**Minutes for the Meeting of East Tisted Parish Council,**

**Held on Thursday 19th September 2024 at 6.30pm**

**Present:** Phil Cutts (Councillor)

Helen Evison (Councillor)

Carl McBean (Councillor)

Sandra Nichols (Councillor & Chairman)

Colin Rule (Councillor, Vice-Chairman & Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator)

Pippa Cockhead (Clerk & RFO)

Charles Louisson (District Councillor)

1 Villager

**Apologies:** Russell Oppenheimer (County Councillor)

Jessica Hornsby (Hampshire Constabulary)

Fiona Hyde (Village Hall Treasurer)

Mick Crumplin (Village Hall Management Committee)

*The meeting opened at 6.30pm*

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

The Chair welcomed all and outlined arrangements for the meeting. Apologies were received from Russell Oppenheimer, Jessica Hornsby, Fiona Hyde and Mick Crumplin.

1. **Declaration of Interests**

None.

1. **Public Forum**

**a.** **Q.**  Sioux Mingaye raised concerns about GDPR regards setting up a WhatsApp group for the village.

**A.** As the only personal data would be a mobile number which would be given with consent there is no issue. The council are happy to continue with the initiative. Rotherfield Estate and Cllr Rule will be asked to publicise this group. Cllr Nichols will add an article in the Tisted Tales.

**b.** Cllr Louisson gave his report including budget challenges for the coming year, reducing staff numbers, devolution of power to new authorities, and planning services.

**Q.** Which property on the District council’s portfolio was empty?

**A.** This is in connection to a property in Nottingham/Northampton.

**Q.** An explanation of the devolution referred to?

**A.** Mayoral authority, where District and County are merged into larger authorities for the purpose of efficiency, along with more control over housing and planning. There are models in the north of the UK.

**Q.** How will this effect SDNP?

**A.**  Builders that are holding properties will have pressure on them the release them.

**Q.** With regard to the budget, is there likely to be increases in Council Tax?

**A.**  No more than 3%, as there are considerable reserves of approximately £30m

There were no reports from Hampshire Constabulary or Neighbourhood Watch.

Cllr Oppenheimer’s report can be found on the website.

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

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2024 were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman. Action points and matters arising:

* **Waste bins;** The photo was received and the comments about the new bins have been passed on.
* **Hall for hire sign;** Theinformation was passed over to the Village Hall, for them to progress.
* **Selborne School Wraparound Care Facility;** This application was supported and has been approved.
* **Website meeting;** Meetings have been arranged to take place on 27th September and 4th October to complete the handover from Cllr Cutts to the Clerk.
* **Mobile Post Office;** Cllr Nichols researched the Post Office website about mobile and outreach services which are run by sub post masters. She contacted Droxford who ran the outreach in our village store and they explained that they still run outreach services in several villages, in pubs, village halls, etc – a couple of hours a week and provide all the services that a post office would. This is not a van service like there is in Selborne, it would need to be in a fixed place, ie the village hall. Timing would need to be co-ordinated with a local Royal Mail collection as they cannot take parcels with them. They are reluctant to take on any more and would need to be happy there was sufficient demand. Cllr Nichols has emailed the Post Office about this but hasn’t had a response yet. A note will be in the next Tisted Tales to gauge what interest there may be. **Action: SN**
* **Trustee Indemnity Insurance;** Cllr Nichols has contacted our insurers, Zurich, who don’t do Trustee Indemnity Insurance as such. She asked them to look into personal indemnity insurance for Parish Councillors and Zurich will come back if relevant. This information will be circulated to the council with the cost and a decision can be made if there is a wish to add that to the policy. Otherwise the council will need to decide if there is a need to investigate a separate policy with another insurer.
* **Defibrillator;** There has been no response fromDave to the emails /calls sent to him regarding the defibrillator. The council wish to confirm that the defibrillator is connected and remains in useable condition, this has been confirmed. Cllr MacBean volunteered to undertake regular checks
* **Grant to St James;** A grant of £375 was subsequently agreed and paid.
* **Telephone box;** Sioux Mingaye confirmed the BT do not wish for anyone to clean the phone box. SM will report back to BT if anything untoward is noticed.
* **Model Standing Orders update;** Wording has been suggested to include ‘An Emergency Item to a published Agenda’ this needs to be sent to HALC for approval. **Action: Clerk**

**5. Correspondence received**

1. Cllr Nichols contacted the local MP regarding the prolonged loss of internet that recently affected the whole village. His office had taken up the issue with Openreach but unfortunately the main point about lack of communication between Openreach and the service providers had not been addressed. It was suggested that the matter be taken up with Offcom. **Action: SN**

**6. Planning**

None

**7. Highways**

* **Village Speed Camera information;** Cllr McBean had previously distributed the camera information. Not all of the signposts in the village are suitable for placement of the camera unit.
* **HCC improvements – grant;** The village consultation meeting was held on 1 August, and with the exception of two points, all the items proposed were agreed. It was suggested that we look again at traffic priority signs on Station Road where there could be ‘line of sight’ and have put this back to Joe Folland at HCC who will get their engineers to look at this aspect again - no news to date. The other item was the one person who objected to the closing off of the unofficial lay-by, so that the footpath could be safely bollarded all the way along the A32. The subsequent note of the meeting circulated to the village asking specifically for comments on this matter generated no further objections and six further responses in favour of the proposal to protect pedestrians by bollarding along the footpath’s entirety along the A32. **The council voted on the proposal to closing off the unofficial lay-by, Proposed: Cllr Nichols, Seconded: Cllr Rule All Agreed**

**11. Facilities**

* **Recreation ground;** The draft agreement from the estate and has been looked at. There are a couple of points that need further discussion, including responsibility for the boundaries and gates, which they have put down as the council’s, although the council feel it should be the estate’s. The other issue is that the agreement states that the council must have an agreement with the Cricket Club which was a sticking point before, as there is no such thing as a formal Rotherfield Park Cricket Club, it is run voluntarily on an unofficial basis by Chris Fuller. When the council were originally negotiating this with the previous legal adviser the estate was going to draft an agreement that the council could potentially use to cover this aspect. This does not appear to have been drafted as the current adviser knows nothing about it. **Action: SN**
* **Village hall;** Having struggled to find someone to do a valuation on the village hall and its land, Cllr Nichols has found two firms. Giles Wheeler Bennet from Bishops Waltham have quoted £750 plus VAT and a company called Trinity Rose who have quoted the same. Both are RICS members. The council agreed to invite both to see when a valuation could be provided and ask the quickest to complete the valuation. **Action: SN**
* **Village green/pond;** At the village meeting there was general consensus for the plans proposed. The council are now waiting to hear if our grant application has been successful. The council are quietly confident but if not successful, at least the council now know what needs to be done and who can do it, without any cost to us at this stage, and there are other pots of money that the council can follow up. Sarah Musgrove the consultant working with the estate on the Home Farm plans, has been in touch as they have an ecologist working with them and wanted to know about the proposal. Cllr Nichols has sent her the details and awaiting a response. In addition to this Brian Davey will be retiring from his mowing business. Quotes will need to be invited from other gardeners in order to maintain the grass areas currently under Brian. **Action: SN**
* **Community garden;** Cllr Nichols would like it to put on record what a wonderful resource the new Community Market Garden at Home Farm is and has been. This has been provided by Rotherfield Estate at no cost to the community and residents are welcome to have whatever produce they wish. There is a core of volunteers who have been helping out with weeding and harvesting, and the group of people now collecting produce continues to grow, although it is still a minority of the village.

**12. Responsible Financial Officer**

**a.** Councillors received and approved for signature by the Chairman the Statement of Financial Transactions and the Bank Reconciliation since the last meeting.

**b.** Councillors received and approved the latest Budget Monitoring and Forecast report.

**c.** Councillors agreed the following subscriptions and payments:

- Parish Clerk Salary for August 2024 - £73.55

- TEEC website hosting fee - £144.00

- Village Hall hire for August consultation - £30.00

- Transfer of £7000 from Current to Deposit account

d. The clerk notified the council that the second instalment of the precept was due on 19.09.24

e. The addition of Cllr Rule and Evison as authorised ‘signatories’ to the new account has not gone according to plan and will be followed up. **Action: RFO**

**13. Date of next meetings**

Tuesday 10th December 2024 at 6.30pm, in the Village Hall. Cllr Nichols will encourage more attendees from the village through Tisted Tales.

*Meeting Closed at 8.07pm*

Pippa Cockhead

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

October 2024

Agreed as a true and correct record.

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