

TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Tydd St Giles Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Thursday 9th November 2023

Present - Cllr T Brown (Chairman), Cllr B Allen, Cllr M Carter, Cllr M Connell, Cllr K Malin, Cllr A Renshaw, Cllr L Slade, Cllr S King (CCC), Cllr B Barber (FDC), Cllr S Clark (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), 11 members of the public

Apologies for Absence - Cllr C Seaton (FDC)

055/23 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting. He reminded the members of the public of the opportunity to talk to the Parish Council at the monthly surgeries. He also reported that he had invited the Fenland Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator to attend a meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the village.

056/23 Public Forum

Mrs Newham thanked the Parish Council for promoting the welfare of hedgehogs.

057/23 Urgent Items

None.

058/23 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th September 2023 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

059/23 Matters Arising

- a) Drainage issues - The Clerk is awaiting clarification from the County Council regarding the availability of funding.
- b) Sewage pumping plant - The contractor has completed the works required to address the known issues. A camera survey is planned to check the condition of the underground pipes.
- c) Bus service - The meeting with neighbouring Councils will take place shortly.
- d) Trees in Hannath Road - No further progress.
- e) Carveley's Lane - The clearance work is scheduled to be completed before the end of this month.
- f) Hockland Road pavement barrier - The new barriers will be installed before the end of this month.
- g) Highway weed killing - The Clerk has responded to the County Council's consultation.
- h) Sapphire Close - damage to vacant property - The repairs have been completed and the property is now occupied
- i) Benches by village sign - The benches have been repaired but will require replacement soon.

- j) Food waste processing plant - No further update.
- k) Hedgehog Highway project - A number of residents responded to the offer and the remaining highway surrounds are in the church for people to collect.

060/23 Police Matters

The Chairman reported that no meetings have taken place. Two vehicles have been reported for speeding in the village.

The Clerk informed members that nitrous oxide has been reclassified as a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, placing restrictions on the sale and possession, which should lead to a reduction in the number of empty canisters being dumped around the parish.

061/23 Cambridgeshire County Councillor Report

Cllr King advised the Council that a motion at the October County Council meeting to recommence the cyclical spraying of weeds on the public highway was defeated, however a report will be submitted to the January meeting of the Highways and Transport Committee with a range of options for future weed treatment. The widespread concern about this policy will probably result in change. He suggested that individual parish councils might be allowed to determine the approach to weed killing in their parish.

Cllr King reminded members that community groups may submit bids for Local Highway Improvement funding alongside the Council's bids and the deadline for applications for 2024/25 is 12th January. A further round of 20mph applications will open thereafter.

062/23 Fenland District Councillor Reports

Cllr Clerk reported that she had received an email from the North Level District Internal Drainage Board regarding dogs off leads on the permissive path on the bank of the North Level Main Drain. All dogs must be on a lead to protect the sheep and wildlife and further incidents will result in the closure of the path.

Cllr Barber informed the meeting that Mr and Mrs Hodder had stepped down from their roles in the Street Pride group and that she and her husband had volunteered to fulfil these roles in future. She encouraged those present to join them for the next litter pick with free coffee and mince pies on offer.

The Chairman thanked Mr and Mrs Hodder for their many years of service on Street Pride and also Cllr and Mr Barber for stepping up to take over.

063/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a meeting with Cambridgeshire Police regarding motorbike and moped related anti-social behaviour and Fenland District Council's Golden Age 20th Anniversary celebration. Correspondence included the County Council's Steady On Your Feet falls prevention programme, the District Council's new hate crime resources pack, and the local government pay award for 2023/24.

064/23 Reports from Members

The Chairman explained that members of the Council had been allocated individual responsibilities to oversee and report on specific elements of the work of the Council and that this agenda item would form part of every meeting.

- a) Cllr Allen - Communications, Foul Anchor and Four Gotes - Considering engagement with residents of Four Gotes, possibly via a notice board. Also looking at website security certification. Mr Mallett asked whether the Council has been able to resolve the lack of a power supply to the phone box for the Foul Anchor defibrillator. The Clerk advised him that he is still pursuing this, but without success at this stage.
- b) Cllr Carter - Community Centre and Play Equipment - A smart meter has now been fitted at the Community Centre to ensure accurate billing. The funding application for the new heating system has passed stage one and a full application with quotes from contractors is required by 15th December. The Christmas Fair takes place on 25th November.

The matting under the junior play tower has become loose and the whole unit is coming to the end of its life. An equivalent unit would cost in the region of £7,200 plus soft play surfacing. The Grange Wind Farm Community Fund could contribute up to £5,000. Members agreed to submit an application in the next round of funding.

The swing seats have perished and need replacing. Cost approximately £250. Many of the plastic protective covers on the play equipment have been removed. Replacements are available and will need to be glued in place. The remains of the former wooden shelter need to be removed.

- c) Cllr Connell - Highways - Has started recording and reporting potholes and other defects.
- d) Cllr Malin - Armed forces, flooding, Kinderley School - Hoping to compile a register of veterans to promote fellowship. Learning about flood risk, especially sea flooding. The Headteacher of Kinderley School has left and a potential federation with Friday Bridge School did not come to fruition. Now seeking a fulltime Headteacher. Vacancies exist for Governors.
- e) Cllr Renshaw - Public rights of way, churchyard and trees - Ready to investigate rights of way issues. Grass cutting in the churchyard ceased for no apparent reason and further cuts will be required to remedy the situation. Investigating fallen trees and branches.

The Chairman mentioned that new signage is to be installed in the churchyard highlighting the requirement for dog to be kept on leads.

- f) Cllr Slade - Street lights and parish assets - Has located and identified all street lights and will be monitoring them to identify faults. The Clerk reported that the light outside 9 High Broadgate had been repaired with a new LED head fitted, but the light outside 43 High Broadgate is now not working. The long-awaited replacements outside 33 Newgate Road and 6 Cornfields have not appeared. Old bracket lights outside 11 Newgate Road and opposite the Golf Course also need to be replaced.

065/23 Member and Parishioner Issue

- a) Roadside verges - alternative management arrangements - Mrs Newham presented a proposal to introduce wildflower planting on some roadside verges around the village. Several locations in Newgate Road, Field Avenue and around the Community Centre were mentioned. Potential funding sources and advice providers were identified at a recent event organised by the District Council. Permission would be required from the County Council for any work on the public highway. Members agreed to support the project in principle, but more detailed information is required.
- b) Department for Health & Social Care Community Defibrillator Fund application - The Chairman explained that an application had been submitted for an additional defibrillator

to be located in the centre of the village. The Clerk announced that the application had been successful and a fully-funded defibrillator and cabinet had been awarded. Once installed, another training course will be offered.

- c) Kirkgate hedge removal outside new properties - A resident has reported that old hedgerows along Kirkgate had been removed in a breach of planning conditions for the properties that required them to be retained in perpetuity. The Clerk has reported this to the planning authority, but it is unlikely that any action will be taken.
- d) Local Highway Improvement funding - Cllr King advised members that it is now possible for community organisations in the parish to submit applications, so more than one application may be submitted. Suggestions from members included a 30mph speed limit in Kirkgate, a pavement in Cats Lane and the provision of lighting at the crossing point outside the Manor House in Kirkgate. The Clerk expressed concern regarding the likely cost of a new pavement in Cats Lane. Members agreed to delegate the final decision to the Chairman and the Clerk, once approximate costings had been clarified.

066/23 Finance

- a) The Clerk presented the financial statement as at the end of October showing income of £26,260.78, expenditure of £20,426.22, resulting in a surplus of £5,834.56 and funds held of £45,769.19.

- b) Members noted the following sums received since the last meeting:-

Fenland District Council (precept).....	£ 7,500.00
R Horspool (rent)	£ 2,883.58
H and C Howlett (rent)	£ 4,374.87
Fenland District Council (recycling credits).....	£ 132.30
Barclays Bank (interest).....	£ 55.74

- c) Members ratified the following payments issued since the last meeting:-

NEST (pension contributions)	£ 277.60
HMRC (national insurance).....	£ 5.41

- d) Members approved the following payments:-

D Gibbs (salary October and November plus backpay).....	£ 1,737.69
The CGM Group (East Anglia) Ltd (grounds maintenance)	£ 384.78
Tydd St Giles CC & RG (hall hire)	£ 116.00
Brigstock & Wrens Charity (rent).....	£ 135.00
Royal British Legion Wisbech (poppy wreaths).....	£ 40.00
CPRE (subscription)	£ 36.00

- e) Members agreed to close the Barclays Bank accounts and to transfer the remaining balances to the NatWest current account.
- f) Members discussed potential projects for inclusion in the budget for 2024/25. Suggestions included a fund for the maintenance and replacement of the children's play equipment, further street light renewals, the necessary funding to cover the shortfall in the cost of the new Community Centre heating system if the grant application is successful, and the next phase of works to the churchyard trees. The budget will be considered and agreed at the next meeting, following which the level of precept required will be determined.

067/23 Policies and Procedures

- a) Members reviewed the following policies and procedures and resolved to re-adopt them:
 - i) Complaints Procedure
 - ii) Grievance Policy
 - iii) Disciplinary Policy
- b) Members considered the draft Safeguarding Policy prepared by the Clerk and resolved to adopt it.

068/23 Confidential Item

Members resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, paragraph 1(2).

Members discussed the advice received from their professional advisers regarding the current agreements and resolved to take no action. The Clerk will contact tenants failing to comply with the terms of their agreement to remind them of their obligations. Letters will be sent by recorded delivery. Any further actions will be agreed by the Chairman.

069/23 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 11th January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Cllrs Malin and Renshaw submitted their apologies.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm