

TANGMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 8 MARCH 2007

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

Also present: Seven members of the public, Jayne Sansby (LAT Chair), Community Wardens Sue Long and Declan Moody, District Councillor Brenda Atlee and County Councillor Andrew Smith.

Apologies: Michael Clue – business commitment, PCSO Sarah Watson – training course and Sgt Fisk.

2116. PUBLIC SESSION

The Chairman asked residents to refrain from asking questions until all reports had been given

(a) **Community Wardens' Report**

A report had been prepared to show the breakdown of incidents from January 2004 to January 2006 (see Minute Book for copy). CW Declan Moody gave the following verbal report: the motorbike problem is recurring on the airfield and the CWs are working closely with the Police and a few Section 59 notices had been given out. He requested that all residents should report any incidents on the 0845 number. There has been a lot of anti-social behaviour. A lot of criminal damage had been done to bus shelters, cars and fences within the village. Some underage drinking has taken place in the village and a tree by the school was set on fire – the names and descriptions of the youths involved have been passed onto CWs. CW Sue Long reported that the amount of litter and rubbish has accumulated. A bin, funded by LAT, will be installed in the Hampden play area. The Community Safety Officer is organising a big clean-up involving the fire brigade and the Registered Social Landlords. The event is planned to take place before Tangmere Celebrates 2007 (TC07). Complaints had been received about the abusive language from schoolchildren travelling to and from Tangmere. Any complaints should be directed to Stagecoach. The Junior Wardens went ice-skating as an end of term treat. A number of other warden schemes have shown interest in how the Jr Warden scheme has been set up and run. The Jr Wardens and CWs from other areas will be involved in TC07

(b) **Police Community Support Officer's report**

The PCSO had submitted a written report (for copy see Minute Book). Most items on the report had been covered in the CW's report.

(c) **Local Action Team Report**

The LAT Chair gave the following verbal report: several bids for funding had been received - £700 for the Breakfast Club and the Headteacher of the school had requested additional tree planting along Meadow Way to screen traffic from its playground. It has been suggested that a management committee should be set up for the Youth Club which would include a representative from the Parish Council. There are plans to remove the Cheshire Crescent play area – local residents are to be polled to see if they wish it to be removed. A football wall and swings on the recreation field have been requested which could be part-funded by LAT. The 'Make the Commitment' poster campaign will be launched at the School's summer fair to raise awareness with parents.

(d) County and District Councillors' Report**County Councillor's Report**

The County Councillor gave the following verbal report: the County Council has set a council tax of 5% and proposes a similar increase next year as a result of failure to reduce overhead costs. There is budget pressure on the cost of landfill – two thirds of rubbish collected ends up in landfill. The County Councillor had visited the Marchwood incinerator in South Hampshire which currently handles 700,000 tonnes of rubbish. If the County continues to produce the same amount of rubbish per year up to 2015 it will face a bill of £64 million in landfill charges. Council Local Committees are to have a revamp – they will meet more times per year and more powers and funds will be divided up which will mean a slight increase of funds.

District Councillor's Report

The District Councillor gave the following verbal report: a unanimous decision had been reached by the Development Control Committee to permit the felling of the tree in Middleton Gardens. There are similar aged trees on the green by the School which the Parish Council should be made aware. Grants are available for the disabled and those on low incomes to improve the facilities in their homes to keep their homes warm. A loan can also be obtained of £4,000 which can be paid back over six years. The District Council has the power to compulsory purchase the land by the existing travellers site in Easthampnett to extend it for travellers and gypsies – each is to have their own site. The District Councillor had attended a showing of the film by Al Gore on global warming. The Parish Map book is on sale at £18. The School already has a copy but it was suggested by one councillor that the Twinning Association could give a copy to its twinning partner.

Members were asked for questions.

The Environment Chair raised the issue of the compulsory purchase order with regards the travellers' site mentioned in the DDO. One councillor had discussed the proposed extension to the site at Easthampnett and the one at Westbourne with District Officers at the public exhibition who had stated that the sites would be removed from the DDO but that one of the existing sites would be expanded. The Chair had received copies of DDO responses from residents objecting to the extension of the Easthampnett site. The Parish Council has also stated its objection.

The meeting noted that the Parish Council was co-ordinating an initiative with interested parties for a more effective and sustainable approach to the litter problem in the village and to increase resources to underpin the volunteer effort. The District Councillor informed the meeting that Boxgrove Parish Council has employed a resident for the last six years to collect litter in its village. A litter hit squad for large pieces of refuse is in place at County Council.

One councillor had been informed that children from Tangmere attending Westgate School were causing problems on buses. The CW stated that there had been increase of bad behaviour on several school and local buses.

There had been a meeting between District Council and the Landowner regarding the fencing at Tamar Way - the Chairman will seek an update.

Youth Club committee: the Chairman stated that it would be appropriate for a member of the Parish Council to sit on the committee and asked for a volunteer.

Tree planting on Meadow Way: an application could be made to the same grants body which awarded the Allotments a grant for tree planting.

Boxgrove's Funding of CWs: Boxgrove Parish Council had agreed to contribute a small amount to the project but not as much as the District Council had expected. As Tangmere had agreed to fund £10,000, it expected that the CWs hours would be proportionate to each

parish's contribution. The Parish Council will pay its contribution monthly and will monitor the time spent on each village.

The floor was then opened to the members of the public.

(d) Residents Questions

Residents raised the following issues:

Litter: the meeting noted that when the village litterbins are emptied by the District Council a litter pick of the area is carried out. The approach road to Tangmere by the Museum needs clearing. This is the responsibility of the Highways Agency or the District Council.

New streetlights for Malcolm Road: the Parish Council has approved the installation by the County Council of four streetlights on its recreation ground

LDF DDO: a resident had raised some issues as part of his DDO response and had been informed that he would receive a response within a week. He is still awaiting a response. The District Councillor will look into it.

Boxgrove playing field: the existing playing field will form part of a land swap for the new school and residential development. The resident asked that the Parish Council monitor the situation. The District Councillor stated that Boxgrove Parish Council had approved the project and that the type of project was individual to Boxgrove.

A resident suggested that a small certificate of appreciation or a special dinner be organised for a resident who has devoted the last twenty years to promoting village life as a Parish Councillor and involvement with the Centre's User Groups. The Parish Council will take on board the suggestion.

Football Wall: the costs need to be investigated. One of the housing associations may contribute. One councillor volunteered to obtain several quotes for the football wall and the soft play ground material that would be required.

Several members of the public left the meeting.

2117. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2007 were approved and signed as a correct record.

2118. MATTERS ARISING

No update had been received on the proposed lay-by on the A27 by the Tangmere roundabout.

2119. URGENT MATTERS ARISING

There were no urgent matters.

2120. A27 FOOTBRIDGE UPDATE

The public meeting to consult local residents which was to be held at the Village Centre on 30th and 31st March has been cancelled. The delay is due to the land, where the footbridge is planned, is owned by Martlet but was covenanted by the District Council to prohibit development on the land. The covenant needs to be removed by District Council as soon as possible as the trees on the site cannot be cut down in the nesting season and would therefore further delay the project. The County and District Councillors were asked for their help in expediting the legal issue. The

meeting noted that the matter would have to come before full District Council to amend the covenant.

The meeting noted that the traffic management changes to the exit onto Nyton Road from the A27 had reduced the exit to the width of one car resulting in traffic queuing in the fast lane of the A27 in the later afternoon and early evening. A letter is to be sent to the agency responsible highlighting the safety issues and asking for them to be resolved urgently.

2121. DDO SUBMISSION DOCUMENT: STRATEGY DISCUSSION

The Inspector's report on the soundness of the Core Strategy is due out on 19th April but will not be released until after the elections in May.

Item 7 of the Parish Council's DDO submission states the Parish Council's objection to the expansion of the travellers' site at Easthampnett.

The meeting noted that the Fire Depot application comes under the current Local Plan but will also have to take account of the LDF. This being the case, the Statement of Community Involvement then applies. This guidance involves talking to the community. There has been no evidence that the Parish Council's comments have been taken onboard by the District Council – the Parish Plan was not adopted and has been ignored. None of the Parish Council's views have been reflected in this document. The District Officer in charge of the Fire Depot application has stated that she was not aware that pre-consultation is required. District Council's interpretation of pre-application consultation is that it is only required for 'significant' development and that the Fire Depot site is not deemed large enough. The County Councillor, who had been involved with introducing the policy of pre-application consultation, stated that the government inspector who reviewed the Statement of Community Involvement had reduced the scope of 'strategic importance'. The Parish Council will challenge the term 'significant' as Tangmere is mentioned in the DDO as a strategic brownfield allocation and a 10% increase of housing in the village represents a significant development. The meeting noted that the Parish Council will only have three minutes to present its case for the Fire Depot site and requested that the District Councillor would talk to other Councillors regarding the Parish Council's position.

The County and District Councillors and the remaining members of the public left the meeting.

2122. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that the following correspondence had been received:

- (a) Department for Communities and Local Government: Consultation on amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members – noted and passed to George Barlow.
- (b) CDC: Notice of Standards Committee Meeting on 27 February includes item on proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct - noted.
- (c) CDC: Proposed Strategy for Community-based Emergency Planning for Parishes who wish to develop their own plan – The Parish Council AGREED that there was a need to formalise an Emergency Plan as it would be able to offer the Village Centre's facilities in the case of an emergency.
- (d) WSCC: invitation to consider entering the Sussex Village of the Year - noted.

2123. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the Environment Committee held on 23 January 2007 and the extraordinary meeting held on 13 February 2007.

The extraordinary meeting was called to discuss the substitute plans for the fire depot site and to approve the location of four streetlights on Council land. Because of the Parish Council's and the Developer's position on the housing mix it is likely that District Officers will recommend refusal of the application. English Heritage is considering listings for the existing buildings. The Finance Chair queried if the application was refused would the Developer appeal or would it resubmit the plans with District's approved housing mix.

The bollard by the slip road onto the A27 has still not been repaired. The Clerk will contact the appropriate agency to arrange repair. The meeting noted that cars are continuing to park by the entrance to the Salvage Yard making it difficult for vehicles exiting onto the A27 slip road. The CWs are to be informed.

2124. VILLAGE CENTRE COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the Village Centre Committee held on 13 February 2007.

Paragraph 256.4 Letting Fees 2007/08: The Council RESOLVED to set the charges for the hire of the Village Centre's hall as recommended by the Village Centre Management Committee (for copy see Minute Book). The meeting noted that there is also a special party rate for 12-16 year olds of £50 for four hours.

The Committee discussed the format of the Village Centre Management Committee meetings and noted that the number of matters arising had been reduced by the Village Centre Manager producing a report on items that had been actioned.

The Parish Council AGREED that the terms of reference for each committee should be confirmed at the first meeting of the new municipal year.

The Clerk requested that if a councillor wishes an item to be included on a meeting's agenda the request should be submitted one week prior to the meeting.

2125. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 27 February 2007.

Paragraph 284.2 Drainage Quote: a quote had been received which was £10,000 more than the budget. The Committee Chair, the Chairman and the Clerk had met with the Architect. The Architect had suggested that the work be put out to tender to specialist ground works companies in an effort to reduce the costs. The plans may also be changed slightly to reduce costs. Any plans will have to be approved by the Environment Agency. Once this approval has been given the project can be put out to tender in accordance with Financial Standing Orders.

Paragraph 290.2 Grant Applicants: The Parish Council AGREED to award a grant of £100 to the Youth Club.

Paragraph 292.2 Quality Parish Status: The Parish Council discussed the merits of seeking Quality Parish Status. It was noted that the majority of evidence required already exists although the Clerk will have to submit a portfolio to obtain a Certificate of Local Government Administration. The Parish Council APPROVED the application for Quality Parish Status. The Clerk is to contact the District Council as to the process of expanding the Parish Council.

Paragraph 294.2 Clerk's Appraisal: the Clerk left the meeting whilst this item was discussed. The Parish Council AGREED that with effect from 1 April 2007 the Clerk will receive an increment of one spinal point and that she will be paid up to a maximum of 15 hours per week. The two main targets for the Clerk this year are to obtain the Certificate in Local Government Administration to achieve Quality Status and to computerise the accounts.

2126. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

There were no other matters for information.

Date of next meeting: Thursday, 10 May 2007