

TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Tydd St Giles Parish Council held on Thursday 20th July 2017
in the Small Room of the Community Centre, Broad Drove East, Tydd St Giles.

Present - Cllr R Mallett (Chairman), Cllr M Taylor (Vice-Chairman), Cllr M Carter, Cllr G Minney, Cllr V Ware, Cllr S King (CCC), Cllrs S Clark and C Seaton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), Mr & Mrs Maxwell and Mr & Mrs Simpson (Parishioners)

Apologies for Absence - Cllr M Hale-Smith (holiday)

662/17 Appointment of Clerk

The Chairman reported that the recruitment panel appointed under minute 654/17(b) had interviewed David Gibbs and, after consulting other members by telephone, appointed him to the position of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer with effect from 1st June 2017. Hours of work are 20 hours per month at £10 per hour plus a home working allowance of £50 per month with a probationary period of six months. A resolution to appoint David Gibbs on the terms outlined above was proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Carter and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED - to appoint David Gibbs as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer with effect from 1st June 2017.

663/17 Urgent Items

Village Sign (637/17) – The Chairman reported that Peter Warner has finished repainting the village sign. Members asked the Clerk to write to Mr Warner to convey their thanks for his contribution.

664/17 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th May 2017 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

665/17 Matters Arising

- a) Old School House - Cllr Seaton reported no significant developments since the last meeting, but work is still under way to resolve the issue.
- b) Tydd Waterway Route - Cllr Clark reported that the North Level Internal Drainage Board plans an open day at Tydd Pumping Station on Saturday 9th September to coincide with the Heritage Open Weekend celebration. Cllr Ware explained that Women's Institute will be walking the new path in September and would like to visit the pumping station too.
- c) Church Grounds - no update
- d) Golden Age Fair - Cllr Clark reported that the event had been very successful. Number of attendees unknown, as all fire doors were in use due to extreme hot weather. Cllr Ware reported that the absence of a photographer to assist with bus pass photographs had been noted and she had spoken to Cllr Cornwell (FDC).
- e) Street Lighting - Cllr Minney explained that he was unclear who to contact regarding street light maintenance. Cllr King explained that Balfour Beatty are still responsible for County Council street lights, but District and Parish Council lights should be reported to the District Council until the new arrangements are confirmed.
- f) E-mail - S Burgess - no update

g) Kirkgate Pavement - Cllr Clark reported that work on the new pavement will commence shortly and should be completed by the end of September.

666/17 Police Matters

Reports from PCSO Norton-Smith for May and June were discussed. It was noted that future reports will not include statistical data, as this is available online now, however members were concerned to note that the website data is two or three months out of date.

Cllr Ware commented that previous discussions regarding a Community Contact Point visit to the Tydd St Giles Lunch Club had not been followed up. The Clerk agreed to raise this matter with PCSO Norton-Smith and Rosie Cooke, Community Projects Officer at Fenland District Council.

667/17 Cambridgeshire County Councillor Report

Cllr King reported that he has been appointed to the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee and will be involved in assessing the forthcoming round of Local Highway Improvement bids. Further details of this year's process will be announced shortly.

He also outlined his reasons for supporting the proposal to increase the allowances for County Councillors to bring them in line with national averages.

Cllr Minney asked whether cats eyes removed from local roads during recent resurfacing works would be replaced. Cllr Clark agreed to contact Steve Nicholson (Highways Officer) for clarification.

Councillors asked what could be done about overgrown hedges leading to poor visibility at road junctions, specifically the junctions of Black Dyke into Middle Broad Drove and Newgate Road into Church Lane. It was agreed that the Parish Council should contact the owners of the properties to ascertain whether they were willing to rectify the problems and Cllr King would notify the Highways Department of the issues.

668/17 Fenland District Councillor Reports

Cllr Seaton reported on the successful implementation of the new brown bin scheme for garden waste, which now has over 19,000 subscribers and there has been no noticeable increase in fly-tipping.

669/17 Administrative Matters

a) Membership of the Council - it was confirmed that the necessary paperwork had been issued for the appointments of Cllrs Hale-Smith and Jupp, but that new Register of Interests forms would be required from each of them.

b) Barclays Bank Mandate - Arrangements for the operation of the Barclays Bank accounts were discussed. The introduction of an online banking payment facility for previously approved payments was proposed by Cllr Minney and seconded by Cllr Carter requiring an appropriate amendment to the Council's Financial Regulations.

RESOLVED - to amend the Barclays Bank mandate to facilitate online payments for previously approved liabilities and to amend the Council's Financial Regulations to incorporate online banking payments for approval at the next meeting of the Council.

c) Website hosting arrangements - The current hosting arrangements were discussed and cheaper alternatives were identified. A motion to transfer the hosting to the Clerk with effect from the end of August was proposed by Cllr Ware and seconded by Cllr Taylor.

RESOLVED - to terminate the existing hosting arrangements for the Parish Council website with effect from the end of August and to ask the Clerk to assume responsibility for hosting from this date at a cost of £6 per calendar month.

670/17 Correspondence

The Clerk reported the following items of correspondence received:

- E-mail from Burmor Construction regarding provision of street lighting on new housing development, Broad Drove East.
- Invitation to the Chairman of Fenland District Council's Civic Reception.
- Enquiry from Lee Smeaton regarding roadside food and beverage vehicle licensing.
- Enquiry from Lisa Eves regarding publishing of minutes on website.
- Survey from Andrew Tubb, University of Gloucester student on secondment to National Association of Local Councils.
- Consultation from Police & Crime Commissioner regarding future governance of Fire Service.
- New arrangements for Local Highway Improvement bids for 2018/19.

The revised deadline for Local Highway Improvement bids now falls before the next meeting of the Parish Council. In order to ensure that the opportunity is not missed, it was agreed that Cllrs Mallett and Hale-Smith would work with the Clerk to identify a suitable project, to be reported to the remaining members of the Council for agreement prior to the deadline at the end of September.

The Chairman reported that he had received a complaint about the condition of the footpath from High Broadgate to Church Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the landowner to request his cooperation in remedying the situation.

The Chairman also reported that the Street Pride AGM had taken place with a good attendance and expressed his thanks to them on behalf of the Parish Council for the work they do in the village.

671/17 Planning

An application for a slurry lagoon at Peck's Farm, Cross Drove, had been submitted under the agricultural prior notification procedure, which does not involve formal consultation with the Parish Council. A number of residents expressed concerns about exactly what the proposed lagoon was for and what impact it would have on them. The application has been withdrawn, but may be re-submitted at a future date. The Parish Council agreed to find out more and to monitor the situation.

672/17 Finance

a) The internal auditor's report was received and approved by the Council. No concerns were raised during the audit process requiring the attention of the Council.

b) The accounts for the three months to the end of June show income of £11,719 from Fenland District Council as the first half-yearly instalment of the precept, council tax support grant and concurrent functions grant. Expenditure totalled £2,014.86, with a number of bills awaiting payment. A more detailed analysis will be provided for the next meeting.

c) The following payments were presented for approval:

CGM Ltd (grounds maintenance) £150.62 + £264.00 + £150.62	£	565.24
L Groves (salary) (includes £219.40 approved at May meeting)	£	424.58
HMRC (income tax)	£	6.60
R Wright (consultancy) £252.22 + £213.75	£	465.97
I Cooper (internal audit fee)	£	120.00
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	£	1,582.39

CAPALC (subscription).....	£	324.30
Cambridgeshire ACRE (subscription).....	£	54.00
Came & Co (insurance) 1 year - £698.36 or 3 years - £663.44.....	£	663.44
CGM Ltd (grounds maintenance) Recreation ground - 9 cuts @ £75.31.....	£	677.79
CGM Ltd (grounds maintenance) Churchyard - 11 cuts @ £132	£	1,452.00
PKF Littlejohn (external audit fee)	£	120.00
D Gibbs (salary including home working allowance) 4 months @ £250.....	£	1,000.00
Fenland District Council (bin emptying) 2 @ £86.74.....	£	173.48
Information Commissioner (data protection registration).....	£	35.00
		£ 4,500.01

RESOLVED - that the above payments totalling £6,082.40 be approved for payment and that the Council enters into a 3-year agreement with Came & Co to provide insurance cover.

673/17 Reports from Members

a) Highways - In the absence of Cllr Hale-Smith, the Clerk reported that the grass verge cutting within the village had been completed and the roadside verges outside the village would be cut shortly. Major works on Tydd Gote bridge (A1101) are due to commence on 4th September for a period of up to ten weeks, including three-way temporary traffic lights at the end of Hannath Road.

Members asked why the resurfacing of Cross Drove did not extend as far as the bridge over the North Level Main Drain. The Clerk offered to make the necessary enquiries.

b) Street Lighting - light by Church Lane Bridge may still require remedial action. Clerk to check.

c) Churchyard - The owner of a neighbouring property wishes to erect a fence. Cllr Jupp to meet with him to discuss.

d) Trees - The report on the tree in the churchyard has not been received. Cllr Clark to investigate.

e) Allotments - Rent payments due before next meeting.

f) Foul Anchor - Grass verges are cut regularly by the Environment Agency. Quote for war memorial improvements awaited from Cllr Jupp.

g) Community Centre - Play equipment inspection requirements to be clarified by Clerk with insurance company. Disabled parking provision is now inadequate for lunch club users. The Grange Wind Farm Community Fund has provided a grant of £4,000 towards the cost of repainting the roof. The Wisbech Spitfires walking football team has played its first match at the centre and is looking to expand to include a ladies team. The Fenland Villages Archery Club has been very successful, with over 60 people attending taster sessions. Under 11's football teams from Leverington and Tydd St Mary play regularly at the centre. The Post Office counter service is still experiencing problems with the computer and data connections, so the full service is not available.

674/17 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 12th October in the Community Centre, Broad Drove East, commencing at 7.15pm. Cllr Ware gave her apologies.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm