

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF TICHBORNE
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council commencing at 6.30pm
on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at Alresford Golf Club.

18/53) Apologies.

Mr R Foot	Councillor
Mrs A Thacker	District Councillor
Mr R Humby	County Councillor

Present.

Mr R Raimes	Chairman
Mr J Curtis	Councillor
Mrs G Hugh	Councillor
Mr N Kinder	Councillor
Mr A Stewart	Councillor
Mr A McWhirter	Councillor
Mr L Ruffell	District Councillor
Mr B Gibbs	Clerk

18/54) Declarations of Interest.

a) Members were informed of the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 (Sections 29-34) and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 in relation to their disclosable pecuniary interests.

Councillors were informed by the Clerk that there is a limitation on the extent of prejudicial interests and disclosable pecuniary interests relating to the functions of the Parish Council when setting a precept. A precept is set using the powers given to the Parish Council within the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

This limitation enables all councillors resident in the civil parish of Tichborne to set a precept whilst a member of the Parish Council acting in a corporate capacity.

18/55) To approve the minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of Tichborne held on 28th November 2017 (Previously circulated).

Cllr Raimes proposed and Cllr Kinder seconded the proposal that the minutes the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of Tichborne held on the 28th November 2017 be approved.

It was **resolved** that these minutes be accepted as an accurate record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

18/56) Public Session.

No members of the public were present.

18/57) Reports by the County and District Councillors.

an will replace more than a thousand policies from 12 different local authorities with just 26 new policies covering the whole of the National Park from
Cllr Ruffell began by saying he had submitted a written report for to the Parish Council prior to the meeting. The Clerk replied that this would be circulated after this meeting. Some points to note from the report are as follows:

Office space being converted for residential use in Winchester will now require planning permission after the removal of permitted development rights on 20 November 2017.

Chairman's signature

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Winchester residents have helped raise a staggering £24,000 for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, by using council clothing recycling points around the district to turn their unwanted clothing, shoes and textiles into cash.

The Chancellor's Budget announcement of more money for housing has been welcomed by civic chiefs in Winchester. Proposals to allow councils in areas of high housing costs to bid for more cash from the additional £1 billion allocated nationally could see Winchester City Council bring forward a number of sites it previously had no way of funding.

Cllr Ruffell began his verbal report to the Parish Council by commenting about the proposed improvements to the M3 Junction 9

A public consultation on the future of junction 9 of the M3 had now been officially launched with drivers and residents alike all welcome to have their say. The new scheme would provide new links to allow free access from the M3 to the A34 with no need to go on to the roundabout. The A34 southbound link would go under the M3 with a 50mph limit.

He continued by saying that because so many vehicles want to use the A34 to head northwards traffic often tails back on to the M3 causing severe safety problems especially during peak periods. Around 110,000 vehicles use junction 9 every day. The project will improve safety, reduce delays, reduce the amount of congestion and reduce journey times at peak periods. If planning permission is granted, work will begin on the project in 2021, with all routes fully open by 2023.

Cllr Ruffell continued by saying that the City Council was seeking information from local organisations that are planning to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice on the 11th November 2018. He added that some grant funding would be available to support these events but that this would not be available until after the City Council elections in May.

Cllr Ruffell then informed the Parish Council that a briefing meeting was to be held at the City Offices on Thursday 11th January being attended by the Full Council of WCC (minus members of the Licensing Sub-Committee), officers of the Environmental Health & Licensing department and representatives of Boomtown Festival Ltd. Councillors questioned Cllr Ruffell at length about this information and during the ensuing discussion the following points were raised.

- Councillors asked why the members of the Licensing Sub-Committee would not be allowed to attend.
- Councillors asked why representatives of the Boomtown Festival organisation had been invited to attend the briefing.
- Cllr McWhirter asked who exactly had organised the meeting.
- Cllr McWhirter asked why this briefing was considered necessary in the first place.
- Cllr Raimes asked if Cllr Ruffell and Cllr Thacker could attend the meeting.
- Cllr Raimes asked if Cllr Ruffell and Cllr Thacker could make it known to those being briefed of the concerns of the Parish Council and the views of the villagers in Tichborne.
- The Clerk asked if there would be any officers attending the event and if any officer reports would be received at the briefing.
- Cllr Stewart asked if the City Council was minded to permit the application.
- Cllr Ruffell said that it was acceptable to lobby the members of the Licensing Sub-Committee regarding the application but that all lobbying would be declared at the licensing hearing.
- Cllr Kinder said it was perceived by the many objectors to the licence application that they were not being listened to and that their concerns were consequently being ignored.
- Cllr Raimes asked Cllr Ruffell to keep the Parish Council informed if any further information was received.

Cllr Raimes thanked Cllr Ruffell for his report.

18/58) Finance and Orders for Payment.

a) The Clerk proposed the following orders for payment as follows:

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V522 Alresford Golf Club Room Hire 9th January 2018. £20.00p
V523 B.V.Gibbs Expenses June to December 2017. £59.87
V524 B.V.Gibbs Salary Sept-Oct 2017 £161.60p
V525 B.V.Gibbs Salary Nov-Dec 2017. £161.60p
V526 HMRC PAYE/NIC Sept-Dec 2017. £44.30p

b) 2018-19 Budget and Precept discussions.

Members conducted a discussion of the proposed budget and received a report on each line item from the Clerk.

The largest expense was the Clerk's salary costs totalling £1212.00 for 2018-19. The salary costs are calculated at a rate of £10.10 per hour with 10 hours work each month. Currently there is no requirement to make an employer national insurance contribution or an employer contribution to a pension scheme.

The Parish Council's insurance policy was the next biggest expense. It was agreed to allocate a budget of £220 to cover the cost of the policy in 2018-19.

Other regular expense items that were considered were the room hire costs for each meeting and fees relating to membership of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils and the Information Commissioner's Office registration regarding compliance with the Data Protection Act 1996 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Accordingly, costs figures of £160.00, £160.00 and £35.00 were allocated to each of these items.

The Parish Council's main assets are its two bus shelters and three notice boards. It was noted that the Parish Council has earmarked the sum of £1200 for any repair necessary to the shelters. It was also noted that there was no provision for the replacement of the bus shelters.

The potential to provide new notice boards has been explored in great detail and at great length over the last few years. It was noted that the community of Bakeland Gardens were not in favour of a notice board being provided for them. The three notice boards currently in use have recently been inspected and some minor repairs have been undertaken as a result of these inspections. Members noted that there was an earmarked reserve of £1,000 currently on deposit to provide for new notice boards.

Normally, the costs of a contested election were accrued over the four year period between elections. In January 2017 It had been resolved that the Parish Council ring-fenced the sum of £1000 to cover the potential costs of a contested election. It was also noted that the Parish council's four year term of office concludes

It was proposed by Cllr Kinder and seconded by Cllr Curtis that the Parish Council allocates a Chairman's Fund of £250 in 2018-19 to cover the costs of refreshments at the Annual Parish Assembly and other sundry items.

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve this.

c) The Clerk began the precept discussion by reminding members that the Parish Council had received a total sum of £4883.00 from Winchester City Council in 2017-18. This was made up of a precept of £4517.00 and a Council Tax support grant of £366.00.

The Clerk then explained how the precept was calculated by multiplying the tax base and the Council Tax Band D property rate.

For information the Tax Base for 2017-18 at Tichborne had been 113.68 and the Band D rate was £39.73.

The figure of £39.73 had remained the same for the last five years.

The Clerk then said that he had received the figures from Winchester City Council regarding the Tax Base and the Council Tax Support Grant applicable to Tichborne for the year 2018-19. The Tax Base was now slightly higher at 115.85 with the Council Tax Support Grant being slightly lower at £183.00p.

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All councillors were aware that the 2016-17 internal and external audits highlighted the fact that the Parish Council's reserves were rather high in relation to its commitments, earmarked funds and liabilities. It was felt that there was some scope for a reduction in the precept as a result of this.

The clerk reminded the meeting that it was good practice within local government finance to maintain a reserve equal to either one year's precept.

It was proposed by Cllr Raimes and seconded by Cllr Kinder that Tichborne Parish Council requests a precept contribution of £4375.00 from Winchester City Council for the year 2018-19.

This would have the effect of reducing the Band D rate for 2018-19 to £37.76 and would result in a 5% reduction in the precept.

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve this.

It was proposed by Cllr Raimes and seconded by Cllr Kinder that Tichborne Parish Council accepts a support contribution of £183.00 from Winchester City Council for the year 2018-19.

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve this.

This would result in a total amount of £4558.00 being received from Winchester City Council in the year 2018-19.

Cllr Raimes commented that after many years of a zero % precept increase now was the time to recognise that the Parish Council's annual expenditure based on its current liabilities will not exceed its income from the precept at its current level.

c) Grant applications from local organisations were then considered.

Grant applications have been received at this time from the St Andrew's Church PCC, Tichborne Park Cricket Club, The Oliver Branch Christian Counselling Service, the Alresford & District Agricultural Committee and the Winchester Citizen's Advice Bureau.

It was proposed by Cllr Hugh and seconded by Cllr Kinder that the Parish Council increases the amount granted to each of these organisations within the budget to a total of £300.00 (three hundred pounds) each.

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve these grants within the 2018-19 budget.

Various Local Government powers would be used to make these grants and a description of these will be recorded in minutes at the time the grants are paid.

Cllr Raimes commented that the budget will need to be approved before 31st March 2018 and that further discussion will take place at the next meeting of the Parish Council due to take place in March 2018.

d) The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's bank account contained the sum of £18,195.91 as at 7th December 2017.

Cllr Raimes **signed** the corresponding bank statement.

18/59) Boomtown Fair Community Fund.

Cllr Raimes spoke about the two decisions made at the last meeting of the Parish Council held in November 2017. A sum of £1,000.00 had been allocated to provide for a community defibrillator and a sum of £1,000.00 had been allocated towards funding the Cheriton Play Area refurbishment. The Clerk had informed the November 2017 meeting that from 2017 onwards the Community Fund calculation would be linked to electoral roll numbers.

He was now able to report that the Community Fund for 2017 would total £700.00 and that this sum had now been received by the Parish Council.

Chairman's signature

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Members agreed that if community defibrillator installation costs were more than £1000.00 then the residue would be drawn down from the general reserve subject to the 2018-19 budgets being approved in March 2018. Cllr Raimes was asked to liaise with the Tichborne Estate and the management of the Tichborne Arms in order to identify a suitable site. A planning application would be required prior to installation.

18/60) Correspondence.

The Parish Council noted an item of correspondence from a representative of the Spring Gardens (Alresford) Residents Association indicating that they did not wish to see the Parish Council to provide a public notice board at the Bakelands Gardens development.

18/61) Planning & Licensing.

a) Planning applications and decisions received from the Winchester City Council:

There were no applications to receive.

b) Planning applications and decisions received from the South Downs National Park Authority.

There were no applications to receive.

18/62) Environment, Highways & Transport.

a) Parish Lengthsman.

The Lengthsman visited the parish in early December but Cllr Curtis reported that not much was achieved due to a late arrival and an early departure. The clerk was asked to write to the scheme administrators advising them of Cllr Curtis's comments.

b) Visible inspection of Parish Council assets.

The Clerk had visited all of the Parish council's assets prior to the meeting. He had inspected all the assets and taken photographs to show the current condition of all of these. He commented that the two memorial benches could do with cleaning and re-staining to improve their appearance. He said the same could be said of the two bus shelters although they both appeared to be in a fair condition.

18/63) Any other report which the Chairman deems urgent – NO DECISIONS to be made.

Cllr Raimes spoke about the need to identify how the Parish Council should support the Cheriton Play Area improvement project. He suggested that the best course of action would be for the Parish Council to consider grant funding over time to support the maintenance of the proposed new equipment. However, no decision will be made until the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council due to take place in March 2018.

Cllr Raimes also said that the forthcoming commemoration of the Armistice centenary in November 2018 should be supported in some way.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.53pm.

**Brendan Gibbs,
Clerk to the Parish Council of Tichborne.**

Chairman's signature

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