

## TIDMARSH WITH SULHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Tidmarsh Village Hall on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008, commencing at 8.05.p.m.

Present: Mr. M. Broun (Chairman),  
Mr. J. Chishick, Mr. C. Pawson, Mr. S. Webb.  
Apologies: Mrs. M. Kennet (work), Mr. J. Hutchison (work).  
In Attendance: Clerk to the Parish Council  
Mr. T. Metcalfe (District Councillor)  
2 parishioners.

### **01. Declarations of Interest**

There were no items on the agenda that resulted in Members, at this stage, declaring either a personal or a prejudicial interest.

### **02. Election of Chairman of the Parish Council**

**Resolved** that Mike Broun be elected Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

*Mike Broun signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman and resumed the Chair*

### **03. Election of Vice Chairman of the Parish Council**

**Resolved** that Colin Pawson be elected Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

### **04. Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Parish Council**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008, having been circulated, were confirmed a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **05. Matters Arising on the Minutes**

- i. Vehicles were still parked on the footway outside the Greyhound public house, and the police were to be informed that their informal approach did not appear to be successful.
- ii. The post for the Vehicle Activated sign had been erected, but the accompanying sign had yet to be positioned.
- iii. The BT phone kiosk in Sulham had been repaired.
- iv. The Chairman confirmed that the Sulham notice board had been ordered.

### **06. Minutes of the Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the parishes of Tidmarsh and Sulham held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008 were received and noted.

### **07. District Council Report**

District Councillor Tim Metcalfe reported on the delay in distributing the recycling

baskets, but was pleased to announce that he was now the proud possessor of an orange coloured safety jacket. There was a possibility that the Area Forums would be discontinued, at least in their current format.

**07. Planning Related Matters**

A consultation paper entitled “Options for Development in the Rural Areas of West Berkshire” had been received from the District Council. The questions were reviewed and, in delegating the task of a formal reply, Councillor Colin Pawson was asked to stress the need to retain the undeveloped gap between Tidmarsh and Pangbourne.

SPISE News edition 49 was received and tabled.

A copy of the South East England Regional Housing Strategy for 2008-2011 was received. The full report can be downloaded free of charge from the Assembly’s website [www.southeast-ra.gov.uk](http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk)

The following planning decision was received.

<b>App. No.</b>	<b>Location and Proposal</b>	<b>Decision</b>
07/02172	Land to the south of Green Gables, Use of land for storage, maintenance and hire of plant and machinery.	Unlawful uses

**08. Highways and Traffic**

A letter from West Berkshire District Council included the response to the Parish Council bids for Highway and Transport works. The full schedule is attached to the minutes.

It was noted that the District Council had recommended that section 106 funding from the Tidmarsh Grange development could be used to provide dropped kerbs and a footway from the Millennium Green to Tidmarsh Lane and south towards the bus stop.

Councillor James Hutchison had sent details of the Pangbourne NAG meeting, where it had been agreed to recommend that the 30 mph limit be extended towards Tidmarsh, thereby assisting pedestrians crossing the A340.

Following a report from the Chairman it was **resolved** to submit to West Berkshire Council a capital bid for 2009/2010 for the construction of a “gateway” entrance to Tidmarsh along both of the A340 approaches.

**09. Election of Members to serve on the Planning Committee**

**Resolved** that all 6 Parish Councillors be elected to serve on the Planning Committee.

**10. To appoint representatives to serve on Outside Bodies**

**Resolved** that the following appointments be made:

AWE Liaison Group	Mr. J. Chishick
Pangbourne and District NAG	Mr. J. Hutchison
Tidmarsh and Sulham Village Hall Management Cttee.	Mrs. M. Kennet

**11. Safer Communities Partnership Newsletter**

The Safer Communities Partnership Team Newsletter for March 2008 was received and tabled.

**12. Section 106 Developer Contributions**

A schedule received from the Developer Contributions Officer at West Berkshire District Council had shown an amount of £62,883 payable in regard to improvements to Open Space.

District Councillor Tim Metcalfe had been informed of the possibility that this amount of developer contributions arising from the Tidmarsh Grange development would be payable to the Parish Council, providing that a schedule of realistic local projects was approved by the District Council. Parish Councillor Colin Pawson had given detailed consideration to the exercise, and a list of possible schemes was circulated and discussed. It was subsequently **resolved** that the list of schemes, appended to the minutes, be sent to the District Council with a request for the release of the funds and that District Councillor Tim Metcalfe be requested to follow up the application.

**13. Parish Plan Issues**

Colin Pawson, in his role of Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, had attended another meeting of the Area Forum and presented an updated version of the Parish Plan.

There were no issues for the Parish Council to consider at this stage.

**14. Local Environmental Issues**

The Overview and Scrutiny Commissions Report on the Flooding Review was received and noted.

Councillor Colin Pawson reported on a local site meeting he had attended with representatives from the Environment Agency. Several issues were raised including the need to strengthen the banks of the Pang, the working of the sluice gates at the Mill and the need to ask land owners to undertake their riparian rights obligations. A survey of the local stretch of the Pang was to be undertaken.

District Councillor Tim Metcalfe also reported on a meeting he had attended, when the problems associated with the drainage of the Sul had been examined. Several problems had been identified, including silt under the railway bridge and concrete slabs adjacent to the sewage works.

The possibility of the appointment of a River Warden for the local stretch of the Pang was to be discussed at a future Parish Council meeting.

**15. Financial Matters**

**i. Year end Internal Audit**

The year end internal audit had been completed on 22 May 2008.

**ii Year end Statement of Accounts**

The statement of accounts and the statement of assurances were approved by Members, and the Annual Return signed by the Chairman and the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

**iii. Notice of External Audit**

Notice of the external audit of accounts had been received from Mazars LLP, the accountants appointed by the Audit Commission. The accounts were due to be submitted to Mazars by 31 July 2008.

**iv. Parish Plan Grants – Payments and Asset Control**

The Parish Plan Group, an independent self appointed group of parishioners, had successfully applied for grants for specific purposes connected with parish matters, but were unwilling to accept receipt of the allocated funds. At least one of the donors had required the name of the Parish Council to be listed as the recipient, and the Parish Council, through the Clerk, had agreed to receive the funds and hold the amounts against any Parish Plan approved expenditure.

One of the grant claims was for an Hitachi projector with associated peripheral kit, and the intended recipient had been the Tidmarsh and Sulham Village Hall Management Committee. The Hall Committee had at first declined to accept responsibility for the kit, the only temporary solution being to lodge the kit in the possession of the Parish Council. It now appeared that there had been a relaxation of the Hall Management Committee views, and approval would be sought to transfer the asset to the Hall Committee together with the underspent amount of grant associated with that particular acquisition.

**v. Accounts for payment.**

**Resolved** that the items shown on the attached schedule be authorised for payment, such sums to be debited to the account of the Parish Council

**16. Resignation of Clerk to the Parish Council**

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter of resignation from the Clerk to the Parish Council, to take effect from 30 June 2008. The Clerk had offered to remain in post for the Responsible Finance Officer duties until 30 September 2008.

( Following the meeting, the Clerk undertook to remain in post until 30 September 2008 in order to assist in the appointment of a replacement and achieve a smooth handover )

**17. Conclusion**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.17 p.m.

Chairman  
16 July 2008