

TUTBURY PARISH COUNCIL (TPC)

A meeting of the Parish Council was held by Zoom teleconferencing, Monday 21st September 2020. Those present were Cllrs, R Lock (Chair), Cllr K England (Vice Chair), Cllr C Smedley, Cllr P Steadman, Cllr T Spencer Smith, Cllr F Crossley, Cllr L Evans, Cllr W Crossley, Cllr M Upton, Cllr, L Anderson, Cllr D Morris, Borough Councillors G Raybould & S Gaskin, County Councillor P White.

Item 1: Apologies

Cllr W Crossley apologised for Cllr Morris who was having system issues, however Cllr Morris arrived shortly after into the meeting. The chair explained that the clerk would be unavailable for the meeting due to personal circumstances, but that he would act as temporary clerk for the meeting in line with SLCC & NALC guidelines.

Item 2: Minutes

Minutes of the meetings on the 27th July 2020, 3 August 2020, 5 August 2020 & 6th September 2020 were all approved without modification, proposed by Cllr Anderson, seconded by Cllr Smedley.

Item 3: Declarations of Interest & Dispensation Requests

No declarations of interest or dispensation requests were raised

Item 4: Public Participation

Members of the public raised concerns that the imminent opening of the cut through from Heritage Park onto Green Lane could pose a danger to pedestrians given the limited sight lines caused by the placement of the crossing and the lack of visibility caused by the overgrown hedging. There was also concern that the presence of the green area adjacent to the exit would lead to children playing in this area. It is understood that the exit onto Green Lane was a requirement placed on the developers at the time planning permission was given. Cllrs agreed that the issue required action to be taken. A number of potential solutions were discussed briefly including potential closure of Green Lane to vehicles, addition of signage, and the establishment of a one way system (which it was felt wouldn't help the situation as it would encourage cars to travel faster on the road). Cllr White warned that getting Green Lane closed to traffic would be a complex process, but that this could be investigated if that was the wish of the council.

Actions were agreed upon by a number of those present:

- Cllr White to discuss the Green Lane issue with Highways at his meeting the next day.
- Cllr Gaskin to remind planning of the need to keep the Green Lane access cut through closed for the time being.
- Cllr Lock to also contact planning.

Resolution

A further meeting will be called to discuss the Green Lane safety situation.

Item 5: Clerks report including correspondence

Cllr Lock reported that the issue of speeding on Park Lane was under consideration by the PCSO and that monitoring would be put in place regarding this.

Cllr Lock provided additional information on the situation at Park Pale with regard to the earth works, with Cllrs Gaskin and Raybould also involved in the situation at the Borough level, and Cllr White also liaising with the rights of way team on the matter.

Discussion took place with regard to the letter received from the allotment association with regard to the increase in peacock population. We have been approached with a plan to rehouse some of the peacocks at the nearby prison (Foston Hall). Cllrs raised concerns on the limits to our ability to respond to the situation given the lack of clarity regarding who owns/is responsible for the peacocks. Cllr L Anderson agreed to look into the situation and provide some guidance at the next meeting.

Item 6: Borough & County Report

Cllr White updated Cllrs on the current Coronavirus situation at the county level. Cllrs asked whether fines had been levied in the area for businesses failing to comply with rules, with Cllr White reporting only a small number of cases of the virus had occurred in Tutbury to this date. Cllr Raybould raised concerns that people were discarding face masks on high street and suggested signage may help.

Cllr White reported on discussions regarding the speeding issues on the A511, and reported that a Highways meeting would be held the next day.

Cllr Gaskin to supply Clerk with details of local Coronavirus testing facilities for inclusion on the Parish website.

Cllr Gaskin reported that in discussion with Cllr White there may be potential for a funding bid to clear the Mill Fleam. They will report back on progress at a later date.

Cllr Raybould reported the cricket club had received a £1000 grant to help with renovations with Borough support. Cllr Raybould reported that more time was needed to look into the provision of additional bins on playing field sites.

Cllr Lock raised parishioners' interest in a skate park established on a Borough site, and asked the Borough to inform the Parish Council if proposed improvements to facilities at the Mill Site were discussed.

Cllr Gaskin reported that the new Tutbury 106 agreement 250k Community funding would be coming out shortly. Cllr Lock pointed out that the Borough still haven't confirmed to the Parish Council how this will work.

Item 7: To Approve Accounts for Payment

Council voted in favour of approving the Accounts for Payment. Cllr Spencer-Smith proposed, and Cllr Evans seconded.

Item 8: To consider and approve changes to clerks pay

Council voted in favour of NALCs recommendations. Cllr Spencer-Smith proposed, and Cllr Anderson seconded.

Resolution

To align the clerk's salary to the increased rate as set out in the NALC published pay scales.

Item 9 was delayed till the end of the meeting to ensure more critical items were covered in the meeting timescale.

Item 9: To consider and approve installation of seats in bus shelters

Cllrs raised concerns that we have not monitored the High Street bench for a sufficient amount of time to consider the placement of new benches. There were also concerns about encouraging sitting when the benches themselves are of insufficient length to support current social distancing guidelines. Cllr W Crossley explained the reason behind the redesign of the Duke Street bus shelter, and the previous issues relating to anti-social behaviour at the Park lane bus shelter. After considerable discussion it was agreed that this is not the time to discuss the addition of bus shelter seating, and that this matter be revisited once the current pandemic has settled.

Item 10: To consider and approve work for the boundary maintenance of Ferrers Avenue

The Chair updated Cllrs on the quotations received. Three companies were approached but only one has provided a quotation. There was concern that the value of the quote may be indicative of an insufficient specification for the work, in particular in reference to the placement of supports for the chestnut fencing. Cllr Morris provided guidance on adjustments to the specification used for tendering. He was particularly concerned that the closed board fencing may stunt growth of the Hawthorne bushes. As an alternative to chestnut fencing the suggestion of plastic security fencing was suggested. Cllr Lock to follow up, refine and request an updated quote for discussion at the next meeting.

Item 11: To consider and approve a closed churchyard maintenance plan

The Chair asked Cllrs for suggested contractors to approach with regard to the wall survey. Cllr W Crossley explained the history of the construction behind the wall, which in unrepaired places is not strictly speaking a wall. Cllr Evans knows a structural surveyor who may be able to advise. Cllr Morris highlighted a dry stone wall repair of particularly high quality in the surrounding area (on Cornmill Lane) and suggested tracking down the company involved. Cllrs were asked to report any further suggestions to the clerk.

Cllrs were pleased the tree survey had shown no cause for immediate actions at this time.

Cllr Lock updated councillors on the question regarding the condition of the iron railings bordering Skeleton Row, both he and Cllr Smedley had inspected the site, but found no cause for immediate concern.

Item 12: Budget and finance update

Cllr Anderson reminded fellow councillors of the need to consider the Budget over the coming months, and raised the suggestion that lowering the precept could be considered going forwards.

Item 13: To review maintenance plans for the triangle

Cllr Spencer Smith updated councillors on the maintenance he has performed on the triangle with regard to foliage removal. Discussion was held on the self-seeded Ash tree currently growing on site, and whether this should be considered for removal. Cllr W Crossley requested this be considered at a future meeting, and that Cllrs should visit the site in advance of the next meeting. Cllr Steadman suggested a quote be sought prior to this meeting to inform the decision making process. Cllr Morris suggested a carved tree seat built out of the stump may be a good idea to explore.

Resolution

Resolution

To consider and obtain a quote for the removal of a self seeded Ash Tree from the Triangle.

Item 14: Items for the next agenda

- Close bank footpath maintenance, ownership & responsibility (raised by Cllr W Crossley)
- To consider potential ash tree removal (Triangle)
- Potential for addition of carved wooden seat from tree stump on the Triangle
- Budget Considerations for the next financial year.
- To consider and approve work for the boundary maintenance of Ferrers Avenue playing fields
- Peacock population considerations (Cllr Anderson)

Item 15: Date of next meeting

- The date of the next meeting is the 19th October
- The meeting ended 9:32pm