

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
TARRANT GUNVILLE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2023

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

Apologies for absence: None

In attendance: Dermot Cusack, Flood Warden; John Holloway, Parish Clerk

Members of the public: There were two members of the public at the meeting.

23/01. Welcome and opening remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

23/02. Apologies for absence

None

23/03. Endorse the new Parish Clerk

John Holloway was welcomed to the meeting and endorsed as the new Parish Clerk.

23/04. To agree minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 1 August 2023

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

23/05. Matters arising from these minutes

- Lucas Trust – Councillor Farquharson reported this matter as a work in process.
- Contact with Highways Dept. at Dorset Council. Railings at “S” bends inspected and repairs to be made in due course. There was no response in relation to the ditch at Bulpit. “Ditches” are the responsibility of the highways dept. whereas “rivers” fall within the remit of the Environment Agency. There was consensus that if the “ditch” at Bulpit was just that then a resolution would be much easier although there is no plan yet.
 - Street Cleansing – the end of Bussey Stool Road is reported as “in hand”.
 - Tarrant Hinton PC – meeting with Police and Crime Commissioner (David Sidwick). For information rural crime unit strength is being increased from 18 to 25 officers – this was welcomed by all present. For information the full Sidwick talk is on the Tarrant Hinton PC website.

- Speedwatch – there are two link police officers for the community teams in Dorset, when present formal action can be taken against speeding motorists.
- Spring clearing party for ditches – this was raised in this section and planning / discussion for this will be deferred to the next meeting on 6 February 2024.

23/06. Reports from appointed representatives and committees

a. Rights of Way

Currently risk issue with having to road walk at layby close to junction with Higher Shaftesbury Road – solution would be a permissible path running parallel.

Landowner (seen by Chair this morning – 7/11/2023) will consider this.

For information: at the recent Tarrant Hinton PC meeting alterations to footpaths are being considered by local landowner with some local objections. No application has been lodged to date. There are no reports of anything similar in the TGPC area.

b. Neighbourhood Watch and Speedwatch

Neighbourhood Watch - no recent criminal activity reported in inter-meeting period.

Community Speedwatch – no recent speeding recorded by the team. Anecdotal report to committee by resident who was aghast at the speed (judged to be 50 mph plus) of some motorists on the straight from the S bends to the Eastbury entrance. Speeding appears to be a problem from Brushers Bank to Eastbury entrance. Often an issue outside of rush hour. This prompted a lengthy discussion about possible remedies namely:

- Move speed indicator further south from current location with a new approved site (possible new indicator – cost circa £2K).
- Make 30 mph signs more visible by removing foliage and increase number.
- Consider SW team presence outside current times although traffic volume thought to be too low.
- Camera motif warning signs as mobile speed camera was noted to be present in Tarrant Hinton this week.

c. Flood Warden

The Tarrant has recently started flowing. The warden has logged and analysed some data using predominantly the Ashmore borehole. A trigger level of 135.5m indicates flow in the Tarrant after a two-day lag and was noted to be considerably earlier than last year.

Environment Agency data and warnings are not specific enough for the Parish. He attended the recent Environment Agency meeting and whilst very interesting, not relevant to flood prevention.

Parish has one “flood” sign but despite this, cars persist in trying to traverse flood water causing damage / becoming damaged in the process.

Solutions:

- Additional “flood” sign
- Sign analogous to KSIs (Killed or Seriously Injured) for RTCs (Road Traffic Collisions) detailing recent stranding incidents to deter reckless behaviour.

d. Village Hall Committee Representative

First AGM in two years – hall noted to be just breaking even.

Noted upcoming cost pressures:

- Licence fee to increase by £110.
- Business rates increase.
- End of three-year fixed electricity tariff imminent (may be slight offset by new heating system?)

Of note – Tarrant Hinton hall used far more regularly. Discussion on current charges (currently £20 per half day) and ideas to increase footfall / usage from parish council. Councillor Wentworth will take ideas back to committee.

23/07. Planning matters

No applications received during period.

There was a concern raised about helicopter overflights to Stubhampton Estate. Monitor over next inter-meeting period.

23/08. Financial matters

Report by Chair as Clerk's first meeting.

- Precept currently £3,100 per annum. Proposal to maintain current level by Councillor Farquharson. Seconded by Councillor Shephard. Unanimous vote to maintain current rate.
- Reserve currently £5,500 – agreement to maintain a £5,000 reserve for unforeseen occurrences.
- Major costs – insurance for hall and Squires Field.
- Council agreed to develop website via Hugo Fox analogous to Tarrant Hinton site – cost £120 per annum plus VAT.

23/09. Squires Playing Field

Report from Councillor Farquharson:

- No regular income.
- Excellent clearing and planting around tennis court.
- RoSPA inspection due.
- New income streams suggested by those present e.g., BBQ – will be looked into.

23/10. Correspondence received

None.

23/11. Any other business

None.

23/12. Items from members of the public

None.

23/13. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 6 February 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Meeting closed