

TILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILALGE HALL ON TUESDAY 25TH MAY 2021 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Mr T Compton, (Chairman) Mr R Morgan-Grenville,
Mrs S Wickham, Mr C Drake and Mrs A Lunt.

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

CLERK: Mrs J Huggett.

The Chairman welcomed nine members of the public to the meeting and said it was so nice to be able to meet in person again.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received from Mrs F Rhys-Evans, who is working, and Mrs J Clevely who is on holiday. Subsequent apologies were received from Mrs L Allison who was in hospital, and Mr W Creasey who was unwell. Cllr Duncton has another meeting to attend and will be arriving later.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

(a) District Council

Cllr Lintill said she didn't have much local news for Tillington. The CDC Local Plan review, which as the parish is in the National Park doesn't cover Tillington, has experienced some delays, but hopefully will now be moving forward.

Council Meetings: The Council now can't meet on Zoom, and decisions have to be made in person. There were some advantages to meeting on Zoom, with time saved in travelling to and from the meetings. Plastic barriers have been erected in the meeting rooms, not only to allow for self-distancing among Councillors but to protect the council staff, many of whom are too young to have had their vaccinations.

Waste Collections: Bins have been collected every week, they've never missed one, staff were retrained to help out emptying them, as was her own PA, and all had done so willingly and enthusiastically. They also helped out in other areas such as the benefits section. Mr Morgan-Grenville said his bins had been emptied regularly as usual, and Mrs Wickham said with a house full of people during lockdown they'd been outstanding and very helpful. Others concurred.

Going Forward: While they have received some money from the Government, they are having to use £8 million from reserves and have managed to avoid

cutting services. However, this may not always be so and they are looking at them all, especially Customer Services, many of which are now accessed on line.

Permissive Footpath: She had received details of the permissive path application, had assumed the Council were in favour so had raised no objection.

Grants: They had been the top council in getting Government grants out to businesses. The Chairman said the speedy allocation of grants had allowed many small businesses to keep going and is helping the High Street to survive.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 11th March having been circulated, it was proposed by Mr Morgan-Grenville, seconded by the Chairman, that they be passed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matter arising.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the members of the public.

As Mrs Miller had to leave early, the Chairman said he will take Item 9 next.

9. FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND

Mrs Miller said the Community Fibre project is backed by the Government who is giving vouchers, £1,500 for properties, £3,500 for businesses, which the County Council is topping up. The Village Hall, church and the church office are all included. Properties are registered in 'clusters' and all properties in that cluster have to be either in or out of the scheme. 93 properties have been identified, but unfortunately it doesn't cover Westside. Mrs Clevely is running a Community Fibre project in River, it also covers River Common, but not Nithurst, but this is a separate legal entity. After answering several questions Mrs Miller asked if the Councillors would be happy for this to be moved forward. The Chairman said he thought it should go ahead and Councillors concurred. Mrs Miller thanked them and left the meeting.

Cllr Duncton arrived and the Chairman invited her to speak next.

2. (b) County Council

Cllr Duncton apologised for being late but had been to another Parish Council meeting. She thanked everyone who voted for her at the County Council elections and said she looks forward to representing all her constituents, whatever their views. She had enjoyed her two years as Chairman, but will very happy to be leading a quieter life. She is on the Planning and Rights of Way committee. Referring to the previous speaker on Fibre Optic broadband she said that 'top up' money is still available. She had received details of the permissive path application which she had no objection to. The Chairman said he's pleased

the way Operation Downsway is going, it does seem to be having some effect on motor bike speeding. Cllr Duncton said Tom Richardson is doing a great job in chairing the group. There have been meetings with the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, the police and the affected northern and southern parishes.

6. FINANCE

- (a) Current Financial Situation: The Chairman said the Clerk had previously circulated copies of the accounts to 19th May. There were no questions.

Restricted Fund	Recreational Ground Trust		£5,052.31
Balances at 19th May 2021			
Current Account	431.52		
Deposit Account	<u>11,060.35</u>	11,491.87	
Post Office		<u>1,231.59</u>	£12,723.46

CHEQUES PAID FROM 1ST April TO 19TH MAY 2021

Mr A Morgan-Grenville	200.00	Website - Feb and Mar
WSALC	166.57	Council Subscription
Mrs J Huggett	182.32	Salary, Expenses - Apr
Zurich	2,471.84	Insurance
Mr B Wickham	1,470.00	Mowing

- (b) End of Year Accounts March 2021: The Chairman referred to the various papers that had been circulated. He then took Councillors through the forms that the Clerk has to send to the External Auditor, including the Annual Governance Statement and the Certificate of Exemption. The accounts have been signed off by the Internal Auditor. He said he would like to propose that the accounts be adopted, together with the contents of the Annual Governance Statement and the Certificate of Exemption. This was seconded by Mrs Wickham and unanimously agreed.

Restricted Fund	Recreational Ground Trust		£5,052.31
Balances at 31st March 2021			
Current Account	150.25		
Deposit Account	<u>6,740.26</u>	6,890.51	
Post Office		<u>1,231.59</u>	£8,122.10

7. ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Broadleaf Weed: Mr Morgan-Grenville said Mr Wickham has spoken to him about the broadleaf weed which is spreading. He and Mr Drake have been to see it, agreed it needs spraying, this was last done 3 years ago. He has arranged for it to be done.

Cricket: Mr Morgan-Grenville said sadly Mr Noakes has struggled to get a team this year and an EGM will be called to decide the future of the club. The Clerk has four cricket matches booked this summer, the pitch has deteriorated, but he is confident it will be possible to find someone to look after and prepare the wicket. Mrs Wickham said it is sad news as their cricket teas were well known throughout the circuit.

Weeds in Vineyard: Mrs Gibbon asked if anything can be done about the weeds in the vineyard adjacent to their homes in River as they are out of control and are blowing into residents' gardens. The Chairman said he didn't think so.

8. PLANNING

Mrs Lunt said there were few applications recently, mainly for tree work.

10. WEBSITE - EMAIL CONTACT UPDATE

Mr Morgan-Grenville said Alex had done a fantastic job on the website, there are now 200 people on the mailing list which is fully GDP compliant. The Chairman said there is a link on the website for anyone who still wants to join it. Mr Gresham Cooke said having looked after it for many years he has noticed that about 15 families leave and come to the village each year. He will not be able to carry this on for ever, and to keep the records updated someone will eventually have to take over from him.

11. WIDER PARISH INVOLVEMENT

Mr Morgan-Grenville said there are now three allotments adjacent to the cemetery in Cemetery Lane which are up and running. The land used to be part of the garden belonging to The Manor House. If anyone is interested there is one vacant plot.

12. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

Mr Gresham Cooke said the May Bank Holiday is being moved to the first week in June and there will be a four day holiday from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. Prince Charles is leading a campaign to plant trees which will be done in the autumn of this year. There should be a committee to look into the celebrations, he would be happy to be part of this but would not lead it. Mr Morgan-Grenville said trees could be planted on the Recreation Ground adjacent to the road between the oak and Windrush. Mrs Wickham said the children should be involved. The Chairman suggested there should be activities which will enable the whole village to take part. He will ask Alex to put the dates on the website. To be an agenda item in July.

13. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

There were no matters raised.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held on Thursday 8th July on the Recreation Ground. Times to be confirmed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.