

**THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
TARRANT GUNVILLE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 6 MAY 2025**

**Present:** Councillors Charlie Regnart (Chair), Jim Shephard, Heather Sandison, Paul Wentworth, Shirley Bragg

**Apologies for absence:** John Holloway – Parish Clerk, Guy Nicholson, Dermot Cusack – Flood Warden

**In attendance:** Tony Langdown – Rights of Way

**Members of the public:** 1 member of the public present.

**25/14. Welcome and opening remarks**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**25/15. To agree the minutes of the quarterly meeting held on Tuesday 4 February 2025**

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

**25/16. Matters arising from these minutes**

**Flooding - Yew Tree Cottage 'sluice gate'**

Cllr Regnart spoke to the landowner after the last meeting and the gate was opened, improving the river flow.

**Flooding – Ashmore Barn Farm Track**

Cllr Regnart spoke to the landowner after the last meeting. There seem to be few options for improving the situation as there is no place to where the silt washing down the track could be diverted.

**Tarrant Watercourse**

There is an ongoing problem with silt washing into the watercourse. The section between Hardy's Corner and Arthur's Barn is particularly bad and is impeding the flow of the river and exacerbating the flooding at Hardy's Corner. Cllr Regnart suggested the PC organise clearance of this section which should promote better flow down to Arthur's Barn where the wider stream bed should accommodate the increased flow. It would be best to do this before next Winter.

Cllr Regnart will contact the Environment Agency in advance of any clearance work.

## **25/17. Reports from appointed representatives and committees**

**Rights of Way** – Tony reported ongoing delays to the resolution of the BOAT and Dungrove footpath applications (email from Vanessa Penny, Dorset Council, on file) – the former originally due before the planning inspectorate this year, and the latter next year. Both are now scheduled in the next couple of years. The delay is understood to be due to lack of Council staff and their current extensive workload.

Tony reminded the Council that there were now only two witnesses – both elderly – who would be able to give evidence on the Dungrove application. Tony will email Sherry Jesperson to see if the Dungrove application could be expedited.

**Neighbourhood Watch and Speedwatch** – (in Jan Robinson's absence) - the speedwatch team have held two(?) sessions recently, one attended by the police during which one 'real' speeding ticket was issued. The second session was held on 9-Apr to mark a police speedwatch event. This was a quiet session for the team as it coincided with the schools' half-term break.

### **Village Hall Committee Representative**

Cllr Wentworth reported that the Hallmark 1 and 2 assessments had been successfully passed, with only a few follow-on actions to be agreed. The most significant of these is the number of current trustees – there are only two, and there should be a minimum of three. However, under the current charities' legislation, trustees can be held personally accountable for any losses incurred by the charity, so finding more volunteer trustees is difficult.

This situation has been acknowledged by the VH committee, who are considering migrating the charity to a 'CIO' (charitable incorporated organisation) - a more modern organisation structure, akin to a limited company, which would address personal liability concerns of the current trustees and put the hall in a better position for the future.

Cllr Wentworth informed the Council that the BBC Newsround team had recently been filming in the hall and at the church and the Rectory as part of their coverage of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day (8<sup>th</sup> May). They tell the story of a lady who was evacuated from Southampton to Gunville at the start of WW2 and stayed at the Rectory. The film is currently available on the BBC website → <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/videos/c078r5g27ylo>

## **25/18. Planning matters**

One application had been reviewed and approved by the Parish Council - P/VOC/2025/02457 – a variation to P/HOU/2024/07404 (Erect single storey extension at 2 School Close) which was previously approved.

## **25/19. Financial matters**

Deferred until the next PC meeting

## **25/20. Coronation Pathways**

Cllr Bragg reported that the Chalk and Chase wallboard has arrived and will be installed in the hall before the 'Walk the Walk' event arranged for Sat 7<sup>th</sup> June, which will be a short presentation starring Cllr Shephard, followed by a treasure hunt with free lollies supplied by the Home Farm shop for successful hunters.

The three Coronation walks have been overhauled by the Chalk and Chase team and Coronation Walk path markers are being installed.

## **25/21. 20mph speed limit application**

This has not progressed. Cllr Regnart does not have the spare time now to take this on. Cllr Bragg said that she may have time in 2-3 months to progress this.

#### **25/22. Correspondence received**

The planned event for parish councillors to meet our current MP (Simon Hoare) has been postponed. New date awaited.

#### **25/23. Any other business**

##### **Lucas Trust**

It was noted that a response on the current state of the Trust was still awaited from Cllr Farquharson.

##### **Common Land adj Stubhampton Estate**

It was noted that the triangle of land bordered by Valley Road and the Stubhampton Estate at the top of the valley was common land and as such should be freely accessible to all and should not be fenced off. Currently, there is a barbed wire fence which is dilapidated in places. The Council understands that the landowner has voiced concerns about fly-tipping in the past, and is currently quoting safety concerns regarding a number of diseased ash trees which need to be felled. The Council agreed to monitor the situation with a view to restoring full public access.

#### **25/24. Items from members of the public**

##### **Tree Clearance / Ash Dieback**

Pearse Lally updated the Council on the situation on the Stubhampton Estate regarding ash dieback. An enormous number of trees are affected and those that have died completely are being felled.

The Estate needs to remove a particularly dangerous dead tree overhanging Church Hill. This requires the use of a crane and specialised equipment which needs to be booked in advance, and this will require the road to be closed while the work is undertaken. As the Estate needs to give 3 months' notice to close the road, a date of 12<sup>th</sup> August has been earmarked. Formal notices will be issued in due course.

The Estate is currently trialling a potential response to the ash dieback disease which involves spraying a chemical onto the bark of affected trees which the tree then absorbs. Five infected ash trees have been treated and are being monitored. This treatment needs to be applied soon after signs of infection appear and is not thought to be effective once the disease has progressed further.

**25/25. Date and time of next meeting**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm in the Village Hall. This will be the AGM – formal notice to be issued.

**Meeting closed at 20:05.**