

TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Tydd St Giles Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Thursday 11th January 2024

Present - Cllr T Brown (Chairman), Cllr B Allen, Cllr M Carter, Cllr L Slade, Cllr B Barber (FDC), Cllr S Clark (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), D Roy (Neighbourhood Watch), 6 members of the public

Apologies for Absence - Cllr M Connell, Cllr K Malin, Cllr A Renshaw, Cllr S King (CCC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC)

070/23 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting. He announced that an application had been submitted to the County Council for funding to install a new heating system in the Community Centre. The proposed system will allow greater flexibility at considerably reduced cost, helping to safeguard the viability of the Centre. The list of successful applicants will be announced in April.

071/23 Public Forum

A resident raised the issue of the signage at the Church Lane Bridge entrance to the village and the possibility of installing a village gateway feature. It was suggested that this could be considered as a future bid for funding under the Local Highway Improvement scheme.

072/23 Urgent Items

None.

073/23 Neighbourhood Watch

The Chairman introduced Dal Roy, the Neighbourhood Watch Association District Lead for Wisbech and the Villages. Dal confirmed that the Tydd St Giles scheme already had 12 members and 2 co-ordinators and encouraged others to sign up to join the scheme. There are three ways to join, either as an individual, or through a street scheme with neighbours and a street co-ordinator, or as part of a larger group scheme. Businesses may also join as affiliates. Membership is free and members have access to many helpful resources on the local and national Neighbourhood Watch websites as well as receiving information by email.

Dal highlighted two Cambridgeshire Police initiatives, Business Against Abuse targeting slavery and violence against women and girls and ATM Watch aiming to reduce the theft of cash machines from buildings. SelectaDNA provides a means of marking tools in vans and other items likely to be stolen to enable Police to identify them when recovered.

Finally, he reminded everybody of the need to report crimes, anti-social behaviour and suspicious activity to the Police. The Chairman thanked Dal for his presentation.

074/23 Confirmation of Minutes

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th November be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 29th November be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

075/23 Matters Arising

- a) Drainage issues - The Clerk reported that water is no longer being pumped onto the highway in Hockland Road, reducing the need for further intervention. It was agreed that no further work will be undertaken.
- b) Bus service - The meeting with neighbouring Councils will take place shortly
- c) Trees in Hannath Road - The County Council continues to deny responsibility for the trees, but the Clerk will pursue this matter.
- d) Carveley's Lane - The clearance work has been completed.
- e) Hockland Road pavement barrier - The new barriers have been installed.
- f) Food waste processing plant - The Clerk reported that a number of agencies are involved in the different aspects of this complex issue. A planning application has been submitted for polytunnels to extend the site. The Council will continue to monitor the situation.

076/23 Police Matters

The Chairman reported that no meetings have taken place.

The Clerk informed members that the hare coursing season has started and asked anybody witnessing coursing or suspicious activity or vehicles to report it to the Police.

077/23 Cambridgeshire County Councillor Report

In Cllr King's absence, the Clerk reported that the deadline for the submission of applications for 2024/25 under the Local Highway Improvements scheme is 12th January and the next round of bidding for 20mph schemes opens on 15th January.

078/23 Fenland District Councillor Reports

Cllr Clark reported that nominations have opened for the annual Pride in Fenland Awards recognising the selfless contributions of individuals and organisations across the district. Full details are on the District Council's website.

Cllr Barber reported that entries are invited for the annual Fenland Poet Laureate Award with a deadline at the end of the month. Full details are on the District Council's website.

The Street Pride group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10.30 for a litter pick and new members are welcome.

079/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on correspondence received, including the County Council's budget briefing and consultation, a road closure in Church Lane from 4th to 6th March, and the District Council's budget and business plan consultation.

080/23 Reports from Members

- a) Cllr Allen - Communications, Foul Anchor and Four Gotes - The Council's website will be upgraded to https standard with the current provider. Arrangements are in hand to post information on the old Foul Anchor notice board until a new one is installed.
- b) Cllr Carter - Community Centre and Play Equipment - The Centre Management Committee's AGM will take place on 24th January. The hire charges for the building have been reviewed and a new day rate has been established and a lower set-up charge.

The Committee has agreed to purchase 5 picnic benches to be situated adjacent to the building. The funding application for the new heating system has been submitted. New door seals are required for the exit door from the bar to prevent water ingress. The wooden play tower is deteriorating and will need replacing soon. An application to the Grange Windfarm Community Benefit Fund for a replacement is being considered. New seats are required for the swings as the original ones have perished.

- c) Cllr Connell - Highways - In Cllr Connell's absence, no report was provided.
- d) Cllr Malin - Armed forces, flooding, Kinderley School - In Cllr Malin's absence, no report was provided.
- e) Cllr Renshaw - Public rights of way, churchyard, trees - In Cllr Renshaw's absence, no report was provided.
- f) Cllr Slade - Street lights and parish assets - One light in Hockland Road has been repaired, but the remaining faults and replacements are still outstanding.

081/23 Member and Parishioner Issues

- a) Roadside verges - alternative management arrangements - No further update.
- b) Roger's Drove - condition of footpath and access to property - The County Council's Rights of Way Officer has agreed to deposit road planings to improve the condition of the path.
- c) Foul Anchor bench - vehicle damage - A resident has reported that the bench on Front Road was struck by out of control vehicles on 11th November and again on 19th December. The vehicle involved in the first collision was unregistered and uninsured, so the identity of the driver cannot be established. The second vehicle has not been identified. The bench has been removed for safekeeping whilst options for repair or replacement are considered, including the possibility of an insurance claim.
- d) Annual Parish Meeting - format and agenda - The meeting will take place on Thursday 25th April. It was agreed that the format will be the same as last year's meeting and members were asked to nominate speakers.

082/23 Highways

- a) The Chairman informed members that the application for Local Highway Improvement funding for 2024/25 will aim to provide a street light at the point where the pavement crosses from the south to the north side of Kirkgate. Members agreed to contribute £1,000 towards the cost of the project.
- b) Speed monitoring - The Clerk presented data from the MVAS device in Church Lane outside Kinderley School, as follows:

Speed limit - 30mph

Number of vehicles - 20,595

Minimum speed - 5mph

Maximum speed - 87mph

Average speed - 27.24mph

85th percentile speed - 34mph

Number over speed limit - 35.68% - 7,348 vehicles

Number over prosecutable limit (10%+2 above limit) - 14.77% - 3,042 vehicles

Number over disqualification limit (30mph above limit) - 0.16% - 33 vehicles

An unexplained data anomaly was noted on 6th November with readings significantly above the normal range. Apart from those readings, average speeds were lower than the previous recordings at this location, but more than one in three vehicles exceeded the limit.

083/23 Finance

a) The Clerk presented the financial statement as at the end of December showing income of £28,478.57, expenditure of £23,397.57, resulting in a surplus of £5,081.00 and funds held of £45,015.63.

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

H Squire (rent)	£ 2,155.50
Barclays Bank (interest).....	£ 62.29

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

NEST (pension contributions)	£ 277.58
Land Registry (title searches)	£ 12.00

d) Members approved the following payments:-

D Gibbs (salary December and January)	£ 1,489.34
Tydd St Giles CC & RG (hall hire)	£ 92.00

e) The Clerk reported that he no longer has any online access to the Barclays Bank accounts, for reasons that remain unclear.

f) Members considered the draft budget for 2024/25 prepared by the Clerk. They resolved to add provision for the following items of expenditure:-

Children’s Play	£ 5,000.00
Community Centre.....	£ 3,500.00
Churchyard.....	£ 3,000.00
Foul Anchor	£ 500.00
Training.....	£ 250.00

Members resolved to increase the level of precept from £15,000 to £18,000.

084/23 Policies and Procedures

Members reviewed the following policies and procedures and resolved to re-adopt them:

- i) Data Protection Policy
- ii) Publication Scheme
- iii) Code of Conduct

085/23 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 14th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm