TANGMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 9 NOVEMBER 2006

Present: Andrew Irwin (Chairman), Roy Anscombe, George Barlow, Roger Birkett, Michael Clue (Environment Vice Chair), Andrew Grice (Village Centre Vice Chair), Anne Poulter (Village Centre Chair), Helen Punnett (Finance Chair) and Paul Sansby (Environment Chair).

Also present: Six members of the public, County Councillor Andrew Smith, PCSO Sarah Watson, Community Warden Co-ordinator Martin Wright and District Officer Andrew Pilley

Apology: Christine Baker – prior commitment

2092. CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL: PRESENTATION ON FUTURE FUNDING OF COMMUNITY WARDENS

The Community Warden Co-ordinator gave a presentation on the evaluation of the Community Warden Scheme. 120 residents in each of the three areas with Community Wardens and the various partner organisations had completed a questionnaire survey on the scheme. 79% of respondents believed that their community has benefited from having Community Wardens – increasing to 90% for Tangmere respondents. The number of crime-related incidents had been reduced resulting in a cost benefit saving of £345,000. The Wardens had been involved in setting up 40 initiatives and involving over 1,500 individuals. Of those residents surveyed in Tangmere 89% said that they would be willing to pay an extra £10 per year to enable the scheme to continue.

An officer from District Council then gave a presentation on the future funding of the Scheme. The existing scheme costs £188,500 and funding is currently in place until 31 March 2007. If a dedicated supervisor were to be employed to cover sickness and extra events it would increase the cost to £218,770. District has agreed to pay 50% of the costs of the scheme for the next three years with the proviso that other partner agencies match it's funding.

The Environment Chair asked that given the significant savings could funds not be transferred from the police budget to the scheme. The officer stated that the Wardens provide information to the police to make policing easier and therefore help provide a better service. The Warden Co-ordinator stated that if the costs of the scheme were added to the council tax there would be areas within the district which would be paying for a service that it didn't receive.

The Officer was asked if all agencies are contributing and what proportion of the costs is allocated for each organisation. District is to fund 50% and other agencies between 25 – 33%. Talks are still taking place with some agencies – registered social landlords are to pay £10 per house. There will be no funding from the police as they have promoted the Police Community Support Officer - initially paid for by the Home Office but this source of funding will soon cease. The cost of two wardens for Tangmere, Boxgrove and Oving will be £63,000 per annum. It is expected that the three villages will pay a third of the costs with Tangmere contributing approximately £9,500. It is proposed to offer the Wardens a three-year contract instead of the current one-year.

The meeting noted that District Council would like to roll the scheme out to other areas but is restricted by cost.

One councillor said that he has had some experience of this type of initiative and two things had emerged: that a robust form of funding three-year plan was required and secondly that over the

years there is a tendency for major funders to come under financial pressure to steadily reduce their contribution and it is left up to local residents to fund the deficit. The meeting noted that District has committed to a further three years and then it will review the scheme. The County Council will also fund for three years.

A resident asked what has the Parish Council allocated for the Wardens in the precept. The Council had set aside £4,000 for the last quarter's funding in the current budget. However, if the parish precept were to increase by £10 per household as proposed it would result in the precept being increased by nearly a third.

Another resident asked that if the Parish Council had to contribute to this scheme it would set a precedent for other agencies to devolve costs down to local level. He asked how residents could ensure that they are getting value for money and if by employing a dedicated supervisor it could lead to the provision of dedicated admin staff. The Co-ordinator informed the meeting that a senior warden had been appointed to do daily line management and work his patch but had found that there wasn't enough time for both. There are also 11 weeks of holiday to be covered. He recommended that a local group should be set up which would meet three to four times a year with the Wardens to ensure that they are meeting the village's needs. There would be one member of each of the parish councils plus representatives from registered social landlords and education agencies. It was hoped that LAT would take this on responsibility but this hasn't happened. All of the Co-ordinator's recommendations have been take onboard by the District Council. The resident asked as the present scheme has made such a reduction in anti-social behaviour is a presence still required on the ground every day of the week? The meeting noted that people know when the Wardens are not on duty and spread the information – a daily presence is required.

The Chairman stated that the Council would discuss the funding issue later on in the meeting.

The Committee noted that the Parish Council and the village as a whole value the service provided by the Community Wardens.

2093. PUBLIC SESSION

(a) Community Wardens' Report

There was no report from the Community Wardens due to the earlier presentation.

(b) Police Community Support Officer's Report

The PSCO was concerned with the damage to the bus shelters at Nettleton Avenue and the Museum and asked if the Parish Council had considered using Perspex instead of glass. The Council considered it more aesthetic to use glass, as Perspex tends to become cloudy over time. The meeting noted that the delay in replacing the glass and the Museum shelter has been caused by the County Council. The PCSO and CWs are to monitor the shelters. There have been several incidents of anti-social behaviour around Halloween and Bonfire night. More abandoned vehicles have been reported – a blue one on Tangmere Road has been put down to District for removal. There have been a few assaults including two sexually assaults which a thirteen year old is in custody for. There have been a couple of burglaries at the Nurseries. Due to the recent spate of vandalism at the Village Centre, the PCSO had had a long chat with the Youth Club and had said that she would ask the Parish Council to shut the club down if the vandalism didn't stop. The meeting noted that there had been a youth supervisor vacancy for two years and extra supervision is required. The County Councillor was asked if he could help in obtaining extra assistance for the Club. The Chichester Boys Club oversees the Tangmere Youth Club but it can only ask for volunteers due to a lack of funds. The meeting noted that the club was not seeking additional staff but to have the existing vacancy filled.

(c) Local Action Team Report

The Environment Chair gave a report on behalf of the LAT chairperson. The group are seeking to have the original gap in the fencing between Spitfire Court and Meadow Way reinstated. Residents of the neighbouring houses along the path are concerned about a potential increase in noise and litter – it was suggested that aggressive plants could be planted along the path. There was no Football in the Community event last midterm break due to limited funding. The next event will take place at Tangmere in the February midterm. Signs: a number of them are overgrown or are dirty. The bend at the Museum is a concern as cars are not slowing down in time and the signpost on the corner has been hit a number of times.

The meeting noted that the LAT forum was being used for raising unsuitable issues and has no set guidelines. Parish Councillors are not encouraged to join the group. The Council AGREED that the Clerk should write to the LAT Co-ordinator at District Council to raise the Parish Council's concerns regarding the group's boundaries and guidelines.

(d) County and District Councillors' Report

District Councillor's Report
The District Councillor had sent her apologies as she had another meeting to attend and asked that the following report be read out.
She is now a member of the planning committee. The hedge problem at Nicholson Close has been resolved although the issue of ownership has not. The enforcement on No.38 Nicholson Close is to be brought before the Environment Committee for discussion. The Baffles Cottage application has gone to appeal.
One of the conditions of the Bader Arms licence is that it closes at 11.30pm.
Seawards is holding an open day at the Respironic site.

County Councillor's Report
The County Councillor gave the following verbal report:
The County Council is in the process of reinstating hot school meals and it will take two to three years to roll out throughout the county. Schools with greater social needs will be given priority. The Government has published a white paper on the reorganisation of local government. It would like to create unitary authorities such as in Oxford. Parish councils are mentioned in that they can change their names to neighbourhood/community councils. It would give District and County greater freedom on planning and housing issues in their wards. Substantial savings are expected from District's and County's co-operative cost cutting by the sharing and purchasing of services together. It is a bit early for final council tax figures but the County is currently working at 5%; District at 2.5%. There have been successive increases in pay settlements in local government. County is not as efficient as it should be and is looking at top management and structural review. It is working through the ramifications of the Children's Act. A27: there are a few more hurdles for the project before approval but usually if there is the support from the regional transport board it will go through. The Government has not responded to County's undertakings from two years ago. A lot of design work will have to be done and further consultation will take place then. If anything drops out of the five-year plan there will be an alternative substitute available.

The County Councillor was asked if the Stockbridge link road is in the scheme. Until the upgrades are made to the A27 there will be no development to the south. The regional plan still has to be confirmed and the numbers are still tentative. There was no update on the A27 footbridge.

(e) Residents Questions

Residents raised the following issues:
No parish councillors had attended either the County Local Committee meeting or the LAT one. The Chairman had other commitments and other members were unavailable for a number of reasons. The meeting noted that there had been confusion over the date of the LAT meeting. The resident had raised the issue of 20mph speed limits within the village at the CLC meeting. The County Councillor informed the meeting that the Department of Transport had revised speed limits and it will become easier for County to reduce speed limits. The Chairman requested that the area should be evaluated to see if it was suitable as it would be the cheapest option though it would require enforcement.
The Allotment Steward asked the Council if it had a local parish plan or five-year plan for the allotments in accordance with planning policy PG17. The item is to be brought before the Environment Committee for discussion. The lack of communication regarding the awarding of the contract for the repairs to the allotment garage was raised. The Clerk was still awaiting the required documentation from the preferred supplier. The Council's provision of additional land available for allotments was queried. A second strip from the additional horse field land will be made available as allotments. The servicing of the lawn mower service had not been approved - the Clerk stated that it had been approved but will check the minutes to confirm it. The meeting was informed that the delay in sending a letter to District resulted in the risk of missing the deadline for a grant. The Clerk was unaware of the deadline for the application.
Residents of Malcolm Road had received notification that the lighting on the road is to be moved to the south side. The Parish Councillor had not been informed of this.
The introduction of the Cleaner Neighbourhood Acts to be introduced next year was raised. The County Councillor stated that the nominated person who can give it fines can not be a member of the Parish Council.
The tennis courts are becoming damaged as the fence is being pulled up and the stanchion bent. The Chairman is to investigate the matter.
The inspector of the Core Strategy Examination in Public will be conducting a visit to the village to get an impression of the place. Overflowing bins on the pavements are an eyesore and will not give a good impression. The matter will be highlighted in the next Newsletter.

2094. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2006 were approved and signed as a correct record.

2095. MATTERS ARISING

Item 2083 Residents Questions: Litter; to be brought before the Environment Committee for discussion.

2096. URGENT MATTERS ARISING

There were no urgent matters.

2097. ALLOTMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS TO WOODLANDS TRUST AND BREATHING PLACES

The Allotment Steward had requested that the Parish Council front the two grant applications as it owns the land, has bank accounts and a constitution. No financial support is required. The Woodlands Trust grant is for £100 and the Breathing Places lottery funded grant can be as much as £10,000. Concern had been raised that the Museum by providing poor topsoil had created a problem which the Parish Council would have to pay to put right. Growth plans for the allotments consisted of releasing a second additional strip from the area by the horse field for use as allotments. The Committee noted that a committee would have to be set up to oversee the administration of the grants.

The Council AGREED to front the grant applications to the Woodland Trust and Breathing Places.

2098. PROPOSAL FOR A VILLAGE DAY 'TANGMERE CELEBRATIONS 2007'

A number of groups and individuals within the village would like to hold a village day on 16 June 2007 which is West Sussex day and St Richard's day. Any funds raised would go to St Richards Hospital. It is proposed that the recreational field be used for staging various displays such as police dog teams and that most of the User Groups will participate. A request for some financial assistance from the Parish Council had been received. The Clerk had checked with SALC and it is within the Council's powers to help fund such an occasion. The Council AGREED that it would finance specific items up to a total of £1,000 and this amount would be incorporated in next year's budget. The Council will also cover the insurance and health and safety and reclaim VAT on large items. A committee will be set up to organise the event which will liase with User Groups and the Parish Council. The meeting noted that there was a need to book groups as early as possible. There will be no specific wet weather insurance provision as there are no large paid activities proposed.

2099. LDF: EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC UPDATE

The meeting noted that all six supporting items had been submitted. A list of the session dates will be circulated to members. The Chairman of Museum will be attending the session on the final day. The Environment Chair will attend the first session.

The meeting was informed that a letter from the Airfields of Britain Charities Trust supporting the Museum project had been published in the Chichester Observer.

2100. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that the following correspondence had been received:

(a) CDC: Members of Code of Conduct – a copy of a report on declaring an interest is to be circulated to members.
(b) CDC: Members Allowances - noted.
(c) WSCC: Installation of a double-sided sign on the lighting column in Meadow Way, opposite the junction with City Fields Way for Chichester Business Park - noted. A number of large advertisement boards had appeared at the Tangmere roundabout. District Council is to be asked if permission is required for these boards.
(d) Stagecoach: confirmation that the No.55 bus route is a circular route and that passengers can be picked up or dropped off at any bus stop in Tangmere – the circular route will be highlighted in the next Newsletter.
(e) Martlett Homes: The Phoenix magazine for circulation.

(f) CDC: Goodwood Motor Circuit Consultative Committee; minutes of previous meeting and invitation to attend meeting on Friday, 15 June 2007 - noted.

(g) CDC: Conservation Area Character Appraisals. The consultants are to be advised on Perrymead and a copy of the letter sent to the estate agents forwarded to them.

2100. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the Environment Committee held on 26 September 2006.

The Committee Chair had attended a meeting regarding the lay-by on the A27 by the roundabout. The item is to be added to the next committee agenda.

2101. VILLAGE CENTRE COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the Village Centre Committee held on 10 August 2006.

The Committee Chair had completed the purchase of the additional crockery and a curtain had been hung in the main hall by Mike Nation to reduce the transfer of sound between the small and main halls.

2102. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 31 October 2006.

Funding of Community Wardens: The Council discussed the presentation made by the District Council Officer. The Council AGREED that an insert should be included in the next Newsletter asking residents if they would agree to pay an additional £10 per household per year on the parish precept to fund the Wardens. Collection boxes for the forms will be located throughout the village. The issue will also be highlighted on the Parish website. If the suggestion does not have the support of the village a public meeting will be held at which the Community Warden presentation could be shown to residents.

2103. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

There were no other matters for information.

Date of next meeting: Thursday, 11 January 2006