

North Tuddenham Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held on 14th January 2020

Present: Mr. J. Stapleton, (Chairman) Mr M. Smith, Mr. D. Baxter, Mrs C. Blake & Mr. J. Phillips.

1. In Attendance: 4 members of the public

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Mrs. P. Baldwin (Clerk) and Cllr G. Bambridge due to ill health and the apologies were accepted. Apologies from Chris Williams too.

3. Declarations of Interest.

Mr Stapleton declared an interest in recycling; Mrs Blake & Mr Smith declared an interest in St Mary's PCC.

4. Minutes of the previous meetings (Highways England special meeting 17th December 2019 and scheduled PC meeting 26th November 2019)

There was one date error (corrected manually) on Page 2 of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting but otherwise both sets of minutes were agreed to be a true record and signed by Mr Stapleton. Proposed by Mr Baxter, seconded by Mr. Smith.

5. To Report on Items not on the Agenda for the previous meeting. None.

6. To receive District and County Councillors reports.

In their absence this item was carried forward.

7. To close the meeting for public participation.

Comments mainly centred around the flooding on Mill Road including recognition of the height of the water table, excessive rainfall of late and blocked drains.

The public were gently reminded of the rules about when public participation is permitted during Parish Council meetings.

8. Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting.

Highways

- **Potholes and Drainage**

Issue with flooding on Mill Road. Clerk has been chasing Highways but to no avail. Refusal by affected residents to pay rates was suggested as a way to provoke action! To be considered. Gulley need to be cleaned out again. Silt and mud from verges blocking drains. Broken drain? Clerk to be asked to pursue. Rangers may be able to help by cleaning out drains.

Need to check out drain outside Dale Tree Farm and another one near Whitford Bridge Also problems on Low Road West near Jonathan's house and near old Piggery.

Any other blocked drains? Pose question in next Mardle.

- **Damaged and missing road sign**

Reported but no action to date. Keep pushing. Junction at Fox Lane, Low Road East and Mattishall Lane is becoming hazardous. Tasks for Rangers? List? Ask in Mardle.

Although not strictly a matter arising, but linked anyway, it was queried why Low Road West has a 30 mph speed limit, but Low Road East doesn't.

There is a significant amount of heavy-duty traffic on the latter including farm vehicles, large lorries and some very speedy drivers.

Local residents are worried about their safety. Some livestock have been killed. Some pedestrians have reported taking evasive action while some careful drivers have been forced to avoid more reckless drivers.

Environmental Matters

- **Village Recycling Scheme.** Been going over Christmas. Price of metal has dropped so not selling much at present . Items for re-sale will be posted on website with reference to same in Mardle.
- **Fly-tipping** Noticeable improvement around village. Favourite locations still tend to be next to gate on Fox Lane before lane narrows and also on the opposite side. Need for everyone to keep a lookout.
- **Dog Bins.** Have agreement to purchase two bins – one at the end of Mill Road just after the bridge over A47. The other is planned to be fixed at the end of Low Road West close to the footbridge. Dog fouling still a major village issue!

The Common.

There are still issues with dogs entering the pond, despite polite signage warning owners not to let their dogs do so. Councillors debated as to whether a more a more officious sign such as *'Pond has contagious weed. Please keep dogs out of pond or this weed could transfer to your garden'*. Carried forward. Some tree clearing has been carried out by volunteers.

Footpaths.

Footpath to footbridge at bottom of Low Road East needs clearing again.

Defibrillators.

Second one has just been fixed to wall of Village Hall. An application was submitted to Tesco 'Bags of Help' scheme in the summer for financial support towards a third defibrillator, but nothing had been heard of it until now. To our surprise we have been selected as 1 of 3 favoured causes in local Tesco stores for the next 3 months. Having been selected means we will receive at least £1000 or more, depending the number of blue tokens, allocated for in-store purchases, customers drop into our 'box' near the exit.

Church Tower.

Probably need in the order of £150K to do the building work on the tower excluding scaffolding and consultants' fees . Have agreed to apply to NLHF again with support from Historic England and others. Instructed to invite architects to tender for next stage - drawing up of specifications to go to tender. Ruth Blackman appointed and will inspect tower again in February. Approximate cost of this stage up to agreeing contractors to do work is approx. £10K. Need to submit fully costed proposal to NLHF by 2nd March if possible or 1st June latest . Carried forward.

11. Major Roads

- **A47 Dualling.** We had an open meeting with Highways England on the 17th December to hear the latest news about the project. After some delays the project is gaining momentum. The route is more or less fixed, conversations with landowners and affected businesses are ongoing as are further tests and investigations. The main concerns raised by villagers at this meeting were the effect of the dualling on minor roads in and around the village and rat running . Mr Smith forwarded these details to Highways England who will be talking to Norfolk County Council about these points in the very near future. Public consultations will start soon, and North Tuddenham Village Hall will be the venue for open forum of displays and informal discussions with Highways England on February 27th. Hours of opening will be from midday to 9pm. Everyone welcome .
- **Norwich Western Link Road.** No further updates. Still some opposition from certain groups political and non-political to the whole idea but Mr Smith was of the opinion that a purpose-built road was better than rat running along minor roads. Mr Smith to attend Local Liaison Group meeting early next month and report back.

12. Correspondence - List supplied to councillors.

13. The Local Plan.

Summary of main changes forwarded to councillors. Has little effect on small village like ours. We will continue to support development on a small scale.

14. Planning Applications. Linden Lea – no objections

15. 75th Anniversary Victory in Europe celebrations and other events 2020.

There is a Breckland Grant available for village V.E. celebrations which must take place in May over revised Bank Holiday weekend 8th 9th & 10th May. The Lodge are keen to do something for this during the day, but nothing has been decided yet. The issue for many in the village is that this is the year for the Open Farm Sunday in June and the Tuddenham 100 in July and a large 70th Birthday party, also in the summer. Then there is talk of a possible Battle of Britain concert /party in September. Potential overload. Relevant parties agreed to meet separately and then update everyone at next meeting .

16. Finance Payments and Receipts.

Balances			
Barclays c/a		11108.59	
Barclays d/a		645.87	
Receipts			
Recycling`		0	
RPA Grant		1060.00	
Barclays deposit Interest		0.32	
Payments			
Chq no 431	G. Taylor	Common Grass Cutting	165.00
Chq no 432	P. Baldwin	Expenses	36.00
Chq no 433	N.A.L.C.	Annual Subs.	149.56
Payments to be made.			
Pat– expenses			65.00
Including £40 to Information Commissioner and £25 to Bill Aylett for website			

18. Items for publication on the Website, noticeboards and in The Mardle

Jobs for the Rangers
Dog Fouling
Recycled items for sale
Blocked drains

19. Items to go on the next agenda. As before plus the pond at the Common

20. Any Other Business. None

The next meeting will be on 10th March 2020 at 7.30pm

The meeting then closed at 9.05pm