

Trudoxhill Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 7.30pm (Village Hall)

Present: Sheila Salmon (Chair), Diana Francis, Chris Kenyon, Rohan Mason-Taylor, Jack Symes,
Charlie Bonham-Christie

Clerk: Sam Winstanley

Public Attendees: 8

23/394 Apologies

None

23/395 Disclosure of Interest

23/395.1 Declarations of interest

The clerk confirmed that they received applications for dispensations from the council, due to them being tenant neighbours at the village hall for item 23/397.1

23/395.2 Decisions on dispensations

Dispensations were granted on the grounds that participating in this matter is in the interest of people living in the authority's area, evidenced by the representations received.

23/395.3 Authority for dispensations

The council decided, to enable the council to make dispensations during a meeting, rather than apply in writing prior, to delegate authority to grant dispensations to the clerk.

RESOLUTION: the Council delegates the power to grant dispensations to the Clerk. The power rests with the relevant authority under section 33(1) of the Localism Act 2011 and the basis is set out under section 33(2).

23/396 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved

Meeting suspended to take questions or comments from the Public

Ref. 23/397.1

Member of Public – urged rejection from their position as leader of playground committee and main fundraiser. Took 25 years to get playground, this would cause a loss of the sole amenity for children in the parish. Overlooks playground and village hall, both of which offer places of opportunity for the community. The hall neighbours would give opportunity to curtail/restrict activities in the hall.

Member of Public – restriction of community activities would be a terrible loss. Voiced concern over flooding, rainfall already rushes down road and fills garden. Scale of building would cause overlooking and potential issues. The new parking would involve reversing onto access road where children play, scoot and access playground.

23/397 Planning

23/397.1 2023/0106/OUT – Outline Planning for 1no New Dwelling, Land at Holmlea, Foghamshire Lane

The council met with applicant on site visit. The effect on the village hall is a concern, new resident could be at odds with hall events and activities, potentially reducing revenue options and viability, this is a precious resource for the community. Are there safeguarding issues with playground? Either way the overlooking of the playground is a concern too. There was confirmation that the new residents would back out of the parking spaces, which is not easy to remain safe as it is directly onto the access road to the hall and playground. Access rights were not clear – clarification from owner of access land is that it is not planning issue, but a legal one, so planning can proceed, but access would then

need to be negotiated. Councillors discussed why only outline planning was entered. Although this remains unsure, it means some matters would be reserved, so the full scope is unknown. Flooding is a concern, as it already effects neighbours and this would only exacerbate it. The chair read out a representation from the village hall committee as follows -

As a committee we would be concerned that a new dwelling on the proposed site would potentially negatively impact the running of the Hall. As a charitable business our priorities are to raise money for the needs and wants of the community. To do this we need to ensure that the hall is available for hire for events and activities which in turn can generate noise or unsociable hours (all be it within our licensed agreements). Ingress and egress may be impeded to the hall by the proposed plans. We would like to continue with our community activities without complaint by the future owners of the proposed property who may be in opposition to these objectives.

RESOLUTION – 6/6 in favour of recommending refusal

[23/398 Finance](#)

23/398.1 Financial Report

The clerk reported a balance of £1,623.97, £53 ahead of expected with no outstanding bills.

23/398.2 Accounts for payment

Clerk £276.90

RESOLUTION – 6/6 approved

23/398.3 Grass Cutting Contract

The clerk reported an increase in cost for the upcoming year of grass cutting. From £800 for 16 cuts to £900 for the same. This is the first increase the provider has initiated since the contract began.

RESOLUTION – 6/6 approved

[23/399 Reports](#)

To receive reports and updates on:

23/399.1 Highways (SS)

Potholes reported, sprayed, but no filling had been done. Spray has now worn off. Emailed to chase highways team, following this, some were then filled, poorly. A full report on all highways maintenance requests has been escalated to Cllrs Ham & Clarke. 2 new, larger chevrons at Gare Hill have been added and pothole filled, marking excellent progress.

23/399.2 SpeedWatch (SS)

2 new volunteers have joined CSW. ASW program has been investigated and communication with highways has begun.

23/399.3 The Village Hall

The village hall committee is mostly focusing on the planning of an event to mark the Coronation. Calls for volunteers have gone out and the number of people offering to help will direct the scale and scope of the event's activities. In addition, the village hall committee was keen to impress the importance of their representations about the planning in item 23/397.1, which has been detailed above in full.

23/399.4 Unitary Update

Cllr Clark sent his apologies and will update at the next meeting.

[23/400 Correspondence and Emails Received](#)

23/400.1 Somerset Council Local Planning Policy Consultation

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The clerk reported that the consultation was open until 16th march. After discussion on the reading of the draft plan, the council agreed that it was imperative that the role of statutory consultee continues so that local knowledge and context can be brought to planning applications. The clerk is to put a response together to this end and submit to the consultation.

23/401 Other Business referred to the Clerk

23/401.1 Parish Walk

Parish walk scheduled for 26th March 10am, meet at the pub car park.
The litter pick is also scheduled for 2nd April 10am, pub car park meet.
The clerk is to arrange for promotion.

23/401.2 Parish Plan Survey Launch

The survey launched, good start with responses, needs more promotion to reach as wide an audience as possible.
Posters, social media, pub flyers, doorstepping etc... all are underway.

23/402 Date of next TPC meeting

April 6th