

TRUDOXHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 6th March 2014

- PRESENT:** Paul Candy (Chairman), P Twigger (Vice Chairman), P. Allen, P Cloney, C.Midgley, J. Symes
9 members of the public
- CLERK:** Georgina Blackshaw
- APOLOGIES:** Cllr. David Stevens,
-

Declaration of Interest:

None

22.10 The Minutes :

- Having been circulated, were proposed by **PC** seconded by **PT**. **PC** then signed them off as a true copy. Meeting then suspended for:

Members of the Public Comments:

Several parishioners raised the question of the ongoing situation with the solar farm development. The visual impact now that construction is taking place is considerable, especially from Marston House area and there is a concern about the colour of the panels. The Chairman has been advised by the Clerk that the formal position of the Council in this planning issue needs to be considered and he read out the advice given by SALC (22.1 3). Several Cllr's wished to express support for further investigation to take place and that both this and the height of the panels should be checked with the Planning Board Minutes. A follow up letter should be sent to Mendip Enforcement Officer, if appropriate, once the information had been collated. A parishioner offered to send on copies of the relevant papers so that the Parish Council could check and the Clerk would then take any action required.

Meeting resumed at 7.55

22.1 Past Subject Matters:

- 22.1.1 **PC** reported that Graeme Barry at the White Hart would be willing to participate in the Safe Place initiative and the **Clerk would pass on relevant information**. Thanks expressed to him for taking this on.
- 22.1.2 Road Closures – **Clerk had checked** and the proposed closure of Tuckmarsh Lane had been logged on the Highways website and the TPC were not always given notice. Work to the road affected did not actually result in any closures.
- 22.1.3 **Clerk was asked to clarify** the situation on planning issues and **PC** read out the guidance issued by SALC (Somerset Association of Local Councils) which was also circulated by **CM** to all parishioners who use the village website. It states that "After the Parish Council has submitted their comments on a planning issue; they have no further influence on the application once it has been approved by the Planning Authority. They can maintain a strong interest by requesting a copy of any correspondence between the Enforcement Officer and individual parishioners." **PC** has asked the **Clerk to action** this and it has been done.
- 22.1.4 Village Plan. 1997 copy has been circulated. **CM** has researched and pointed out that although it would take time and effort, it could strengthen parish decision making in the future. **PCL** offered to look at the issue and report back at a later date.

22.2 Correspondence

- 22.2.1 All relevant information received is displayed on Notice Boards. PACT meeting info – **PC** had

attended and the ongoing problem of speeding in villages was raised. PCSO has reduced time as he has a larger area to cover, so it does not give much confidence that things will improve. **PC** had received a letter from Rod Lewis stating he wished to extend his sabbatical until July 2014.

22.3 Planning

- 22.3.1 **Application 2014/0202** Two storey extension. Rose Tree Cottage. Trudoxhill Mr L Maidstone
Parking taken into consideration. No objections from neighbours. **Approved**
- 22.3.2 **Application 2014/0256** Change of use from B2 (Freight Yard) to C3 (Residential) to include 3 contemporary dwellings. Next to Wyndhams, Trudoxhill Mr Phil Jenkins.
Design looks attractive and staggered, and although it will be higher up it will be in line with Knoll Hill Cottage so will fit in. Cllr's main concerns were about the amount of parking and turning space for the size of the houses plus visibility issues as the top house in particular will have its drive entrance close to the blind bend. **3 Cllr's Recommended Referral to the Planning Officer 2 Recommended Approval** but also wished to have their concerns about parking and visibility noted. One Cllr wanted clarification of what was meant by a 'contemporary design'.
PCL left meeting at 8.20 pm

22.4 Accounts for Payment

- 22.4.1 Clerk's Wages

22.5 Items to Report:

- 21.5.1 Playground update – **CM** reported that TOPs (Trudoxhill Organising Playground) had now Applied to HMRC for Gift Aid status and that fundraising would start with house to house on April 5th and Easter Bingo Saturday 12th April 7.30 Village Hall. She circulated some design ideas that are being developed and the next TOP's meeting is Wed 19th March 7.30. White Hart
- 21.5.2 Web site – **CM** explained the site map/content matrix and talked through the progress thus far. It will be an easier and cheaper system to use with more people able to edit it than at present. **CM** and **Mats** will have the new site up by Christmas. Thanks to **CM** for her ongoing work.
- 21.5.3 **JS** reported that grit has been taken to Gare Hill after a request from a parishioner. He has also secured the Brass plaque (to Cecil Andrews) that had come away from the wooden surround.

22.6 Other Business referred to the Clerk

- 22.6.1 Highways Log had been collated by Clerk and copies circulated. She explained that there are several issues to clarify and would look at a more consistent approach to the issues i.e. reporting/responses/timing etc. She recommended that it should be left for a month or so as the workload resulting from the bad weather has put a lot of pressure on the systems and she would like to pursue in depth at a more appropriate time in the near future. Cllr's agreed to this proposal.
- 22.6.2 **PC** read out the Highways response to the TPC letter about the poor condition of Smithwicks Lane. Some temporary infilling work would take place which has since been completed.
- 22.6.3 Somerset Levels Appeal – request for contribution. Cllr's agreed to contribute £25.00 from the TPC and Clerk clarified that this donation was allowed. Leaflets had been received and were issued for distribution around the village. Posters have been displayed on the Notice Boards.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.
The next meeting will be at 7.30 p.m Thursday 3rd April 2014

*For the attention of: Mr P Candy, Mr P Twigger, Mr P Allan, Mr. P Clone, Mrs C Midgley,
Mr J Symes.
Cllr Stevens*