

# TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Tydd St Giles held in the Community Centre on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**Present** - Cllr T Doyle (Chairman), Cllr C Brooks, Cllr M Carter, Cllr B Luck, Cllr K Malin, Cllr G Mathias, Cllr A Renshaw, Cllr S King (CCC), Cllr S Clark (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), 21 members of the public

### **1/22 Welcome and Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting. He explained that due to the pandemic, this was the first Annual Parish Meeting since 2019 and he hoped that it would be an opportunity to come together for a discussion and sharing of information. He introduced the other members of the Council.

### **2/22 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr M Humphrey and Cllr C Seaton (FDC) and Sgt D Arnold, Cambridgeshire Police.

### **3/22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were agreed to be an accurate record of that meeting and signed accordingly.

### **4/22 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **5/22 Policing Fenland**

The Chairman advised the meeting that Sgt Arnold was unable to attend for operational reasons. Residents wishing to raise matters relating to policing were advised to contact the Clerk.

### **6/22 Parish Council Report**

The Chairman explained the work of the Council and summarised some of the recent achievements. Three Councillors did not seek re-election in 2019 and five others had resigned during the period, so new Councillors had been elected or co-opted to replace them. The Council considers and comments on planning applications and works closely with the District and County Councils to address issues highlighted by residents. A defibrillator was installed in the telephone box at Foul Anchor and a speed monitoring sign was purchased to reduce speeding in the village and encourage responsible driving. New tenancy agreements were introduced for the Council's agricultural land holdings and drainage was installed to improve the land. A programme of tree works was implemented in the churchyard and elsewhere.

### **7/22 Parish Council Future Plans**

Cllr Mathias outlined some of the Council's plans, including upgrading the children's play equipment on the Recreation Ground, drafting an Emergency Plan for the parish, exploring the possibility of creating allotments, and improving its communications using social media.

## **8/22 Your Community Centre**

Cllr Carter reported that the Community Centre had faced two challenging years, with closure periods and constantly changing regulations, but had received grants from the Government to compensate for loss of income. He listed the regular user groups and appealed for more groups or activities to consider using the building. The heating system is inefficient and costly to run, so an alternative is being considered, but funding will be required. The charity has taken over the operation of the bar and re-equipped and stocked the facility. Volunteers are required to work behind the bar. The committee is looking to organise larger events, starting with a Toy Fair in May. Volunteers are always required to assist with the running of events.

## **9/22 Soapbox Presentations**

The Lunch Club continues to operate twice each month providing a hot meal for up to 40 residents of Tydd St Giles and neighbouring villages. There is a waiting list for members but new volunteers are always welcome.

The WI meets monthly with a programme of speakers, activities and outings. They are planning to yarn-bomb the village sign this summer. New members are welcome.

The Brigstock and Wren charity uses income from investments and land rents to offer grants to people in need or for educational activities. Grants are provided to Kinderley School and local organisations, as well as individuals.

The Friends of St Giles aim to keep the Church open every day from 9.00 to 6.00. Funds are raised through events and activities, including the regular monthly quiz at the Crown & Mitre.

Street Pride undertakes regular litter picks and maintains a number of planters around the village. Litter picking is a fun and sociable activity suitable for anyone which makes a difference and is appreciated by many. New volunteers are always welcome.

## **10/22 Ask Your Council**

Roads and Paths - what can be done to improve them? Cllr Mathias explained the reporting process and offered to investigate individual concerns. Some damage is caused by building work. The Parish Council can report concerns to the highways and planning officers.

Speeding - what can we do about it? Cllr Doyle explained the use of the MVAS device, which records the speed of all vehicles. The data can be shared with the Police to prioritise speed enforcement work. A Community Speedwatch group could undertake this work on a regular basis if there are enough volunteers to establish it. The Parish Council can support and fund Speedwatch. Cllr King explained that fixed enforcement cameras can only be set up at a location where someone has been killed or seriously injured in a speed-related accident.

Children's play equipment - why hasn't the Parish Council asked the Brigstock and Wren charity to pay for new equipment? Cllr Doyle explained that the charity is not allowed to give money to any statutory body, including the Parish Council. The old children's play area included a fenced enclosure for younger children. Cllr Doyle confirmed that this will be considered in any new design.

Village competitions - many years ago we had village football matches and other competitions. Could we reinstate these events? Cllr Doyle agreed that this could happen if there is sufficient interest and somebody willing to organise it. The

forthcoming jubilee weekend will test the level of support for large community celebrations.

Crown and Mitre - what's happening? Cllr Doyle explained that the Parish Council will shortly be submitting an application to designate the Crown and Mitre as an Asset of Community Value. This will provide protection against a sale, allowing the community six months to consider purchasing the pub.

Security cameras - should we install a camera to protect the play equipment from vandalism? Cllr Doyle explained that we have very little vandalism of the play equipment.

Former school site - what can be done? Cllr Doyle explained that our hands are tied. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation and seek safety improvements to the site, but the owner is unwilling to engage with us.

Pavement parking - what can we do? Cllr Doyle explained that the Parish Council has written to all residents of Cornfields asking them not to park on the pavement and to ensure that visitors and contractors do not.

George Russell - former resident of the parish and as a child, used to accompany his father to the Crown and Mitre. Would he or his team sponsor activities or amenities in the village?

Flooding on Hockland Road - what can be done about it? Cllr Doyle confirmed that the Clerk is investigating potential solutions.

Hockland Road safety barriers - the old barriers above the Drainage Board drain have been removed. Should they be replaced? Cllr King suggested that the County Council might undertake the replacement.

### **11/22 Closing Remarks**

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and for their positive contributions to the meeting. He hoped that everybody would support the jubilee celebrations and consider volunteering to support some of the groups and activities mentioned during the meeting.

### **12/22 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Annual Parish Meeting was confirmed as Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023.