

Minutes of Tilston Parish Council Meeting held at Tilston War Memorial Hall 3rd November 2022

PRESENT

Councillors

Chairman – Mike Hearn

Penny Honeyborne

Bill Joyce

Neil Ritchie

Chris Kenny

Ben Hatton

PCSO – Jonathan Hurst (arrived 19.30 – exited 19.55)

Public – 4

APOLOGIES

Dave Morgan – family illness

Non-Parish Councillor CW&C Cllr Paul Roberts – Covid

A Moment of Reflection was held in memory of former councillor Ian Munro in recognition of his significant contribution to the Parish Council and the community of Tilston.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

RESOLVED 22/047 – Cllr Chris Kenny declared an interest in planning application 22/03722/CAT as he lives in close proximity to the property.

Cllr Neil Ritchie declared an interest in Agenda item no. 9 Route To School as a governor of Tilston village Primary school.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was noted by a member of the public that the Remembrance Poppies had not been put up on the lampposts in the village as yet. He was assured that the matter was in hand and that the planters currently on display on the lampposts would be taken down and replaced by the poppies by November 5th.

Another member of the public expressed disappointment that the PCSO had not attended as there were matters in the village that needed addressing by the police. It was explained by the Clerk that PCSO Hurst had contacted to say he would attend in place of PCSO McKevitt and could just be late, in which case, there would be further opportunity for public discussion with him when he arrived.

CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS

There had been two expressions of interest in becoming a councillor since the last meeting but one party had withdrawn interest and the second was not able to attend tonight.

MINUTES

RESOLVED 22/048 – that the Chairman signs, as a correct record the circulated minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 1st September 2022

CLERK'S REPORT

Report on Hill Field

Requested quote for work to be undertaken on Hill Field including the removal of hedging along the oak tree line at the top, removal of detritus along the fence line of the houses, removal of shrubs in the left corner of the field together with 4-5 small saplings and stones in the lower field. Quote received 29th September £350+VAT. Work completed first week in October.

Request made of the planning department to advise on the necessity of an ecological survey on the entire or part of the site October 22nd. Awaiting reply.

Records of correspondence 2021 indicate that an Ecological surveyor has been approached in the past regarding this matter.

Councillors' response / comments

Cllr Hearn felt that the survey could be in the region of £1600 and it was hoped that only a minimal survey would be required if at all.

Dog pooh bins on proposed path to school

Team leader for Infrastructure at CW&C contacted September 15th as to the feasibility of dog pooh bins along the path, whether the council would take responsibility for emptying such bins and what the possible costs would be.

Contacted again October 3rd.

October 4th referred councillors to kbsdepot website to give indication of costs involved.

Councillor email responses suggest the proposal for dog pooh bins may not be feasible if CW&C refuse to empty them.

Response received from CW&C October 26th indicating that a bin survey will need to be undertaken to gauge the need for installation. Awaiting results of such survey.

Councillors' response / comments

Cllr Kenny pointed out that if the bins are sited behind nos. 37-39 Inveresk Road then this is council land and the bins would be the responsibility of the council. He felt the parish council should pursue the matter of having dog pooh bins installed in this area whether there was the new footpath to the school or not. Not all councillors agreed that this matter was essential particularly if CW&C refused to take responsibility for emptying them. In such event the question was who would empty them?

Do not litter signage Duckington Lane

The signage matter has been referred to CW&C Regulatory Services who have the power to enforce compliance with signs erected in laybys.

Councillors' response / comments

The parish council is happy to await the outcome of the referral to Regulatory Services.

Gas cannisters found on playing field and in the vicinity of Rookery Road

PCSO Rachael McKeivitt had been informed and had agreed to address this issue within the community and with the High School.

Councillors' response / comments

Cllr Hatton expressed concern that there was not sufficient police presence in Tilston. What police coverage Tilston received was minimal and this needed raising with Cheshire Constabulary.

Overgrown hedges and nettles on footpath Malpas Road from Wet Lane towards village centre

This issue was logged by the clerk under footway obstruction with CW&C council ref. no.

HW452463014 on September 14th and she contacted the Assistant Streetcare Manager also at CW&C a few days later regarding this being an annual issue on the highway in Tilston. A council representative visited the site on September 22nd and has informed the clerk that he has instructed his team to cut the strip on a regular basis to allow safe passage. He further informed her that a cut back was planned to take place within 10 days and a reminder placed on his team's calendar for the spring to remind the team to include it on their summer maintenance visits.

Councillors' response / comments

Cllr Kenny informed the meeting that this area was still overgrown and that no work of any significance had taken place to date.

The clerk was asked to find out from CW&C who is responsible for cutting back the hedge that runs from Lodge Cottage to the left hand side of the gate at Tilston Lodge – is it the owner of the property or the council? Furthermore, it would be helpful to ascertain from the council who is responsible for the whole of the lane running from Well House to Tilston Lodge.

PLANNING

The Council noted the planning register, page 166, as circulated, no further applications had been received.

RESOLVED 22/049 -That the Council support the application **22/03408/TPO– Oak tree (T1) at rear of 36-38 Inveresk Road, Tilston, SY14 7ED to have crown reduced by 2.5m or veteranisation at 12-14m to encourage internal growth and form smaller crown to help prevent risk of major failure. Oak tree (T2) to reduce crown by 2m.** with the following comments: Lally's survey recommended no action on T2 but the work appears designed to preserve the tree and avoid felling it.

RESOLVED 22/050 -That the Council support application **22/03722/CAT – Removal of Sycamore (T1), Lawson (T2) and Scots Pine (T3) at Holly House, Holly Terrace, Duckington Lane, Tilston SY14 7DX** due to safety concerns.

22/00222/FUL Works to drive to include widening, construction of boundary walls, entrance gates, partial resurfacing and improvements to surface water drainage arrangements at The Oaks, Lowcross Lane, Tilston, SY14 7DX – the parish council were of the opinion that this was to be “called in” by Cllr Paul Roberts.

RESOLVED 22/051- That the council submit the following comment - that they support the “calling in” of the application by CW&C Cllr Paul Roberts and that there has to be an adequate scheme for drainage of surface water in view of there now being an impervious drive.

PCSO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PCSO Jonathan Hurst had arrived shortly before the discussion on The Oaks planning application finished and was now given an opportunity to address some village issues with the members of the public present.

Anti-Social Behaviour

PCSO Hurst was informed that there had been incidents of anti-social behaviour with youths lying on the roof of the pavilion in the playing field.

Youths in cars were parking near or on the Willetts' field and playing very loud music on various nights of the week.

PCSO Hurst agreed to inform PCSO McKevitt and organise more patrols in the area.

Traffic on Malpas Road

A resident felt the current traffic speed signs had had no effect on slowing down the traffic on Malpas Road and felt it was time that the Police Commissioner became involved in sanctioning speed guns and the prosecution of drivers breaking the speed limit through the village. PCSO Hurst agreed that speed guns served a purpose but it was not helpful to view all drivers as bad. He recommended that the Parish Council issue an Official Complaint to the Road Safety Officer using the official Form 43. This should result in the setting up of speed data collection, greater enforcement of the speeding restrictions and prosecutions for driving over the speed limit.

Speed Watch and Speed Gun Training were also requested by the resident. PCSO Hurst and the parish council agreed to look into this at the earliest opportunity.

The removal of the Stop signs at the Carden Arms junction was raised by a member of the public and reminded by the council that it was a decision taken by Highways to replace the Stop signs with Give Way signs.

PCSO left the meeting at this point.

CROWDFUNDING INITIATIVE

Having attended a Zoom meeting on Crowdfunding led by Jane Makin, Crowdfunding Lead CW&C, Cllr Ritchie has pursued this initiative on behalf of the Parish Council as a possible means of securing up to 75% of the costs for the proposed new path to school. Cllr Ritchie explained the project which has the title, “A Safer Footpath Route To Tilston School.” Initially, an application with details of the project had to be completed and uploaded onto the Crowdfunding Platform (Spacehive) by November 2nd 2022. Included in the application were “pitches” for

funding from three sources-: Cheshire West Crowdfunding; Community Innovation Fund and Climate Change Emergency Fund. A detailed costing of the project was also required which in our case amounted to £15,575. These costs included an allowance for inflation at 15%, planning application costs, costs for an ecology survey, tree survey and Permissive Path legal Agreement in addition to the construction of the path itself. If successful, 75% of the costs (£11,681.25) would be met by CW&C with the remaining 25% (£3,893.75) raised through public crowdfunding or from Parish Council funds.

CW&C now have to test or verify the deliverability of the project, its appropriateness and if it will be supported by the public of which evidence will be required and quickly via Facebook. CW&C will make their decision by the second week in December. If the project is successful all funds must be in place by February 28th 2023.

Time is of the essence in terms of raising awareness amongst the public, raising funds and ascertaining if Planning Permission is required for the proposed path.

RESOLVED 22/052 – That the Parish Council would launch the campaign to promote the Crowdfunding Initiative A Safer Footpath Route To Tilston School through the School Newsletter, Parish Council Website, Facebook and The Reporter without delay.

ROUTE TO SCHOOL

Two responses had been received following Cllr Joyce's letter drop to those houses on Inveresk Road whose back gardens would border the proposed path to school. One resident supported the path being constructed but the second did not due to it encouraging possible anti-social behaviour, flooding during the winter months and spoiling of the aesthetics of the field beyond. It was agreed that the clerk would confirm with the Willetts (the land owners) the exact position and route of the path ie. Is it being positioned on the field side of the trees and shrubs which would be away from the boundary of the gardens in which case this would address some of the concerns raised. When the position has been clarified a response will be sent to the resident.

BUS SHELTER

The Parish Clerk reported that CW&C Road Safety Officer was due to visit the site of the requested additional bus shelter during the week of October 24th to take measurements and report back on any safety concerns particularly as the proposed stop is near a junction where it is essential to retain good visibility. A positive report on this is required by CW&C before anything else can be considered.

The Transport Department had sent a number of different types of shelters and costings. Aintree coachline had provided statistics of use of the northbound bus,

In view of the statistics which indicated very low passenger numbers Cllr. Hatton proposed dropping this initiative entirely. Cllr Kenny suggested installing a mirror at the bus stop site which would enable passengers waiting in the existing bus shelter to see the bus coming in good time to cross to the other side of the road to board. Cllr. Kenny also suggested that the bus company and bus drivers be contacted and asked if they could stop and pause for a longer time than at present to further enable passengers waiting in the existing bus shelter to cross the road and board the bus.

HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The draft Report on the Housing Needs Survey undertaken by Cheshire Community Action 2022 indicates that there is no significant eligible demand for additional housing in Tilston. The biggest gap is in affordable housing based on differentials between income and house price. The data collected and findings are very similar to that of the Parish Plan of 2011. Of the 360 addresses contacted 85 responded to the survey which at 27% is higher than usual for a survey response and indicates that the data is robust. A final version should be ready in the next few weeks.

CHRISTMAS

It was reported that a number of volunteers have come forward to help with preparations for Christmas in the village although there is always room for more.

A "Tree Climber" has been found and has agreed to climb and put the lights on the tree. Staff from the Village shop have organised the installation of lights on the lampposts due to take place on Saturday November 12th. The grand "Switch on" of the lights details of which are still to be finalised, will be followed by refreshments in the War Memorial Hall on November 25th.

WARM SPACES INITIATIVE

The clerk informed the meeting that every Parish Council had been asked to consider the need for and provision of Warm Spaces this winter due to the high costs of energy and that a flyer from CW&C had been forwarded to the War Memorial Hall Committee. Cllr Joyce explained that there were issues preventing the use of the hall which included a shortage of personnel to supervise the operation including opening and closing, heating and lighting costs, Insurance costs and the provision of refreshments.

