

TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Tydd St Giles Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Thursday 9th January 2025

Present - Cllr K Malin (in the Chair), Cllr B Allen, Cllr M Carter, Cllr L Slade, Cllr S Clark (FDC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), 4 members of the public

Apologies for Absence - Cllr T Brown, Cllr G Clifton

071/24 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

072/24 Public Forum

No matters were raised.

073/24 Urgent Items

None.

074/24 Confirmation of Minutes

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

075/24 Matters Arising

- a) Bus service - No update.
- b) Trees in Hannath Road - The Clerk will submit a Freedom of Information application to the County Council to confirm the ownership of the trees.
- c) Vacant property in Sapphire Close - No update.
- d) Local Highway Improvements application - The Clerk has submitted an application for a new street light at the junction of Newgate Road, Broad Drove East and High Broadgate.
- e) Community Gritting scheme - Awaiting the delivery of the equipment.
- f) Community Speed Watch group - The Clerk has discussed the process for the formation of the group with the Police and will complete the required paperwork.
- g) Capitally Funded Highway Maintenance proposals - The Clerk confirmed that he had reported Newgate Road and Hockland Road.
- h) District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan - Residents have not voiced concerns. Reminders need to be issued.

076/24 Police Matters

The Chairman reported that no meetings had taken place. He has spoken to the Police about providing better feedback.

077/24 Cambridgeshire County Councillor Report

In Cllr King's absence, there was no report.

078/24 Fenland District Councillor Reports

Cllr Seaton explained that the Government's white paper on local government reorganisation will result in the dissolution of Fenland District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough Unitary Authority, along with the other district councils, expected to take place in 2028. The County Council elections scheduled for this year will take place, but the District Council elections scheduled for 2027 will not, extending the term of office of the current councillors for one year. A new unitary authority will be established with elections expected to take place in 2028. He expressed concern that the new arrangements will result in a reduced voice for rural communities currently well represented at district level.

The rollout of the precept-funded Tiger on-demand bus services in the Wisbech area has been delayed as the Combined Authority announced the withdrawal of the preferred operator. Retendering the services will result in a delay of up to six months.

079/24 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a Cambridgeshire Highways Capital Maintenance Prioritisation webinar and a County Council budget briefing. Correspondence included the withdrawal of the Electric Vehicle Charging scheme, the publication of the Community Energy Action Plan, and a traffic order for the closure of Kirkgate on 3rd February. The District Council is consulting on its draft Business Plan and Budget, the Police and Crime Commissioner has published a new Police and Crime Plan, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils is promoting the VE Day 80th Anniversary in May, Cambridgeshire ACRE is offering support for local councils working towards local nature recovery plans, and the Probation Service has launched a 12,000 trees planting initiative.

080/24 Reports from Members

- a) Cllr Allen - Communications, Foul Anchor and Four Gotes - Cllr Allen provided an update on the Foul Anchor War Memorial environmental project. A community planting day will be arranged in the coming months.
- b) Cllr Carter - Community Centre and Play Equipment - Cllr Carter thanked Mr Mallett for helping with the disposal of green waste from the churchyard and Foul Anchor. The former teen shelter and junior play tower have been removed from the Recreation Ground. A new under 5's fenced play area will be created when funding allows, including the relocation of the existing junior swings. An expression of interest form was submitted to the District Council's Net Zero Villages grant scheme for the replacement of all the Community Centre's lights with LED equivalents. The application has been passed to stage 2 and a full submission will be made shortly. The Community Centre charity's AGM will be held on 22nd January.
- c) Cllr Connell - Highways - No report.
- d) Cllr Malin - Armed forces, flooding, Kinderley School - A Veteran's Breakfast Club at Bygones takes place on the last Saturday of every month. Kinderley School continues to make good progress, with pupil behaviour improving. Cllr Malin attended a flooding webinar in December. There is no change in the flood risk.
- e) Cllr Clifton - Public rights of way, churchyard, trees - No report.
- f) Cllr Slade - Street lights and parish assets - The light outside the Community Centre is still not working. The District Council has surveyed the lights and found several in need

of replacement. The absence of a light at the junction of Newgate Road and Church Lane was noted.

081/24 Member and Parishioner Issues

None.

082/24 Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Clerk updated Members on issues relating to the grounds maintenance contract. The contractor's performance during last season was disappointing and resulted in extra work for the Clerk and Cllr Carter monitoring and chasing the scheduled cuts. The contractor has admitted that they failed to provide the expected level of service and has cancelled the invoices issued for work that was not carried out. The contractor has a long-standing relationship with the Council and continues to offer value for money. They have established new reporting and monitoring arrangements for this year and committed to addressing all shortcomings. Members discussed the situation and resolved to continue with the current contractor for this year and monitor and review performance to enable a decision to be made about subsequent years.

083/24 Planning

F/YR24/0994/F - Formation of a manège and the erection of 6 x flood lights on 5.0m high posts - Ewings Farm, Cross Drove, Tydd St Giles

Members considered this application and resolved to offer no objection.

084/24 Finance

a) The Clerk presented the financial statement as at the end of December showing income of £33,484.36, expenditure of £22,440.35, resulting in a surplus of £11,044.01 and funds held of £50,540.81.

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

T Marsh (allotment rent).....	£ 50.00
R Horspool (land rent)	£ 2,894.08
C Howlett (land rent)	£ 1,746.70
Barclays Bank (interest).....	£ 67.78
J Carlile (allotment rent).....	£ 50.00

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

Fulney Sand & Gravel (aggregates).....	£ 127.56
NEST (pension contributions)	£ 331.90
Viking Office UK Ltd (stationery).....	£ 37.69
Direct 365 (defibrillator spares).....	£ 186.90
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (donation).....	£ 250.00

d) Members approved the following payments:-

D Gibbs (salary December and January)	£ 1,547.94
Geosphere Ltd (licence)	£ 86.40
Tydd St Giles CC&RG (hall hire)	£ 68.00
CPRE (subscription)	£ 36.00

e) Members considered projects for inclusion in the budget for 2025/26. Replacement fire doors for the south-eastern corner of the Community Centre (£1,400), stripping and repainting the Community Centre roof (£7,500), junior play area fence (£4,000), and

street lights (£4,500) were proposed. Members resolved to include the fire doors, play area fence and street lights, but not the Community Centre roof.

- f) The draft budget prepared by the Clerk predicted income of £32,930 and expenditure of £32,990, leaving a small deficit of £60. The inclusion of the above items increased the deficit to £9,960. Members resolved to increase the precept by £7,600 to £25,600 and to cover the remaining shortfall from reserves.

Cllr Carter reminded Members that the Grange Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund provides grants twice each year and it is important for the Council to submit an application in each funding round.

085/24 Policies and Procedures

- a) Members reviewed the following policies and procedures and resolved to re-adopt them:
 - i) Data Protection Policy
 - ii) Publication Scheme
 - iii) Code of Conduct
- b) Members considered the draft Biodiversity Policy prepared by the Clerk and resolved to adopt it.

086/24 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 13th March 2025 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm