



East Tisted Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of East Tisted Parish Council held at the Village Hall on Thursday 26th May 2022 at 6.30pm

Summoned to attend:	Phil Cutts (Councillor & Chairman) Helen Evison (Councillor, Clerk & RFO) Peter Finch (Councillor) – joined at 6.55pm Sandra Nichols (Councillor) Colin Rule (Councillor & Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator)
By Invitation:	Rob Jones (Hampshire Constabulary) – until 6.50pm Russell Oppenheimer (County Councillor) – until 7.08pm 4 Villagers
Apologies:	Mick Crumplin (Village Hall Management Committee) Charles Louisson (District Councillor)

The meeting opened at 6.30pm

1. Nomination and election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2022/23

The Chairman, Cllr Cutts, welcomed all and was pleased to advise that the hearing loop was in operation for today's meeting.

Cllr Cutts announced that he did not intend to stand again and asked Councillors if there were any nominations for Chair 2022/23

Cllr Cutts proposed Cllr Nichols. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Rule. Cllr Nichols said that she was happy to accept the nomination for one year but not for the longer term. There being no further nominations and all being in favour Cllr Nichols was elected as Chair for 2022/23

The Chairman asked Councillors if there were any nominations for Vice-Chair 2022/23. Cllr Nichols proposed Cllr Rule. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Evison. There being no further nominations and all being in favour Cllr Rule was elected as Vice-Chair for 2022/23. It was agreed that Cllr Cutts would continue to chair today's meeting.

2. Apologies and welcome

The Chairman welcomed all. Apologies were received from Charles Louisson and Mick Crumplin.

3. Declaration of interests

None.

Clerk's note: Cllr Evison later declared that she was now acting as a volunteer for Home Start so would not participate in the decision to be made at item 10.h.

4. Public forum

- Rob Jones introduced himself and the Alton Rural Constabulary Team. Currently there were 2 PCs and 2 vacancies. PC Swift was to join Four Marks and Ropley soon leaving a vacancy for Alton Town. Currently there were also 3 PCSOs and 1 vacancy. PSCO Ben Lane covered East Tisted.

East Hants' priorities were domestic abuse, incidents in Petersfield town centre and damage in Four Marks.

Q: Was any progress being made regarding motorcycles? A Villager had sent in dashcam footage but had not received any replies.

A: RJ reassured the meeting that the reports would have been logged and that he saw all reports; they considered these and the accident and death statistics when deciding where to focus resources. They had a three-step approach; education engineering and enforcement.



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They worked with the Community Speed Watch. However, this was limited to 30mph zones so could not operate on the A32. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) had taken note and provided some funding for average speed cameras on the A32 and A272 around the Meon Hut and Loomies.

Q: *Would not an acknowledgement of receipt be helpful, even if autogenerated?*

A: RJ agreed to feed this in; it might be possible to set up an autoreply.

Q: *How were the District employing the additional resources allocated by central government?*

A: All this would do was enable them to fill the local vacancies. Training took 2-3 years so there would be a lag until they were fully resourced. The focus was to address high harm and vulnerability; other parts of Hampshire had more serious issues than Alton Rural. In general Hampshire was a low crime area.

Q: It was acknowledged that Police numbers were low for the size of the area covered. Were they able to offer 24/7 services or daylight hours only?

A: The response and patrol service provided 24hour cover for grade 1 and 2 incidents as these required attendance within 30 minutes. Grade 3 and 4 incidents were handled by the Alton team who worked on shifts between 8am and 2am. There was little demand between 2am and 8am.

They were making increased use of social media; East Hants Police Facebook had 7k followers. Reports could be made via the Hampshire Constabulary website, by calling 101 or, for emergencies only, 999. Emergencies could also be reported by SMS text.

Q: *What was the call pick-up time on 101?*

A: This varied with the number of calls and the number of operators. All calls went through a triage system.

The Chairman thanked RJ.

6.50pm RJ left the meeting

- RO thanked PC for his 3-years' service as Chairman and welcomed SN as incoming Chair. RO highlighted that as member responsible for Highways he had been lobbying for a review of the policy on 20mph speed limits as requested by East Tisted and that there was to be new policy this summer. Since his re-election his portfolio had changed; he was now responsible for recreation, culture and rural affairs. He was responsible for the country parks and libraries and would get involved with HALC.

Over the past year he had worked with the PCC and CANS and was pleased that the PCC had found money for the noise cameras. He thanked John Moor and others who had worked with CANS.

6.55pm PF joined the meeting

The noise cameras should free up police resources and enable them to target other areas; they would also do some undercover work. He had also been involved in trying to reduce the misuse of BOATS (byways open to all traffic).

He was pleased to report that HCC was one of the top 3 councils supporting homes for Ukraine, inspecting potential homes, organising DBS checks, finding school places, providing welcome packs and allowing libraries to be used for connectivity and workspace.

During the pandemic it had been recognised that broadband was an issue. HCC were working with the Department for Culture, media and Sport on the £5m Project Gigabit scheme which was expected to bring fibre to the premises in most of East Hants.

The Levelling Up White Paper outlined which models of devolution were to be acceptable. All areas were to have a mayor or governor. There would be some upheaval of local government but more money and power would be devolved to Hampshire. Parish Councils were greatly valued and would get a boost with more funding, support and responsibility.



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The financial position of HCC had gone from poor to worse; the costs of care continued to rise. The Council provided 10 care home but the cost of care in the market place was up and there were difficult decisions to be made

HCC recognised that now was a good time to decarbonise; they were installing solar panels in 300 schools and developing community energy schemes. Information about retrofit, was available from petersfieldcan.org

He had an annual grant and used this to support numerous parish projects; the Parish Council were welcome to make an application.

Q: What sort of projects were supported?

A: Infrastructure, environmental and community connectivity.

Q: East Tisted's priorities were around traffic management. Might he be willing to support this?

A: In principle, yes, up to £1,000. Information and the application forms were on-line.

Q: Did this have to be matched funding?

A: No. It was also worth checking out other HCC funds such as the Rural Communities Fund.

Q: What action was being taken regarding fly tipping?

A: This was recognised to be a menace; volumes were down. EHDC were responsible for clearing up and prosecutions. HCC worked to promote the responsible disposal of waste.

The Chairman thanked RO.

7.08pm RO left the meeting

It was agreed that other public reports would be taken at the Parish meeting later this evening.

The Chairman thanked all and closed the meeting for public participation

5. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2022 were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

The Chairman confirmed that matters arising of general interest, i.e., the pond area, highways and the Jubilee would be considered at the Annual Parish Meeting starting at 7.30pm today.

6. Annual Business

Members reviewed and adopted the:

- a. Model Standing Orders
- b. Financial Regulations/system of internal control – It was noted that if signature requirements were changed (refer 10. i) adjustments would be required.
- c. Financial Risk Assessment - HE advised that, although she would continue this year, she wished to stand down as clerk; it would be necessary to recruit a new clerk and RFO for 2023/4.
- d. Members noted the Inventory of Assets as of March 2022
- e. Members agreed the list of annual subscriptions to other bodies (only HALC/NALC, down from £156.54 to £152.85)
- f. The Clerk advised that the insurance package was to be renewed from 1st June 2022. Five quotations had been requested but only the two responses circulated with the agenda had been received. Councillors reviewed these and agreed to enter into a 3-year standard local council package with Zurich at £318.68 p.a.
- g. It was agreed that Cllr Finch would continue as the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee.
- h. Members agreed the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next Annual General Meeting:



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Thursday 25th August 2022 at 6.30pm
Tuesday 13th December 2022 at 6.30pm
Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 6.30pm
Thursday 25th May 2023 at 6.30pm.

7. Correspondence

None.

8. Planning

Councillors considered the applications relating to demolition and replacement of the conservatory and demolition and replacement of a garden building, both on the same footprints, at Tisted House. As the current buildings were in a poor state it was agreed that the Parish Council would support these applications. **ACTION: PC**

9. Facilities

Comments had been submitted on the latest drafts of the replacement lease for use of the Recreation Ground and the new licence for use of the land around the Village Hall. It was understood that responses had been delayed due to change of staff at the solicitors.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting to try to finalise these.

ACTION: PC, HE & SN

10. Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

- a. Councillors received and reviewed the Internal Audit Report Letter and signed Audit Report (page 4 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return [AGAR]) for 2021/22.
- b. (i) Councillors received and approved for signature by the Chairman the Certificate of Exemption from External Audit for 2021/22, both income and expenditure being below £25,000, (page 3 of the AGAR)
- b. (ii) Councillors considered the questions on the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 (page 5 of the AGAR) for the year ended 31st March 2022, agreed all responses and approved this for signature by the Chairman.
- b. (iii) Councillors received and approved for signature by the Chairman the Accounting Statements for 2021/22 (page 6 of the AGAR) for the year ended 31st March 2022, both (ii) and (iii) having been internally audited.
- c. The RFO advised that the period for exercise of public rights to inspect the 2021/22 accounts was planned to be from Monday 27th June to Friday 5th August 2022 inclusive.
- d. Councillors agreed the effectiveness of internal audit for 2021/22 and agreed the retention of 'Lightatouch' as internal auditor for 2022/23.
- e. Councillors received and approved for signature by the Chairman the latest Statement of Financial Transactions and the bank reconciliations since the last meeting.
- f. Members received and approved for the Chairman to sign the Budget Monitoring Report for 2022/23 to date.
- g. Councillors agreed the following subscriptions, grants and payments:
 - Internal audit fee 'Lightatouch' for 2021/22 review, unchanged at £110
 - The insurance premium for 2022/23 – £318.68, refer 6f above
 - The purchase of an additional microphone and socket for hearing loop, estimated at £100
- h. Councillors considered the request from Home Start Hampshire for a grant. Cllr Evison declares an interest, having recently started as a volunteer with Home Start. The other councillors considered the application and agreed to make a donation of £50, the same as for 2021.
- i. The Clerk/RFO explained that suppliers increasingly requested electronic payment. Fortunately, no-one had, as yet, refused a cheque. She had been in touch with the TSB but had as yet been unable to find a way to make payments electronically from the current bank account; it was thought that this would necessitate a change in the mandate from two to a



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single signatory. She requested Councillors' agreement to her seeking a solution with the TSB.

Q: Would it not be a risk to move to a single signatory?

A: Yes, it would be a risk; it would be up to the Councillors to decide whether this was acceptable.

Following discussion, it was agreed that she could explore possibilities with the TSB and seek suggestions and advice from the Internal Auditor. **ACTION: HE**

11. Date of the next meeting

Thursday 25th August 2022 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40pm.

Helen Evison

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

30th May 2022

Agreed as a true and correct record.

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