

# TYDD ST GILES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Tydd St Giles  
held in the Community Centre  
on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Present** - Cllr T Doyle (Chairman), Cllr M Carter, Cllr B Luck, Cllr G Mathias, Cllr A Renshaw, Cllr S Clark (FDC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), R Sutton and D Roy (Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch), 25 parishioners and 2 members of the public.

## **1/23 Welcome and Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

## **2/23 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr K Malin, Cllr S King (CCC), Cllr M Humphrey (FDC) and Sgt D Arnold, Cambridgeshire Police, Mr and Mrs Hodder, Miss Ware.

## **3/23 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were agreed to be an accurate record of that meeting and signed accordingly.

## **4/23 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **5/23 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.

## **6/23 Neighbourhood Watch**

The Chairman introduced Robin Sutton, Chair of Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch and Dal Roy, the new Fenland Area Coordinator. Robin explained that the role of Neighbourhood Watch is changing as society changes. Policing methods have changed, with policing now data driven, more police officers, but the support of the public is more important than ever. Property crime features highly in current statistics, but there are things we can all do to reduce the risk of becoming a victim. Avoid routines, hide possessions, upgrade security and locks, consider cameras. Neighbourhood Watch enables members to share knowledge, encourage reporting of incidents and suspicious activity and make your community the place you want to live. It promotes the concept of the active bystander and provides free training for all members. They also offer free training and information packs on preventing burglary, tackling anti-social behaviour and many other topics.

Dal explained that crime is becoming more sophisticated, so we need to work together to prevent ourselves and vulnerable members of our community from becoming victims. Neighbourhood Watch works closely with the Bobby Scheme, a local charity set up to help older and vulnerable people feel safer in their own homes by improving home security.

Membership of Neighbourhood Watch is free and open to any individual. Members receive regular email updates and have access to a vast array of information and resources on the local and national Neighbourhood Watch websites. Local schemes bring together members in a specific locality and provide a means to share information with people who have no access to emails. Each scheme requires a Coordinator to oversee it.

Robin invited those present to ask questions.

*Does Neighbourhood Watch membership encourage people to become vigilantes?* It can be a problem, but it's never the right thing to do. Neighbourhood Watch encourages positive interventions involving the Police, never direct action. Report everything you see and let the appropriate authorities deal with it.

*What can we do about hare coursers?* Be an active bystander but stay safe. Note as much information as you can and report it immediately to the Police.

*What if we don't want to become involved?* Report anonymously to Crimestoppers. Never post evidence on Facebook or other online locations, as doing so may prevent a fair trial.

*Is there a Coordinator in Tydd St Giles?* Not yet, but we know that the Parish Council has discussed this. It's not an onerous task and full training and support are provided.

*When is it appropriate to share information on Facebook?* Facebook is a useful tool for sharing general community information, such as a lost dog or public information warnings, but should not be used to share evidence of unlawful activity.

The Chairman thanked Robin and Dal for their informative presentation and encouraged everyone to join Neighbourhood Watch to help to make Tydd St Giles a safer place.

## **7/23 Parish Council Report**

The Chairman explained the work of the Council and summarised some of the recent achievements. The Council has responded to the Boundary Commission's review of Fenland Parishes and the District Council's draft recommendations for the new Fenland Local Plan. An application to register the Crown & Mitre public house as an asset of community value was approved by Fenland District Council, providing the community with an opportunity to purchase it if the current owner decides to sell it.

The celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was followed a few months later by the sad news of her passing and we now prepare for the forthcoming Coronation celebrations.

The Local Highway Improvements scheme allows councils to bid for funding for small highway projects and the Council has received a second MVAS speed monitoring device and submitted a bid for a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Broad Drove East and High Broadgate. The routine work of the Council continues with almost 40 planning applications considered, new litter bins and dog waste bins, reporting of faulty streetlights, potholes and other highway defects.

## **8/23 Your Community Centre**

Cllr Carter explained that the Community Centre is a registered charity run by volunteers on the Management Committee. The bar is now run by the Committee and is doing well and making a significant contribution to the funds. The single-sex

disabled toilet facilities have been criticised and the Committee is exploring the possibility of creating a unisex facility by converting one of the changing rooms. A specification has been drawn up for a replacement heating system, but this will require external funding.

A number of successful events have taken place during the year, the largest of which was the Coronation Day. Val Ware arranges regular dances that raise valuable funds for the charity. Cllr Carter thanked her for her contribution. The Toy Fair returns in June following the success of last year's event and the Christmas Fair run jointly with the Church will continue.

The Centre relies on volunteers and help is always needed. Anybody interested in assisting with the events or joining the Committee should contact Cllr Carter. He thanked everybody who has supported the Committee in getting the Centre up and running again after the pandemic.

Questions were asked about the caravans using the field and about details of all of the events and activities taking place at the Centre. Cllr Carter explained that the Committee was approached by a caravan organisation seeking venues for weekend rallies. The bookings are profitable and well organised, so it is hoped that they can be repeated in the future. The Management Committee will advertise regular activities on the notice boards around the village and consider the use of a website or Facebook to share information about all activities.

### **9/23 Soapbox Presentations**

**The Church of St Giles** is open daily with weekly services to which everybody is welcome. It is now part of a larger benefice covering Tydd St Giles, Newton-in-the-Isle, Leverington, Gorefield, Wisbech St Mary, Parson Drove, Murrow and surrounding areas. The Parochial Church Council is responsible for the care and upkeep of the church, which is a listed building, with support from the village, the community and grants. The Parish Council maintains the closed part of the churchyard and funds the grass cutting contract.

The Bell Tower is no longer safe and the bells cannot be rung due to a crack in the wall. It is hoped that funding can be secured to repair this and the PCC is working with the Diocese of Ely to identify a funder. Mr Pateman thanked all of the volunteers who help with the church, the churchyard and the green burial ground.

**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 concert at Paget Hall, the Harvest Auction, the Christmas Fair and the regular monthly quiz at the Crown & Mitre and almost £3,600 was raised last year. Mrs Melloy thanked everybody who has helped and supported the events. She also thanked the Parish Council for their support and their wider contribution to village life.

There are plans for more events this year, including a Scarecrow Festival and another concert at Paget Hall.

**Long Sutton Target Shooting Club** is a new activity offering safe enjoyable shooting every Monday and Friday evening and new members are always welcome. Mrs Shaw commented that the Hall is a good venue for the Club due to its size and good lighting. There are opportunities for pre-arranged visits from other organised groups. Contact the Club or drop in for further information.

**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. Having celebrated the centenary of the Isle of Ely Federation recently, they are now preparing to mark the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tydd St Giles WI. New members are welcome.

**Street Pride** undertakes regular litter picks and maintains a number of planters around the village. The group now has 15 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 on the first Saturday of every month from 10.00 to 12.00.

### **10/23 Ask Your Council**

*Wisbech Incinerator - what is the Parish Council's position? The company behind the proposal is German owned.* The Chairman explained that the ownership is not an issue for the Council but the Council is concerned about the proposal and the impact on the local area if it is built.

*Surface disposal of nuclear waste - what is the Parish Council's position?* The Chairman stated that this is something the Council would discuss when more specific information is available.

### **11/23 Closing Remarks**

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and for their positive contributions to the meeting. He hoped that everybody would consider joining or volunteering to support some of the groups and activities mentioned during the meeting. Finally he thanked all of the members of the Council for their dedication and support.

### **12/23 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Annual Parish Meeting was confirmed as Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024.