



## Ordinary Meeting of Tysoe Parish Council

Held on: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 at 7.15pm

Place: Tysoe Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Jacqui Sinclair, Colin Locke, Steve Allen, Graham Collier, Beverley Cressman, Sue Haines, Malcolm Littlewood and John Tongue

**In attendance:** Kerry Finlayson (Parish Clerk), Jane Millward (RFO) and DC John Feilding

**Members of the public:** 9

**81/18 WELCOME**

Cllr Sinclair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**82/18 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

Following the resignation of Cllr Sinclair as Chair, after discussion the following Cllrs agreed to take on the role on an Acting Chair basis:

Cllrs Allen, Locke, Cressman, Collier & Sinclair. The Clerk would send out a proposed schedule.

It was agreed that Cllr Locke would take over the role for the following month.

**Proposed - Cllr Locke Seconded - Cllr Cressman Approved by all**

Cllr Littlewood gave his thanks to Cllr Sinclair for the sterling job she had done over the preceding years and understood why she had resigned given the personal attacks she had received with regards to the NP which had been unfair.

Cllr Littlewood asked whether the number of Cllrs could be increased to spread the workload, to which the former Clerk, Jane Millward, confirmed that this was not an option.

**N.B DC Feilding joined the meeting**

Cllr Sinclair called an extra meeting for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September to review several planning applications. It was agreed that Cllr Allen would Chair the meeting.

**Proposed Cllr Sinclair Seconded Cllr Collier Approved by all**

**N.B Cllr Sinclair left the meeting**

Cllr Locke took over the Chair and commented that he was very sad to be sitting there as the PC was a group of eight volunteers elected to serve to the best of their ability. He believed that Cllr Sinclair had been the best Chair for the PC as she tackled a massive workload and had kept a fair and unbiased opinion. Unfortunately, she had become the whipping boy for people to vent their frustration about the NP and had been receiving threats of legal action as well as personal phone calls, emails and letters. Everyone needed to realise the pressure that she had been under and her stepping down was by no means a failure. The issues surrounding the NP had been the source for her resignation and all Cllrs would need to ensure they took a wide unbiased view as a whole, not as individuals.

People in different areas of Tysoe were entitled to their opinion, that was a democracy, but the PC were a group and once a decision had been reached they should act as a group and put their personal differences to one side.

**83/18 APOLOGIES**

Councillors received and accepted apologies from CC Chris Williams - he would be undergoing surgery on 5<sup>th</sup> September. The Clerk confirmed that she had sent a letter to Cllr Williams on behalf of the PC.

## **84/18 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The following Cllrs declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 11:

Cllr Collier - husband of the Chair of the Lower Tysoe Action group

Cllr Locke - St. Mary's Church

## **85/18 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

After discussion, during which Cllrs Collier and Cressman advised that they did not accept the minutes

Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 the minutes of the following Parish Council meetings were **approved** and **signed**.

- i. Ordinary 4 June 2018
- ii. Extra 11 June 2018
- iii. Ordinary 2 July 2018
- iv. Extra 23 July 2018
- v. Extra 20 August 2018

**Proposed Cllr Locke Seconded Cllr Tongue**

**Approved by all except Cllr Allen for the meetings he was absent**

## **86/18 INFORMAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

A member of the public requested that it was minuted that he was in deep shock at the resignation of the Chair and he didn't want the fact that she had done a brilliant job in difficult circumstances to go un-noticed. He further commented that it was understood by the public that the PC was going through difficult times with the NP and different factions within the community. The PC hadn't been expected to set up, tackle or challenge this sort of phenomenon so would need strong leadership, wisdom and united Cllrs. Unfortunately, he didn't feel that this was what he saw as Cllrs were bickering and arguing and didn't seem to gel and he begged the PC to get their corporate act together.

The Acting Chair commented that he took onboard and endorsed what had been said.

A member of the public confirmed that he was the author of the leaflet that had been circulated to many homes the previous week - it was in relation to his campaign against development at Roses Farm. He asked if there was a 'Plan B' with regards to the NP. Cllr Littlewood clarified that the Plan had not been approved, it has been endorsed for public consultation. Sometimes people got caught up in the terminology. It would not be agreed until after consultation and the next phase when the NPG would consider all comments, consolidate and collate a plan that would then be sent to SDC for their consideration.

A member of the public asked if the PC would consider writing to Sheldon Bosley Knight to ask them to remove the Sold boards that were littering the village. The RFO clarified that the land had only been sold subject to contract, therefore the PC couldn't ask for them to be removed.

A member of the public advised that he had made a complaint about the leaflet he had received - he was incensed that the PC had been called liars. The leaflet had stated that their comments had been ignored which was untrue as there had been amendments made in Version 2 of the plan. He was very unhappy that the leaflet was spreading lies and asked if the PC would be taking legal action.

The Acting Chair thanked them for their comments and noted that they weren't the only person to have complained then commented that to take legal action would just add fuel to the fire. Cllr Cressman commented that although she hadn't seen the leaflet Cllrs needed to be realistic and take it on the chin.

## **87/18 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- i. Payments & Receipts

\*Jane Millward advised Cllrs of three further payments that had been added since the information had been sent out.

**Proposed Cllr Littlewood Seconded Cllr Tongue All in favour to approve**

Date	Payee (Expenditure)	Particulars of Payment	Amount
25/07/2018	Thomas Fox Landscaping Maintenance	Verge maintenance 10/07/18	298.80
31/07/2018	Frank Mann Farmers	Mow Playing field	92.40
23/07/2018	Tysoe Children's Group	Printing for NPG	1501.49
12/08/2018	APS Planning Services	Planning advice & NP Planning	738.00
13/08/2018	David Roache	Reimbursement for NP Posters	75.05
28/08/2018	Kerry Finlayson	Reimbursement for stationery items	26.13
29/08/2018*	Thomas Fox Landscaping Maintenance	Verge maintenance twice in August and mulching trees	715.20
22/08/2018*	Kerry Finlayson	Reimbursement of 1st Class stamps	10.00
31/08/2018*	Frank Mann Farmers	Mowing the playing field 02,13, 23 & 30/08/18 (4 mows)	316.80

ii. Bank Reconciliation

The RFO had circulated the information to Cllrs.

**Proposed Cllr Littlewood      Seconded Cllr Collier**

All Cllrs confirmed their acceptance of the bank reconciliation and this was signed off.

The RFO also confirmed that a VAT refund of £6395 had been received.

**88/18 IT FINANCE SYSTEM**

Cllrs received and noted the three quotes for the Finance IT package. The recommendation from the RFO was Scribe as it was a very user-friendly system, with very good support always available. It was slightly more expensive than the cheapest one but only by £11. The original budget for this was £1,200.

**Proposed Cllr Allen      Seconded Cllr Littlewood      All voted in favour to approve the purchase**

**89/18 NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

Cllrs received and noted the suggestions from Cllr Cressman and Jane Millward and after discussion agreed, (subject to reference checks) to go ahead with Option 1, which was the linear option.

Cllrs also noted and thanked Tysoe Utilities Trust for their contribution towards the project.

**Proposed      Cllr Allen      Seconded      Cllr Littlewood      All in favour of approval**

**N.B      The RFO left the meeting at this point**

**90/18 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

i. Update from David Roache

David Roache commented on behalf of the NPG that it was a great shame that she had felt she couldn't continue

- The consultation period for the draft Plan started on 9<sup>th</sup> July when the document was delivered to every household in the Parish along with an introduction, a summary one- page document and a covering letter from the Chair of the Parish Council.
- Drop-in sessions were held on 14<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> August with good attendance and good engagement by most residents who attended. The final session would take place on 7<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30 in the Methodist Hall.

- The consultation would finish on 16<sup>th</sup> September after which all comments would be collated and, where appropriate, responded to.
- The expectation was that the NPG would receive comments from SDC following their Cabinet meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> October. SDC did conduct an informal pre-review of the draft Plan prior to it being published and their comments were reflected in the final document. Neil Pearce had advised that SDC would want to clarify certain points, probably next week, prior to finalising their draft comments to go before the Cabinet meeting.
- The next meeting of the NPG would be on 27<sup>th</sup> September in the Methodist Hall at 7.15pm.
- Councillors were aware that SDC were conducting a further SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) consultation and had published their latest position. For Tysoe this was looking at a number of sites that had been proposed over recent years, nearly all of which were outside the proposed BUAB. They included the "Gladman site" on Oxhill Road and sites on Shennington Road. SDC's current position was that virtually all of these sites were undeliverable in the long-term because of environmental issues. It was up to the Parish Council to draft a response to this consultation and this was raised because a number of these potential sites had been considered and rejected by the NPG.
- There was a post on the Parish website suggesting that the Plan be withdrawn because it did not comply with the recently updated NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework). The NPG was fully aware of the new NPPF published in July this year. The next stage in the plan making process would be to go through all of the comments received by parishioners and consultees with a view to making changes to the Plan. Changes to the Plan would also take account of any relevant changes to the NPPF. A full health check against the new NPPF would be made in due course and was required as part of the Basic Conditions test therefore there was absolutely no need to withdraw the current Plan.
- Contrary to what some thought, there was actually no requirement to make any allocations for housing in the NDP. Some may support this notion whilst others would continue to contend that not enough housing was provided for in the Plan. Irrespective of these views the PC and the NPG had previously agreed that there would be some allocations in the Plan which would provide housing at a steady and organic rate as previously experienced in the parish and as previously outlined.
- Very disappointingly a leaflet had been circulated to some residents by Mr & Mrs Bulman of Jeffs Close expressing their views regarding the status of Roses Farm in the draft Plan. Unfortunately, this had attracted a number of complaints from residents who objected to the unsolicited nature of this communication and the many misleading assertions it made. To clarify this, the current draft Neighbourhood Plan, published on 9<sup>th</sup> July, proposed that Roses Farm be included as a Reserve Site. It was incorrect to state that it was "earmarked for development". The site would only actually be considered for development if the District Council's housing supply numbers came under such pressure in future years that Local Service Villages were asked to identify development sites beyond those allocated in their Plans. Even then it would be subject to all of the usual planning rules and constraints. In the previous draft Plan, published in May 2017, Roses Farm was included as a proposed allocated development site. Residents raised a number of concerns about this and so the status was revised to that of a Reserve Site in the current draft Plan. The NPG did indeed listen to resident's contrary to what the note said. The BUAB was actually re-drawn and now excluded Roses Farm specifically to prevent unwanted or inappropriate development on the site - a fact that the note failed to mention. The NPG commissioned a report by the Highways Authority into potential issues with vehicle access to the site. The report, which was in the public domain, described in the note as "damning", pointed out a number of difficulties but also indicated how these might be mitigated. Given that much of the land surrounding the site and fronting on to Epwell Road was in the ownership of Compton Estates, also owners of Roses Farm, it was believed that if the site was ever considered for development, access could be safely gained and that a good and safe

solution to pedestrian access could be found. The note also quoted the District Council saying that "development on this site would contravene policy". If indeed this was the case, then it would be highly unlikely that the site would gain planning consent as the District Council were the Planning Authority. The note stated that affordable housing should be concentrated close to the school and village facilities and the NPG agreed entirely with this sentiment, however, no other suitable sites had come forward. There was a 10-week consultation period to enable residents to engage properly with the NPG and it was very disappointing to find that instead of engaging in this process a misleading and ill-informed note had been sent direct to residents. This had clearly upset quite a number of residents as the Clerk had received numerous complaints.

- It was re-iterated that any residents who had concerns with this particular site or any other aspect of the Plan should attend the final drop-in session when they would be able to raise any concerns with members of the NPG who actually had the wellbeing of the whole village and all residents firmly in their minds.
- All residents who have not yet lodged their comments on the Plan were encouraged to do so as this was a plan for the entire Parish and it needed to reflect the wishes of the majority and not be influenced by those with only self-interest.

**If SDC approve any of the SHLAA sites and they are outside our NP, how would that affect it?**

David Roache replied: The consultation at the moment goes way beyond the life of the NP. They are soliciting views on the deliverability of various sites. They looked at several sites in Tysoe in 2017/18 of which only two are possible.

Cllr Collier commented that he felt it was improper that he hadn't seen a copy of the leaflet and that a statement had been issued about it. The Clerk confirmed that it was her decision, in conjunction with the Chair, to publish a statement on the website due to the number of complaints that she had received.

Cllr Locke thanked the NPG again for all of their hard work.

ii. Changes to NPG Membership

David Roache confirmed that there had been none.

iii. Working Party

David Roache, along with Cllrs Littlewood, Tongue and Sinclair would get together to form responses as necessary, to letters received.

## 91/18 PLANNING

i. 18/02440/TREE St Mary's Church

Cllr Tongue confirmed that the application was predominantly good housekeeping within the church yard.

Cllrs confirmed that they were all in favour of supporting the application for safety purposes

ii. 18/01316/FUL Lower Grounds, Middle Tysoe

This item was postponed until an extra meeting the following week.

iii. 18/02303/FUL Home Holdings, Lower Tysoe

This item was postponed until an extra meeting the following week.

## 92/18 HEDGE CLEARANCE

Cllrs received and noted the letters that had been sent by the Clerk

Cllrs would check to see if the work had been done and what the next stage would be. To be reviewed at the next meeting.

## **93/18 CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllrs received the correspondence and noted:

- FOI request had been declined by the Clerk due to the number of hours of work involved
- Cycling time trials - the Clerk would write to the Club (Banbury All Stars) to ask to see a copy of their licence
  - Further comment on this was made by Cllr Haines about the actions of the police before the recent Cycle Race as they had driven faster through the village than the speed limit and felt that they should still act within the boundaries of the law. Cllr Cressman would speak to a local officer as there was a further race scheduled later that week
- Draft solicitor letter - this would be dealt with by the working party

## **94/18 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

AP3 May - Completed

AP4 May - Ongoing

AP5 May - Ongoing Cllr Allen had chased this up but was still awaiting a response from WCC

AP6 May - Ongoing Cllr Cressman would speak with Izzie Seccombe

## **95/18 DC Feilding**

Cllrs received and noted the report from DC Feilding.

Cllr Feilding also advised that Orbit Housing had approached him with regards to villages taking over the green areas they were looking after so it would do away with their service charge. He had spoken to solicitors at SDC and WALC and would continue to make further enquiries.

## **96/18 CC Williams**

CC Williams was not in attendance and no report had been received.

## **97/18 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

There was nothing reported.

N.B DC Feilding left the meeting

## **98/18 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Cllrs agreed the date of the next meeting as Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 at 7.15pm as well as an Extra Ordinary meeting on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

## **99/18 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The meeting closed at 21.20

## **100/18 PERSONNEL AND MATTERS ARISING**

### i. Chair's Allowance

This was put on hold as there was no Chair currently in position

### ii. Confidential Item

The Clerk would write to Izzie Seccombe and request that a letter was sent from WCC

### iii. Parish Clerk

Pension approved - RFO to arrange

Probation period completed

Stationery expenses - Cllrs agreed that the Clerk could purchase stationary as required