



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

Minutes of the TPG meeting at Denson Close, Waterbeach on 4th March 2019

Attendee's (Tenants/Leaseholders)

Name	Address	
Wendy Head (WH (Chair)	Balsham	TPG
Angela Lewell (AL (Secretary)	Impington	TPG
Patti Hall (PH (Vice Chair)	Cottenham	TPG
Edna Ingrey (EI)	Gt Wilbraham	TPG
Glynis Goff (GG)	Waterbeach	TPG
Joan Ball (JB)	Histon	TPG
Les Rolfe (LR)	Bourn	TPG
Jim Watson (JW)	Willingham	TPG
Helen Ballantyne (HB)	Dry Drayton	TPG
Adrian Prentis (AP)	Cottenham	TPG
Carol Akrobi (CA)	Impington	TPG
Betty Murphy (BM)	Melbourn	TPG
Dave Hammond (DH)	GT Abington	TPG
Nancy Chisholm (NC)	Gamlingay	TPG
Bob Petch (BP)	Gamlingay	TPG
Val Hickey VH)	Waterbeach	TPG
Paul Bowman (PB)	Willingham	TPG
Howard Pheasant (HPh)	Cottenham	Observer

Attendees (South Cambridgeshire District Council Representatives)

Name	Position in Council
Peter Moston	Resident Involvement Team Leader
Helen Pagram	Resident Involvement Officer

No	Topic	Actions
1.	<p>Apologies - Liz Tomes - Audrey Collect</p> <p>WH said she had received a resignation letter from Kathy Rice.</p> <p>Please Ring Wendy on 01223 894394 or email: wendymhead@yahoo.co.uk if you are unable to attend the next meeting</p>	All
2.	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read, agreed as a true record, and signed by the chair.</p>	

3.	Matters arising	None
4.	<p>Constitution</p> <p>WH said this meeting is about the constitution and election. There is money for an election. PM said there is now 9 of the 15 members elected left, rest are co-opted or observers. Everyone would be able to stand for election. If no election then constitution would need to be up dated around membership.</p> <p>WH said some places have elections every 2 years. Who would stand for election if there is one. 14 said they would.</p> <p>PM said prior to 2011 there were no elections. South Cambs decided to introduce independent elections for tenants and leaseholders representatives that year. 2 elections have taken place, 2011 and 2014. In 2011 there were 15 candidates and 15 were elected, In 2014 there were 22 candidates and 15 were elected (7 not elected). 2 years ago there should have been an election but the TPG decided to delay this and make it every 5 years instead of 3. The constitution was up-dated. Election due October/November this year. Organizations vary, some none, others yearly or 2/3 years etc. Some have candidates come forward to be interviewed. It is not straight forward.</p> <p>PM said the senior management team, TPAS review and consultancy gave advice on the question how to recruit and staff tenant involvement. Resident involvement was being done by officers. TPAS came in and that's how the election came about in 2011 and again in 2014. Now due again. Finically in good position, no problem. However PM envisages that in the future may not be able to do this. TPG relatively small amount of money, not as much as 5 years ago. Not as much spent on travel and consultancy costs. We do have to save money due to the rent reductions. South Cambs borrowed a lot of money and then the government got us to reduce rent. This is the last year of reduction, reverts in 2020 to inflation plus 1%.</p> <p>PH asked if there was away we could find to do this without cost. £9,000 for every person balloted, member's, householder in letter. What about a ballot within. If more than 15 people, who goes? PM said it's difficult to get new people. Only got 1 person when last had a village voice day. PH said they don't last. HP said you cannot say that. PM said we've increased now and JB said it's a lot healthier. HB said she was the longest serving TPG member here. PM said can have 15/20 members, doesn't really matter. Could get 2 companies to give a quote as to do in house won't save any money and could be more expensive. Postage is expensive, electoral reform society would get better rates than in house. WH said could stay as we are and just co-opt. PB said if committee not elected, there's a 2 tier system with plus and minus. Co - opted as chair/vice/secretary, does it justify not to have an election. Quorum ok, if not perhaps an election. EI said it's not who stands but who voted, not justifiable, a waste of money. PB said could have an election, an observer who's been elected. PB replied need to put a safety net in the constitution. WH/EI both said people don't read magazine, just put it in the rubbish, why bother? (In 2011, 1,718 valid votes-</p>	

7,556 eligible to vote and 2014, 1,416 votes - eligible 7,946).

LR said no to an election/ electoral re-form, why not put it in the newsletter. Would cost nothing unless posted. Would need list of people wanting to be elected. PM replied it does get complicated, could run in house, advertise in the spring newsletter. Profiles could go in the later newsletter. Give people 3 weeks to post back. Scrutinise as proper election. PB said someone may want to mess it up. PM said I had thought about it, pitfall of in house election. BP said have a number on it. PB said number on or reference for each house. LR said it's lots of money for people who don't bother to send back. JB said doing it this way the cost will be minimal. PM said so in spring edition advertise for TPG election. HP said she had already done a letter (copy attached). PM said so run that process, profile for later edition for only those who want to be elected. PB asked if not 15, then no election. LR said put profiles in so re-elected on block.

VH said by putting it in the newsletter may get more people to stand. Would need to do 3 meetings to be co-opted. WH said yes, attend 3 meeting and then elected. LR said do not have to come to meetings but can stand for election, then co-opt in their place. BP said co-opted, never happened, question to answer. PB said change wording in the constitution. PM said there is no legal requirement to attend 3 meetings but is good practice, controlled by the group. Old director who worked for South Cambs was adverse to this.

WH asked what's going to happen to money. Task and finish a waste of money.

WH asked who wanted election, to be done via newsletter. Everyone agreed to this. PM said this is a good idea, done in a slightly different way and we should be able to sustain this. LR said go for it.

PH asked if no one else comes forward we get re-elected. Was told yes, re-elected by default. PM said all will be put in the spring newsletter. Encourage to come to meetings, anybody can put themselves forward and attend 3 meetings.

Discussion followed as to what should be changed in the constitution. PM will do draft of changes agreed today and send out to everyone.

PM update - any tenant/leaseholder can put themselves forward, provided attend 3 TPG consecutive meetings. Membership is for 5 years. Election will be done via newsletter which is cost effective. JW was not very happy with this but after explaining it to him more he was ok with it. PM said to electoral services (professionals), just counting costs more. LR said yes but electoral service still same in - house. PM confirmed 8t (of constitution), add 'Failure to adhere to this confidentiality clause could result in a breach of the Code of Conduct' and 3b 'The election results will be managed independently of the housing service'.

New badges will be given out after the election.

<p>5.</p>	<p>Training</p> <p>WH said any training you would like please let me know by e-mail. You can have whatever you feel you need like Task/Finish (old scrutiny). JB asked if there was anything on line. WH replied no, not at present. PM said TPAS do 90 different training's, such as equal opportunities, chairing meetings, people skills, group meetings etc. WH added that Sam is now back at TPAS. Was asked if Sam would be able to come to Task/Finish when we do it. WH replied yes, usually at the beginning and end, but can ask if we feel we need her more. It is different now, if we choose to do resident involvement, Peter or Helen at the meetings. PM said when the Standard letters were looked at Martyn attended most meetings. WH said yes and we need to get results from him, should be giving up-date's at 3/6 months.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>HPh to be co-opted as a TPG member at the next meeting.</p> <p>WH said there is a Mear's Board meeting tomorrow (5th March). LR said ask them what happened this afternoon with a small JCB. (Went into stream and had to be pulled out by a bigger one).HP asked WH to tell them that personally he was very pleased with the work they had done for him. DH added that a switch had gone in the bathroom, they fixed it the same afternoon and also when the overflow went, phoned at 9am and they came and fixed it at 11030am. VH said when her boiler went they were there by 11am. Also had turned up a day earlier to do a job. WH will report these back.</p> <p>PM spoke about staffing at South Cambs. Beverley Agass retired on the 21st February and there had been a press release. Bridget Smith gave staff a briefing last week and Mike Hill is acting chief executive, plus in the interim period. Management structure been looked at , the top 3 tiers, Chief Executive, Directors and Head of Service. There will be a report to all staff by the end of March. Business plan has been agreed and is on web-site.</p> <p>EI asked if this was the place to bring up car park at Church Close. Was told to contact Debbie Barrett.</p> <p>HP said just to let you know Gill Anderton will be leaving this Thursday and she will not be replaced.</p> <p>NC was thanked for the lovely cake.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Date and Venue of next meeting</p> <p>Monday 1st April - 18:30 to 20:30 at Denson Close, Waterbeach</p>	