

# TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Tydd St Giles Parish Council held remotely  
on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Present** - Cllr T Doyle (Acting Chairman), Cllr C Brooks, Cllr M Carter, Cllr H Hillam, Cllr G Mathias, Cllr J Maxwell, Cllr S King (CCC), Cllr S Clark (FDC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), D Grainger, B Luck, (Parishioners), R Horspool (Tenant)

**Apologies for Absence** - None

## **046/20 Vacancy for Chair and Vice Chair**

- a) Cllr Doyle was nominated by Cllr Mathias, seconded by Cllr Hillam and elected unanimously. Members resolved to allow him to sign his declaration of acceptance at a later date.
- b) Cllr Mathias was nominated by Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Doyle and elected unanimously. Members resolved to allow him to sign his declaration of acceptance at a later date.

## **047/20 Urgent Items**

The Chairman advised members that a confidential item had been added to the agenda as 062/20 to discuss urgent matters relating to land tenancies.

## **048/20 Vacancy for a Parish Councillor**

The Clerk advised members that a valid petition had been submitted for a public election to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Cllr Hale-Smith. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, no elections may be held until at least 6 May 2021, so the position will remain vacant until then.

## **049/20 Confirmation of Minutes**

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

## **050/20 Matters Arising**

- a) Defibrillators - no progress possible at present.
- b) Sutton Bridge Power Fund - The Clerk reported that he had contacted Messrs Douglas Jones Mercer Solicitors of Swansea to enquire about the new arrangements for the administration of the fund and was awaiting a response.
- c) Parish Council e-mail accounts - As it is still not possible for the Clerk to visit members' homes, this matter will be deferred again.
- d) Green Dog Walker scheme - Cllr Maxwell reported that he has 500 leaflets to be delivered to households to ascertain the likely take-up of the scheme. Cllr Doyle agreed to hold the leaflets until delivery can be arranged.

- e) NEST Pension scheme - The Clerk met with Cllr Doyle to discuss employment matters. Draft terms and conditions and contract of employment will be circulated shortly for approval at the next meeting.
- f) Foul Anchor historical signage - Cllr Hillam reported that a small working group had been established, but that it was agreed to postpone the project until after the pandemic.
- g) Brigstock & Wren's Charity vacancy - The Chairman and Clerk met with representatives from the charity to discuss the relationship between the two bodies. The Chairman agreed to nominate Janet Findlay for election to fill the current vacancy and both parties agreed to forge a closer working relationship. Members resolved to approve the nomination of Janet Findlay.

### **051/20 Police Matters**

The Clerk reported that he had attended two online meetings with the Wisbech Neighbourhood Sergeant and representatives of other parish councils. The meetings are being held on a monthly basis and provide an opportunity to discuss policing issues, crime statistics and local concerns. The staffing structure is under review, which will result in a reduction in the number of Community Support Officers, however the number of Police Constables has increased over the last couple of years and will continue to do so as more recruits are trained. The public enquiry offices at Wisbech and March will close and the community safety team will disappear. Further details will be announced before Christmas.

### **052/20 Cambridgeshire County Councillor Report**

Cllr King congratulated Cllr Doyle on his election as Chairman. He reported that a number of parishes had expressed concern about mud left on local roads and damage to verges during the maize harvest. The maize is grown for anaerobic digestion by Pretoria Energy and he suggested that the council might join other parishes in writing to the company to express their dissatisfaction. The county council is discussing improvements to the management of roadside verges. Modifications to the Local Highways Improvements scheme are also being considered. The LHI scheme to renew the deck of the Black Dyke footbridge has been completed and feedback is positive. The county council is facing challenges in producing a balanced budget for next year, especially as the Government is reimbursing Covid expenditure retrospectively and there is no guarantee that all sums will be repaid.

### **053/20 Fenland District Councillor Reports**

Cllr Seaton congratulated Cllr Doyle on his election as Chairman. He reported that the district council is still open for business as usual, despite the tightening of restrictions. The conservation strategy for the district is being updated, as many of the local plans are out of date. The council is invited to contribute to the process. A new cycle and walkway strategy is being drafted, with the possibility of bidding for a share of £2billion of Government money. All ideas are welcome.

### **054/20 Parishioner Issues**

Several issues had been raised. Mud from agricultural vehicles on Middle Broad Drove and Cross Drove was reported. This relates to Pretoria Energy, as mentioned by Cllr King. A resident of Church Lane asked about the possibility of extending the zigzag lines outside the school to prevent parking across driveways. He also asked whether the council will be using the MVAS speed indicator device in Church Lane, as the current fixed signs appear not to modify behaviour. The clerk will discuss the lines with the local highways officer and ascertain whether there is a suitable location for the MVAS. Members authorised the Clerk to purchase a set of brackets for the MVAS. A report of vehicle tracks in the churchyard appears to be the lawn

mower used to cut the green burial ground which crossed several graves to get there. The Clerk will write to the contractor to ensure that this doesn't happen again. The Chairman thanked Mr Gabb for preparing the war memorial for the Remembrance Sunday service.

### **055/20 Land Tenancies**

The Clerk notified members that none of the tenants had signed their new agreements, but that Mr Horspool had indicated that he will be signing and it is hoped that the other two will do likewise. Mr Horspool has also asked to be considered for any additional plots that become available. Mr Horspool addressed the meeting and reminded the council that he has asked for the field sizes to be clarified. The Chairman offered to meet him to discuss this. Queries relating to drainage rates and rural payments entitlements were addressed by reference to the tenancy agreement.

### **056/20 Play Equipment**

The play shelter has been taken down. The legs are set in concrete, so they have been left *in situ*. Members agreed to form a sub-group to consider options for new children's play equipment and/or adult gym equipment.

### **057/20 Street Lights**

The quotation from the district council's contractor has not been received. Decision deferred until the next meeting.

### **058/20 Correspondence**

The Clerk outlined the correspondence received since the last meeting, including the following:-

ACRE re Local Councils Conference 23 October

- re grants to combat fuel poverty

LEAP (Local Energy Advice Partnership) re services for people on low incomes or with long term illness or disability.

Cambridgeshire County Council re British Cycling Places to Ride small grants programme

- re roadworks and events

Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust newsletter

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams Partnership newsletters

Age UK Cambridgeshire & Peterborough re COVID-19 support database

FDC re Test and Trace support payment scheme

- re review of polling districts and polling places
- re proposed changes to social housing allocation policy
- re Loan Sharks online training
- re Co-op Food Fund grants
- re support during lockdown
- re sewage treatment works, Newgate Road
- re review of Statement of Licensing Policy
- re Council Tax Support consultation
- re objections to proposed reform of national planning system
- re Discretionary Heating Grants

CAPALC re training courses

Cambridgeshire Police re Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

Police & Crime Commissioner re toolkit for encouraging reporting of crime

### **059/20 Planning**

Members ratified their previous decision to support the following application:

F/YR20/0989/F - Extension and alterations to single-storey dwelling to form part 2-storey, part-single storey dwelling involving the formation of a first-floor extension and a single storey front extension and erection of a single-storey garage to front of existing dwelling - Bungalow, Sees Lane, Four Gotes.

**060/20 Finance**

a) The Clerk presented a financial statement as at 31<sup>st</sup> October showing income of £19,896.76 and expenditure of £11,309.68, resulting in a surplus of £8,587.08 and total funds held of £58,577.15.

b) The following sums were received:-

Fenland District Council (precept).....	£ 500.00
H & C Howlett (rent) .....	£ 1,600.80
	£ 2,100.80

c) The following payments were approved:-

D Gibbs (salary Oct-Nov).....	£ 899.24
Brigstock & Wrens Charity (rent).....	£ 135.00
CGM Group (East Anglia) Ltd (grounds maintenance) .....	£ 829.24
Fenland District Council (bin emptying) .....	£ 86.74
Lincolnshire Drainage Co Ltd (drainage)* .....	£ 8,000.00
	£ 9,950.22

\* Final invoice awaited. Authority to pay up to £8,000.00 agreed.

RESOLVED - that the above payments totalling £9,950.22 be approved for payment.

d) The Clerk invited members to suggest items or projects for next year's budget.

**061/20 Reports from Members**

a) Highways - Cllr Hillam reported a pothole outside Corner Bungalow, Bedford Row.

b) Churchyard - Cllr Doyle reported that another quote has been received for tree works in the Churchyard. This will be circulated and proposed works discussed with the PCC and neighbours. The Clerk mentioned that further work will be required on brambles, nettles and shrubs. Cllr Mathias commented that the bench needs painting.

c) Trees - Cllr Mathias reported trees overhanging Redgate Road near Bedford Row. The Clerk agreed to investigate and confirm ownership.

d) Foul Anchor - A resident appears to be fly tipping garden waste on the roadside in Redgate Road. The Clerk will confirm the landowner and advise them accordingly. Signs have been erected to prevent public access to Swain's Drove at the junction with Redgate Road. The Clerk will refer the matter to the Public Rights of Way officer. The area of vegetation adjacent to the war memorial could be cleared to create a seating area. This appears to belong to the county council, but the Clerk will confirm.

e) Community Centre - Cllr Carter reported that the Centre is currently closed. He noted that the building is in need of repairs, due to its age, with the heating system a high priority. Hire charges have been increased to a more reasonable level, but the electricity bill remains a significant burden.

f) Waterway Walk - May form part of the Foul Anchor project, but no developments at present.

- g) Communications - Cllr Doyle reported that he had met with Cllr Maxwell and Mr Luck to discuss the newsletter and other communications issues. He has also received requests for a new village directory. Members agreed to set up a communications sub-group to look at these issues.

**062/20 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Cllr Doyle proposed, Cllr Mathias seconded and members resolved unanimously to exclude the press and public from the discussion of the following agenda item in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960.

**063/20 Confidential Item**

To discuss confidential matters relating to the council's land holdings.

**064/20 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm. Details to be confirmed.

Cllr Maxwell confirmed his resignation due to relocation to Cornwall. He thanked members for their support and wished them well for the future; a sentiment reciprocated by the members of the council.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm