

TILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 3RD MARCH 2022 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Mr T Compton (Chairman), Mr R ter Haar,
Mrs J Clevely, Mr C Drake, Ms M Connor.

CLERK: Mrs J Huggett.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Miller, Mr Pollard and Mr Lucas to the meeting and said he would like to record a vote of support for Ukraine. This was unanimously agreed.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received from Mrs S Wickham, Mrs A Lunt, Mrs J Lowe and Mr R Morgan-Grenville.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. THE NORTHCHAPEL, PETWORTH & TILLINGTON ALMSHOUSES CHARITY

Mr Lucas thanked Councillors for inviting him and circulated a leaflet. He said as the Almshouses at Northchapel and Tillington were sold, in September 1979 the three charities were amalgamated to become the Northchapel, Petworth and Tillington Almshouses Charity. There are 7 flats at Thompson's Hospital in North Street, occupied by long term or temporary residents, some may have lost their jobs and income or have mental issues. Three of the Trustees are nominated by Petworth Town Council, and Northchapel and Tillington Parish Councils, and are elected for a 4 year term. This Council's current Trustee is Mrs Shirley Baring-Johnstone who, would very much like to continue, but now lives in Midhurst. The Trustees would also like her to continue. The Chairman said she is the wife of a former Parish Council Chairman Mr Andrew Johnstone. After Mr Lucas had answered questions it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mrs Clevely, that Mrs Baring-Johnstone be re-appointed as the Parish Council's Trustee. On a vote this was unanimously agreed. Mr Lucas thanked them, said he will let her know, and left the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed PSCO Neil Billingham to the meeting.

2. b POLICE

PSCO Billingham said as the local PSCO he's very pleased to be able to meet Councillors. He introduced his colleague, PCSO Slater, he has only been with the force for three months so he's showing him the ropes. He said people should be aware that recently there have been thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles, they're working with Hants Police on this. These have been taken from cars in Petworth car parks, dash cam has been very useful in apprehending people. If you see anything suspicious,

please report it. There is an increase in fraud across the district, scams are sent through leaflets, by phone messages and on the Internet. If you would like to know further, PCSO Richard Moorey is the dedicated officer giving talks in the district. Most scams are directed towards the elderly and most vulnerable, all reported scams are investigated and followed up, it is heart rendering hearing some of the frauds that have taken place. After answering questions, the Chairman thanked PCSO Billingham and PCSO Slater for coming and they left the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Council meeting held by Zoom on Tuesday 14th December 2021, having been circulated, it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr ter Haar, that they be passed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Defibrillator: Mr Ter Haar said there is support for defibrillators in Upperton and River, but he felt the one in River should have priority as there is one at the Village Hall. Mrs Clevely said she thought one could be put on the building by the notice board in River. The Clerk reminded her that she will need electricity.

(Clerk's Note: Mrs Clevely has spoken to Mr & Mrs Maxton, who own the building, they are happy to provide an electricity supply for the defibrillator. She has suggested that, to move this forward, Mrs Clevely should contact Mrs Lunt.)

(b) Speed Indicator Devise: As Mrs Lowe is away it was agreed to leave this until the next meeting. In the meantime, the Chairman will speak to Mr Warwick Gee.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Stoneman, who had just arrived, and invited her to speak.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Petworth Minibus: Mrs Stoneman thanked the Chairman and said, as the Organiser, she had has come to speak about the Minibus, mainly to find out if there is any need for it in the Parish. She puts an article in the 3 Parishes magazine each month but has never had any enquiries. There is either individual or club membership, the bus goes on shopping trips and to the Over 60s Centre in Petworth. A short discussion followed during which it was suggested that Mrs Stoneman goes to a Wednesday Coffee morning and talks to people there. Alex Morgan-Grenville could also send out an email. Mrs Stoneman thanked Councillors for listening to her and left the meeting.

To save Mrs Miller and Mr Pollard sitting through the meeting the Chairman said he will take Item 10 next.

10. FIBRE BROADBAND

Mrs Miller said £78,293 funding is available through Open Reach, 94 houses, but only two businesses, Bryders and the Horseguards, have signed up. They have all pledged their vouchers by email to Mrs Miller. There is then a further process with Openreach to pledge and confirm the contract. There is a short time scale, this has to be done by

5th April. Mr Pollard said if anyone isn't able to this then there are those who can help. Residences receive a £1,500 voucher, businesses £3,500, both topped up by a £1,000 grant from West Sussex County Council. They have to contract with a legal entity and the Parish Council could do this. The Chairman questioned if the Parish Council would be liable for any costs, this would need to be looked into. After further discussion Mr ter Haar suggested that the Parish Council would be agreeable, subject to confirmation of liability of costs. Mr Pollard said they expect meet again before the end of March.

(Chairmans Note. The Parish Council would be liable for costs if having pledged with Openreach parishioners do not then take up the fibre service offer. An email explaining the responsibility of those pledging vouchers has been prepared and will be sent out by Mrs Miller)

While Mr Pollard was here the Chairman asked him about the Village Hall's AGM taking place a week on Monday. Mrs Lunt had been to the last meeting and had told the Council that it was planned to invest some of the money, £36,000, which is in a deposit account. Mr Pollard said this had been looked at but they will not be proceeding with this. The Chairman said it was right that some money should be kept in hand for Maintenance, etc, but some should be spent in the village. Mr ter Haar agreed and also suggested that as a charity the TVHMC would be obliged to spend the funds to achieve its charitable objects for example electric car chargers. The Chairman said the Parish Council would support this.

6. FINANCE

- (a) Current Financial Situation: The Clerk had previously circulated copies of the accounts to 25th February. The Clerk said since preparing the accounts she had heard from Wicksteed, who carry out the play inspection. For some reason they had never invoiced the Council for the inspection in 2020 so this will show in the final accounts for the year. Interest on the Post Office Account has dropped from £8 last year to 12p this year.

Restricted Fund	Recreational Ground Trust		£5,052.31
Balances at 25th February 2022			
Current Account	130.17		
Deposit Account	<u>15,117.96</u>	15,308.13	
Post Office		<u>1,231.71</u>	£16,539.84

CHEQUES PAID - 1ST NOVEMBER 2021 TO 28TH FEBRUARY 2022

Leconfield Estates	100.00	Allotments Rent
Austens	10.00	Pavilion - New Keys
Mrs J Huggett	182.12	Salary, Expenses - Nov
SSE	69.48	Pavilion - Electricity
Sam Perry	360.00	Gen Maint - Cut Hedges/Verges
Wicksteed	72.00	Play Area Inspection 2020
Mrs J Huggett	182.12	Salary, Expenses - Dec
TimeWeb	330.00	Website - Hosting and Maint
Mr G Gresham-Cooke	29.56	Gen Maint - Phone Box Holders
SLCC	80.00	Clerks Subscription

3 Parishes Magazine	300.00	Grant
All Hallows Church	1,000.00	Grant - Churchyard Maintenance
Business Stream	50.85	Recreation Ground - Water
Mrs J Huggett	182.12	Salary, Expenses - Jan
AES	88.80	Pavilion - Alarm Service
Mr J Naldrett	250.00	Cart Shed - Grass/Hedge Cutting
Mr A Morgan-Grenville	200.00	Website - Dec/Jan
SSE	43.69	Pavilion - Electricity
Mrs J Huggett	190.04	Salary, Expenses, Postage - Feb
Mrs K Knight	37.50	Pavilion - Cleaning - Feb
Mrs K Knight	30.00	Pavilion - Purchase of Cleaner
Raise Your Glass	250.00	Queen's Jubilee - Bar Deposit

- (b) To adopt the Budget for 2022/2023: The Clerk referred to the budget and her suggested changes. She had one further thing to say. A few hours ago she had received notification of a salary rise. Currently on £11.30 an hour, this will now be increased to £11.50 an hour, back dated to 1st April 2021. The Chairman asked if Councillors would like further changes made. Mr Ter Haar said the Cart Shed will need additional funding spent on it this year, it was agreed this will be increased to £7,500. The Chairman referred to the Mrs Clevely's budget for the kitchen and, after a discussion during which Mrs Clevely went through the costs, the Chairman said the budget should be increased to £6,000, £5,000 of which will come from the Recreational Trust Fund. Ms Connor then spoke on the progress she is making with the gym equipment, the Clerk said it had been decided to have an extra item of play equipment, Mrs Lunt is looking in to this. Ms Connor took note. Finally, it was proposed by Mrs Clevely, seconded by Mr Drake that the amended budget be adopted, the increase to the Clerk's salary, the funding for the kitchen, play and gym equipment be agreed, and the work on the Pavilion kitchen go ahead. On a vote, this was unanimously agreed. The Clerk to produce and circulate the amended budget.

7. PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Mrs Clevely said a meeting had been held on Monday with 18 people turning up. It had been very positive, a great deal had been agreed, advertising is in hand and she will be putting an update in the Parish magazine. Her daughter has produced a spreadsheet incorporating all that's taking place, and who will be looking after the various activities. The Clerk said she meant to circulate it prior to the meeting but had forgotten to do so, she will send it out. Mrs Clevely said there was some discussion as to whether any proceeds should be given to a local charity, there are three, Tillington Local Care, Tillington Charitable Trust and Friends of Tillington Church. She would like support from the Parish Council on the day. The Chairman thanked her for all she is doing and said he knew Councillors will be there to help.

8. ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- (a) Moles on the Recreation Ground: The Clerk said, as the moles are making such a mess of the Recreation Ground, she had contacted Des Bone who was going to charge £45 per hour to shoot the mole. The Chairman said this should be limited

to 3 hours, he then declined to take on the work. Harry Duguy, whose name I was given by Mrs Clevely, has quoted £80/£100 to lay traps, which I accepted.

- (b) Cricket Equipment: The Clerk said she is concerned about the availability of the cricket equipment, owned by the Cricket Club, which has always been used by Cricket teams she has booked. The Chairman suggested she contacts either Mr Noakes or Mr Wickham.

9. PLANNING

Mrs Clevely said she had just received two planning applications, the previous ones were mainly tree work.

11. CART SHED

The Chairman referred to the letter he just circulated from Mr Ben Kirk giving details of the work needed on the Cart Shed and the costs. Mr ter Haar said it can be seen that the total cost is £22,000. To comply with planning regulations the work has to be started by 16th May this year, he would like to see it completed in one year. The Chairman said it is costly but the work needs to be properly done, so it's proposed to ask individuals if they will contribute. Mr ter Haar said he will draft a letter, is this just to go to residents in Upperton? The Chairman said no, to the whole parish.

12. SUSTAINABLE VILLAGE INITIATIVE

Ms Connor said the group has recently met twice, Mrs Morgan-Grenville has been carrying out some re-wilding.

11. FUTURE EXPENDITURE

- (a) Pavilion Kitchen: Covered under Item 6 (b).
- (b) Play Equipment: Covered under Item 6 (b).
- (c) Bus Shelter at Cross Roads: The Chairman said Mr Dave Watson will be carrying out the work.

14. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- (a) Dog Fouling: The Chairman said he has received an email from Mrs Heather Baker, she apologised for not attending in person but has just tested positive for Covid. In it she said she's very concerned about the proliferation of un-collected dog poo around the village. The public footpath from the cemetery to the Vineyards and the Recreation Ground is particularly bad. The Vineyards are also fouled and the Recreation Ground has deposits upon it. Even the all-terrain path around Pitshill, which was designed to encourage mobility vehicles and buggies, has droppings in the middle of it. She hoped the Parish Council will expedite a campaign to advertise this situation and appeal to residents' feeling of responsibility and care for our very special village.

The Chairman said he has asked the Clerk to order 20 posters of a Keep Britain Tidy 'Poo Fairy' to put in various areas. The Clerk said she has informed Mrs Baker accordingly.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.