

# **TACOLNESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of Tacolneston Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall at 7.00pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Present:** Cllr B Spratt (in the Chair), K Darrell, S Manning, B Cleary, M Holmes  
District Councillor, 4 Members of the public

*Acting Clerk:* J W Pennell.

*Member of the Press :* Brian Lees : Tacolneston Matters.

**2017/121 Apologies:** Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Maginn and McClenning.

**2017/122 Declarations of Interest:** None

**2017/123 Approval of Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017, having been circulated, were approved as a correct record with minor amendments and signed by the chairman

**2017/124 TAFRA**

- a. Council noted the report given by the retiring committee and thanked the volunteers for all the hard work they had put in – not least in unravelling the complex web of documentation of the charity .
- b. A new constitution of TAFRA had been adopted on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017
- c. On the proposal of Cllr Cleary, council agreed to become the sole trustee of the charity.
- d. It was agreed that the first meeting of the council 'sitting as trustee' would be on 27<sup>th</sup> September at 7 p.m. in the village hall.

**2017/125 Mandy's Little Diamonds**

- a. Mandy Shaw reported that while 'Little Diamonds' was doing well – a rise in hall fees and the lower than expected level of government support meant that it was running at a loss.
- b. She requested a grant of £250 to assist with running costs until the end of the year which would give her time to prepare a proper business plan
- c. It was agreed to suspend the current grant policy and to review it at the November meeting prior to final budget preparation.
- d. Council agreed to award £250 to Mandy's Little Diamonds but would require to see the full business plan prior to the November meeting.

**2017/126 Clerk's Report:**

- a. The clerk reported that the issue of stones on the road and an overgrown hedge had been resolved by the Chairman visiting the houses concerned
- b. There had been an expression of interest for the job of Assistant Clerk and RFO which would be followed up by the Acting Clerk and Chairman.

**2017/127 Public Participation :**

- a. the County Councillor reported that New Road had been recently resurfaced
- b. the District councillor reported that the links recently announced with Broadland Distinct Council should lead to reduced costs
- c. Neither the Tree nor Footpath Warden had anything to report
- d. a resident reported that the Ash tree at the back of the village hall needed to be felled – the clerk stated that he would arrange the felling in November if the Tree Warden confirmed it was necessary or the space was needed for other purposes
- e. in response to a question as to how the RFO had been employed, the clerk pointed out that she had been contracted at her hourly rate as clerk of Bunwell Parish Clerk and that authority to do this had been given at a previous meeting.

Signed:



Date:

18.10.17

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- f. A member of the press asked if a discussion on the parish web site could take place at the next meeting with a particular emphasis on the transparency code. This was agreed.

**2017/128 Correspondence :**

- a. The clerk read out in full a Letter from the Monitoring Officer which stated, *inter alia*, that Tacolneston Parish Council had received as many complaints – many by councillors – as all the other parishes in South Norfolk put together. Councillors commented that this was shaming and that 'facts were facts' and agreed to two training sessions to address this and other issues
- b. Saffron housing : Housing needs Survey. Council agreed to invite Saffron to talk at future parish council meeting. One councillor commented that it appeared that Tacolneston was split with affordable housing always located at one end of the village.
- c. Concerns regarding letters from NCC on footpaths. Concerns were expressed that a new officer in County Hall had written some rather brusque letters to farmers about the footpaths on their land.
- d. Letter of thanks from the Friends of Tacolneston School.
- e. CPRE : Campaign against new housing. The clerk pointed out that if the council did indeed make the pledge it would mean that councillors would have pre-determined the issue and they would have to leave any meeting at which this was discussed.

**2017/129 Planning :..none**

**2017/130 Finance :**

- a. Council agreed to adopt the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017 with one councillor commenting that they were most professional.
- b. Payments were authorised for Margaret Ridgwell: £355.78 for RFO Duties to end August and Top Garden services : £231.43 grass cutting in August

**2017/131** Council approved Section 1 – Annual Accounting Statement for 2016/17 and Section 2 Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 for the Local Councils England Annual Return 2016/17 and the Chairman and Acting Clerk signed on them on behalf of the Council. One councillor abstained from voting because ~~she felt that~~ the internal review had not been completed and asked for a discussion on this at the next meeting.

**2017/132 Whole Council Training** :it was agreed that the first training session would take place on 15<sup>th</sup> November at 5 p.m. in the Village Hall. The clerk stressed how important it was, in the light of the letter from the Monitoring Officer that **all** councillors attended these training sessions.

**2017/133 General Maintenance** : council agreed to investigate the feasibility and costs of erecting barriers outside the school to prevent children from running on to the road using the parish partnership as a source of funds.

**Date of Next Meeting** : 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.00 p.m. In the village hall

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Signed:

*B. Swan*

Date:

18.10.17

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