

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
TARRANT GUNVILLE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2024

Present: Councillors Charlie Regnart (Chair), Jim Farquharson, Jim Shephard, Heather Sandison, Paul Wentworth, Shirley Bragg, Paul Wentworth (from item 24/46)

In attendance: Councillor Sherry Jespersen, Dorset Council; Jan Robinson, Neighbourhood and Speedwatch co-ordinator; John Holloway, Parish Clerk

Members of the public: 9 members of the public present.

24/39. Welcome and opening remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

24/40. Apologies for absence

Councillor Guy Nicholson; Dermot Cusack, Flood Warden.

24/41. To agree the minutes of the AGM and quarterly meeting held on Tuesday 6 August 2024

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

24/42. Matters arising from these minutes

- **Footpath at Bussey Stool / Hardy's Corner**
This item remains in abeyance awaiting a conversation between the Chair and landowner.
- **Declarations**
Declarations have been made and are in the process of being received by the Clerk (as the councillors have completed but were not sure of the destination).
- **CPRE membership application**
Background by Jan Robinson – he originally joined the CPRE to obtain help after an application had been received to change Farnham Drove to a BOAT. A discussion ensued and in summary a unanimous decision was made not to join as it would always be possible to write to the CPRE on a one-off basis if advice was needed.
- **Stubhampton Copse footpath**
This has now been cleared.
- **Pimperne footpaths**
These have also been cleared.

24/43. Reports from appointed representatives and committees

Rights of Way

The rights of way officer was absent and therefore no report or items were discussed.

Neighbourhood Watch and Speedwatch

Neighbourhood Watch – JR stated that there is a very low crime rate with no notified recent activity. He made an appeal to report any incident no matter how trivial so that the data is a matter of record.

Community Speedwatch – it was decided that these matters would be discussed under item 24/45.

Flood Warden

Apologies were received from the flood warden. In brief correspondence he stated that the Tarrant had risen approximately two weeks earlier than last year, but the levels are currently dropping once again.

The Chair reported that ditch clearing at Hardy's Corner took place recently by a parish council team – approximately 12 tonnes of silt were removed uncovering a concrete base. The bottom of the concrete was noted to be 40cm below the downstream riverbed / silt level. The Chair has taken photographs and has emailed these to Dorset Council. Cllr Jespersen stated that clearance of this concrete base may be a discretionary service originally undertaken by the former Dorset County Council. She stated that the bed was concreted as a "ditch" and not a "culvert"; there could be a possible "to and fro" of responsibility liability as this would be seen as a discretionary and not statutory responsibility of Dorset Council. It was decided to request an on-site meeting to discuss future and proposed maintenance ideally with Roly Skeats present.

Signage for road closures in this area would be placed by the flood wardens according to the previously agreed policy and agreement with Dorset Council Highways team.

Cllr Jespersen stated that she was concerned over the propensity for a wet winter with resultant flooding this year but congratulated TG PC on their preparedness which is well above the norm for her ward.

Village Hall Committee Representative

Cllr Wentworth arrived later in the meeting but his presentation has been included here for ease of minuting:

Cllr Wentworth and the VH committee have applied for the Hallmark Award Scheme (which has been an intense process).

They have currently applied for Hallmark 1 and 2 (management and administration of the building and health, safety, security and licensing). A further process for Hallmark 3 would take place which includes marketing in due course.

The meeting for accreditation takes place on 9th December 2024

A communication from Dorset Council and the MP detailed the likelihood of a forthcoming survey in the constituency for housing need which has not been done in the last five years or so.

24/44. Planning matters

The planning application detailed below had been previously circulated and had been unanimously approved by the parish council.

P/LBC/2024/04132

Westbury Cottages, Valley Road, Tarrant Gunville DT11 8JN

Demolish and erect replacement garages and outbuilding.

Of note a member of the public raised a verbal objection and had formally objected in the appropriate manner as a member of the public to Dorset Council. The Chair reminded all present that the PC only has one vote and members of the public should object via the planning portal which had been done in this case.

24/45. Speed survey results (Clerk) and discussion (Chair)

The Clerk presented the results of the recent survey, bullet points below:

- Survey equipment on pole immediately outside village hall
- On site for two weeks where traffic flow was measured and second week only (commencing 23rd September 2024) for vehicle speed data results under normal term time conditions.
- During diversion on Boyne Lane for roadworks traffic flows were noted to be approximately twice normal flow circa 1,200 vehicles per day.
- Speeds were measured for traffic travelling north-west bound and south-east bound.
- 85th percentile speeds were: 33.6 mph (N-W) and 29.2 mph (S-E)
- Relevance of 85th percentile speeds – data used to assess criteria for Speed Indicator Device (SID) deployment. (National Police Chiefs Council prosecution for speed limit infringement is speed limit plus 10% plus 2 mph i.e. 35-mph in a 30-mph limit).
- As 85th percentile speeds are below 35 mph then this does not meet SID deployment criteria.
- Clerk stated that mean and 85th percentile speeds “blunt” perception as residents when acting as vulnerable road users with no footpath will notice those vehicles which are above the mean and in top 15th percentile – N-W bound - 70 to 100 vehicles per weekday at 30-35 mph and 30 to 47 vehicles per weekday above 35 mph.
- Council officer has stated that a 20-mph limit is likely to be the most effective solution to reduce the 85th percentile speed below 30 mph.
- Council officer stated that with an appropriate application and support a 20-mph limit is highly likely to be supported between Park Cottage and just north of S-bends.
- Emails had been received from a total of eight residents with six being in support of a 20-mph limit.

The Clerk then handed over to the Chair to lead the discussion. A lengthy discussion ensued with various points being raised by parish councillors, Cllr Jespersen and members of the public present. Cllr Jespersen who has significant experience in the application and roll out of 20-mph schemes was able to answer several concerns raised:

1. Concern of excess speed after a 20mph zone – no evidence from data collected elsewhere.
2. View of Dorset Police and Dorset Council – 20mph zones make a difference.
3. Easier to apply for 20 mph zones now due to relaxed criteria.
4. These zones bring overall speeds down but will NOT deter the small percentage of bad drivers.

5. Easier for an application to succeed where there are houses present; hence it would be possible to apply for a secondary zone in Stubhampton but not in the intervening stretch between the two villages.

6. 20-mph zones are enforceable.

7. No possibility of traffic calming.

A sample of comments is detailed below:

- As a walker I would feel much safer.
- Traffic calming would help – the contrary view including increased noise was also put..
- 30 mph is realistic due to good vision
- If you hear a car not changing speed, you worry that they have not heard you.

Jan Robinson gave a detailed presentation on the data collected during speedwatch sessions and the Chair thanked him and stated that the speedwatch initiative was very important to the community.

Cllr Jespersen gave an excellent summary on the potential way forward if the council were minded to endorse a 20-mph zone application:

- A shared space for all road users which the parish has is a rationale for a 20mph zone to increase safety of vulnerable road users.
- Hierarchy is now detailed on vulnerability in the highway code.
- The space is designed for all road users – the question is: “Is the current road space safe for all road users with the existing speed limit?” (Dept for Transport guidelines).
- Need evidence of community support (does not need to be a referendum).
- Examples of requests to village hall users, local firms with HGVs etc.

A member of the public gave evidence of non-injury collisions in the parish and another stated that her experience of a 20-mph zone elsewhere was positive - people were more courteous and no / minimal time delay.

After the discussion the parish council voted on whether to submit a 20-mph zone application to Dorset Council - the result was unanimous in favour of an application.

The application would be made in due course with the following criteria:

1. Apply for Stubhampton and Tarrant Gunville together.
2. Apply for two separate zones and negotiate for the intervening section.
3. A new SID pole in the 20 zone.

24/46. Village Maintenance

The Chair spoke to this item. A successful clearance of the ditch opposite Bussey Stool Lane led to the idea of an expanded venture.

1. A plan to clear the silt in the bed of the Tarrant between Chine Cottage and Hardys Corner (with input / consent from the riparian owners).
2. Paint and clear the railing on the village hall side of Chine Cottage.
3. Strim the riverbed and general clearing.

It was noted that “working parties” had undertaken similar tasks in other villages. It was agreed that a risk assessment would be undertaken prior to any activities and that the parish council would try and package these tasks into an enjoyable village day.

Two provisos were noted:

1. The riparian owners have a duty to remove the silt, and it was agreed that the parish council would assist in this task.
2. The parish council would not undertake any works that were a statutory duty of Dorset Council.

24/47. Financial matters: report from Clerk

Correspondence had been received from Lloyds Bank referring the council's community account with a proposed charge of £4.95 per month. It was decided to consult DAPTC as the PC funds are limited and this is another unnecessary drain.

24/48. Squires Playing Field

New bark has been recently laid. There had been a generous donation from the TG horse show. It was noted that the tennis court is underused. A suggestion was made to play pickleball on the existing court so that it is dual purpose. It was thought that this venture may increase usage.

24/49. Correspondence received

No correspondence received.

24/50. Any other business

Cllr Wentworth stated that eight boxes of documents were currently in the village hall, two of which were related to the parish council and two contained old planning applications which may be of some interest to current property owners if they did not contain any sensitive information.

24/51. Items from members of the public

None.

24/52. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 4 February 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed