

MINUTES OF THE TURNERS HILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9th JANUARY 2024 AT THE ARK

PRESENT: Cllr B Forbes (Chairman) Cllr S Hughesdon (Vice Chairman) Cllr P Coote
Cllr J Forbes Cllr I Gibson Cllr C Jarvis Cllr G Marsh, 3 members of the public and Mrs L Bannister (Clerk)

- 152 The Chairman welcomed everyone and explained that the January meeting starts with the presentation of the Civic Award.

Presentation of the Civic Award Cup to Sean Cox

This year's Civic Award goes to Sean Cox, who has now retired. Sean has always worked with the Parish Council quietly and without making a fuss, generously donating time and resources when something is needed, and working with the Parish Council if any problems are raised by a member of the public. He is always friendly and helpful to the office staff, a trait which has led to a great working relationship between the Parish Council and Cox Skips. He bought and installed the Remembrance bench for the village, and stored it at his yard when it was delivered during lockdown. In fact, Sean has collected and installed several benches in the village including the one on the Lower Green and the King's Coronation bench at The Ark. Sean has always been willing to provide skips to the Parish Council - at the Pond, on bike ride days and at The Ark. He has also done clearance work at the Church.

Sean added that he arrived in Turners Hill 45 years ago and has worked with many different councillors and staff over the years; some great people who have worked hard for the Parish.

- 153 Apologies Cllr B Theobald

- 154 Declarations of Personal and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
None

- 155 Public Participation
No comments

- 156 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman thanked Lee Aggett and his team for erecting the village Christmas tree again this year. It looked very smart with several comments being made from the villagers.

Thanks also go to Stuart Beare and the Tulleys Farm team for their quick response in clearing the trees that came down during the recent storms. Tulleys have also cleared fly tipping from the junction of Paddockhurst Road and Church Road, for which the Parish is very grateful.

- 157 The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th December 2023 were confirmed, and signed by the Chairman.

- 158 Matters currently being pursued by the Clerk
Cox Skips have offered to provide a skip free of charge for the reed clearance at Withypitts Pond, they have also offered volunteers to do this. They have already contacted Matthews (who offered to do the work originally) who have confirmed that they are still happy to supply the machine. A date for the reed clearance will be set in the summer, depending on the water levels.
A grant has been applied for from MSDC towards converting the street lights to LEDs.
- 159 Planning Applications
It was RESOLVED that MSDC be informed that:
- DM/23/3033 Weatheridge, East Street
No comments
- DM/23/2699 Land South and West of Imberhorne Upper School, Imberhorne Lane, East Grinstead
As the entrance access has been moved since the DPD was agreed, the Parish Council now feels it is relevant to comment to request that mitigation for the benefit of the crossroads in Turners Hill is needed, as they will be negatively impacted by this development.
The wording for the comment will be decided between Cllrs Marsh, Gibson and Forbes.
- 160 Report on Previous Applications
- | | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| DM/23/2057 | Tulleys Farm, Turners Hill Road | Permitted |
| DM/23/2762 | Shamrock Cottage, North Street | Permitted |
- 161 Finance It was RESOLVED to:
- a Receive and approve the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 23rd November 2023.
 - b Approve the budget and set the Precept for 2024/25 at £91,400.
 - c Note the council tax for a Band D property will be £138.74 for the year, which equates to £2.67 per week.
- 162 The Ark It was RESOLVED to:
- a Approve the recommendations for hire rates for The Ark.
 - b Approve the recommendations for the subsidy and hire rates for the office and clinics.
 - c Approve the recommendations for The Ark budget estimates.
- 163 District Plan Briefing The presentation of the meeting held on 18th December and attended by the Clerk was noted.
- 164 Allotments It was RESOLVED to:
- a Approve the updated allotment agreement.
 - b Set the allotment rents for 2025 to £36 for a full size plot and £18 for a half size plot (no change from 2024).

- 165 Interim Internal Audit The report was noted. No changes were recommended by the auditor. Congratulations were offered to Clerk and Deputy Clerk.
- 166 84 Metrobus service It was RESOLVED to support the motion made by West Hoathly Parish Council.
- 167 Street light electricity It was RESOLVED to set the supplier as SSE Southern Electric for 12 months from 29th February at the costs noted on the agenda.
- 168 Accounts Due for Payment It was RESOLVED that:
- a The Accounts shown on the schedule as being due for payment be paid;
 - b The Accounts shown on the schedule as being paid since the meeting held on 5th December, be approved; and
 - c The Accounts schedule be duly signed.
- One question was raised on the accounts by Cllr Gibson; why are The Ark hire receipts shown as zero on the budget? The Clerk explained that this was done historically to show that the hire income was not a guarantee. The financial position of The Ark is discussed frequently with the ACE and Finance Committees who are aware that The Ark is unlikely to break even in this financial year (predictions are that it will be around £5,000 down).
- 169 Correspondence
The PCSOs next beat surgery will be on 12th January 10-11 in the Deck at the same time as the Post Office.

Meeting closed at 8.08 pm

SignedChairman

6th February 2024