

Minutes of the Tanworth-in-Arden Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 17th November 2011 at 19.30 hours in Tanworth Village Hall.

Public Forum

12 members of the public and District Councillors Atkinson, District Councillor Oakley and County Council Perry were present at the meeting.

Mr Williams expressed dismay at the Parish Council's decision to support keeping the lay-by open on the A435 by Alderhanger Lane. He felt that this decision was taken without prior consultation. Mr Williams reported that whilst the lay-by was closed, residents were no longer subject to cars cruising up and down looking for sex. They could resume dog walking in the area without fear of seeing a sexual act taking place and fly-tipping had become non-existent. Since the lay-by has re-opened fly tipping has resumed, the woods and verges are now used as a toilet, the ditches are damaged and the sexual activities have resumed. The site is now advertised on the internet as a dogging site. Mr Williams felt that by supporting to keep the lay-by open the Parish Council were giving support to all of the aforementioned issues. The Action Group will continue to fight until this area is no longer a 'no-go' area.

Mr White raised a Point of Order and stated that Parish Council meetings are public meetings and therefore the minutes should be public – even before they are signed and are still in draft form. The Clerk didn't feel that this was correct but confirmed that she would take advice on this matter. Mr White supported what Mr Williams had said. He said that a meeting had taken place in the village hall a few years ago and people had attended to discuss the problems concerning the lay-by. From that meeting people were seconded or volunteered to form an action group and 2 members of the parish council were members of this group. This group had brought about a temporary solution with the closure of the lay-by. There were many possible solutions which are documented and they are not all about the closure of the lay-by but they deal with the issues. The site needs to be managed and the problems dealt with. Mr White feels that because the site borders different authorities, no-one wants to take control of the area. Mrs Hawkins said that she had attended the original meeting and she was a dissenting voice. Not all the people in Alderhanger Lane have got a problem. There have been 'gentlemen' there for many years. People still walk their dogs and ride horses in the area and Mrs Hawkins has never seen anything upsetting in the area in over 30 years. Mrs Hawkins feels that people in Alderhanger Lane are not affected and the lay-by should not be closed.

Ms Toolan stated that there was a cost to the tax payer to clean up the area.

Mrs Hawkins said that when the area is flooded she has to walk home in the dark across the fields with a torch when the lay-by is closed. Mrs Williams suggested that Mrs Hawkins could use Tanworth Lane. Mrs Williams also reported that she had seen inappropriate activity taking place in the area and it was not true to say that it was not going on. A neighbour of Mrs Williams had witnessed sexual activity in broad daylight whilst coming home from work.

PCSO Martin stated that the area came under West Mercia, but he had numerous conversations with them and he confirmed that there has been an increase in activity, but it has not reached the level that it was at previously.

Councillor Oakley stated that the Parish Council did not re-open the lay-by and didn't request that it was opened.

County Councillor Perry stated that the closure of the lay-by had always been a temporary closure and that a resident had forced the re-opening of it when a planning application had been submitted. He said that in the past many options had been investigated such as keeping the vegetation cut right back,

installation of lighting, patrols, blocking the area from cars, etc. The police are aware of the problem and patrols have been stepped up. Cllr Perry suggested that perhaps CCTV cameras to record car registration numbers and keeping the vegetation low could be a solution.

Ms Toolan enquired why the police didn't take action if the area has repeated crime taking place? PCSO Martin's response was that the problem is that because the acts are taking place between consenting adults so are not registered as a crime and because the area is seldom frequented by people who aren't connected with the sexual acts, the activities are rarely reported.

Mr Dearing came along to the meeting to ask for support from the parish council for his planning application for a glasshouse at Hill Farm Cottage. He stated that if his cottage wasn't listed he could build his conservatory under Permitted Development Rights.

Mr Greening spoke about the Gipsy site in Poolhead Lane. He said that the parish council supported the Poolhead Residents' previously and asked for support again when the expected planning application for change of use of the land to a residential gypsy site is submitted when the temporary permission expires early next year. Mr Greening also commented on the fact that it has been reported that SDC has found some locations for gypsy sites but won't publish where these sites are. He said that Solihull have identified a possible site in Shutt Lane. Mr Greening also enquired about the forthcoming Residents' AGM where the MP is going to be the guest speaker. He asked if he would be able to put a question to the MP or are the questions all taken in advance? Although there was no-one there to speak on behalf of the Residents' Association, the general feeling was that Mr Greening would be able to pose a question to the MP.

Cllr Oakley said that the potential gypsy sites are not in the public domain because legal matters have to be sorted, but he did assure Mr Greening that he understood that none of these sites were in the Greenbelt.

Report from County Councillor Perry:

1. Councillor Perry confirmed that the owners of Field House in Tithe Barn Lane have agreed to take down their front wall and move it back as it encroached on to the verge. This is likely to happen after Christmas.
2. There has been a site meeting about Bridleway SD268 in Aspley Heath. The cost to solve the flooding problem will be in the region of £6,000 to £6,500. This is an ongoing problem. £680 would pay for a specialist clean, but the landowner needs to agree.
3. Earlswood Common will close for bridge joint repairs between 12 – 17th December between 22.00 hrs and 06.00hrs.
4. The work on the other side of Shutt Lane is starting soon.
5. Councillor Perry will see what money is available to carry out improvements to Umberslade Road and Cut Throat Lane. These improvements will cost £12,000 - £15,000.
6. The cost to divert the gas supply which runs alongside The Reservoir in Valley Road would cost £50,000. Councillor Perry has stressed the need to put extra funding in to improving this junction and he is still trying.
7. A Community Grant of £1,500 has been awarded to The Museum to go towards their extension.
8. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) are to put on Shutt Lane and The Common.
9. There were 89 chimney fires in the Stratford area last year. People with open fires are encouraged to call Smart Cleaning Log on 01789 751 527 to ensure that their chimney is fire safe.
10. 279 people died from the cold last year. Act On Energy provide free and impartial advice on conserving energy and they can be contacted on 0800 988 2881 between 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday.

11. The County Council have good stocks of grit. Some parishes have Snow Wardens and they have access to extra grit.

Report from District Councillor Atkinson:

1. Councillor Atkinson stated that Alderhanger Lane is a problem. He is disappointed about the withdrawal of support from the Parish Council because the position of the Action Group is weakened.
2. In the parish magazine, the parish council had raised the point that an application for a garden room in Blind Lane which would take the property over 30% had to be withdrawn because they applicants were advised by SDC that permission wouldn't be granted. But another property in Vicarage Hill had been granted permission for a conservatory that would take them well over the 30%. Councillor Atkinson pointed out that the owners of the property in Vicarage Hill were able to take advantage of the Permitted Development Rights that were available to them.
3. Cllr Atkinson was sympathetic that Councillor O'Brien had spent over 5 hours at the Planning Committee (West) meeting.
4. Cllr Atkinson enquired if the Parish Council had commented on the proposed motocross site yet? It was confirmed that the Parish Council had already put comments in to Stratford.

Report from District Councillor Oakley:

1. Councillor Oakley reported that the Planning Portfolio Holder had invited him to his meetings with the Head of Planning.
2. The next Community Forum which is on December 15th at Wootton Wawen Village Hall will focus on health issues.
3. Councillor Oakley reported on a policing and policy issue. The Chief Constable has withdrawn premises so that the PCSO has to cycle a long way from Alcester if he does not have access to a vehicle. A group in Henley are looking at ways to provide a base at no cost to the Chief Constable. They are discussing taking over the empty police station in Henley and use it as a community facility. They already have £5,000 towards the £10,000 needed. Councillor Oakley suggested that 2 or 3 parishes join with the Henley Group to see if it is viable to provide the police/PCSOs with a base to operate out of. Alternatively, a group of parishes could look in to providing a vehicle as a base. Councillor Oakley asked if the parish council would be interested in having a representative on this group to try and find some way to keep a police base.

County Councillor Perry felt that the information given by District Councillor Oakley was incorrect. The police station is on a 99 year lease and it will cost £100,000-£125,000 to take over this lease. Councillor Perry felt that the £5,000 is for use towards setting up the community library. There is still no venue for the library. The idea of the police not having a base is so that police don't have to go back to the police station to make reports. It makes the system more flexible and gives the police a higher profile as they are more mobile. Councillor Perry feels that more time is needed to give this new system a chance to see if it works.

Minutes of the Tanworth-in-Arden Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 17th November 2011 at Tanworth Village Hall.

Present: Councillor Willmott (Chairman), Councillor Instone, Councillor O'Brien, Councillor Stanton, Councillor Keogh, Councillor Oakley, Councillor Waters and Councillor Fitzpatrick

In Attendance: Julie White Clerk to the Council

11/12/115- Apologies for absence –

Councillor Havard, Councillor Jones and Councillor Ross

The reasons given for absence were accepted by the Parish Council.

11/12/116- Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest – Councillor Keogh declared a personal interest in item 11/12/129 because she is member of the Village Hall Committee.

11/12/117- To Confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – 20th October 2011

It was proposed by Councillor Instone and seconded by Councillor Oakley that the minutes of the Council Meeting on 20th October were a true and accurate record. All those present at the previous meeting voted in favour. Chairman Councillor Willmott signed the minutes.

11/12/118 - Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise dealt with –

The Clerk and Councillor Stanton had met with Ron Hill of Warwickshire Wildlife to discuss the wildlife area in Malthouse Lane Leisure Park. Ron had looked at the area to the rear of 25 Malthouse Lane which had been cleared by a previous resident with a view to creating a wild flower meadow. He identified what was growing there currently and gave some suggestions of suitable species to try planting. It was also suggested that fruit trees could be planted along the edge of the park adjacent to the lakes.

Councillor O'Brien questioned the access to the potential wild flower meadow and felt that we would be developing a meadow that can't be seen or enjoyed. Councillor O'Brien also stated that he would be against putting in pathways to get to the wild flower meadow. It was agreed that this would be placed on a future agenda.

11/12/119- Matters raised in the Public Forum -

It was felt that the Finance & General Purpose Committee should look into revisiting this matter and come up with a coordinated plan and make a report to Full Council if they feel that the decision to support keeping the lay-by open should be changed. Councillor Waters felt that PCSO Martin's comments constituted new evidence being presented. Councillor Stanton reiterated that the closure of the lay-by was only ever temporary. Councillor Keogh felt that the issue of fly tipping is not exclusive to this area and this problem exists in other areas. She felt that the all sides of the argument should be listened to before making a decision. Councillor Oakley said that we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that there are issues such as flooding in the area, there should be proper ditch and bridleway maintenance in the area. Councillor Oakley also stated that burger van is licensed and not illegal. He feels that all of the issues need to be addressed. The matter will be discussed further at the next December committee meeting.

11/12/120 - To Note Items of Correspondence Received - The following items were highlighted:

6.64 – Office visit from Lizzie Price. The Community Forum will be held in Tanworth Village Hall on June 28th 2012.

6.83 – Invitation to County Service to celebrate Queen's Jubilee. Councillor Keogh expressed an interest in attending.

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- 6.234 - PCSO Martin reported human excrement and other items being found regularly on car park by allotments on The Common.
- 6.241 - WALC – Planning Events. The Clerk read out details and said that she would forward further information via e-mail. Interested members were invited to let the Clerk know which event they would like to attend.
- 6.245 – Earlswood Residents’ Association. Invitation to meeting with WRCC as guest speaker.

The correspondence list was noted.

11/12/121 - Finance

- i) To adopt the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting on 6th October 2011. Councillor Willmott proposed that we adopt the minutes from 6th October 2011. Seconded by Councillor Stanton. All in favour.
- ii) Chairman’s report: no report.
- iii) Items for payment: Councillor Stanton proposed that all items were taken en bloc. Councillor Waters seconded. All in favour.

11/12/122 - Planning

- i) To adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting on 6th October 2011
Councillor Keogh proposed that we adopt the minutes from 6th October 2011, seconded by Councillor Oakley. All in favour.
- ii) Report of the Chairman: The Chairman reported that clarification had been sought from SDC regarding responding to planning applications concerning wind turbines. The Clerk gave all members a copy of Policy PR6.
- iii) To consider the following Planning Applications:
- 11/02366/FUL** Obelisk Farm, Umberslade. Objection. This would be inappropriate development in the Greenbelt. The Obelisk is Grade II listed and the erection of a wind turbine would have a detrimental visual impact. The efficiency of wind turbines is not proven at present.
 - 11/02466/LBC** The Pigeon Barn, Poolhead Lane – No Representation providing that the proposal does not exceed 30%.
 - 11/00952/FUL** Claremont House, Broad Lane. Objection. The Parish Council queries the volume calculation and also questions if the proposal extends beyond the building line. With the proposal being in front of the building, the Parish Council feels that this is inappropriate development in the Greenbelt.
 - 11/02519/FUL** Hill Farm Cottage, Vicarage Hill – No Representation.
 - 11/0250/LBC** Hill Farm Cottage, Vicarage Hill – No Representation.

11/12/123– To Discuss the Unauthorised Work on the Tree on the Village Green

Councillor Stanton reported that 4 or 5 branches had been cut off the tree; it is not known who carried out this work. The Clerk handed out two reports on the state of the tree. One had been obtained from the brother of a parishioner, Mr Wilkins, who took it upon himself to provide the parish council with a detailed report on the tree and one had been obtained by the parish council. Both reports were of the opinion that the tree needs to come down as it is diseased. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Wilkins and thank him for taking the trouble to obtain a report for us and assure him that the Parish Council now

has this matter in hand. The Parish Council will put this item on the next agenda and discuss the way forward.

11/12/124 - To Discuss Night Fishing at Earlswood Lakes - This item was deferred.

11/12/125 – To Consider the Provision of a Parish Police Base

This matter had been discussed earlier during District Councillor Oakley's report. Councillor Instone volunteered to represent the Parish Council on the committee.

11/12/126 – To Discuss the Budget and Precept for 2012/13

It was decided to keep the precept unchanged but factor in to the budget money for a jubilee project, especially in light of the fact that the tree on the village green needs to be replaced. This will be approved at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

11/12/127 - To Approve the Meeting Dates for 2012

A list of meeting dates had been previously circulated. Councillor O'Brien proposed that they were accepted. Councillor Oakley seconded the proposal. All in favour.

11/12/128 - To Appoint an Internal Auditor for Year End March 2012

Councillor Stanton proposed that Mrs Butts is re-appointed. Councillor Waters seconded. All in favour.

11/12/129 Update on New Parish Office

i) Resolution to sign the Lease

Councillor Willmott proposed that the lease is signed as soon as the lease is available for signing. Councillor Stanton seconded the proposal. All in favour.

ii) Resolution to Agree to Underwrite or Loan the Village Hall Monies to Complete the Museum Extension.

Councillor Willmott proposed that that Parish Council lends the Village Hall Trustees enough money to allow them to have the extension to the museum. Seconded by Councillor Stanton. 7 votes for and 1 vote against. Councillor O'Brien voted against the resolution due to the no business plan being presented, despite one being requested at the last committee meeting. Councillor Willmott explained that he is arranging a meeting with the Trustees and the working party in the near future to finalise the details. It is hoped that they will have raised funds to pay this loan off within the year, but failing that Cllr Willmott expects the outstanding debt to the parish council will become an interest bearing loan.

11/12/130 – Work Around the Parish

- Kerb around the village green collapsing

11/12/131 - Items for Future Agenda

- Creation of wild flower meadow
- Night fishing around Earlswood Lakes

11/12/132 – To Note date, place and time of next Meeting:

Thursday 15th December, Earlswood Village Hall

The meeting closed at 21.45 hrs

Signed _____ Chairman of meeting _____ Date