keep the hall running.

Following the recent power cuts a meeting had been organised for Scottish and Southern Power Networks to explain what had happened and how the effects of such a long cut can be mitigated in future. A written Due to recent power cuts the suggestion of obtaining a generator for the village hall was proposed and investigated. This would be an expensive commitment and funding would be required for initial setting up, including a command socket, annual servicing would also need to be considered. An alternative would be to install solar panels and battery packs, also expensive and weather dependant. Either option would require more research. A review of the village hall wiring is due to take place soon and these suggestions will be put to the electrician for more information to enable a feasibility study. **Action: CR/PC/SN**

**Cllr Colin Rule (Neighbourhood Co-ordinator)** nothing new to report.

*The Chairman thanked all and closed the meeting for public participation.*

#### 4. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman. Action points and matters arising:

- **SSEN meeting:** Sioux Mingaye was thanked for arranging SSEN to come to a village meeting about the prolonged power cut. The report of the meeting will be attached to these minutes and will be included in the next village newsletter. The important thing is



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to encourage those who are eligible, which includes those over 60 which is a reasonable proportion of the village, to register with SSEN as a vulnerable customer as they prioritise their resources where there is the greatest concentration of these people. I have also asked them for details of the grants available for a community generator.

- **Model Standing Orders update:** After making further detailed enquiries to HALC the response received was '*No. a council cannot lawfully transact any business which is not included on the Agenda*'. Therefore, the revised wording has been removed and the reviewed Model Standing Orders has been uploaded to the ETPC website.
- **Footpath maintenance:** Sioux Mingaye was thanked again for contacting the County Council about some of the local footpath infrastructure – at least one stile and the steps and handrails on the old railway line to the north of the village have been repaired.
- **Village Speed Cameras:** Cllr Nichols has contacted Beech PC to request information about using the number plate recognition cameras and is waiting a response. Charles has said that the district council has allocated a further £95,000 to these, so it may be worth considering when we find out a bit more. There is also an ANPR camera near the pub with no name – Cllr Nichols will contact Rachel for more information. **Action: SN**
- **Precept 2025/26:** has been submitted and acknowledged.
- **Unity Trust Bank:** Cllr Rule continues to have issues with accessing the bank accounts. The RFO has offered to be present on the next attempt to contact the help desk. **Action: RFO & CR**
- **Clerk Laptop:** The clerk made enquiries about what could be done to improve the speed of the computer at Cato Computer shop. The issues identified were the hard drive is showing signs of failing; can be changed but very uneconomical, at around £200, could easily buy a younger second-hand laptop for similar amount. Vista is 18yrs+ old. 2GB RAM has Windows10 issues. GDPR (Windows10) will not be supported after October 2025. The council agreed that the clerk would look into a replacement laptop, along with any licences needed. Grant application would fund the replacement. **Action: Clerk**

### 5. Insurance Renewal

The ETPC insurance is due for renewal as of 1 June 2025. The clerk will invite quotes from several companies before the next ETPC meeting in May. **Action: Clerk**

### 6. Consultation on Devolution for Hampshire

EHDC will be inviting us to an information session about this later in March/April when their submission has been formulated. They have provided a briefing paper which was prepared for their Scrutiny committee which covers the main points which will be distributed to all Councillors. Devolution has been something that has been going on in England for a number of years now as we know, but is gathering pace. In January this year Hampshire County Council supported by the other unitary Councils submitted a devolution proposal to central government. They also requested inclusion into the 'fast track' devolution programme which has been accepted. The county and district councils are now looking at how all of this will work, and it looks as if they will be in a position to hold the first Hampshire Mayoral elections next May 2026. I may have misworded this item in terms of whether or not it is necessary to formulate a Parish Council response at this stage, but I think it is important for us to accept that these changes are going to take place and it beholds us to keep up to date with what it means. So I'm going to suggest that we all have a read of the relevant information that I mentioned earlier, and where possible those of us that can, attend the information event when we have the details. We can then decide if we need to comment separately or if we are happy to support the EHDC view. Individual views are also able to be submitted. **Action: All Cllrs**



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### 7. Correspondence received

- a. Citizens Advice East Hampshire have requested a grant donation from ETPC. The response is that funds are limited and a polite refusal needs to be sent. **Action: Clerk**
- b. **New Community Development (North) Officer:** - Hannah deals with applications for grants and would like to attend a future ETPC meeting to introduce herself. The council suggested that a meeting in the new financial year would be appropriate. The clerk will notify her of dates, once they have been confirmed at the ETPC AGM in May 2025.  
**Action: Clerk**

### 8. Planning

There have been no specific planning applications in the ward. However, there is another government consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework and the requirement to increase the number of new homes planned to be built that we need to be aware of. Both EHDC and the South Downs National Park, being our relevant planning authorities, are consulting on this and the slides from an EHDC meeting, held last week, had been circulated. There are a few points to note, firstly there is a requirement to build 1,142 new homes per year, but a tension exists between the areas inside and outside the South Downs National Park. SDNP's plan only includes the provision of 86 new homes in East Hampshire leaving a disproportionate number to be accommodated outside the park. The good news is that there will be more affordable housing and more funds raised for community infrastructure by the developers' levy. East Tisted is not included in the areas for development. The bad news is how the existing infrastructure, will cope with the number of new homes in and around Alton - certainly the doctors' surgeries are struggling with the current population, let alone such a big increase. An observation was made about the lack of financial control with respect to the Alton Railway car park refurbishment. **Action: SN**

### 9. Highways

- **Village Speed Camera information:** Any discussion of specifics relating to East Tisted cameras was deferred to the next council meeting, due to Cllr McBean's absence.
- **HCC road safety grant:** Cllr Sandra Nichols went back to HCC after the village meeting in August 2024, specifically about the possibility of having priority signs along Station Road. Their Initial reply in October was that this was worthy of further investigation and they were asked to do that. The responding email on 6 February 2025 confirmed the assessment had been done but unfortunately, they could not get a clear enough sight-line to allow a priority system. Cllr Nichols asked them to proceed with our originally agreed plans. There is no timetable for improvements at the present.

### 10. Facilities

- **Recreation ground:** Cllr Nichols is awaiting a response from the Estate. **Action: SN**
- **Village hall:** The council suggested installing broadband in the village hall and Cllr Cutts provided an illustration of installation and running costs. The village hall treasurer said they would be unable to sustain the monthly charges without significantly more hall hires. Discussions then moved on to mobile phone coverage as this could help to provide a solution for the village hall also. Cllr Rule suggested an alternative scheme under the Shared Rural Network project (a £1bn project funded by the UK's mobile network operators and the UK Government to bring better connectivity to rural areas.) . Cllr Cutts has contacted Tom Sheppard, Vodafone's Government Affairs adviser, and has arranged a meeting on 7 May 2025 to discuss options. Cllr Rule will join him and their findings will be reported back at a future ETPC meeting. Arthur Scott expressed an interest in supporting any infrastructure. It was agreed to defer broadband at the moment as cannot be justified at present. **Action: SN/PC/CR**



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- **Village green/pond:** The first stage of the pond refurbishment work has been done – the wildlife corridor has been planted, the willows have been pollarded, and the non native species removed. The second phase is the new planting, removal of the duck island – assess any liner situation – de-silt and create a small silt trap/swale feature around pond input to aid in water filtration as it enters the pond. Cllr Evison raised the issue of how water will get into the pond. There are two things being considered – one is to make a new ‘channel’ where the water comes down the hill to divert water in, and secondly to clear through the inlet at the bottom. The council discussed whether the pipe was in fact an overflow pipe and therefore would not be suitable to allow water into the pond. Cllr Nichols would discuss this point with the contractors. Grants will be received towards this and should cover most if not all of the costs. We will need to wait until completion of the project to claim the main grant from SDNP. **Action: SN**
- **Grass cutting:** Cllr Nichols is in the process of finalising arrangements with Chris Fuller (Recreation Ground) and Gary Bishop (pond). Arthur Scott asked whether the grass needed to be cut around the pond. The council felt that if left the site would become messy, it would be difficult to hold village events there and brambles would invade the area. **Action: SN**

### 11. Responsible Financial Officer

- Councillors received and approved for signature by the Chairman the Statement of Financial Transactions and the Bank Reconciliation since the last meeting.
- Councillors received and approved the latest Budget Monitoring and Forecast report.
- Councillors agreed the following subscriptions and payments:
  - Parish Clerk Salary for February 2025 - £56.04
  - Morton Pattison Ltd invoice (pond refurbishment works) - £2699.88 (this requires transfer of £2k from the deposit to current account)
- The Precept 2025/26 has been submitted and acknowledged.
- Cllr Rule continues to have issues with access to Unity Trust Bank. The RFO has offered to be present on the next attempt to contact the help desk. **Action: RFO & CR**
- The year end is nigh and the RFO needs to contact the auditor to set a date for the 24/25 audit to take place. **Action: RFO**

### 12. Date of next meetings

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 6.30pm, followed by Annual Village Meeting at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall.

*Meeting Closed at 8.12pm*

Pippa Cockhead  
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer  
March 2025

Agreed as a true and correct record.

Signature..... Chairman Date.....