

TILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH MARCH 2021 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Mr T Compton, (Chairman), Mrs L Allison,
Mr R Morgan-Grenville, Mrs F Rhys-Evans,
Mrs J Clevely and Mr C Drake.

Cllr J Duncton (County Councillor)
Cllr E Lintill (District Councillor)

CLERK: Mrs J Huggett.

The Chairman welcomed Ms Mary Connor, Mrs Jenny Lowe, Mr Jon Pollard, Mr Roger ter Harr and Mr Alex Morgan-Grenville to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received from Mrs S Wickham who was working, and Mr W Creasey who could not access the meeting. Subsequently an apology was received from Mrs A Lunt.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

(a) District Council

Cllr Lintill said a lot has been happening during lockdown, with many questions to be answered. She then spoke on the following.

Budget: They have agreed the budget, a balanced one has been set, but this has included taking money from Reserves.

Contract Services: They have done a brilliant job during the Covid, collecting rubbish and waste. Several have had to isolate but the service has carried on.

Christmas Tree Recycling: This was very successful, very well used and raised £17,500 for St Wilfrid's Hospice, an amazing result.

WEEE Pilot: A small pilot scheme will start in the summer covering 75% of the households. Small electrical items, such as hairdryers, kettles and toasters will be collected as part of the fortnightly collection. Apply to the District Council for a reusable bag. The trial has been funded by a grant from West Sussex County Council.

Homeless Housing: A local company has obtained the contract for building 17 homes in Freelands Close, Chichester for the homeless.

Wellbeing: Social and health workers have been keeping in touch by phone with universities, colleges and teachers working with early years.

Local Plan: The review of the Local Plan is being carried out, but being in the South Downs National Park this doesn't affect Tillington.

(b) County Council

Cllr Duncton had previously circuited the following report.

Council Tax: The Council Tax precept for County has been confirmed, there is a 1.99% increase in Council Tax, plus the 3% that we are allowed to add for Adult Services, making the final total 4.99% increase. The all-round increase comes to an extra 20p per day. We did have several items where, of course, our income was down like Street Parking, and some of the Fees we get for other County Services. Before we set the budget we had a 44 million pound funding Gap that had to be closed.

Libraries: We are still not closing any of our Libraries and are going forward to see what other Services we can use the Library buildings for.

Covid-19: As you know Covid19 has been a very costly affair for all, the Government has been good at re-imbursing us, but as ever it has cost more than we have received.

Children's Services: These are heading in the right direction. Our Commissioner John Couglin, who is also Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council, has recommended to the Ofsted department that, as we are making such forward strides to get the very best for the children of West Sussex, we should not be put into a Children's Trust.

West Sussex Fire and Rescue: They are also now out of any criticism they had from Her Majesty's Inspectorate who set up a special committee made up of an MP, the Chairman of Kent County Fire and Rescue, with others. They have said that everything of concern is now very satisfactory and they, as a committee, have disbanded. Approval has just been given for a new Fire Station and other facilities, including a training hub, at a site County own at Broadbridge Heath.

Household Waste and Recycling: Neither Billingshurst nor any other Household and Recycling site is closing. Due to queuing which blocks the roads, three of our sites are going to require residents booking a time, but not Billingshurst.

Elections: County Council elections are being held on the 6th May and our final meeting for this session is on the 19th March. Police and Crime Commissioner elections didn't take place in 2020 so they are also on the same day.

Cllr Duncton said she had a few updates.

Camping and Glamping: The South Downs National Park are looking into setting up some camping and glamping sites.

Children's Family Centres: A 10 week consultation is taking place on whether to close homes. During the current shut down social workers have been carrying out home visits have been going very well.

Waste Incineration: Mr Pollard asked if it is correct that local recycled waste is going to incineration. Cllr Dunton said this is not happening.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Lintill and Cllr Dunton for attending and they left the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 14th January, having been circulated, it was proposed by Mrs Clevely, seconded by Mr Morgan-Grenville, that they be passed. They will be signed at a later date.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Parish Website: Alex said he's now working on adding a piece on sustainability and finding news so it will be a good resource for the village. He would like to hear of any plans residents or Councillors have and add an FAQ. The Chairman said there needs to be better communication with parishioners, it works well with Mr Gresham Cooke but many are not on e-mail. Alex said we could use his mailing list but will need GDPR in order to obtain permission. A discussion took place on how to go about this. E-mails would need to be sent out to all asking for agreement. Mr Pollard said he's familiar with GDPR and could help draft an e-mail, Mr Morgan-Grenville said he would look at the wording with him. Finally, the Chairman said he will speak to Mr Gresham Cooke and obtain a list of those who live in the parish. Mr Morgan-Grenville said he would like the use of the Recreation Ground, the Pavilion and Village Hall to be more prominently advertised to outsiders. Last summer a family party had used the Recreation Ground over a weekend and had camped there overnight. These are the sort of things that we should be looking for. The Clerk said she has a wedding reception booked for May, maybe some of these photographs could be used. Mr Morgan-Grenville asked if she would be able to contact any of those who had previously held receptions there. She said she will go through the files.

(b) Date for Annual Parish Meetings: The Chairman said these are originally scheduled for Thursday 13th May, but he thought it would be best to postpone until Thursday 8th July when, hopefully, all lock down restrictions will be eased. This was unanimously agreed.

5. FINANCE

(a) Current Financial Situation: The Clerk had previously circulated copies of the accounts to 6th March. There were no questions.

Restricted Fund Recreational Ground Trust **£5,052**

Balances at 6th March 2021

Current Account	330.87		
Deposit Account	<u>7,740.19</u>	8,871.06	
Post Office		<u>1,222.79</u>	£9,293.85

(b) Cheques Raised: Paid from 1st January to 6th March 2021

Three Parishes Magazine	300.00	Grant
All Hallows PCC	1,000.00	Grant - Churchyard Maintenance
Mrs J Huggett	184.52	Salary, Expenses - Jan
The Leconfield Estates	100.00	Allotments Rent
Mr A Morgan-Grenville	200.00	Website - Dec and Jan
Business Stream	41.94	Recreation Ground - Water
SSE	102.25	Pavilion - Electricity
Mrs J Huggett	184.72	Salary, Expenses - Feb
AES	88.80	Pavilion - Alarm Service
Nick Blunt Fencing	582.00	Pavilion - Replacement of Post

(c) Insurance Renewal: The Chairman said the Long Term Agreement (LTA) with Zurich is due for renewal in May and the Council has been offered the following options:

- A 5-year LTA premium of £2,471.84
- A 3-year LTA premium of £2,584.26
- A 1-year standard premium of £2,696.71

At present we are on the 5-year LTA, the premium in 2020 was £2,446.58, and he asked for Councillors' views. After a short discussion it was unanimously agreed the Council continue with the 5-year LTA. The Clerk to inform Zurich. Mrs Clevely will look at the insurance values and see if they need reviewing.

6. ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- (a) Recreation Ground - enhancement and condition: Mr Morgan-Grenville said he thought the idea of a barbecue was a very good one, it would be easy to manage and to sell. He was asked where it would be placed and would there be a problem with litter. Mr Morgan-Grenville said they have one at Easebourne, it has worked well and there have been no litter or other issues there. The Chairman asked Mrs Allison for her views on an upgrade to the play equipment. She said she has mentioned before that she had looked at gym equipment but it was too expensive, £3,500/£4,000 for one piece for an adult, slightly less for children. She thought maybe additional play equipment would be good, the question was what to buy. On behalf of the Council she had asked Mr Gresham Cooke to send out a letter to his mailing list asking for suggestions, but there had been very few responses. Mr Morgan-Grenville said as all the equipment is for young children, maybe we should look at something for the 13/14 year-olds. The Chairman suggested that Mr Morgan-Grenville and Mr Drake visit Easebourne, look at their play area and take some photos. This they will do. Referring to the broad leaf plants growing on the Recreation Ground the Chairman said it's spreading a lot, Mr Drake said this could stop the grass growing. He and Mr Morgan-Grenville will look at this. Mrs Clevely said the

entrance to the ground where vehicles park is in a very bad state, would it not be a good idea to indicate where they should park? The Chairman said hopefully it will recover, he thought this should be looked at later in the year. Mr Morgan-Grenville suggested a plastic mesh could be put down, this is very effective, but would be out of the Council's price bracket.

- (b) Cart Shed - letter to those renting about repairs: The Chairman asked the Clerk if she had sent out the renewal notices yet. She replied as it had been agreed with the work to be carried out that the rent would not be increased this year, she would be doing so at the end of the month. Thinking of the Cart Shed itself the Chairman said he will finalise the letter to send to those who rent a space. He has not yet received any quotes for the work but will follow this up.

7. PLANNING

Mrs Clevely said there have been no contentious planning applications, some tree work, a swimming pool and a shelter to be used as a garage.

8. COUNCILLOR RESIGNATIONS AND ELECTIONS

The Chairman said it is known that Mrs Rhys-Evans and Mr Creasy are resigning at the Annual Parish Meeting, there is also the possibility Mrs Allison will be moving and he asked her for an update. Mrs Allison said she and her husband hope to relocate to Scotland to run a hotel there, she will know more after the weekend.

9. PUBLIC/NON COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

The Chairman asked if there were any comments or questions, there were none.

10. TILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (TVHMC)

The Chairman said he has invited Mr Pollard in his role as Chairman of TVHMC to speak. They have been discussing the reason as to why there is a separate committee to manage the Village Hall.

Mr Pollard thanked the Chairman for inviting him, he said the National Trust gave the Parish Council the land to build the Village Hall, but rather than manage it themselves they appointed a separate committee to do so. He would like to see the Parish Council and the Village Hall working closely together to enhance the lives of the residents in Tillington and Upperton. The Clerk reminded the meeting that River Common and River are also part of the parish. He referred to the latest project, superfast broadband, which will enhance people's lives and properties, the Parish Council should have an input. He and the Chairman have talked about using the upstairs room at the Village Hall, formerly the print room, as a central office, moving the Village Hall and Parish records there. Mrs Clevely said she's managing a Community Fibre project in River, this covers most of River Common but not Nithurst, the Monument or Westerlands. The exchanges are how the Fibre Communities are determined and hence some River Common properties are part of Petworth. River is on the Lodsworth exchange. There are Government grants and Vouchers available from the County Council providing up to, sometimes, £4,000 per property. This depends on the number of households and how complicated the installation is. River's application is

now with the Government department awaiting approval and, if and when, it is approved Openreach will issue details and manage all the applications on behalf of each household. The Chairman said it seems crazy to have two committees, he didn't think the Village Hall committee should be disbanded but that they and the Parish Council work more closely together, it's also a waste of time. The possibility of installing electric charging points at the village Hall was a good example.

11. WIDER PARISH INVOLVEMENT

The Chairman said he feels there are a lot of things that Councillors can do to engage parishioners to hear their opinions. Can this best be taken forward by forming a sub-committee? Mr Pollard said he would like to get involved with putting in electric charging points. It appeared from Monday's TVHMC General Meeting that there is a lot of history and affection for the hall, he has a good working relationship with the committee, they meet on a regular basis but not as frequently as the Parish Council. The Chairman had asked him about the two groups working together rather than separately, and how this could be achieved. He said there is some concern and misunderstanding in the village as to how the three groups, PC, PCC (church) and TVHMC, function and who does what. Mrs Allison said as the website gets stronger it will attract more people and will show them how things are progressing. The Chairman said we need to find a way to take this forward, to apply for grants, but the ability of the Parish Council to generate income is very limited. The way may be through the hall, as they pay Council Tax, (the Parish Council doesn't), and have already received a Government grant. Mr Morgan-Grenville said he thought everyone knows what the Parish Council does, and he doesn't know where this idea came from. The Chairman suggested that the idea of installing electric charging points is discussed further at the next meeting, in the meantime additional help should be asked for. The Chairman asked Mr ter Harr if he had any thoughts on this, he said it's too early to say much, but is interested in what has been discussed.

12. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

There were no matters raised.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 13th May at 7.00 pm, either by Zoom or at the Pavilion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.