



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

Minutes of the TPG meeting at Denson Close, Waterbeach on 2nd September 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
Joan Ball (JB)	Histon	TPG
Les Rolfe (LR)	Bourn	TPG
Adrian Prentis (AP)	Cottenham	TPG
Dave Hammond (DH)	GT Abington	TPG
Val Hickey (VH)	Waterbeach	TPG
Howard Pheasant (HPh)	Cottenham	TPG
Nancy Chisholm(NC)	Gamlingay	TPG
Bob Petch(BP)	Gamlingay	TPG
Paul Bowman(PB)	Willingham	TPG
Jim Watson(JW)	Willingham	TPG
Edna Ingrey(EI)	Gt Wibraham	TPG
Maureen Crabbe(MC)	Girton	Observer
Gillian Payne(GP)	Girton	Observer
Margaret Wilson(MW)	Girton	Observer
Vanessa Edwards(VE)	Girton	Observer
Clare Bayliss (CB)	Girton	Observer
Winifred Wicks(WW)	Girton	Observer

Attendees (South Cambridgeshire District Council Representatives)

Name	Position in Council
Jennifer Perry (JP)	Resident Involvement Team Leader
Hazel Smith (HS)	Lead Cabinet Member for Housing

No	Topic	Actions
1.	Apologies - Carol Akribi - Keith Nash - Ron Ryan Please Ring Wendy on 01223 894394 or email: wendymhead@yahoo.co.uk if you are unable to attend the next meeting	All
2.	Minutes of the previous meeting The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read, agreed as a true record, and signed by the chair.	

3.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>5 (paragraph e) should read 'the best council in the country' (not best council in the council)</p> <p>6 (paragraph 6) should say Chris Pegge (not Pegg)</p>	
4.	<p>Hazel Smith - Lead Cabinet Member for Housing</p> <p>HS said new administration now working. Want to get people off of I pads and onto using energy. Many 'No ball games ' signs around which is now so old fashioned. Children need things to do and we want to remove the stigma from Social Housing. A label to get rid of. We will write to people on the schemes asking if there is any reason the signs cannot be taken down. It will be unusual for there to be any problems. A resident from Girton said 'do it quietly'. BP from Gamlingay said sign has already gone from Blythe Way, so won't need to do that one. HS said we can't enforce it anyway. A vote was taken and the majority agreed for the signs to be taken down.</p>	
5.	<p>Wendy Head (TPG Chair) - The Future and Idea's for TPG</p> <p>WH asked how we wanted the future of TPG to go. Have a standalone meeting, then one with council, a meeting every month or just 10 meetings or 5/5. We did vote to continue with the 10 meetings but Peter squashed this idea. Peter's ideas now scrapped, we need to start afresh.</p> <p>AP said we want to bring up topics and take them to the next meeting.</p> <p>Training is needed and WH has been told there is no problem there. JW said he had been trained as a Tenant Inspector and then not used it. WH explained that this is where you go round with an estate officer and inspect trees, grass areas etc and report anything that needs doing. Tenant from Girton said so we have input into what needs doing. WH replied that her estate officer did not know she should do this and that I was trained for this. WW asked if inspection was both inside and out. WH replied, no, just the outside. PH said the Estate Officer comes back and says it's been done, mainly health and safety now. JW was asked about his training. He said he went to Manchester for a week and was told council would give a list of void properties, which you go and inspect, and then send council a report. They should take this on board and give to Mears to do the necessary work. Since doing this have only done 2 estate visits. Don't know what the council's intentions are. WH said training now and then sort out.</p> <p>WH asked what training was required. Do you want IT training. DH said yes, only knew basic. LR said there were digital champions for this. WH replied that TPAS were happy to do it. Also what about Task & Finish. 2 people would like this. LR said the council need to take note of what we've done. (PH explained what Task & Finish is to the newcomers). WH said only on the communal rooms which we did but council wanted different answers so there is now a follow up, which has only got so far and has been halted. Still same prior to our inspection. A resident from St Vincent's (Girton) had been told they could not paint their communal room. WH said she</p>	

	<p>would ring Shirley Stephen(SS) as other's including Franklyn Gardens (Cottenham) have already done this. PH said yes we paid for it out of our funds. The resident said we have lots of idea's including a coffee morning, but told cannot do without estate Officer. Asked if they have a newsletter. Reply was 'no, did ask but never got'. PB asked if they had a resident's committee and was told no. LR said he has been doing the newsletter for Bourn and the village is invited as well as the estate to their functions.</p> <p>JP said there is loneliness, fuel poverty and domestic abuse to also think about. WH said these are not on our TPAS scheme but did have the police coming to a future meeting. BP said would be good to have a safety group and domestic abuse meeting. HS said the council do deal with domestic abuse.</p> <p>WH read out some courses available including, Better representation for tenants, Guide to better tenant and Making sense of performance reports. PB said there would be a report before next meeting. LR said he knew what KPI's are but did not understand it. Resident said questions asked are very limited and meaningless. HS asked if any idea's for questions. PB said problem is if operative knows the tenant is happy, PDA is offered. If not do not offer it.</p> <p>HPh asked 'where are the warden's'. The reply was there is no wardens. HPh said that just about sums it up. EI said it is the council that needs training, not us.</p> <p>JB said the ground maintenance we did was good, since then Estate officer's, communal rooms a disaster. Why hasn't anything been done? WH said she had spoken to 2 Estate Officer's recently and they wanted to see coin operated washing machines put in. JP said things will change and we need to get happy with the council again.</p> <p>BP ask what is the scope of TPG. WH replied different council's, housing associations have different ideas. JP said she will put this on her list. PB said we are a Tenant Participation Group, so participation we can give if given proper training. WH said there is a Reviewing Resident's Engagement training. LR said that's what we should do.</p> <p>JP said so initiatives have not gone anywhere, trust is lost, not meaningful and discussions needed after work done. WH said we worked hard on the communal rooms and it was ignored. JP asked so you did not get an explanation. WH replied, no and they are now doing a follow up. AP said they didn't like what we said. JP said so relationship needs building. I'm here as an advocate on your behalf and here to help you. JB said we need to wait and see what happens (new broom sweeps clean). JP said it will not happen overnight but there is definitely room for improvement.</p> <p>BP said there is only 6 lines about the TPG in the constitution. It needs more, including what they expect from us and also what we expect from them. WH said lack of communication. JB agreed. WH said if we do another scrutiny what do you</p>	<p>WH</p> <p>JP</p>
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	<p>want it on. WH will e-mail Sam on what we need.</p> <p>WH went on to tell what is on. There is a workshop by TPAS on Wednesday 30th October at Wellbrook Way Girton. It is from 10am to 3-30pm. WH took names of those who would like to attend. There is also one at Norwich on Effective challenging and Questioning Skill. WH will sort out tomorrow.</p> <p>WH hand out a letter to those present on Fire safety in blocks of flats.</p> <p>WH said that a group at Saffron Walden would like to come and say how they work. PB said this is a great idea.</p> <p>WH then asked 'how do you want your future meetings? It was agreed to go back to the 10 meetings a year as felt this was more constructive. Will re-visit in a year. (January and August no meeting).</p> <p>WH said will ask Police, Fire Brigade, Saffron Walden TPG, CAB, Scope and Care Trust to future meetings. JP said we need to include single mum's, teenagers and also look at apprenticeships and employment opportunities.</p> <p>WH said in the latest newsletter asking for more members. There will be a full page advert which AP and LR are going to write.</p> <p>PB said next Mears meeting is about the 15th September. AP said anybody who goes to meetings, any meeting needs to do a report. there will be a 5 minute slot on the agenda for reports.</p> <p>JP said Addenbrookes have less than 50% older people, there are wives and partners and younger people. Need to come in and talk ,even 16 year olds. WH said we need to lead ourselves. JP replied I am here to assist you, we need to change things.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEW BEGINNING - NEW START</p>	<p>WH</p> <p>WH</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Date and Venue of next meeting</p> <p>Monday 7th October - 18:00 to 20:00 at Denson Close, Waterbeach</p>	