

MINUTES of a Meeting of Tatsfield Parish Council held on the 15th April 2024 in the Meeting Room, Aileen McHugo Building, Westmore Green, Tatsfield TN16 2AG commencing at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Ms Kim Jennings (in the chair)
Mr David Pinchin Mr Jason Syrett Mr Martin Elmer Mr Simon Cook Mr Dave Mitchell

In Attendance: Samantha Head (Clerk)
Cllr Martin Allen (TDC)

And 1 parishioner

The meeting commenced at 8.00 pm

1. APOLOGIES

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (relating to items on the agenda)

3950/0424 Jason Syrett declared an interest in item 10a – Tatsfield Green, Boundary Dispute.

3. Approve and sign the MINUTES of the previous meeting held on 11th March 2024

3951/0424 It was resolved that the minutes reflected a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 11th March 2024. They were duly signed by the Chair.

4. Public Participation

- A resident asked for an update on the ground fixing for a sign board in the village centre.
- A resident queried if Thames Water would make good the damage to grass verges at entrance and exit points around the village – Church Hill, Ricketts Hill Road, Rag Hill Road?
- It was noted that Surrey Interactive Grass Cutting Map had been launched.

5. Officer's report

- The Clerk noted that the half year precept payment had been made.
- The Clerk reported that the tree work (overhanging branches over VH / car park) had successfully been completed the previous Friday.
- The Clerk had been contacted regarding a Housing Needs Survey – did the PC wish to have one carried out by Surrey Community Action?
- The electrician has amended the spec for the post lights around the picnic area – the clerk would forward to PCllrs.

6. PLANNING:

(a) Planning Team for April: Jason Syrett and David Pinchin

3952/0424 It was resolved that the planning team for April would be Jason Syrett and David Pinchin.

(b) To determine the Parish Council's position on Appendix A:

TA/2024/189/NH 4 Sunnybank, Tatsfield TN16 2LH

A single storey rear extension extending the full width of the existing property, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 8.00 metres, for which the maximum height would be 3.20 metres, and for which the height of the eaves would be 2.80 metres (Notification of a Proposed Larger Home extension) (Amended plans)

This application was reviewed by Tatsfield Parish Council in March 2024 to which we returned No Comment.

A revised set of plans was posted (with a very minor adjustment to one small section of external wall) and a decision notice has been issued that 'Prior Approval is not Required.'

Decision made by TDC. No action required.

KCC/SE/0495/2018 Covers Farm Quarry, Westerham, Kent

Stabilisation and restoration of Covers Farm Quarry using imported engineering materials to restore the site to grassland, including landscape planting and an ecological receptor area together with a temporary road and ancillary buildings.

This is a further consultation on this long running planning application (since 2018) to restore Covers Quarry by partially filling in the old sand quarry and restoring the landscape.

A key part of the proposed development is the infilling of significant parts of the site to reduce the degree of slope to a more stable slope and reduce the depth of water. Approximately 800,000m³ of suitable fill material is required to fulfil this purpose.

The applicants are arguing that the impact on the stability of the M25 is a concern and the standing water is rising in the quarry and that 'do nothing' is not an option. We have previously objected to this application on the grounds of the significant impact of the trucks on the local road network. The works will take in the order of 6 years to compete with significant numbers of large truck movements.

New documents submitted do not change the scope of work but only add a Green Belt Assessment document and a letter from the Acoustic Consultant.

3953/0423: Members resolved to reconfirm the Parish Council's objections.

Tatsfield Parish Council wishes to reconfirm its previous objections which it made in response to the Covers Farm Quarry application in 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. The Parish Council strenuously objects to this application on the basis of the harm such proposals, if approved, would have on the parish, its residents, its roads and also the surrounding areas.

7. Finance:

(a) Finance Team for April: Jason Syrett and David Pinchin

3954/0424 It was resolved that the Finance Team for April would be Jason Syrett and David Pinchin.

(b) Authorise payments (including authorisation of Internet banking) detailed in Appendix B

3955/0424 Members approved the Clerk's request. Items on Appendix B were duly approved. Payments and supporting invoices were checked and signed by members of the Finance Team for April.

(c) To ratify quotes for tree work adjacent to Village Hall: £830.00 plus Vat £166.00, total £996.00

3956/0424 Members ratified this quote.

8. Notified Items

(a) Furze Corner

Jason Syrett gave the following report: After some chasing, TDC had now sent through a draft lease – it appeared to be just about the final version. However, TDC has now said that there are arrears (over a four-year period) owed and the new lease cannot be signed until these have been cleared. Jason Syrett had responded to the stating that the PFA's lease had expired in 2021 and he was unaware of any arrears. He thought he had been told by members of the PFA (at the time) that they had agreed a final payment and that this had been paid. His understanding was that the PFA had continued to pay the standing charges for the water and electricity. It is believed that the Cricket Club have been using the grounds for matches during the summer months. Jason Syrett offered to follow this up with the ex-PFA members.

(b) Community Project Grant

Kim Jennings had been contacted by Cllr Becky Rush (SCC) with details of a possible additional £10k Your Fund Surrey Small Grant. The following suggestions were made: the refurbish the MUGA – repaint lines, new nets and posts (various), to refurbish old bus shelter and install maps of village / parish walks with QR codes and to carry out some tree planting on Tatsfield Green.

3957/0424 Members agreed to submit grant requests for the MUGA refurb and the old bus shelter / walks maps ideas.

(c) Offer of donation of land to the Parish Council

Kim Jennings had received a telephone call from a lady who, along with her sisters, owned a small plot of land off Ship Hill, on the corner of Ninehams Road. It's believed the plot measures 90ft x 50ft x 23ft. It generates a small annual rent from the telegraph pole on it. Members discussed the pro's: it would be an asset for the PC and it would generate a small income, and also the con's: tree and other maintenance. Members agreed to defer until the next meeting.

9. Reports from County Councillor, District Councillor, Village Organisations and External Organisations

a) County Councillor

Becky Rush was not at the meeting and no report was given.

b) District Councillor

Martin Allen gave the following report:

- TDC planning department currently has no enforcement officers. £595k has been set aside in the budget to recruit new officers.
- Martin Allen confirmed that he had submitted his application for the DC elections.
- He had attended a presentation by SCC Highways about their involvement with planning applications.
- TDC's external accounts for 2021/22 had still not been signed off. Immediately after the 2021/22 accounts being signed off, work will get underway on the 2022/23 accounts – although the DC was receiving conflicting advice on whether or not to begin reviewing the accounts.
- TDC's CFO has already been in discussion with the new auditor (Grant Thornton) regarding the scale fee for the 2023/24 accounts which is anticipated to be £151k instead of £36k.
- The PSAA has submitted an invoice for audit fees of £345k for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 audits. TDC has appealed this.
- The internal auditor is suggesting that TDC undertakes quarterly internal audit planning.
- Cllr Allen has attended a Standards Ctte meeting, a Strategy & Resources Ctte, an Audit & Scrutiny Ctte and a meeting with the CEO.
- He has also spent 5 days delivering leaflets on behalf of Independent candidates across the district.

c) Neighbourhood Plan

Kim Jennings, Jason Syrett and Martin Allen agreed to host two meetings on Saturday 20th and 27th April between 09:30 and midday at the tea room in order to encourage people to vote in the Neighbourhood Plan referendum and also answer any questions people might have about the plan. Jason Syrett would advertise on Tatsfield Talk.

d) Biggin Hill Airport

David Pinchin gave the following report:

David Pinchin was not able to attend the last meeting in January but will be attending the next one later this month. There was nothing of any major significance affecting Tatsfield last time although Martin Allen and David Pinchin have been talking at length to David Winstanley and Colin Hitchings about the way violations of the NSA are received and reported on, also why complaints received from residents even though they appear in reports do not appear as auto track detections. The result is that auto-track detections and violations appear much fewer than they should be. David and Colin do accept that reports have been misleading and are committed to resolving the issue.

However, incursions into the NSA over Tatsfield are very few and it is hoped that this will continue, although time will tell as private flying in the summer months increases.

David Winstanley is still committed to moving the NSA slightly further south to avoid the village although that may be contested in the light of the closeness to Gatwick airspace.

No doubt the major issue that has been making headlines recently re London Borough of Bromley potentially taking the airport to court over allegedly not amending the local NAP (Noise Action Plan) will be a talking point at the next meeting.

e) VHMC

No report.

f) Police

Simon Cook reported that police attended the 464 shuttle replacement the previous week due to ASB by youths from outside the village. There had been an increase across the district in the theft of tools from vans. Several incidences have been reported on Tatsfield Talk of two men approaching residents on their driveways looking for work. Simon Cook queried whether it would be worth posting again details for the position of Special Constable.

10. Parish Council Land/Property

a) Tatsfield Green

Boundary Dispute (Under Part 2)

This would be discussed under Part 2.

11. Meetings to attend/ correspondence

- Simon Cook would be attending the Fairtrade meeting on 16th April.
- The THS Spring Show was held on 13th April. It was a successful show and more money was taken on the door but the number of entries was down on previous shows.

12. Matters for reporting or Inclusion in a Future Agenda

- EV charging points

Final public participation:

None

The meeting closed at 9.26pm

The next Parish Council meeting would be held on Monday 20th May 2024 at 8pm.

