

TANGMERE PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held at 7.30pm on 23 July 2019 in the Small Hall

Present:

Councillors- Kirsten Lanchester, Kate Beach, Roger Birkett, David Blythe, Andrew Irwin, Simon Oakley and Trevor Ware

In attendance:

Louise Steele – Clerk to the Council
34 Members of the public

79	AGENDA ITEM 1 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hilton and Spencer-Ellis.	
80	AGENDA ITEM 2- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr Oakley declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Member of Chichester District Council (CDC) and as a Member of West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) in matters on the agenda in general. Cllr Oakley withdrew from the meeting to the public gallery for the duration of the Committee's deliberations on planning applications at Agenda Item 8 under consideration by Chichester District Council due to his Membership of that Council's Planning Committee. Any comments and observations from Chichester District Councillor Simon Oakley on planning applications were personal ones made at the invitation of the Chairman and related to matters of fact and clarification. Cllr Beach declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 14 because of her involvement with the Community Garden.	
81	AGENDA ITEM 3 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION A number of residents attended the meeting in order to make representations about the recent occupation of part of Tangmere Airfield by a group of Travellers. In accordance with Standing Order 3 f the Chairman of the meeting directed that the session should exceed the 30 minutes normally allowed and the session lasted for approximately one hour and 20 minutes ending at 20:51 hours. A number of concerns were expressed by different residents about the level of alleged anti-social and criminal behaviour exhibited by the Travellers during their week long visit to Tangmere. Specific concerns included whether or not the gate used for access (off Fulmar Way) was now redundant and whether it could be permanently closed; the seeming unwillingness of the Police to address the unlawful behaviour observed; and the perception that Travellers were able to flout the law in a way the settled population could not. The Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr Irwin assured residents that the Parish Council shared their concerns. Cllr Oakley addressed some of the concerns raised. He pointed out that West Sussex County Council (the landowner concerned) had difficulty securing its airfield site because of existing legal access rights. The Fulmar Way access is the secondary emergency exit. Cllr Oakley also spoke about Police powers under Section 61 and 62 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. Section 62 can only be used if there is	

	<p>capacity for the Travellers at the Westhampnett site (and there were too many in this family group to be accommodated at the Westhampnett site); Section 61 is only likely to be used if there is illegal or antisocial behaviour associated with an encampment. Cllr Oakley asked all those present to let him have the Crime Reference Numbers that they would have been given when they reported the incidents of which they complained. Armed with the evidence of the reports Cllr Oakley would be able to ask Sussex Police why they had not exercised their Section 61 powers.</p> <p>Cllr Irwin, reiterated the Parish Council's frustration and expressed his view that the law needs to change to create an offence of "conspiracy to trespass". He said that the Parish Council could ask the Police & Crime Commissioner to attend a public meeting in the village (though the consensus was that such attendance would be unlikely). He said that the Parish Council would consider proposals to make the Recreation Field more secure at its next meeting (on 12 September).</p> <p>Representations were also made about the Committee's decision to decline permission for a summerhouse being used as a shed on the allotments as not being a building appropriate for an allotment (minute 29-19 refers). This matter was considered further under Agenda Item 4 – below.</p>	
82	<p>AGENDA ITEM 4 – ALLOTMENTS Mrs Oliver presented her report which was received; she asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to decline permission for a summerhouse/shed on the allotments. Upon the advice of the Clerk that it was appropriate to reverse the decision because new information had been received the Committee agreed that permission was granted.</p>	
83	<p>AGENDA ITEM 5 – MINUTES The minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2019 were approved as an accurate record and signed as such by the Chairman.</p>	
84	<p>AGENDA ITEM 6 – ACTION POINTS Members considered a summary of action points and heard updates on progress against those action points.</p>	
85	<p>AGENDA ITEM 7 – CORRESPONDENCE There were no items of correspondence to be considered.</p>	
86	<p>AGENDA ITEM 8 – PLANNING Members considered the Committee's observations on the planning application listed below and commented on them as shown:</p> <p>TG/19/01719/TCA or TG/19/01797/TCA Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Birch Tree (T1) 14 Nettleton Avenue, Tangmere, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 2HZ</p> <p>Tangmere Parish Council would resist the removal of a healthy tree but will defer to the CDC arboricultural officer.</p> <p>Members noted a list of planning decisions by the Planning Authority in relation to applications previously considered by this Committee</p>	
87	<p>AGENDA ITEM 9 – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE Members considered the question of weed spraying of the recreation field and decided that such spraying should be deferred until the autumn because the weather was too dry currently.</p>	

88	<p>AGENDA ITEM 10 – WILD FLOWER MEADOW SEEDS Members noted the receipt of wildflower seeds from West Sussex County Council for planting in the autumn and agreed that the best site for the would be at the south end, and north side of Church Lane where there has been clearance of the Highways verge.</p> <p>AP11 Clerk to organise planting of the seeds in the autumn</p>	Clerk
89	<p>AGENDA ITEM 11 – NEW HOMES BONUS (NHB) 2018 AND 2019 Draft applications for NHB 2019 were agreed in so far as there were complete and it was agreed what additional information would be contributed to the process to enable the Clerk to complete the applications within the deadline.</p>	
90	<p>AGENDA ITEM 12 – OPERATION WATERSHED Members considered additional works to extend approved projects and agreed to delegate authority to the Clerk to commission the additional works.</p> <p>AP12 to place orders for the additional works</p>	Clerk
91	<p>AGENDA ITEM 13 – RISK ASSESSMENT OF THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEMORIAL WALK Members considered a quote for undertaking a risk assessment of the parish council's land adjacent to Haleybridge Walk. Members agreed to accept the quote and delegated a budget of £500 to the Clerk to commission the risk assessment and associated work.</p> <p>AP13 Instruct Consultant to undertake Risk Assessment of the Battle of Britain Memorial Walk.</p>	Clerk
92	<p>AGENDA ITEM 14 – DAMAGE TO & THEFT FROM THE COMMUNITY GARDEN Members noted with dismay the damage to and thefts from the Community Garden while the Travellers were encamped nearby and asked Cllr Beach to quantify the losses and the Clerk to investigate whether the losses would be covered by the Council's insurance. The matter to be considered further by the Finance Committee.</p> <p>AP14 – Quantify the losses from the Community Garden and whether they are covered by the Council's insurance.</p>	Cllr Beach & Clerk
93	<p>AGENDA ITEM 15 – ESSO GARAGE This item was referred from Full Council and it was agreed that the Clerk should talk to Chris Dye at West Sussex County Council Highways</p>	
94	<p>AGENDA ITEM 16 – OTHER MATTERS Owing to the latest of the hour consideration of the latest position in relation to the matters below was curtailed (item b) was discussed as shown):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Speedwatch b) Lights at Spitfire Court and Jerrard Road – the Jerrard Road light is still not repaired despite Seawards assurances that it would be, Cllr Irwin indicated that he would email D. West c) One Stop and Post Office d) Removal of Phone boxes e) Airfield gate f) Reinstatement of the daffodils on the bend opposite the Ownership of land at Bishops Road g) Land at Lysander Way h) Dukes Meadow 	

Date of next meeting: – 24 September 2019

Chairman:

Date: