**Tunstead Parish Council**

**Parish Council Virtual Meeting Minutes from 19th January 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present: Chris Oakes CO

Caroline Purdy CP Clerk

Clive Rich CR

Tim Place TP

Neil Coston NC

Apologies: Revd Tim Gosden TG

Jason Coward JC

Wendy Atkins WMA Vice Chair

Public: Nigel Dixon ND Norfolk County Councillor

PC Tom Gibbs TGib Police Representative

21 Members of Public

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| **Item** | **Action** |
| The meeting commenced at 19.32hrs.  CR hosted the meeting and began by welcoming everyone and running through Zoom meeting protocol and brief explanation of Parish Council’s role. |  |
| 1 Apologies  As above. |  |
| 2 Public Participation  Public 1:  An update was required on the progress made by CO with regard to the flooding issues in the village.  This has been experienced since Christmas 2020 particularly along Market Street, and has been causing damage, disruption and distress.    CO confirmed that he had met with an Inspector from Norfolk County Council’s (NCC) Flood Team and a highways survey was to be competed.  The inspection had looked at ditches, pipes, cleaning, repair and ponds to be cleared.  The public will then be advised of their specific pipe/ditches to be cleared in due course.  CO is available to advise and help locate.    Public 2: Enquired regarding the flooding along Wateringpit Lane, their drive way and pond.  Again, CO advised of the drainage map, the inspection and that he is willing to arrange to assist residents in locating the problem areas.  CO advised that the pond used to be bigger and was once filled in and it shouldn’t have been, along with the outlet which was covered.  There is a need to reconnect the two parts of the drainage system.    Public 3: Expressed concerns over the flooding they had experienced since Christmas and that their garden is unsafe for children to play in.  CO offered to liaise and visit to help locate the drainage pipes through her property to begin reparation/clearance.    Public enquired after timescales for this work to be carried which couldn’t be clarified as not only is this down to co-operation between residents, it also involves advice and help from the Flood Team, NCC and Anglian Water.    Public 4: After recently moving to the village, the resident noted experiences of sewerage backing up within his property and after investigating manhole covers along the road at the front of his property, found they were full. He felt that the pumping station wasn’t efficient enough and that Anglian Water shared some of the responsibility for fixing the problem. CO explained that he had contacted Anglian Water who stated that the pumping station was efficient enough for needs, so long as surface water ingress into their sewer system wasn’t happening.  It is their remit to remove foul water only as far as the company are concerned; however, they had sent out tankers to pump out in the short term.  The resident would like to challenge this response.    Councillor Dixon explained the “legal minefield” with Anglian Water responsibilities but that CO was correct in his understanding.  ND felt that the majority of surface water ingress, similar to Hoveton’s problem, was due to development and that he and MP Duncan Baker were in discussion with Anglian Water about the problem at Hoveton and he would ask about Tunstead too.  ND pointed out that Anglian Water were only part of the solution and encouraged residents to work together to re-form the Flood Committee and co-ordinate with agencies to remedy the problem.  ND confirmed that historically some properties had the right to connect into foul water and that couldn’t be changed.    Public 5: Had experienced flooding and backing up to his property and believes that the surface water problems are to blame. He wished to have sight of the drainage map and CO confirmed he would make this available via the parish website.    Public 6: Had experienced flooding at rear of property and into home at Christmas with raw sewerage pumped out previously.  Resident had enquired about why this was not taken into account by either Tunstead Parish Council or North Norfolk District Council at planning comment stage.  The Clerk confirmed that the most recent planning comments were not against a full planning application, merely outline.  Therefore, there was nothing legally that the Parish Council could object on.  Secondly, the Clerk read excerpts from an email from Jayne Owen of NNDC Planning which stated we live in a Zone 1 area at no risk of flooding and therefore this was not addressed by planners (full email to be available on parish website).    TP noted the time this was taking and encouraged the re-forming of the Flood Committee, previously started by Derek Kirk many years ago in an effort to keep drains etc clear and prevent localised flooding.  The earlier committee drew up the flood map which was invaluable.    Public 7: enquired if the drainage/ditch problems extended as far at the railway line and should this ditch be cleared.  It was agreed that this was the case.    Public 8: enquired after the landowner’s responsibilities; it was confirmed that all residents and landowners with responsibility to clear a pipe/ditch would be approached by NNC’s Flood Team and asked to clear the area.  If co-operation isn’t given, the Flood Team will pursue legal enforcement action to get works done.  Powers can include the completion of works and subsequent billing to home or landowners to pay the bill.    It was confirmed that Orbit Housing had been approached many times before the current flooding to request action and warn of problems to no avail.  They would also be part of the Flood Team’s owners who would receive a letter requesting action.    PC Gibbs  PC Gibbs’ report had been received and circulated to councillors.  He introduced himself to members of the public and reported on an increase locally in COVID-19 breaches and worsening mental health crisis due to lockdown. There had been 5 incidents since the beginning of December 2020 in the village of Tunstead, none in Sco-Ruston; incidents included a missing person, highways issue, animals, bereavement and use of cannabis. He encouraged vigilance and to check on elderly vulnerable neighbours at this time.  PC Gibbs is contactable via Hoveton Police Station or on [Thomas.Gibbs@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:Thomas.Gibbs@norfolk.police.uk)   PC Gibbs left the meeting at 20.42hrs.    Councillor Dixon  ND advised that “pulling together” would provide local support and encouraged the re-forming of the Flood Committee to be wholly responsible for sorting out and leading on these issues.  ND would like to attend Flood Committee’s future meetings.  ND left the meeting at 20:45hrs.    Public 9:  the question of speeding outside the school was raised along with allotments.    Addressing the issue of allotments, the Clerk noted the land which had prompted debate online some months previously was now sold.  CO confirmed that the land in question still had a covenant by Network Rail on it which meant that at any time they could use the land for their purposes and that no sheds/buildings were allowed to be erected upon it.  Therefore, despite the cost of purchase, it was unsuitable.  The clerk has asked for clarification on the purchase of land for allotments from NALC.  It was confirmed that there has never been official allotment land in the village.    Public 10:  Resident felt that there was an issue of speeding at busy times past the school and that it was a danger to walkers and children and wished to see data from the SAM2 sign.  CO advised that this was looked into previously with NCC and that a recurrent problem with speeding could not be found, data was inconclusive and no further actions were able to be taken at that time. The resident still felt that 30mph was too fast past the school area.  CR reported that the SAM2 data showed an average of 1000 cars in 1 direction, the average speed being 24mph.  80% of traffic was below 33mph and 50% were doing 26mph past the school.  It was felt this was, partly, self-regulating due to cars parked in the area and slowing down of traffic at peak times.  TP enquired if the parish could ask PC Gibbs to monitor and CR confirm that the benefit of the sign was in slowing traffic.    Public 11:  An enquiry was made about the parish newsletters; the clerk confirmed that this was previously completed in conjunction with Ashmanhaugh PC, however, during the COVID-19 restrictions we were not permitted to deliver publications at this time.  The next clerk could recommence at such a time when it is safe to do so. | ND  CP  CP  CP |
| 3 Declarations of Interest  None. |  |
| 4 Minutes of the Last Meeting  These had been circulated and were agreed and signed. |  |
| 5 Matters Arising  None. |  |
| 6 Received Correspondence  The clerk would circulate Jayne Owen’s response to her enquiry about flooding and future planning applications. |  |
| 7 Highways  As above through public participation. |  |
| 8 Planning  None. |  |
| 9 Environmental  Pathways; repeated problems had been reported to NCC; both the clerk and CR had outstanding reports that hadn’t been dealt with.  Parish Rangers visits were noted as insufficient to address the problem to the residents’ satisfaction.  The public asked if they could clear back the pathways and this was agreed by CO.   It was noted that the Parish Council had agreed previously to hire their own ad-hoc ranger to complete local works. |  |
| 10 Clerk’s Financial Report/Payments  The following payments were agreed:  Clerk £165.85  CGM £122.40  NNDC Dog Waste removal £466.20  Precept – it was noted that Councillors had some difficulty in working out the NNDC calculations sent in November 2020; after receiving budget and accounts, it was agreed that the precept would rise by £500.  It wasn’t possible to know if the additional grant money would be paid on top of that.    The clerk clarified the position regarding the engagement of a parish solicitor, via NP Law subscription from 01/04/21 to resolve boundary encroachment on the playing field and assist with any other queries regarding the planning and development of the new village hall. |  |
| 11 Tunstead Village Hall & Recreation Ground Report  CR reported that the architect is hopeful of a successful resolution to the planning application, however, NNDC had requested an extension to the end of February in order to resolve this. CR also noted potential flooding problems that may arise with the pit at the playing field and this would need to be looked into also |  |
| 1. Any Other Business   Wendy’s resignation was noted and she was thanked for her service to the Parish Council.  It was agreed this was accepted from 19/1/21 and the clerk would confirm this with NNDC to allow for the casual vacancy to be publicised.  The clerk confirmed for the public the future vacancies and official number of councillors that we should have (9).  The clerk confirmed her own resignation and would be finishing up after this meeting, finalising until the end of January 2021.  Applicant’s statements would be passed on to Councillors for short listing and interviewing to take place.  Councillors felt it was worthwhile investing in Zoom Pro (on a monthly Direct Debit or via clerk’s expenses) to be set up.    The Clerk highlighted that the existing bank account wouldn’t allow for online payments or card payments and that the Council would urgently need to update signatories.  Clerk was asked to look into other suitable accounts.    Residents were asked to confirm who may wish to be involved in the new Flood Committee and 3 people were identified along with CO and Councillor Dixon.  They were asked to email their interest to the clerk and/or CO to organise upcoming meetings.    The meeting finished at 21.40hrs. | CP  CP |

Agreed and Signed on behalf of Tunstead Parish Council:

Chair

Date: