

TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Tydd St Giles Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Thursday 13th March 2025

Present - Cllr T Brown (Chairman), Cllr M Carter, Cllr G Clifton, Cllr M Connell, Cllr K Malin, Cllr L Slade, D Gibbs (Clerk), 10 members of the public

Apologies for Absence - Cllr B Allen, Cllr S King (CCC), Cllr B Barber (FDC), Cllr S Clark (FDC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC)

087/24 Chairman's Announcements

None.

088/24 Public Forum

No matters were raised.

089/24 Urgent Items

None.

090/24 Confirmation of Minutes

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9th January be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) Members noted the minutes of the Land Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18th February.
- c) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 6th March be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

091/24 Matters Arising

- a) Bus service - No update.
- b) Trees in Hannath Road - The Clerk is awaiting a response to the Freedom of Information request to the County Council to confirm the ownership of the trees.
- c) Vacant property in Sapphire Close - The new tenant has moved into the property.
- d) Community Gritting scheme - Still awaiting the delivery of the equipment.
- e) Community Speed Watch group - The Clerk has submitted the location forms for approval. Once approved, the group can start work.
- f) District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan - There has been no significant response from residents.

092/24 Police Matters

No report received.

093/24 Cambridgeshire County Councillor Report

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

094/24 Fenland District Councillor Reports

Cllr Seaton submitted a report confirming that the District Council has voted to freeze their share of the Council Tax for the eighth year, but bills will rise due to the other bodies levying a charge. It was also agreed at full Council to approve Fenland Inspire, a programme of investments designed to future proof the assets of Fenland before the proposed abolishment of the District Council in 2028. This investment will include major refurbishment of leisure facilities at Wisbech, March, Chatteris and Whittlesey. There is no further news on the forthcoming reorganisation of local government. The District Council is preparing its response to the proposals.

095/24 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on correspondence received, including confirmation of the relocation of the Wisbech Funfair, new planning controls for houses in multiple occupation, an invitation to a planning training session, the Combined Authority's commitment to bus franchising and the Mayor's decision not to seek re-election, Cambridgeshire ACRE's call for community cancer champions, information from Steve Barclay MP about his campaign for the Wisbech Hospital Community Diagnostic Centre, Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean, and Electrical Safety First's lithium-ion battery safety campaign. Members discussed the request to sign up to the battery campaign, but resolved not to do so.

096/24 Reports from Members

- a) Cllr Allen - Communications, Foul Anchor and Four Gotes - In Cllr Allen's absence, the Clerk reported on the progress of the Foul Anchor environmental improvement project. The nettles have been sprayed and a Planting Day will be arranged to encourage residents of Foul Anchor to take part in the planting of the hedgerow and wildflower meadow. The plan includes a new notice board at a cost of £420, which will exceed the budget for the project. Members resolved to approve the purchase.
- b) Cllr Carter - Community Centre and Play Equipment - Cllr Carter announced that the Community Centre's application to the District Council's Net Zero Villages fund had been successful and a grant of £10,000 has been awarded for the replacement of all lights in the building. The Chairman thanked the Clerk and Cllr Carter for their work on this project. Evening bookings are going well, with weekly activities on four nights, but there are still opportunities for more daytime bookings. The fire doors will be replaced soon. The new under-5s play tower has been ordered and will be installed shortly. Another application will be submitted to the Grange Windfarm Community Benefit Fund in May for more play equipment. The remaining picnic benches will be installed outside soon. The first grass cut of the season has been completed.
- c) Cllr Connell - Highways - The Local Highways Officer left her post at the end of January. A new LHO will be appointed in due course. The routine highway maintenance budget is fully committed for the current financial year, so only urgent works are being carried out.
- d) Cllr Malin - Armed forces and flooding - Attendances at the Veteran's Breakfast Club at Bygones are increasing. Many events are being planned to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. Nothing to report on flooding.
- e) Cllr Clifton - Public rights of way, churchyard, trees - Cllr Clifton will be cycling each of the public rights of way this summer. Nothing to report on trees.
- f) Cllr Slade - Street lights and parish assets - Nothing to report.

097/24 Member and Parishioner Issues

Installation of bird diverters - The Clerk informed Members that a swan had suffered serious injury from a collision with overhead power lines at Church Lane Bridge on the North Level Main Drain, resulting in the amputation of a broken wing. There have been at least two similar incidents at that location, both of which resulted in the death of the swans. Members agreed to approach UK Power Networks to ask them to place bird deflectors along this stretch of line to make it more visible.

098/24 Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Thursday 22nd May at 7.00 for 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Members asked the Clerk to invite the Police or Police and Crime Commissioner and other speakers to attend.

099/24 Street Lights

Members considered a request from the District Council to adopt a street light in Hannath Road near the junction with Main Road. The County Council has declined ownership of this light, as has the District Council. The light is currently not working, it is not clear how long this has been the case, and it may require costly repair or replacement in order to function effectively. Members resolved not to adopt the light in its current condition. If the County Council or the District Council undertakes the necessary work to bring this light back into full working order, the Parish Council might reconsider its decision.

100/24 Former Village School

- a) Members noted that the derelict school buildings are now in a dangerous condition, open to all with children and rough sleepers entering the building, the floors, ceilings and part of the roof have collapsed, slates are sliding into the adjoining property and a fire was started deliberately in part of the building in January. Members resolved to instruct Fenland District Council to serve notice on the owner of the site under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- b) Members considered other eyesore properties in the Parish on which a Section 215 notice might be served. They noted an unfinished property in Kirkgate which appears to have been abandoned at least four years ago and resolved to ask the District Council to take appropriate action.

101/24 Highways

The Clerk informed Members that the County Council had reopened its 20mph scheme for applications. Members considered the merits of the scheme, but expressed concern regarding the lack of enforcement. They resolved not to submit an application.

102/24 Finance

- a) The Clerk presented the financial statement as at the end of February showing income of £33,484.36, expenditure of £24,571.86, resulting in a surplus of £8,912.50 and funds held of £48,409.30.
- b) Members ratified the following payments made since the last meeting:-

Land Registry (searches).....£	28.00
NEST (pension contributions)£	302.86
HMRC (national insurance).....£	56.71

- c) Members considered requests for donations under Section 137 from three charities. They resolved to make the following donations:-

East Anglian Air Ambulance	£ 100.00
Magpas Air Ambulance	£ 100.00
Marie Curie	£ 50.00

- d) In addition to the three payments above, Members approved the following payments:-

D Gibbs (salary February and March)	£ 1,547.94
D Gibbs (expenses).....	£ 339.22
Tydd St Giles CC&RG (hall hire)	£ 124.00
CAPALC (subscription).....	£ 517.37

103/24 Policies and Procedures

Members reviewed the following policies and procedures and resolved to re-adopt them:

- i) Equality and Diversity Policy
- ii) Homeworking Policy
- iii) Expenses Policy

104/24 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 8th May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm