

# **TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Tydd St Giles Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Present** - Cllr T Brown (Chairman), Cllr B Allen, Cllr M Carter, Cllr G Clifton, Cllr M Connell, Cllr S Clark (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), 4 members of the public

**Apologies for Absence** - Cllr K Malin, Cllr L Slade, Cllr B Barber (FDC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC)

### **001/25 Election of Chairman for the Municipal Year 2025/26**

Cllr Brown was nominated by Cllr Allen, seconded by Cllr Clifton and duly elected. He signed his declaration of acceptance, witnessed by the Clerk.

### **002/25 Election of Vice Chairman for the Municipal Year 2025/26**

Cllr Malin was nominated by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Allen and duly elected. He will sign his declaration of acceptance before the next meeting.

### **003/25 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman highlighted all of the events and activities planned in the village to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE-Day.

### **004/25 Public Forum**

A resident reported overhanging trees at the footbridge off Chapel Lane. Cllr Clifton agreed to visit and address the issue.

### **005/25 Urgent Items**

Two additional invoices for the internal audit and for grass cutting have been added to the agenda for approval.

### **006/25 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**

- a) Delegation to committees - Members resolved to maintain the status quo.
- b) Members reviewed the terms of reference for the Planning Committee and the Land Committee. The Clerk noted that allowing the Committees to elect their Chairman at an unspecified future date lacked clarity. Members resolved to elect the Chair and Vice Chair of each Committee at the Annual Meeting of the Council and asked the Clerk to amend the terms of reference accordingly.

Cllr Brown was elected as Chairman of the Planning Committee and Cllr Malin as Vice Chair for the 2025/26 year.

Cllr Malin was elected as Chairman of the Land Committee and Cllr Slade as Vice Chair for the 2025/26 year.

- c) Members reviewed the standing orders and financial regulations. The Clerk introduced the latest version of the model standing orders with amendments relating to procurement and the transition to gender-neutral language. He also presented the new model financial regulations with similar amendments relating to procurement. The Council resolved to adopt the new standing orders and financial regulations.

- d) The Clerk advised members that the Council's insurance policy with Ansvar Insurance is due for renewal on 1 June under a 3-year agreement to 2026. The Clerk also mentioned that the internal auditor had suggested that an up-to-date valuation of the Community Centre be obtained to verify that an adequate level of cover is in place. The building is insured by the Community Centre charity as the tenant.
- e) The Clerk reminded members that they hold subscriptions to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils, Cambridgeshire ACRE and the Campaign to Protect Rural England. Members resolved to continue all three subscriptions.
- f) The register of assets has been updated to include recent purchases and the total value of assets now stands at £408,349.
- g) Members resolved to meet on the second Thursday of alternate months, namely 10 July, 11 September, 13 November, 8 January 2026, 12 March and 14 May.

#### **007/25 Confirmation of Minutes**

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record
- c) Members noted the minutes of the Land Committee meeting held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **008/25 Matters Arising**

- a) Bus service - No update.
- b) Trees in Hannath Road - The Clerk has received a response to the Freedom of Information request to the County Council to confirm the ownership of the trees. The response continues to deny ownership of the trees and states that the legal declaration of ownership on the application under the Tree Preservation Order was a clerical error.
- c) Community Gritting scheme - Still awaiting the delivery of the equipment.
- d) Community Speed Watch group - The location forms have been approved, so the Speed Watch volunteers can now sign their registration forms and start monitoring traffic speeds at the two agreed locations.
- e) District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan - There has been no significant response from residents.
- f) Bird deflectors on overhead power lines - The Clerk has raised this matter with UK Power Networks and they will consider the request.
- g) Former Village School - The Clerk is preparing a report for submission to the District Council.

#### **009/25 Police Matters**

The Clerk reported that Sgt Dave Arnold had been transferred to an Acting Inspector role in Peterborough and Sgt Lee Lombardo had taken his place in the Wisbech Neighbourhood Team.

#### **010/25 Cambridgeshire County Councillor Report**

The Chairman reported that we have a new County Councillor, Cllr Andy Osborn, following the recent election.

## **011/25 Fenland District Councillor Reports**

Cllr Clark reported that it had been a quiet period for the District Council due to the County Council and Mayoral elections, but the Pride in Fenland awards had been launched, with a closing date for nominations of 2nd June.

## **012/25 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including District Council planning training. Correspondence included traffic orders for closures of Church Lane from 10-13<sup>th</sup> May, Hannath Road, Tydd Gote on 4<sup>th</sup> June and Black Dike and Park Road on 26<sup>th</sup> June, the District Council's response to the Government on local government reorganisation, a Neighbourhood Watch local strategy consultation and a new guide from CPRE on how to respond to planning applications.

## **013/25 Reports from Members**

- a) Cllr Allen - Communications, Foul Anchor and Four Gotes - Cllr Allen reported that members of the Council, the Clerk and a local resident planted a native hedgerow in Foul Anchor. The wildflower meadow will be planted later in the year.
- b) Cllr Carter - Community Centre and Play Equipment - Cllr Carter announced that the new play tower for under 5s is about to be installed on the Recreation Ground. A further application will be submitted to the Grange Windfarm Community Fund in June for fencing for the new play area. The replacement of all lights in the Centre is scheduled for later this month. The cold water tank has been replaced with a mains-fed system and a new hot water tank installed. The emergency exit doors in the south east corner of the hall will be replaced to match the other fire doors. Finally, the Centre will host the first monthly Coffee Morning next week.
- c) Cllr Connell - Highways - The new Local Highways Officer has been appointed and a meeting will be arranged soon to discuss local issues. The surface dressing of Church Lane is about to take place
- d) Cllr Malin - Armed forces and flooding - In Cllr Malin's absence, there was no report.
- e) Cllr Clifton - Public rights of way, churchyard, trees - Cllr Clifton and the Clerk will be inspecting all of the trees subject to tree preservation orders to update the records. The recent work in the churchyard has improved the appearance.
- f) Cllr Slade - Street lights and parish assets - In Cllr Slade's absence, there was no report.

## **014/25 Member and Parishioner Issues**

- a) Water quality in the Shire Drain. A resident has expressed concern about the presence of sewage in parts of the Shire Drain. The Clerk will investigate.
- b) Overgrown wasteland between Newgate Road and Field Avenue. The land belongs to Clarion Housing Group and was previously used as an allotment by a tenant. The Clerk will arrange a meeting with Clarion to discuss this.
- c) Overgrown watercourse adjacent to Sapphire Close. The watercourse lies between two fences with no access for maintenance. This issue has been highlighted previously, including at the time of the original planning application. The Clerk will raise it again with the North Level District Internal Drainage Board, but responsibility for maintenance may rest with Clarion Housing Group or its tenants.

## **015/25 Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.00 for 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Speakers to be confirmed. The Clerk is awaiting a response from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office.

## **016/25 Planning**

- a) F/YR25/0313/VOC - Variation of condition 06 (Approved Plans) relating to planning permission F/YR24/0239/F (Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey 4-bed), and culvert drain for formation of a new access (part retrospective)) to enable repositioning of dwelling on site - Land South of Elton House, Church Lane, Tydd St Giles.

Members resolved to offer no objection.

- b) F/YR25/0320/RM - Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of, access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to appeal decision APP/D0515/W/22/3313051, relating to planning application F/YR22/0674/O for the erection of 1 x dwelling - Land West of Pitt Cottage, Fold Lane, Tydd St Giles.

Members expressed a number of concerns regarding the proposed development. The proposed dwelling will project well beyond the established building line for existing properties on the south side of Kirkgate and is therefore out of keeping with the established character of the location contrary to Policy LP16 and the introduction of a two-storey dwelling between an established streetscape of bungalows will be visually intrusive and detrimental to the appearance of the location, also contrary to Policy LP16. Members resolved to object to the application.

The Clerk advised Members that the Pathfinder Clean Energy Tydd Solar application will be considered by the District Council's Planning Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

## **017/25 Finance**

- a) Members approved the internal accounts for the 2024/25 financial year.
- b) Members approved the statement of reserves as at 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- c) Members reviewed and adopted the final budget for 2025/26 including the sums carried forward from 2024/25
- d) Members reviewed the Council's fees and charges. The agricultural land is subject to Farm Business Tenancy agreements until October 2026. The garden allotments are in their first year, so a rent review is not appropriate. The Council has no other chargeable activities.
- e) Members reviewed the mandates for the Council's bank accounts and resolved that the Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk and one other Councillor be authorised to sign. Members resolved that Cllr Clifton be added to the mandates.
- f) Members considered the use of electronic payments for the Council's expenditure. The Clerk informed them that this may incur bank charges. Members resolved to establish online payment facilities on all accounts, even if this incurs bank charges.
- g) Members reviewed and approved the Governance and Management Risk Assessment.
- h) Members considered and approved the Internal Audit Report. They agreed to adopt the following recommendations:-
  - i) The Clerk will evidence that invoices are approved for payment;

- ii) Bank reconciliations will be noted in the minutes of the next meeting;
  - iii) The annual budget will be published on the Council's website;
  - iv) A reserves policy will be prepared and published;
  - v) More detail will be added to the Council's asset register; and
  - vi) An accessibility statement will be added to the website.
- i) Members reviewed and approved each of the statements on the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 and authorised the Chairman to sign it.
  - j) Members reviewed and approved the Accounting Statements 2024/25 and authorised the Chairman to sign it.
  - k) Members resolved that the period for the exercise of public rights be from Tuesday 3 June to Monday 14 July.
  - l) The Clerk explained that the internal audit process had included a thorough examination of the Council's policies and procedures. Members resolved to reappoint Helen Symmons as Internal Auditor for 2025/26.
  - m) Members discussed options for the future use of their power under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 as set out in the report from the Clerk. They resolved not to create a specific policy for this, but to continue to consider requests for support on an individual basis as they arise.
  - n) Members noted the forthcoming renewal of the Council's insurance policy for the final year of a three-year agreement. They resolved not to make any changes this year, but to review and retender the policy at next year's renewal date.
  - o) The Clerk presented the financial statement as at the end of April showing income of £12,850.00, expenditure of £257.74, resulting in a surplus of £12,592.26 and funds held of £61,956.07.
  - p) Members noted the following sums received since the last meeting:-
 

Barclays Bank (interest).....	£ 64.34
HMRC (VAT refund) .....	£ 2,673.95
C Howlett (land rent) .....	£ 2,644.09
Fenland District Council (precept).....	£12,800.00
J Parker (allotment rent).....	£ 50.00
  - q) Members ratified the following payments issued since the last meeting:-
 

Nurture Landscapes Ltd (grass cutting).....	£ 436.69
M J Carter (expenses) .....	£ 21.55
Mike O'Dwyer Ltd (noticeboard) .....	£ 503.99
NEST (pension contributions) .....	£ 302.86
Boston Seeds (meadow seed).....	£ 67.99
Nurture Landscapes Ltd (grass cutting).....	£ 533.23
HMRC (national insurance).....	£ 34.47
  - r) Members approved the following payments:-
 

D Gibbs (salary April and May) .....	£ 1,547.94
Cambridgeshire ACRE (subscription) .....	£ 72.00
Business Services at CAS Ltd (insurance).....	£ 605.96
Helen Symmons (internal audit).....	£ 265.00
Nurture Landscapes Ltd (grass cutting).....	£ 445.73

**018/25 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

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