

TICHBORNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at 6.30pm on
Tuesday 12th July 2016 at Alresford Golf Club.

17/18) Apologies.

Mr R Foot	Councillor
Mrs G Hugh	Councillor
Mr N Kinder	Councillor
Mr L Ruffell	District Councillor
Mrs A Thacker	District Councillor
Mr R Huxstep	County Councillor

Present.

Mr P Kilmister	Chairman
Mr J Curtis	Councillor
Mr A McWhirter	Councillor
Mr R Raimes	Councillor

Mr B Gibbs Clerk

17/19) Declarations of Interest.

None recorded.

17/20) To approve the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of Tichborne Parish Council and the last Ordinary Meeting both held on 24th May 2016 (Previously circulated).

Cllr Raimes proposed and Cllr McWhirter seconded the proposal that the minutes of Annual Council meeting and the last the Ordinary Meeting of Tichborne Parish Council both held on the 24th May 2016 be approved.

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

17/21) Public Session

Not required.

17/22) Finance and Orders for Payment.

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

V475 Alresford Golf Club Room Hire 12th July 2016. £20.00p
V476 HALC Annual Levy for NALC. £11.00p
V477 HALC Annual Affiliation Fee. £120.00p
V478 Lightatouch IAS Internal Audit Fee 2015-16. £120.00p
V479 HMRC PAYE/NIC May-June 2016 £37.00p
V480 B.V.Gibbs Expenses Sept 2015- June 2016. £131.00p
V481 B.V.Gibbs Salary May-June 2016. £148.00p

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve these orders for payment.

b) Internal Audit Review. The internal auditor's report (previously circulated) was presented to the meeting and was **noted** by the Parish Council.

Chairman's signature

date.....

c) To approve the annual governance statement - Section 1 of the Annual Return on page 2.

Cllr Kilmister proposed and Cllr Raimes seconded the proposal that the members of Tichborne Parish Council duly approve this item.

The Parish Council **resolved** to approve this unanimously.

d) To approve the accounting statements for 2015-16 - Section 2 of the Annual Return on page 3.

Cllr Kilmister proposed and Cllr Raimes seconded the proposal that the members of Tichborne Parish Council duly approve this item.

The Parish Council **resolved** to approve this unanimously.

e) To authorise the Chairman and Clerk/RFO to sign Section 1 and the Chairman and Clerk/RFO to sign Section 2 of the annual return.

Cllr Kilmister proposed and Cllr Raimes seconded the proposal that the members of Tichborne Parish Council duly approve this item.

The Parish Council **resolved** to approve this unanimously.

Cllr Kilmister and the Clerk then signed sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return.

f) The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's bank account contained the sum of £13,901.96 as at 3rd June 2016.

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

g) Parish Council Insurance.

The Clerk requested that one of the councillors undertakes a review of the Parish Council's insurance policy so that they were satisfied that it is fit for purpose. Cllr McWhirter volunteered to do this and would provide a report at a future meeting.

17/23) Reports by the County and District Councillors.

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Huxstep, Ruffell and Thacker.

Cllr Huxstep submitted a written report that had been circulated to all members.

17/24) Planning & Licensing.

a) The South Downs National Park Authority Planning Applications:

SDNP/15/06486/FUL

Applicant: The Matterley Estate.

Address: Matterley Alresford Road Ovington Hampshire SO24 0HU

Proposal: Change of use of land from agriculture to temporary mixed agricultural and summer festivals and endurance running events use, including retention of wooden structures within woodland associated with festival use.

Cllr Kilmister presented a brief verbal report outlining how the application was dealt with by the South Downs National Park Authority. Whilst recognising the fact that the application has now received approval, Cllr Kilmister said that the SDNPA Planning Committee had chosen to ignore many if not all of the valid material planning considerations raised by objectors.

Chairman's signature

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Before the SDNPA Development Control Committee met to decide this application the Parish Council had made a further submission of evidence to it.

This further submission is received below.

The Parish Council of Tichborne wishes to **STRONGLY OBJECT** to the above application and cites the following material planning considerations as germane to this application.

The opening words of the SDNP Local Plan discussion states:

"The National Park needs properly managed development that conserves and enhances the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage for which it was designated.

The Local Plan will help shape the future of the SDNP by:

- putting landscapes first while still serving the needs of our communities and local economy;
- protecting the special qualities of the South Downs;
- valuing nature both for its own sake and for the things it gives us like clean water, food and space to breathe;
- applying a single set of planning policies across the National Park to ensure all planning decisions reflect its special qualities.

The Parish Council asserts that this application does not satisfy any of the above tests.

It is also worth noting that the "South Downs Local Plan: Preferred Options" sets out the statutory purposes for national parks as set out in the Environment Act 1995:

These are:

1. To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area;
2. To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the national park by the public.

The SNDPA also has a duty when carrying out the above purposes to "seek to foster the economic and social well-being of the local communities within the national park."

Where there is an "irreconcilable conflict between the statutory purposes [being 1. and 2. above], statute requires ... the first purpose of the National Park [to be] given priority."

In other words, in the event of a conflict, the "preserving/enhancing" purpose takes precedence over the "promoting enjoyment" purpose.

The Parish Council urges the Development Control Committee of the SDNPA to take this into account and use it as a primary reason for refusal.

The South Downs Local Plan: Preferred Options lists the seven special qualities of the SNDP as

- diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views;
- tranquil and unspoilt places;
- a rich variety of wildlife and habitats including rare and important species;
- an environment shaped by centuries of farming and embracing new enterprise;

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- great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences;
- well conserved historical features and a rich cultural heritage; and
- distinctive towns and villages, communities with a real pride in their area.

The Parish Council would argue that it seems clear from the general purposes of a National Park (quoted above) that the activities proposed in the planning application (such as tank driving, pop festivals, "tough mudder" and moto cross) do not seem to foster or promote those purposes or qualities and, indeed, would seem more likely to be inconsistent with or opposed to many of the purposes/qualities.

Recreation is discussed in the local plan preferred option document.

In summary it states that development proposals for recreational activities will be permitted provided they comply with other relevant policies and they are compliant with the Development Strategy (SD22) and are located in sustainable or gateway locations.

With reference to this application the Parish Council takes a contrary view as follows.

- (a) the facilities proposed will not provide opportunities for visitors to increase their awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities;
- (b) the design and location of the development does not reduce the need for travel by private car and does not encourage access by sustainable means;
- (c) the development proposals do not make use of existing buildings where possible; and
- (d) it has not been demonstrated that any proposed on-site facilities or ancillary buildings are necessary and therefore the on-site facilities will undermine the vitality and viability of town or village centres or assets of community value nearby.

Where the development is in the countryside as defined on the Policies Map, it should, in addition, be clearly demonstrated and evidenced that it is in accordance with Policy SD22 (Development Strategy) and that there is a need for development in that area; the scale, intensity of use or activity is appropriate in that location; it can be satisfactorily accessed by sustainable means, including public transport, walking, cycling or horse riding; and it is closely associated with other attractions/established tourism uses, including the public rights of way network.

The view of the Parish Council is that this application meets none of those tests.

there is not a need for development in this area;

the scale, intensity of use or activity is not appropriate in this location;

the location cannot be satisfactorily accessed by sustainable means, including public transport, walking, cycling or horse riding;

the location is not closely associated with other attractions/established tourism uses, including the public rights of way network.

"Development proposals must not, on their own or cumulatively with other development uses, prejudice or disadvantage people's enjoyment of other existing and appropriate recreation, environmental education or interpretation activities, including the informal quiet enjoyment of the National Park.

Development proposals for recreational activities and interpretation that would have an unacceptable adverse impact on the National Park's special qualities or that do not provide adequate opportunities for visitors to increase their awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities will be refused.

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Development proposals that involve the loss of existing recreational facilities which serve the Purposes of the National Park will be refused except where provision is made for an equivalent or improved replacement of the existing facilities on site or in another equally accessible location."

The Authority will normally support proposals which are consistent with the second purpose [e.g. promoting enjoyment by the public of the special qualities of the park].

Developments should provide opportunities for visitors to increase awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities, for example, by reflecting the valued characteristics of the National Park's natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage.

"Tranquil and unspoilt places" is one of the special qualities.

The National Park provides a valuable sense of tranquillity within a heavily populated part of the UK and it is something that visitors and residents greatly value. The quiet enjoyment of the countryside can be vulnerable to disturbance from other recreational activities.

The Parish Council supports all of the statements above and asserts that this application does not satisfy any of the tests outlined by them.

It has not been satisfactorily demonstrated, in accordance with Policy SD8 (Relative Tranquillity), that the proposals will not generate an increased level of activity by creating or exacerbating a "tourist hotspot" which would detract from the experience of other visitors or affect the character, appearance and amenity of the area.

On the question of "promoting the economic well being of communities in the park", the Parish Council has never understood what economic benefit the local area derives from these activities.

It is clear that the onus is on the developer to show that the development proposed provides economic well being to those within the Park.

It is up to the developer to demonstrate and, in many cases evidence, that the purposes etc of the SDNP are satisfied by his proposed development.

As far as the Parish Council is concerned the application does not do that.

It is the view of the Parish Council that the planning application is difficult to understand.

In particular, it is not clear what activities are proposed to be carried out and for how long each activity is to be carried on.

Some sections of the application form seemed to be incorrectly completed e.g. section 10 dealing with "Parking" which states that there are to be no parking spaces. This seems odd since there are probably in excess of 20,000 people attending and there are many cars parked in the fields during the pop festival.

Section 11 deals with "foul sewage."

In answer to the question "How is foul sewage to be disposed of?" the answer is "unknown"!

The Parish Council would like to see this pretty important question answered.

The application form asks in question 24 whether the site can be seen from a public road, public footpath, bridle way or other public land.

That question has been answered "No"

The Parish Council would argue that this statement is incorrect as the site can be seen from the A31 and the A272 (and possibly other roads) and also from footpaths and bridle ways.

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In summary, the Parish Council finds it difficult to see how the development can be said to comply with the purposes etc of the SNDP as cited above in view of the noise pollution, light pollution and disruption caused by so many people at the site.

An approach to this application should be to ask why these events need be staged in the SDNP rather than asking why the application should not be allowed to proceed.

b) Planning applications and decisions received from Winchester City Council.

No applications or decisions were received from Winchester City Council since the last meeting.

c) Boomtown Festival (UK) Ltd. Premises Licence application.

Cllr Kilmister made a brief report outlining the fact that Boomtown Festival (UK) Ltd had been granted a new premises licence to enable their festival to have 59,999 people attending it.

He said that the Parish Council had made several representations to WCC Licensing Sub-Committee regarding this application when it was made as a minor variation and also when it was submitted as an application for a new licence.

He concluded by saying that despite everything said, all of these representations were ignored.

17/25) The Parish Council received the following correspondence.

There was no correspondence to receive.

17/26) Environment, Highways & Transport.

a) Parish Lengthsman. Cllr Curtis told everyone that the Lengthsman had visited recently and would be visiting again in late August and early October.

b) Parish Council notice boards. The refurbished notice board at Ladycroft was now in place and in use. The Clerk is to write to the Spring Gardens (Alresford) Residents Association in order to see if a notice board can be installed at Spring Gardens. Cllr Raimes explained that he hope a local tradesman would be able to construct a new notice board at the Old Post Office site. This initiative will be reviewed at the September meeting as the need for a notice board in the centre of the village was very important.

c) Bus Shelters at the Ladycroft crossroads. Cllr Curtis and the Clerk had been asked to make recommendations regarding the purchasing and installation of new Bus Shelters serving the 64 and X64 routes to and from Winchester.

The Clerk presented figures detailing the daily use of the bus stop. These could not be considered as demonstrating a demand or need for the provision of a new structure. The Clerk also explained that he had spoken to Mr Adam Craig of Hampshire County Council who had said that the County Council could not make a financial contribution to the project. Mr Craig also said that it was not the County Council's current policy to provide new bus shelters.

17/27) Community Safety.

There was no report to receive.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.32pm

Members of the Tichborne Parish Council are summoned to the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Tuesday 27th September 2016 at the Alresford Golf Club beginning at 6.30pm.

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

Chairman's signature

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