ACCOUNTS & PAYMENTS

1) Accounts & Payments

RESOLVED 22/053 – that the Council approve the accounts and payments as circulated on page 32 of the Cash Book and additional payments as below: -

To whom paid	Particulars	Amount
Cheshire Community Action	Annual Subscription	20.00
SLCC	Annual Membership	106.00
Marian Hagan	REIM Laptop	576.16
HMRC	PAYE/NI	26.80
Marian Hagan	Aug, Sep Salary	465.30
Ann Wright	Salary	564.05
Shires/PQR Ltd	Payroll July-Oct 22	39.60
Zurich Municipal	Insurance outstanding	3.68
TWMH	Room Hire September	18.00
SLCC	Conference	30.00

1.Outstanding payments

RESOLVED 22/054 – that the Council pay the following outstanding payments:-

H&AM Willett £420.00 for clearing Hill Field.

Royal British Legion £100.00 for Remembrance Day Wreath

Shires/PQR £109.20 for payslips, pension and RTI submission 06/10/22 to 05/04/23 and P35 submission for 2022/23

Shires/PQR £60.00 for submission of pension redeclaration to the Pensions Regulator

Marian Hagan, Clerk Tilston Parish Council £269.50 for October 2022 salary

Marian Hagan, Clerk Tilston Parish Council £122.17 reimbursement for paper shredder, printer inks and printer paper

2.Precept Consultation

It was agreed that the significant rise in prices being felt currently needed to be taken into consideration and further revisions made to the Precept Consultation Document before it was circulated. Cllr Hatton volunteered to work on the document and report back as soon as possible.

3.Community Infrastructure Levy

Resolved 22/055 -Council agreed to allocate the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) £350.00 towards "A Safer Route Footpath Route To Tilston School" project.

TRAFFIC MALPAS ROAD, TILSTON

Cllr Kenny, whilst acknowledging that a greater use of Police Radar traps as offered by PCSO Hurst was a good idea, expressed the feeling that Malpas Road Tilston needed a more permanent solution such as speed humps. Councillors discussed this together with speed gun training and the possibility of a build out system as had been suggested in correspondence from the Highways Department. Speed data collected by CW&C Highways at 25.6 mph average Malpas Road eastbound and 26.9 mph average Malpas Road westbound suggests compliance with the speed limit and would prevent funding for speed calming measures from the Council. A build out scheme would take 5 parking spaces from the village hall but it might be something to consider once the Village Hall car park is completed.

LOCAL ELECTIONS MAY 2023

Councillors were reminded of the timeline for the impending elections:- Notice of Election by March 27th 2023, Nominations by April 4th 2023, Take Office May 8th 2023. Ideas considered to raise awareness within the community included the use of the website to advertise the election process, vacancies and the role itself; the use of posters and social media; the use of the local paper and the possibility of hosting an Engagement event in the Carden Arms with a presentation on Being a Councillor – what you can and cannot do. It was suggested that advertising through these methods should start in earnest after Christmas.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was stated by a member of the public that some great ideas had been raised at this evening's meeting for example the mirror at the bus stop but talk of speed humps and build out areas such as they have in towns and villages local to Tilston would spoil the look of Tilston. He felt there was no issues with speeding and if there were there must be other measures we could take to calm vehicle speed such as a greater police presence which he suggested was always low in village and rural areas.

One of the residents felt the Parish Council was opposed to the additional bus shelter. He stated the need to canvas the public on this matter and suggested putting a survey in the village shop. Cllr Hatton explained that this would not be representative of bus users unless it was confined purely to bus users, of which, data showed there were only 1.4 fare paying passengers per day and 5.0 concessionary pass holders – a total 6.4 people per day, with 6 journeys per day operating towards Chester. It was further pointed out that the costs of installing an additional bus shelter which could be in the region of £9,500 including hard standing and shelter but not including re-location of underground utilities should this be necessary, made the additional shelter hard to justify when the low usage was considered.

A third member of the public asked for greater publication of what is happening in the village and what facilities there are particularly for new residents. A basic Information Sheet was all that was required. It was agreed to consider a bigger profile for Tilston in the "Village News" periodical which is delivered to all households in the Tilston area.

The meeting closed at 21.00

Signed

Dated

The meeting closed at

Marian Hagan

**The next PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
will be on Thursday 5th January 2023 7.00pm.**

Tilston Parish Council

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