

## TILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF TILLINGTON HELD ON THE RECREATION GROUND, UPPERTON ON THURSDAY 8TH JULY 2021 AT 7.00 PM

CHAIRMAN: Mr T Compton  
VICE-CHAIRMAN Mr R Morgan-Grenville  
CLERK: Mrs J Huggett

The Chairman welcomed 30 parishioners to the meeting included Cllr Janet Duncton and Cllr Eileen Lintill.

1. Apologies were received from Mrs F Rhys-Evans, Mr W Creasey and Mr C Drake.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2019 MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21st May 2019, having been circulated, it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Gresham-Cooke, that they be passed and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman presented his report.

Welcome and Hello.... after missing the annual meeting last year it feels like 'We're Coming Home'.

It has both been an extraordinary and often dull year. One thing is certain though Tillington Parish is not a bad spot to hunker down in a Pandemic. The patterns and habits of our lives have changed and the Parish Council is no different.

The Parish Council meets every two months. We met in early March 2020 in an atmosphere of high anxiety, we would not meet in the same room together again until June 2021. But Zoom became part of our lives and we continued to meet as scheduled carrying out our duties as normal as possible.

Well done Jean, particularly for adapting to this new technology, getting down the essential detail and producing minutes as if you were in the same room. Anyone that cares to read them, and they are now visible on our new Website, may notice the frequency of the phrase 'YOU ARE ON MUTE'!

We avoided our very own Jackie Weaver moment and though the medium everyone felt able to contribute. The business of the council continued as normal and I would

like to say a big thank you to Jean for keeping our administration all regular, and finances under total control.

### **So, what have we been doing with the Precept and other income?**

Total income is about £21,000pa, of which £18,000 is the Precept. Of this the Clerk's fee and insurance for buildings and other infrastructure amounts to £7,000. We donate £500 to SYB, £1,000 towards Churchyard maintenance and £300 to Parish magazine.

Our Pavilion and rec takes up most of our maintenance budget of about £4,000. For this space this feels incredibly good value. Open safe space has been such a blessing this year and many from outside the Parish have come to enjoy it too. Thank you, Bruce Wickham, for keeping it so well.

This leaves some funds left over for development and improvement and this year the big project has been the new Website. Roger took the lead in getting this from conception to reality. Great job Roger, and he will talk a little more about it shortly.

At our May meeting the accounts were finalised and signed off. They will be published again on the website. If subsequently anyone has questions, then please come to the next Council meeting, which is open to any parishioner.

We started the year with £4,000 and ended with £8,000 through some budgeted activities not happening. Principle of these was enhancement of the play equipment which remains on our plans this year.

Other than the Pavilion and Village Hall the other structure owned by the Parish is the Cart Shed in Upperton. We have planning permission to carry out repairs but the cost of doing so will not be insubstantial and way more than our normal annual budget. It is an important Grade 2 listed building and we need to find a way to fund this.

The Village Hall is of course run by the TVHMC with Jon Pollard as the new chair, following in the substantial footsteps of Bob Rance, we are committed to supporting each other.

**THE A272** and Motorbikes has been the other big engagement of the year. An all Parishes group/forum was created by a CDC councillor with the purpose of collectively sharing experiences. We held four Zoom meetings though the autumn and winter, the last of which had over 30 attendees, including our local MPs, WSCC councillors and Police. It has been the most effective means of making the issue understood and the current Operation Downsway is well resourced and proactive.

Has it had an effect....I think so....Is there more that could be done for Tillington....Yes....and we invite all who wish to contribute to do so through a sub-committee. **Luzaan Allison** has been a star in pushing this agenda and will share with us the Community Speedwatch update. Excitingly for Luzaan and Duncan they are moving to Scotland so she has just resigned as a councillor. We are looking for someone to take up the reins as CSW coordinator. Thank you for all you have done Luzaan, we will miss you.

**Fran Rhys Evans** has also just completed her tenure as councillor. Fran was mainly responsible to the Parish Councils role as consultee on planning applications. Most of

these were straightforward although one or two needed a deft touch to respond fairly and professionally. Thank you Fran, we wish you and Peter all the best in your new Petworth home.

Last but not least Bill Creasey has also stepped down. Also on the planning committee and a steadfast councillor. A retired Air Commodore I have appreciated his no nonsense advice and council. Thank you Bill.

This means that we have three vacancies to fill in the coming months. I know a number of you have already expressed interest and we will be conducting these elections shortly. The positions will be advertised and applications welcomed.

**Contributing** to the Parish does not depend on being a councillor. If there is something you are passionate about, an event to organise or an idea you would like to take forward we can create any sub-committee to do so.

We currently have a FIBRE Broadband sub-committee running through the initiative of Karen Miller. This now essential utility looks likely to deliver FIBRE 100MB speed to the many households that have signed up. I take no credit for this as it was all Karen's initiative but the Parish Council will form the legal entity through which it is delivered. The scheme is moving fast towards a conclusion and Karen will be able to update us with the latest in a week or two.

Lastly, I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their support and contributions during the year. Let's hope we can enjoy the rest of the summer.

#### VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Roger Morgan-Grenville, Vice-Chairman, said he wanted to talk briefly about four things.

First, the new **website**. We worked on this through the pandemic and launched it earlier this year. The idea behind it is for it to be a live resource for the village to place, and find out about information that affects us all. We have built it very simply, and have a webmaster, Alex M-G, who updates it on a regular basis. From sport, to Village Hall bookings, from archives to bus timetables, you will find it all here. A website is only as good as its information, so please a) use it, and b) contribute when you have got something interesting or useful to say.

We have also got a **GDPR compliant mailing list** going, and around 190 people on it. If you aren't, please sign up. We are going to use it increasingly to let you know about village activities, grants and projects.

Secondly, the **Sustainable Village project**. It hardly seems possible that I was talking about this, right here, 2 years ago, but the last 18 months of Covid might explain our decision to park it for a while. But it will be roaring into life this September, with a small working group who will be driving it along. There will be two sides to it: what we do, and what we ask you to do, and the whole thing is aimed at making the village as sustainable, carbon neutral and biodiverse as possible. Await more news.

Thirdly, the **allotment project**. The Leconfield Estates kindly allowed us to use the little bit of land to the right of the lych gate into the cemetery to make up three

allotments, which we have done, and allocated. Two are up and running, but the middle one has been released as its holder did her back in. Please get in touch if you are interested. Maybe a group of supervised kids could come together and learn vegetable gardening, or something.

Finally, the **Cricket club**. You may or may not know that, sadly, the Tillington CC folded this year after over a hundred years of life. Pressures on a village sports club these days are relentless, not least the difficulty of recruiting teams that aren't busy elsewhere. Our position is twofold here. First, we will try to bring the ground back to its former glory so that people can go on renting it. Secondly, we will support in every way we can any consolidated effort that an individual, or individuals, in the parish would like to make to get it going again next year.

#### 5. A272 SPEEDWATCH

Mrs Allison gave an update on the Speedwatch project. She thanked all who have been involved, but unfortunately due to Covid they had not been able to operate for some time. She said it's important these sessions are carried on, it is by drivers and motor cyclists seeing people at the road side with a speed gun that will reduce speed. Speedwatch Fittleworth has been very active, and the Police have been proactive in monitoring certain areas. Highways is also involved, as are our two local MPs. The Chairman said the police are very aware of the noise issues with motor bikes, Highways have a huge role in this by looking at how roads are marked and the speed limits. The 40 mph limit, then the decontrolled area from Tillington to Petworth, is an example. What is needed is a sustainable, long term solution. Mrs Allison said it is possible to get hold of a fixed 'flash up' sign, but it has been observed that after about 3 months drivers tend to ignore it. For about £5,000 there is a digital system which can be moved around, possibly between Tillington, Petworth and Fittleworth. There is a sign at Wisborough Green which flashes up the actual speed of the vehicle. She thinks this is the way forward. Tom Richardson, Chairman of the A272 Committee, is leading a great team, and the police are now listening to what the group has to say. There were several comments from the floor of the meeting on what she had said as well as many questions. Finally, Mrs Allison said she is moving to Scotland shortly and it is important that someone should take the lead for the village. If everyone who is able to volunteer would do so they would only have to do one hour at a time. This has to be at a specific point in the village to ensure it is safe place to monitor the traffic.

The Chairman thanked her very much for leading the group and said it is important that the work she has put into it continues.

#### 6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**Broadband:** Mrs Karen Miller spoke on the Community Fibre project which 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 take-up has been good, but she's still waiting for approval to go ahead. Mrs Clevely is running a similar project in River and River Common.

**Parish Involvement:** Mr Morgan-Grenville talked on Parish involvement, only about 5% of the parish are here. It is the Council's hope to get people involved and to

understand more of what it does. Benches and bus stops are two of its responsibilities, the recent damage to the bus shelter was covered by insurance which was dealt with by Jean. Charles Drake, who sits on the Environment Committee, is often called on to carry out small jobs.

He thanked Mr Compton for the being an excellent Chairman, he has done a fabulous job during difficult times.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited them to stay for refreshments.