

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
TARRANT GUNVILLE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2024

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

In attendance: Sherry Jespersen, Dorset Councillor; Dermot Cusack, Flood Warden; Tony Langdown, Rights of Way Officer; John Holloway, Parish Clerk

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

24/01. Welcome and opening remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

24/02. Apologies for absence

Guy Nicholson

24/03. To agree minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 7 November 2023

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

24/04. Matters arising from these minutes

- The Stubhampton Estate manager, in attendance as a member of the public, commented on an issue raised about helicopter overflights to the Estate. In essence discussion with the pilots would ensure the following:
 - i) Traverse as high as possible.
 - ii) Vary flight paths.
 - iii) Fly to the north if possible.All these mitigations will be weather dependent, and safety will remain a priority. The Chair thanked him for his comments and reassured him that this was not seen as a significant issue as no further reports had been received in the period since the November meeting.

24/05. Reports from appointed representatives and committees

a. Rights of Way

Concern raised over the scrub depth on the footpath towards Chettle Long Barrow causing walkers into the crop area. Councillor Farquharson clarified that this was part of the conservation margin and there were constraints on cutting but he would facilitate at an appropriate time as far as is possible.

Some footpaths were noted to have suffered due to the recent wet weather.

No updates on the Tarrant Hinton footpath situation.

The Chair raised a concern with the footpath which ended by the Bussey Stool Road junction namely: route was changed many years ago with the fence cut and steps to the road which causes walkers to traverse through flood water when present on the road. A request to reroute the footpath is possible but lengthy and complicated. A solution may be a temporary route when the springs are high – discussion to take place with landowner.

b. Neighbourhood Watch and Speedwatch

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

Community Speedwatch – representative not present but information sent via email about the provision of a new Speed Information Device (SID) as discussed at the previous meeting. An additional SID would cost in the region of £1,000.

A lengthy discussion ensued over an appropriate position for maximum effect.

A previous survey was conducted at least five years ago. Speeding remains a significant concern amongst villagers. Parish Clerk to approach to Joe Allen (Dorset Highways) to arrange a new survey with the possibility of a 20mph zone suggestion by Councillor Jespersen (as she reported this had been successful at other locations in the county).

c. Flood Warden

The Tarrant has been flowing since the last meeting. It has flowed for longer this year but at a reduced height (and has not reached the trigger level of 4 outside the warden's house which indicates a threat to dwellings in the village). The main issue has been the Stubhampton flood; there now appears to be excessive run-off (coloured brown by the amount of sediment carried in it) coming down from Ashmore Bottom. Noticed by a member of the public and Cllr Regnart causing excessive water on the road down through Stubhampton after rain. Appears to be a relatively new problem resulting in silting of the riverbed beyond 'Homers'. Water splash by passing cars of this sedimented water may lead to property damage in Stubhampton. It was decided to keep this phenomenon under observation.

The solution requires a two-pronged approach: road closure plan and drainage solutions.

The proposed Community Road Flood Plan was discussed at length. The consensus was that it was an excellent, comprehensive and pragmatic solution. A concern was raised by a member of the public regarding fuel deliveries.

In conclusion the councillors adopted the plan with the following proviso:

It was agreed that the Clerk would approach Dorset Highways to source a sign: Road Closed Ahead – Access to Bussey Stool unaffected. This sign would be placed outside Forge Cottage.

The agreed plan will be sent to Councillor Jespersen, Dorset Council Highways and the Environment Agency.

The two flood wardens: Dermot Cusack and unanimously newly appointed Charlie Regnart will attend road closure training.

The ditch opposite the Bussey Stool Junction will be cleared by the Parish Council / Dorset Council with an approach to Dorset Council to clear the road surface of debris.

We will attempt to establish a link between the road closure and GPS equipment. Concern was raised from one member present about the blanket groundwater flood risk applied to the village by the Environment Agency. It is unlikely to be able to quantify this risk to individual dwellings on a national system and this would rely on individual statutory declarations (property seller TA6 form).

A member of the public observed that there was now excessive run-off (coloured brown by the amount of sediment carried in it) coming down from Ashmore Bottom. Cllr Regnart confirmed that he had also noticed this and that it caused excessive water on the road down through Stubhampton after rain. This is a new developing problem causing silting of the riverbed beyond 'Homers' and also due to car 'splashing' it could cause property damage of Stubhampton properties. It was decided to keep it under observation.

d. Village Hall Committee Representative

The gate which was damaged by a dislodged fence has been repaired.

24/06. Planning matters

5 School Close – pergola and shed – no objections.

24/07. Financial matters

- Precept remains at £3,100 per annum.
- Reserve currently £3,800.
- Hall insurance reduced to £1,650 this year (saving £300).
- Replacement chequebook and internet banking now available.
- Parish Council website now online – will link to new domain name and add new content and links in due course.

24/08. Squires Playing Field

Report from Councillor Farquharson:

- Business as usual.
- RSoPA inspection due.
- Forthcoming costs – repair to play equipment and bark for play surface.
- Suggestion of summer BBQ and games.
- Idea to source for Landscape Partnership funds for a covered area on the field.
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24/09. Correspondence received

None.

24/10. Any other business

- Dorset Community tree fund – funding available for trees in communal areas (which includes design and planning) – contact via Councillor Jespersen
- Landscape Partnership Fund via Jonny Monteith – time limited for application. Suggestions: Seating area at pond, thatched hut at Squires Field (see above).
- Lucas Trust – reported as still work in progress. The council were reminded of the origin of the fund namely: “For distressed gentlefolk of the village – longstanding and of good repute”. It was reported that it had been used in bygone days to fund coal supplies for those in hardship.

24/11. Items from members of the public

None.

24/12. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 7 May 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed