

TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Tydd St Giles Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Thursday 12th September 2024

Present - Cllr T Brown (Chairman), Cllr B Allen, Cllr M Carter, Cllr G Clifton, Cllr M Connell, Cllr L Slade, Cllr K Malin, Cllr S King (CCC), Cllr B Barber (FDC), Cllr S Clark (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), 13 members of the public

Apologies for Absence - Cllr C Seaton (FDC)

035/24 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that the Council had arranged a free defibrillator training session to be held on the evening of 19th September, with places still available. A Golden Age Fair is to take place in the Community Centre on 13th September. The Chairman and Vice Chairman attended the RAF Sutton Bridge Memorial Service on 1st September. The Chairman and Cllr Slade attended the District Council Chairman's Civic Reception on 6th September. These events provide opportunities for profile raising and networking with other Councils.

The Chairman also attended a public meeting to discuss the future of St James' Church, Newton-in-the-Isle. He hoped that something positive will happen and stressed the need for public support for all community facilities and amenities.

The Harvest Auction will take place on 22nd September in the Crown & Mitre. Remembrance Sunday services at St Giles Church and Foul Anchor are planned for 10th November.

036/24 Public Forum

A resident noted that the MVAS speed monitoring signs are no longer working. The batteries will be changed shortly. The Chairman confirmed that a Community Speed Watch group is being set up. Cllr Clifton reported that his neighbours had expressed concern regarding speeding in Broad Drove East. The Clerk will relocate one of the devices to that location.

Cllr Barber reminded the meeting that the Street Pride group has a Litter Pick scheduled for 14th September and new volunteers are always welcome.

A resident noted that some of the potholes in High Broadgate were repaired, but other left. The road surface in Hockland Road was also mentioned. The Clerk will investigate.

037/24 Urgent Items

None.

038/24 Confirmation of Minutes

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th July be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) RESOLVED - that the revised minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 20th June be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

039/24 Matters Arising

- a) Bus service - The Council will be consulting residents regarding their use of the bus service and future needs.

- b) Trees in Hannath Road - The Clerk will raise this matter at the forthcoming meeting with the Leader of the County Council.
- c) Foul Anchor bench - The repair of the bench will form part of a funding application for a larger project.
- d) Community Speedwatch - See 036/24.
- e) Vacant property in Sapphire Close - A property has become vacant and the Clerk will discuss the future allocation with Clarion Housing.

040/24 Police Matters

The Chairman reported that no meetings had taken place. Cllr Malin expressed his disappointment at the lack of proper reporting from the Police and suggested that they be asked to send a representative to every meeting.

041/24 Cambridgeshire County Councillor Report

Cllr King reported that the Local Highway Improvement application for 2024/25 will be presented to the County Council's Highways and Transport Committee at the October meeting as September's meeting was cancelled. The meeting with the Leader of the County Council to discuss bus services has been arranged for 15th October. The County Council has launched an Active Travel Hierarchy consultation and the Combined Authority a Bus Franchising consultation. Applications are invited for Community Gritting Schemes with a deadline of 31st October. Members agreed to set up a scheme in Tydd St Giles.

Cllr King provided details of the various funds available from the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and the deadlines for the winter round.

042/24 Fenland District Councillor Reports

Cllr Clerk reminded the meeting that Fenland District Council has a Golden Age Fair in the Community Centre on 13th September with more than 30 partner organisations due to attend. The North Level District Internal Drainage Board has the annual Open Day at Tydd Pumping Station on 14th September. Cllr Barber mentioned that there are other events taking place in Wisbech as part of the Heritage Open Weekend.

043/24 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a walkabout with the new Local Highways Officer, Cllrs Brown and Connell and a meeting with the Community Payback Co-ordinator regarding forthcoming projects.

Correspondence included invitations to the District Council Chairman's Coffee Morning, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils Annual Conference and Cambridgeshire ACRE's Annual General Meeting.

044/24 Reports from Members

- a) Cllr Allen - Communications, Foul Anchor and Four Gotes - The area around the War Memorial in Foul Anchor is to be tidied up before Remembrance Sunday.
- b) Cllr Carter - Community Centre and Play Equipment - The model car racing club booking every Wednesday evening is going well, with Thursday now the only evening when the Community Centre is not being used. The application to the Grange Windfarm Community Benefit Fund for £5,000 for the new junior play tower was successful, but only received £3,000 due to the number of applications received in this round. An

application for £2,000 will be submitted to the Brigstock & Wren's charity next week. New seats have been fitted to the swings.

- c) Cllr Connell - Highways - No further items to report.
- d) Cllr Malin - Armed forces, flooding, Kinderley School - Preparations are in hand for Remembrance Sunday. No flooding issues to report. Kinderley School has received a Good rating in the latest Osted inspection and has seen significant improvement under the new Headteacher. Pupil numbers are up and the nursery is now able to take pupils from the age of 2.
- e) Cllr Clifton - Public rights of way, churchyard, trees - The churchyard is looking good, but the Green Burial Ground is becoming overgrown. He will continue to explore the public rights of way and hopes to gain a better understanding of the status and issues in the near future.
- f) Cllr Slade - Street lights and parish assets - The long-awaited replacement light at the junction of Newgate Road and Broad Drove East has been installed, but in the wrong place. The asset register may require updating to reflect the new heads installed during routine repairs. A resident noted that the lights on the chicane signs around the school are not working.

045/24 Member and Parishioner Issues

- a) Community Speed Watch - See 036/24.
- b) First Aid Training - See 035/24.
- c) Dog Fouling - Cllr Brown mentioned that there had been several posts on the village Facebook page regarding dog fouling. He mentioned the possibility of installing bag dispensers. Cllr Clark reminded the meeting that the District Council's Street Scene team can assist with enforcement activity.

046/24 Community Centre and Recreation Ground

- a) The second stage funding application to the Government's VCSE Energy Efficiency scheme was submitted in August and a response is due by the middle of October.
- b) Grange Windfarm Community Benefit Fund application - see 044/24(b)

047/24 Allotments

The Clerk presented the draft tenancy agreement based on the model document from the National Association of Local Councils. Cllr Brown proposed an annual rent of £50 per plot and this was approved.

The Clerk explained that no progress was made on the letting of the vacant 13 acre Quaney Field plot due to the need to remove the remainder of the fence and gates. Cllr Malin proposed the involvement of a land agent in the letting of this land and members resolved to establish a committee to consider this matter in greater detail. Cllrs Allen, Clifton, Malin and Slade will form the committee with appropriate powers delegated to enable them to determine the tenancy. The Clerk will draw up the terms of reference for the committee.

048/24 Planning

- a) F/YR24/0644/F - Change of use of land to residential, and erection of a single-storey side extension and detached garage to existing dwelling at Drovers Lodge, Church Lane, Tydd St Giles

Members noted that the building under construction was granted permission under the Class Q provisions of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 and that the decision notice for the original application confirms that the location is outside the settlement for the purposes of LP3 and LP12. As such, permission for a larger dwelling in flood zone 3 at this location is unlikely to have been granted at that time. For that reason, members agreed that an extension to the existing building is not appropriate and resolved to object to this application.

- b) F/YR24/0661/F - Installation of 1x biomass burner including siting of 1x storage container (retrospective) at Pecks Barn, Cross Drove, Tydd St Giles

Members noted that there have been ongoing concerns regarding emissions from the biomass boiler for more than a year and several members of the Council have visited the site to witness the problem. Objectors claim the apparent use of the boiler to dispose of general waste from the site spreads thick smoke towards the adjoining residential properties.

Members agreed that further investigation should be carried out into the use of the boiler and its impact on the surrounding area and resolved to object to this application until the appropriate information is made available.

049/24 Finance

- a) The Clerk presented the financial statement as at the end of August showing income of £15,508.27, expenditure of £15,154.56, resulting in a surplus of £353.71 and funds held of £39,850.51.

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

Fenland District Council (concurrent functions grant)	£ 2,791.00
National Grid (land survey)	£ 500.00
Lincolnshire Community Foundation (Grange Windfarm grant)	£ 3,000.00

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

HMRC (national insurance)	£ 23.34
NEST (pension contributions)	£ 293.18
Fenland District Council (street lighting)	£ 7,310.17

- d) Members approved the following payments:-

D Gibbs (salary August and September).....	£ 1,498.50
M Carter (expenses).....	£ 53.76
Nurture Landscapes Ltd (grass cutting)	£ 1,256.22
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd (play equipment repairs).....	£ 515.76
PKF Littlejohn LLP (audit fee).....	£ 252.00

- e) The Clerk reported that he had identified a potential internal auditor. Although resident in Southend-on-Sea, she was willing to travel to Fenland for face-to-face audits as she has several councils in the area. Members resolved to appoint Helen Symmons as internal auditor for the 2024/25 financial year.

050/24 Date of Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 9.05pm