

TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Tydd St Giles Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Thursday 14th September 2023

Present - Cllr T Brown (Chairman), Cllr B Allen, Cllr M Carter, Cllr M Connell, Cllr L Slade, Cllr S King (CCC), Cllr S Clark (FDC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), 15 members of the public

Apologies for Absence - Cllr K Malin, Cllr A Renshaw, Cllr B Barber (FDC)

039/23 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and commented that the first Councillor Surgery had been successful. A date for October's Surgery will be announced shortly.

040/23 Public Forum

Mr Minney reminded the Council of the absence of protective barriers where the Drainage Board dyke passes under Hockland Road. The Chairman assured him that this would be rectified shortly. He also mentioned a hazard on the pavement adjacent to the former Methodist Chapel. The Clerk will investigate this.

Mr Cooper reported further issues with the sewage pumping system in Newgate Road. A meeting of all relevant parties has been suggested to discuss the reasons for the repeated failure of this system. The Clerk was asked to contact Clarion Housing Group and the District Council.

Mr Collins asked about progress with the ownership of the protected trees in Hannath Road, Tydd Gote. The Clerk reported that he is working to prove to the County Council that they own the trees.

041/23 Urgent Items

None.

042/23 Confirmation of Minutes

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th July 2023 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Thursday 17th August 2023 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

043/23 Matters Arising

- a) Drainage issues - The Clerk reported that a contractor has provided a quote for a permanent solution to the drainage issues at a property in Hockland Road and an application will be submitted to the County Council for funding to enable the works to take place.
- b) Sewage pumping plant - See 040/23 above.
- c) CPRE membership - Members discussed an invitation to join the local branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England at a cost of £36. They resolved to join for a year on a trial basis.

- d) Blackdike Bridge - The repairs have been completed and the bridge has now reopened.
- e) Bus service - The service is now operated by a different company within the Stagecoach Group. The Combined Authority has indicated that discussions will take place with local councils about their requirements, so the Council will meet with representatives of the other six councils served by route 50 to discuss a joint approach.

044/23 Police Matters

The Chairman reported that two meetings have taken place. Speeding in villages remains a priority. The Neighbourhood Team will be back to full strength shortly. Operation Lambretta to deal with theft and anti-social behaviour relating to mopeds and motorbikes, primarily in the Leverington area, has been very successful.

The Clerk encouraged members of the public to gather evidence of speeding and anti-social behaviour and to report it in order to demonstrate the scale of the problem to secure an appropriate response from the Police.

The Police have been asked to attend Kinderley School at the end of the school day to speak to parents about parking and turning around the school entrance.

045/23 Cambridgeshire County Councillor Report

Cllr King advised the Council that a new Local Highway Officer has been appointed for the Parish. A motion will be tabled at the County Council meeting on 18th October seeking a reversal of the decision to stop the spraying of weeds on the public highway. He asked the Council to write in support of this motion. The Chairman confirmed that the Council will be submitting its views on this matter.

The next round of Local Highway Improvement bids opens at the end of October and all community groups are eligible to apply. The deadline for applications is 12th January. Another round of 20mph zone bids will open after the LHI deadline. Other grants available through the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation were included in the report.

046/23 Fenland District Councillor Reports

Cllr Seaton reported that he had attended a meeting of the Combined Authority's Transport Committee. The Authority is committed to a franchising model for bus provision, but more data is needed to implement this. Cllr Seaton explained that he would like to see a Rural Bus Strategy and more consideration of the roles of the Fenland Association for Community Transport and other small operators. The Chairman stated that there is a need for reliable services to meet the needs of residents. Cllr Seaton questioned whether the Combined Authority has sufficient understanding of the needs of rural communities.

047/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a call for applications for community gritting schemes, consultations from the District Council on involvement in planning decisions and the Walking, Cycling and Mobility Aid strategy, the timetable for the decision on the Wisbech Incinerator application, and invitations to the ACRE AGM, the Flood Groups conference, an Action on Energy event and the District Council's Chairman's Charity Coffee Morning.

048/23 Reports from Members

- a) Communications - Nothing to report.

- b) Highways - The Clerk reported that preliminary conditioning works had been completed in Hannath Road in readiness for surface dressing next year and the hedgerow overhanging Hannath Road in Tydd Gote had been cut back away from the carriageway.
- c) Street Lights - No progress since the last meeting.
- d) Churchyard - The contractor has not cut the grass since July. The Clerk has asked for an explanation. This part of the contract also includes the edges of the Recreation Ground. Cllr Carter has invited another contractor to provide a quote for both parts of the contract for comparison.
- e) Trees - Protected trees in Hannath Road, Tydd Gote - see 043/23 above. Protected trees fronting the Golf Club - following several large branches falling from these trees, the Clerk has contacted Pure Leisure who will arrange for an arboricultural survey to be undertaken.
- f) Foul Anchor - A consultation with residents regarding environmental improvements will take place shortly.
- g) Community Centre - Cllr Carter reported that the charity has changed electricity supplier and signed a fixed contract resulting in savings of around 60% and a refund from the previous supplier. A smart meter will be installed shortly.
- h) Waterway Walk - The Clerk reported that the Tydd Pumping Station open day was well supported, with around 135 visitors. The event will be repeated in 2024.

049/23 Member and Parishioner Issues

- a) Carveley's Lane - The Clerk reported that the County Council has agreed to remove the overgrown vegetation blocking Carveley's Lane after the end of the nesting season.
- b) Hockland Road pavement barrier - Members agreed to install replacement barriers similar to the original ones.
- c) Highway weed killing - Members agreed to write to the County Council expressing their concerns regarding particular issues in Tydd St Giles.
- d) Sapphire Close - Windows have been broken in a vacant property, apparently by air gun pellets. Clarion Housing Group and the Police have been informed. The situation is being monitored with a view to identifying the culprit.
- e) Benches by village sign - A slat on one of the benches has become loose due to the deterioration of the concrete support. Both benches are showing signs of cracking of the concrete framework. Members agreed to repair the damaged bench and to consider replacing both benches in the next financial year.
- f) Food waste processing plant - Residents of Cross Drove have reported concerns regarding smoke emanating from the boiler chimney at the plant and the presence of large numbers of non-native insects. The issue is being investigated by the District Council's Environmental Health Team. It is unclear whether planning permission is required for this change of use, so that too is under investigation. As a waste processing facility, planning consent would be considered by the County Council. Members asked the Clerk to monitor the situation and provide updates when available.
- g) Roadside verges - The resident responsible for this item was unable to attend the meeting, so this has been deferred until the next meeting.

- h) Hedgehog Highway project - A hedgehog welfare charity invited the Council to purchase hedgehog doorways to provide safe access between gardens. Members agreed to advertise this on Facebook to assess demand and, if popular, to purchase 50 hedgehog doorway surrounds for residents and pupils at Kinderley School.
- i) Black Dike Nameplate - The Clerk reported that the replacement street nameplate at Black Dike reads Black Drove. This will be replaced with the correct sign in due course.
- j) Black Dike fly-tipping - A resident witnessed a fly-tipping incident alongside the North Level Main Drain off Black Dike and was able to photograph the vehicle involved. Details have been passed to the District Council and the person responsible faces prosecution.

050/23 Speed Monitoring

The Clerk presented three sets of data from the MVAS device in Broad Drove East opposite Sapphire Close, High Broadgate outside Newfield Farm and Kirkgate opposite the Golf Club. Whilst average speeds are below the limit at all three locations, a significant number of vehicles were recorded travelling well in excess of the limit, especially at the first two locations. A summary of the data will be passed to the Police.

051/23 Brigstock & Wrens Charity

Cllrs Brown and Carter declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as Trustees of the Brigstock & Wrens Charity and did not participate in the discussion or vote on this matter. The terms of office of Trustees Michael Taylor and Oliver Williams come to an end shortly. Members resolved to re-appoint both Trustees for a further term.

052/23 Finance

- a) The Clerk presented the financial statement as at the end of August showing income of £11,314.29, expenditure of £17,528.11, resulting in a deficit of £6,213.82 and funds held of £33,720.81.

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

Mrs P Mallett (Coronation celebrations)£ 480.00

- c) Members ratified the following payment issued since the last meeting:-

NEST (pension contributions)£ 138.80

- d) Members approved the following payments:-

D Gibbs (salary August and September).....£ 1,418.76
 The CGM Group (East Anglia) Ltd (grounds maintenance)£ 607.64
 PKF Littlejohn LLP (audit fee).....£ 252.00
 Fenland Leisure Products Ltd (play equipment spares).....£ 31.44

- e) Members noted the transfer of £10,000 from the Barclays current account to the NatWest current account.

053/23 Confidential Item

Members resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, paragraph 1(2).

Members discussed options for the future management of Council assets and resolved to continue these discussions at a later date.

054/23 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 9th November at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm