

SHEET NO. 9 – 2014

Minute of a meeting of Tackley Parish Council held on 10th March 2014 at 7.00p.m. in Tackley Village Hall

Present: June Collier (Chairman)
Paul Joslin (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Neil Wilson, Les Summers and John Cook
County Councillor Ian Hudspeth
District Councillor Charles Cottrell-Dormer
Network Rail Representative – Christian Alexander
Parish Council Railway Representative – Richard McCrory

14/017 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Robin Gibbons

14/018 – CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27TH JANUARY 2014

Councillor Les Summers proposed that the above Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Seconded by Councillor Paul Joslin.

14/019 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

14/020 – RAILWAY UPDATE

Kristian Alexander, Programme Sponsor for Level Crossing Safety and Local Government Enhancements at Network Rail addressed the meeting. He informed the meeting that in the last 6-8 months the funding available for closing the crossing at Tackley had diminished. The amount now available to spend on this project is approximately £81K. There are now two options available to the Parish Council with regard to closing the crossing:-

Option 1 – A stepped bridge at the station with a controlled crossing for the bridleway.

Option 2 – Lobby Network Rail to provide further funding.

It was felt that option 1 would be pursued and Kristian Alexander to obtain costings.

Councillor June Collier asked if a lift would be provided but was told not. Equestrian users, cyclists and disabled people would use the controlled crossing point. Councillor Paul Joslin asked about the lockable gate system at the crossing point. Kristian Alexander informed him that those wishing to cross here would call the signal control room and when safe to cross the gates would be released.

Councillor Les Summers asked about moving the bridge further down the platform, but this was not a viable option.

Kristian Alexander stated that further funding might be available through various funds/grants.

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Councillor June Collier asked how the timetabling with regard to closing the crossing fitted in with electrification of the line and was informed that it would tie in.

The issue of overlooking of properties was raised and Kristian Alexander felt that screening would probably not stop this.

Richard McCrory felt that the crossing needed to be closed as there is potential within the next five years for another incident to occur here.

A letter to David Cameron may be required in the near future, and Kristian Alexander asked for 4 weeks before this was done so that he could confirm funding and the next steps. If this was not confirmed then a letter from the Parish Council would be written.

It was however felt that in 5-10 years time due to the increase in trains lockable gates may have to be looked at again due to the increase in waiting time for those wishing to cross. Providing transport may then be an option.

The question was raised as to how electrification materials will be delivered and the Council were informed that the majority would come by road. Kristian Alexander to provide Councillor June Collier with the contact details of the person responsible for track maintenance.

The Parish Council were informed that the electrification process had been held up due to costs.

Consultation with the community will be held before any plans are implemented.

Councillor June Collier thanked Christian Alexander and Ricard McCrory for attending the meeting.

14/021 - DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

None

14/022 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 27TH JANUARY 2014

Councillor John Cook asked if anything else had been done with regard to turning off the street lights. County Councillor Ian Hudspeth still to organise.

Defibrillator – County Councillor Ian Hudspeth currently has no funding in his budget. Funding may be available in April and if so match funding will be used. The Parish Council to purchase this equipment.

Speed Indicators – Councillor Neil Wilson stated that he was unable to find a cheaper alternative. As there will be no funding in the County Council budget for next year it was agreed not to pursue speed indicators.

The Clerk reported that West Oxfordshire District Council Enforcement Team would be looking at the property in St John's Road which issues had been raised about.

Telegraph pole, Rousham Road – Councillor Neil Wilson had looked at this pole and informed the Council that it only had telecoms attached to it. BT to be contacted and asked to re-site it/remove

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as the Parish Council felt it was a hazard for people with pushchairs and the disabled. County Councillor Ian Hudspeth to be copied into the letter.

Councillor Neil Wilson stated that street light number 23 in Medcroft Road had been reported several times but the issue had still not been resolved. County Councillor Ian Hudspeth to pursue.

14/023 - COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor June Collier informed the Council that last year she walked around the village with an Officer from the County Council and raised several issues with him which were not rectified. She has again raised these issues with him. Councillor June Collier asked County Councillor Ian Hudspeth why the County Council could not write to home owners/landowners regarding the issue of water escaping from their property onto the highway. She has written emails to the County Officer regarding this and will forward them to County Councillor Ian Hudspeth so that he can follow up.

Councillor June Collier asked if County Councillor Ian Hudspeth would attend the meeting with Thames Water and he is happy to do so.

County Councillor Ian Hudspeth suggested that the Parish Council bid for "flooding funds" so that a survey of the drainage in the village can be undertaken to ascertain if any are blocked.

Councillor John Cook stated that in correspondence he had received from Thames Water it was suggested that some of the responsibility lies with the Parish Council with regard to storm water drainage discharge. He felt this was an attempt to swing responsibility and was totally unacceptable.

Councillor June Collier inform the Council that she sent an email to Thames Water last week with regard to drainage and this had been ignored. She had also spoken to David Cameron and copied his researchers into all correspondence. Since the intervention of David Cameron's office a response has been received from Thames Water and they will be providing available dates for a meeting in April.

Councillor John Cook stated that he is still awaiting a response from Thames Water with regard to the invert levels for manholes. He informed the Council that he had received a response from their Customer Services with regard to guaranteed response time, which they failed to meet, and as a consequence the Parish Council will be receiving a cheque for £30.

Councillor Neil Wilson informed the Council that he has reported, to Thames Water, the leak on the highway by the Village Green.

Councillor June Collier asked why the County Council had switch the paint colour which they used to circle manholes and was informed that it was due to a change of contractor. County Councillor Ian Hudspeth requested that reports for potholes continue to be sent in. Councillor June Collier informed him that the Rousham Road was particularly bad and that there are currently 27 potholes between the Village and this road. Requests for attention to these had been made and County Councillor Ian Hudspeth to chase up officers to see if patching rather than repair can be carried out here.

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14/024 - PLANNING

None

Councillor Neil Wilson reported that 5 trenches had been put in were the proposed solar farm was to be sited. He believes that a bigger dig may be required as there seems to be evidence of a settlement here. As this will cause great expense to the project it may be decide not to pursue. Archeologists report awaited.

14/025 - PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Newsletter – Councillor Les Summers had written a preliminary note for consideration. Councillor John Cook to amend information relating to the pub and Richard McCrory to be requested to provide details on the Railway. All further updates will be typed up by Councillor Les Summers for consideration and finalised at Surgery on Tuesday.

Gardiner Arms - Councillor John Cook informed the Council that Greene King had put the pub on the market for sale although he had been unable to find any details.

Bracken on the Heath – Councillor Neil Wilson has all the correspondence relating to this issue from 14 years ago. He informed the Council that the Wildlife Trust provide help and advice on how to get rid of bracken. Councillor Neil Wilson will ask BBONT to provide a report.

Archiving Parish Council Documents – Councillor Neil Wilson stated that the shelving was not adequate in the cupboard and archiving boxes were required. The History Society will fund some of these boxes if the Parish Council will also provide some funds. It was thought that the cost would be in the region of £200 but costing will be confirmed. All Councillors were in favour of pursuing archive boxes. Councillor Les Summers will ask the Village Hall Committee if the Parish Council can use some of the new storage area which is being installed for the shop.

14/026 – MATTERS OF FINANCE

Clerk to ask if Judy Robson would be willing to undertake the internal audit on behalf of the Parish Council.

14/027 – ANY OTHER MATTERS

Allotments – Councillor John Cook asked if allotment holders were allowed to erect sheds on the allotment to be discussed at next meeting. Councillor June Collier had been approached with regard to wheelbarrow lockers. She also informed the Council that the issue of Moles on the allotments had been raised. She will ask Green Scythe to sort out this issue.

Dog bins – Yet again it appears that these bins are not being emptied. Parishioners should be advised to contact West Oxfordshire District Council.

Trees overhanging layby St. Johns Road – Councillor John Cook has spoken to the tenant regarding this issue. Councillors to speak to him again.

14/028 – MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

Meeting closed 9.20 p.m.

Signed

Date