

TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Tydd St Giles Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Thursday 14th March 2024

Present - Cllr T Brown (Chairman), Cllr M Carter, Cllr L Slade, Cllr B Barber (FDC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), 11 members of the public

Apologies for Absence - Cllr B Allen, Cllr M Connell, Cllr K Malin, Cllr S King (CCC), Cllr S Clark (FDC)

086/23 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting. He announced that a new defibrillator had been installed outside the Crown & Mitre public house and thanked Mr Sayers, the landlord, and Admiral Taverns, the owner for their cooperation. He also thanked Mr J Mallett for installing the device.

The Chairman reported that Cllr Renshaw had resigned from the Council due to pressure of work. He thanked him for his contribution as a member of the Council and wished him well.

He also noted that the Council had applied for a portrait of King Charles under the Government's scheme to provide portraits for display in public buildings.

087/23 Pathfinder Clean Energy Presentation

No representatives of the company were present.

088/23 Public Forum

Mr Cooper reported that the warning light outside the Clarion pump house in Newgate Road appeared not to be working when the pump failed again recently. He asked the Council to arrange a meeting with the Clarion staff responsible for the pumps. He also asked whether there was anything the Council could do to encourage landowners to maintain fieldside dykes, particularly along Newgate Road. The Chairman advised him that the Council's powers were limited.

Mr Newman requested an update on road repairs and future maintenance. The Clerk advised him that seasonal repairs were ongoing and the village will benefit from surface dressing schemes starting with Hannath Road in June. Parts of Hockland Road had been reported and were under consideration for patching of both the road and the pavement.

089/23 Urgent Items

None.

090/23 Membership of the Council

A vacancy exists for a Councillor following the resignation of Cllr Renshaw. No petition was submitted for a public election, so the Council must fill the vacancy by co-option. The Chairman confirmed that only one expression of interest had been received in response to the advertisement of the vacancy. The co-option of Gerald Clifton was proposed by Cllr Slade, seconded by Cllr Carter and duly approved. Cllr Clifton signed his declaration of acceptance, witnessed by the Clerk.

091/23 Confirmation of Minutes

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th January 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 1st February be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

092/23 Matters Arising

- a) Bus service - The meeting with neighbouring Councils will take place in May.
- b) Trees in Hannath Road - The County Council continues to deny responsibility for the trees, but the Clerk will pursue this matter with senior officers and members.
- c) Roadside verges - No further update.
- d) Foul Anchor bench - The Clerk reported that the vehicle involved in the second collision with the bench has not been identified. A quote will be obtained for the repair or replacement of the bench.
- e) Annual Parish Meeting - The meeting will take place on Thursday 25th April. All village organisations have been invited to attend and speak about their activities. It is hoped that Cambridgeshire Police will be able to attend.

093/23 Police Matters

The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had attended a meeting with Sgt Arnold from the Wisbech Neighbourhood Policing Team to discuss crime and community safety issues in the area. No major issues were reported.

094/23 Cambridgeshire County Councillor Report

In Cllr King's absence, no matters were discussed.

095/23 Fenland District Councillor Reports

Cllr Barber announced that a Golden Age Fair will be held in the Community Centre in September, providing information and support for older people.

There is an opportunity to apply for funding from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fund for Nature for rewilding projects, with a deadline of 1st May.

Cllr Seaton reported that the mayoral precept had increased from £12 to £36 to support subsidised bus services, but the District Council believes that the Combined Authority's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan fails to address the needs of rural communities in Fenland. A motion approved at the District Council's February meeting asks the Combined Authority to reconsider the Plan. The latest meeting of the Combined Authority's Transport Committee discussed the possibility of modifications to existing services, but there remains no commitment to talk to local councils about the needs of their communities. A trial of Demand Responsive Transport is proposed for Fenland.

The Chairman reported that he will be attending a seminar on Community Transport shortly.

096/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including two National Grid consultation events, traffic orders for forthcoming works in Middle Broad Drove, Black Lane and Church Lane, the District Council's new council tax penalties for

empty properties and second homes, the Combined Authority’s electric vehicles and charging points survey, an invitation to Cambridgeshire ACRE’s Centenary Community Buildings Conference, and the launch of the Volunteer Cambs online volunteering portal.

097/23 Reports from Members

- a) Cllr Allen - Communications, Foul Anchor and Four Gotes - in Cllr Allen’s absence, no report was received.
- b) Cllr Carter - Community Centre and Play Equipment - The new bin cage has been installed. Minor maintenance issues on the children’s play equipment need to be addressed before the annual inspection. The decision on funding for the replacement heating system is expected next month.
- c) Cllr Connell - Highways - In Cllr Connell’s absence, no report was received, but the Clerk had provided an update during the public forum.
- d) Cllr Malin - Armed forces, flooding, Kinderley School - In Cllr Malin’s absence, no report was received.
- e) Cllr Brown - Public rights of way, churchyard, trees - Cllr Brown reported that new signs had been ordered for the churchyard confirming the requirement for dogs to be kept on leads. Cllr Clifton reported that he is now responsible for grass cutting at the rear of the churchyard.
- f) Cllr Slade - Street lights and parish assets - One light in Broad Drove East has been repaired, but the remaining faults and replacements are still outstanding.

098/23 Member and Parishioner Issues

- a) National Grid Grimsby to Walpole upgrade - The public consultation event took place in the Community Centre on 31st January. The Chairman has responded on behalf of the Council.
- b) Former village school site - The owner of the site passed away a few months ago and the Clerk has written to the family expressing the Council’s condolences. It is hoped that progress can now be made towards the development of the site.

099/23 Highways

The County Council has reviewed its policy on weed management on public highways. The review found that the policy introduced for 2023/24 had not achieved its objectives. It is proposed that the previous management approach of cyclical spraying be reintroduced. Councils have the option to make alternative arrangements. Members discussed the options and resolved to accept the recommended solution of cyclical spraying.

100/23 Finance

- a) The Clerk presented the financial statement as at the end of February showing income of £28,579.25, expenditure of £25,507.70, resulting in a surplus of £3,071.55 and funds held of £43,006.18.
- b) Members noted the following sums received since the last meeting:-

Fenland District Council (recycling credits).....£ 100.68

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

NEST (pension contributions)	£	355.51
HMRC (national insurance).....	£	68.38
CAPALC Ltd (training course).....	£	100.00

d) Members approved the following payments:-

D Gibbs (salary February and March)	£	1,489.50
D Gibbs (expenses).....	£	322.08
National Association of Local Councils (training)	£	39.22
Fenland District Council (election costs).....	£	331.08

e) Members considered options for future banking arrangements and resolved to remain with Barclays Bank. The previous decision to open accounts with National Westminster Bank (minute 035/22(e)) was reversed as new information regarding charges has come to light that was not evident at the time.

f) Members resolved to transfer the recycling credits totalling £232.98 received from Fenland District Council to the Community Centre Charity.

g) Members resolved to purchase 5 recycled plastic picnic tables for the Recreation Ground from NBB Recycled Furniture at a cost of £2,000+VAT.

101/23 Policies and Procedures

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

- i) Equality and Diversity Policy
- ii) Homeworking Policy
- iii) Expenses Policy

102/23 Date of Next Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 9th May at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Thursday 25th April at 7.00 for 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm