

TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Tydd St Giles Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Wednesday 21st September 2022

Present - Cllr T Doyle (Chairman), Cllr C Brooks, Cllr M Carter, Cllr B Luck, Cllr G Mathias, Cllr A Renshaw, Cllr S King (CCC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), 26 members of the public

Apologies for Absence - Cllr K Malin, Cllr S Clark (FDC)

Public Time - Mrs Ross mentioned the missing letters on the village entry signs on Church Lane, reported an issue when accessing the Council's website, expressed concern regarding recent trimming of the hedgerow in Broad Drove East and asked whether the MVAS speed monitoring sign could be relocated to Broad Drove East. The Chairman advised her that the entry signs had been reported, that the hedgerow work is unfinished and that it is intended that the MVAS will be used in Broad Drove East soon. The website issue requires further clarification.

039/22 Chairman's Announcements

Cllr Doyle welcomed everybody to the meeting and expressed his deep sorrow on behalf of the Council at the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. He also thanked the Vice Chairman, the Clerk and the members of the Council for their support during his recent illness.

040/22 Urgent Items

None.

041/22 Confirmation of Minutes

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th July 2022 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 21st July 2022 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- c) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 4th August 2022 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

042/22 Matters Arising

- a) Drainage Issues - Work in progress.
- b) Parking in Church Lane - The Police are monitoring this on routine visits.
- c) Parking at Church Lane, Hockland Road, Kirkgate junction - The Police are monitoring the situation on routine visits to the village.
- d) Allotments - Cllr Mathias reported on the meeting that took place to clarify the level of demand. Only three of the households who expressed an interest have confirmed their wish to have an allotment. The Council will continue to explore potential sites.
- e) Footbridge on footpath 238/11 off Chapel Lane - The Clerk reported that remedial work has now taken place.

043/22 Police Matters

The Chairman and Clerk reported that they had met with the Neighbourhood Sergeant twice since the last meeting. Issues discussed included concern regarding the use of nitrous oxide, the Neighbourhood Watch Community Safety Charter and a new data gathering protocol that will help to define future priorities. It was noted that several of the recent burglaries in the village had not been reported to the Police, creating the impression that the Police need not visit the village.

044/22 Cambridgeshire County Councillor Report

Cllr King reported that the final report on the review of the Local Highway Improvement scheme will be discussed by the Highways and Transport Committee on 4th October. Applications for 2023/24 open on 31st October. Applications for 20mph limits will be addressed through a separate process and should not be submitted as an LHI bid. The criteria for the Just Transition Fund have been agreed, which may be a suitable funding source for the Community Centre improvements. Community Gritting Scheme registrations are required by 31st October. The County Council is seeking new reporting software for highways defects, which should be in use early next year. A resident asked whether a speed camera could be placed outside Kinderley School. Cllr King advised that speed cameras may only be placed in locations with a history of serious accidents.

045/22 Fenland District Councillor Reports

Cllr Seaton noted that Stagecoach had announced the withdrawal of 18 bus routes, but route 50 is not affected. The Combined Authority is now the Transport Authority and a paper will be discussed at the October meeting considering ways to bring back rural bus routes. The Boundary Commission's review of ward boundaries in Fenland has been completed. The number of councillors increases to 43. Gorefield will be moved from Roman Bank ward into Wisbech St Mary. Roman Bank ward will be renamed Leverington and Wisbech Rural and remain a three-member ward. Cabinet will consider the Walking, Cycling and Mobility strategy at their October meeting. The main focus is the towns, but villages will be considered in the rollout.

046/22 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a webinar with Anglian Water regarding their plans for a new reservoir. A traffic order has been issued for Hannath Road until January 2024 to facilitate the different elements of a surface dressing programme for the entire length of the road. Fenland District Council is offering energy support for residents and the County Council has funding for energy efficiency enhancements to homes. The national external audit contract is being retendered providing an invitation to opt out of the next central audit appointment from 2022/23. Members resolved not to opt out.

047/22 Play Equipment Working Group

The group will visit Clenchwarton to view their new playground and identify potential funding sources.

048/22 Data Gathering and Digital Mapping

Cllr Luck reported that mapping has identified more than 100 properties with a poor energy performance rating that makes them eligible for funded improvements under a national scheme. The District Council will write to the occupiers of these properties to advise them of their eligibility.

049/22 Member and Parishioner Issues

- a) Ragwort in field off Chapel Lane - Cllr Carter reported that he had identified the owner of the field as the Martha Trafford Trust, managed by Bowers solicitors. He met with the tenant and walked the field. The presence of ragwort was not as extensive as previously believed, but the tenant agreed to remove as much as he could by hand. The field is sown with an approved wild bird mix in an RPA scheme to 2023. The original access to the field between two properties in High Broadgate is now partially obstructed, preventing access for agricultural machinery.
- b) Fly-tipping in Field Avenue - The Clerk confirmed that most of the rubbish has been placed in a skip and this matter is now being monitored by Clarion Housing.
- c) Extra dog bin in Newgate Road - Members considered the request to install another dog bin at the junction of Newgate Road and Field Avenue, but decided that there was sufficient provision in this locality already.
- d) Former village school - Members discussed the ongoing deterioration of the school buildings and the danger they pose. Cllr Luck proposed that the Parish Council asks the District Council to issue a Section 215 notice requiring the owner either to secure the entire site to prevent access or to undertake the necessary works to make the site safe, which may now include the demolition of the remaining buildings. Members resolved to support the motion. The Clerk was asked to contact the District Council to inform them of this resolution.

050/22 Portfolio Responsibilities

The Chairman proposed that a separate meeting be held to discuss this.

051/22 Planning

Members considered the following applications:-

F/YR21/1517/O - Erect 1 x dwelling (outline application with all matters reserved) - Land West of The Cottage, Sees Lane, Four Gotes (re-consultation)

Members noted that they had previously expressed their support for this proposal when consulted in January. Members were pleased to note that the issues relating to the highway and public rights of way had been addressed to the satisfaction of officers and resolved to restate their support for this application.

F/YR22/0090/F - Erect 2-storey side and single-storey rear extensions to existing dwelling, detached garage and detached annexe to rear - 12 Newgate Road, Tydd St Giles (re-consultation)

Members noted that there had been some improvement to the design since the original application, but expressed concern regarding the scale of the proposed extension and its impact upon the street scene in Newgate Road. Members resolved not to support the application.

F/YR22/0906/F - Erect a first-floor extension to rear of existing dwelling - Blueheron, Hockland Road, Tydd St Giles

Members considered this application and resolved to offer no objection.

F/YR22/0935/O - Erect up to 4 x dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) - Land East of Shallon, Cats Lane, Tydd St Giles

One resident spoke against this application. Members then expressed their views. They felt that the proposal represents unsustainable development in the open countryside, outside the core built form of the village, contrary to policies LP12 and LP3. Cats Lane is a tree-lined lane with sporadic development and the introduction of a substantial row of executive houses would be out

of keeping with surrounding properties contrary to policy LP16 making neither a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness and character of the area, nor enhancing its local setting or improving the character of the local built environment. When refusing an appeal for a similar development in Cats Lane, the Planning Inspector described Cats Lane thus: “The presence of mature landscaping and trees, together with the significant gaps between the dwellings creates an attractive sylvan and distinctive semi-rural character to the locality. In my view, this part of Cats Lane marks a transition between the tighter grain development within the village and the open countryside beyond.” Members support this view and also questioned the suitability of the proposed vehicular access on a sharp bend with restricted visibility opposite a deep watercourse. Members resolved not to support this application.

F/YR22/0966/O - Erect up to 2 x dwellings and the formation of an access (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) - Land North of Windy Willows, Church Lane, Tydd St Giles

Cllr Brooks declared a non-pecuniary interest in this application as a neighbour of the site. There were no public comments on this application. Members noted that the applicant has submitted two previous applications for residential development at this location, both of which were refused. Whilst the scale of the current application is less than those that came before, the fundamental issues remain, namely that it is unsustainable development in the open countryside, outside the core built form of the village, contrary to policies LP12 and LP3. The proposed development would be out of keeping with surrounding properties and therefore harmful to the character of the locality. Members resolved not to support the application.

F/YR22/1005/VOC - Variation of condition 14 to enable amendment to approved plans of planning permission F/YR17/0886/F (Erection of a 3-storey 5/6 bed dwelling with attached double garage with gym/annexe over and formation of a new vehicular access) in relation to landscaping - Land North of Hollingworth House, Hockland Road, fronting Cats Lane, Tydd St Giles

Cllr Doyle declared a non-pecuniary interest in this application as a neighbour of the site. One resident spoke against this application. Members then expressed their views. They expressed their concern regarding the scale of the tree loss and its impact upon the traditional character of Cats Lane as a tree-lined lane. They felt that the proposed replacement programme is inadequate and that planting should reflect the varied character of the trees previously on the site. Members resolved not to support the application.

F/YR22/1035/F - Erect 2 x dwellings (2-storey, 4-bed) and change of use of land to form additional car park at Aayo Gurkhali - Land South of Aayo Gurkhali, Main Road, Tydd Gote

Members noted that the location is currently a neglected brownfield site that appears to be surplus to the requirements of the adjoining premises. Development of the site would improve the streetscape. On balance, members resolved to offer no objection to this proposal.

052/22 Finance

a) The Clerk presented the financial statement as at the end of August showing income of £11,067.56, expenditure of £11,035.86, resulting in a surplus of £31.70 and funds held of £31,795.59.

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

Fenland District Council (concurrent functions grant)	£ 2,791.00
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c) Members ratified the following payments made since the last meeting:-

The CGM Group (East Anglia) Ltd (grounds maintenance)	£ 303.82
NEST (pension contributions)	<u>£ 1,481.32</u>
	£ 1,785.14

d) Members approved the following payments:-

D Gibbs (salary August/September)	£ 1,339.10
Fenland District Council (street light recharge).....	£ 3,844.34
Fenland District Council (new bins)	£ 969.53
NEST (pension contributions)	£ 130.90
The CGM Group (East Anglia) Ltd (grounds maintenance)	£ 364.76
	£ 6,648.63

Cllr Mathias proposed that future invoices for grass cutting on the Recreation Ground be apportioned between the Council and the Community Centre charity according to ownership and tenancy ratios.

053/22 Speed Monitoring

Members reviewed the data provided by the Clerk from Kirkgate and Newgate Road. They noted that in Kirkgate, the vast majority of drivers kept to the speed limit, although a small minority continue to drive at excessive speeds. In Newgate Road, more than a quarter of all vehicle movements fell within the range for prosecution and seven vehicles were recorded travelling at more than twice the limit.

054/22 Reports from Members

- a) Highways - Cllr Mathias will inspect the roads and footpaths after the potato harvest. Suggestions are required for suitable projects for the next round of LHI funding.
- b) Street Lights - Cllr Luck reported one new fault and no faults repaired, leaving 4 faults outstanding.
- c) Churchyard - Cllr Doyle noted that a working party had trimmed the hedge around the green burial ground.
- d) Trees - nothing further to report.
- e) Foul Anchor - awaiting a visit from the Payback team.
- f) Community Centre - Cllr Carter reported that the caravan rally had been a great success and is likely to be repeated next year.
- g) Waterway Walk - The Clerk reported that the Tydd Pumping Station was open as part of the Heritage Open Weekend. The event remains popular and will be repeated next year.

055/22 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 10th November 2022 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm