

**SOUTH TARRANT VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING ON TUESDAY, 9th January 2024
at 7pm at The Anne Biddlecombe Hall, Tarrant Keyneston**

Present: Councillors Cossins (Chairman), Beale, Eaton, Garland, Harding, Parker and Thompson.

In attendance: Clerk Mrs Huck, County Councillor Brown, 1 resident

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Deketeleare, Munford, Sweetland and Thomson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

Cllr Eaton declared an interest in Item 9.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2023

It was:

RESOLVED the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Report by County Councillor

Cllr Brown reported the following:

Household Support Fund - Dorset Council has been awarded further funding from the central government to support households in need with energy, food and water bills. The support will be in the form of supermarket vouchers. Citizens Advice will be allocating this fund on behalf of Dorset Council and vouchers will be issued to residents who meet the eligibility criteria within 6 – 8 weeks.

Area Of Natural Beauty – name change to National Landscape – this change reflects these areas are now not only about helping protect the beauty of the area. They are also about adaption to climate change, catching carbon, restoring depleted wildlife, encouraging more people outside, producing food, sustaining local communities and enhancing historic environments.

Dog related PSPO – Following consultation, this has come into effect from 1 January 2024 and applies to open spaces and specific beaches. The PSPO is to keep them free from dog fouling and safe for use by all.

5. Highways

(a) Traffic speed – B3082 past Ashley Wood Park

The Clerk reported the Road Safety Team Leader at Highways had advised a written report be submitted to the Team. It was:

RESOLVED the report compiled by a resident at Ashley Wood (and shown in the November minutes) be sent to Highways together with a covering letter highlighting points included in Dorset Council’s Approach to setting speed limits.

(b) Items for reporting to Highways were raised, i.e. areas which had flooded, faded white lines, potholes etc.

(Chair.....)

6. Community Speed Watch (CSW)

The Council received an update from a member of the CSW.

Ashley Wood – an hour's session here had only revealed 1 driver exceeding the speed limit. No further sessions would be held there.

In general the team believed there had been a noticeable reduction in numbers speeding. Councillors welcomed this and thanked the CSW.

7. Speed Indicator Device - fundraising

The CSW were organising a Winter Barn Dance on 10th February, 2 – 6.30pm for £15 a ticket to contribute to the fundraising for a device.

Cllr Eaton reported the intention of a group to organise an Open Gardens event in the summer months. It was **AGREED** Cllr Eaton might attend the next fundraising meeting of the CSW.

8. Open discussion: members of the public may raise non-agenda issues here

Footpaths – Cllr Thompson stated footpath E22/15 crossing a field required reinstating, especially as the distance\topography made it unclear where it started and ended. Markers were suggested and the Clerk advised that, once paths left the highway, then markers would be at the expense of the Parish unless provided by the landowner.

Tarrant Crawford – Cllr Parker requested the replacement of the village sign be investigated, with the original having been stolen some years previously.

The bridge over the Tarrant – the ropes indicating the bridge edge were in need of replacement. Cllr Parker had raised this with the owner and would follow it up.

9. Shepherd's Hut, Tarrant Keyneston

(Cllr Eaton left the meeting at this point, having declared an interest earlier)

There was some concern that, whilst a shepherd's hut in Tarrant Rushton had required planning permission, the owner of the hut in Tarrant Keyneston had been verbally advised it was not necessary. Planning regulations around outbuildings indicated they were not to exceed the front elevation; however, it was acknowledged huts may come under different regulations as they could be considered to be mobile. Councillors felt there was a need for clarity to ensure no precedent was set and it was:

RESOLVED the Clerk contact the owner of the hut to further investigate \ confirm whether planning permission was required.

(Cllr Eaton returned to the meeting)

10. Financial statements for November and December 2023 and approval of cheques

The Clerk had previously emailed the financial statements showing full details of income and expenditure set against budget, together with a bank reconciliation. It was:

RESOLVED (a) the November and December statements be approved and signed; and, (b) the cheques shown in the schedules be approved and signed.

11. Budget 2024\2025

Councillors further considered a draft budget for the 2024 2025 financial year ahead of sending the precept request to Dorset Council. Discussion took place on the risk around incurring costs

due to the Elections taking place in May 2024 and the pay scale award negotiated by the Association of Local Councils (NALC). A vote was taken and it was:

RESOLVED (a) 50% of possible Election costs would be included in the precept, (b) the Clerk's pay would increase in line with the NALC award, including backpay to April 2023, and (c) a precept request of £6050 would be submitted to Dorset Council.

12. Council Elections May 2024

Prior to the meeting, councillors had received information on the process should they wish to stand for re-election in May. Both Cllr Beale and Cllr Munford confirmed they would not be standing.

The Clerk highlighted the need for hard copy forms to be completed and these to be taken to either Blandford or Wimborne to be handed in, with appointments for this required.

13. Emergency \ Resilience Plan

Cllr Thompson reported a power cut in Tarrant Keyneston had resulted in a community response without the need for the Plan to be instigated. It had also highlighted some areas of the plan which needed reviewing and Cllr Thompson undertook to do this.

14. Fingerpost – Tarrant Keyneston Mill post roundel

Cllr Harding advised he considered the replacing the roundel to be an unnecessary cost at present and councillors agreed. It was also **AGREED** it be revisited in a year's time.

15. Council Risk Assessment

The Chairman advised a review of the current document would take into consideration the Clerk's intention to finish her employment with the Council in May of this year. It was **AGREED** a working party would do the review alongside starting the recruitment process. Cllrs Garland and Eaton would take part, together with the Chairman. Cllr Thomson, who was not at this meeting, would also be asked to be involved.

16. Council and Villages website

The Clerk explained progression on the amalgamation of the two sites had been held up by a misunderstanding so would now move forward.

17. Green Canopy Project:

(a) Proposed tree planting – alongside B3082 Tarrant Keyneston

Cllr Beale reported she and two volunteers were intending to plant saplings on the verge opposite the Queen's Copse in February. The Clerk confirmed Highways had not raised any objections to the site.

(b) Queen's Copse – wildflower area

Cllr Munford was not able to be at this meeting. The Clerk highlighted rattle grass had been planted to provide support for wildflower germination and it may be some years for that to happen.

18. Dorset Community Tree Project \ Volunteer Tree Warden

Councillors received information on The Dorset Community Tree Fund which aims to provide support with plans for planting and caring for trees locally so they can help ensure that both old and new trees are managed to benefit wildlife, climate and communities. The project is funded by Dorset Council and coordinated by the Dorset National Landscape team.

The Clerk highlighted a Tree Warden scheme is being run alongside this and Cllr Thompson volunteered to be involved with this.

19. Planning application updates on the following (Dorset Council reference numbers):

- 01700 Kings Ransome, Tarrant Keyneston - approved
- 05575 Dorset House, Tarrant Rushton - approved
- Little Thatch, Tarrant Keyneston – Appeal dismissed

20. DAPTC

Cllr Beale reported on the AGM held on Zoom on 18th November.

- (a) The Armed Force Covenant – Council considered signing up to the Covenant. Given it involved education, health and housing services and that the Parish Council had no responsibilities in these areas, councillors did not feel it necessary.
- (b) DAPTC are to consult the membership on the organisation changing from a constituted membership body to a company limited by guarantee, in readiness for the next financial year in April 2024. This motion had been carried.

21. Two Rivers Benefice

Cllr Parker provided an update. The Benefice reorganisation had been formally approved and so would be effective from March 2024.

22. Items for next agenda

- Elections
- Recruitment of Clerk \ RFO
- Shepherd’s Hut, Tarrant Keyneston
- Community Emergency Resilience Plan
- SID fundraising
- Risk Assessment
- Footpaths
- Asset management – bus shelter
- Council and village website

23. To confirm date of next meeting

This is currently set for 12th March 2024, followed by 14th May (Annual Council Meeting), 9th July, 10th September and 12th November 2024.

The Annual Parish Meeting has yet to be scheduled, with the Council having voted to hold it on a separate evening to the Ordinary Council Meetings following a successful trial of this in July 2023.

Signed(Chairman) Date