

TILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF TILLINGTON HELD ON THE RECREATION GROUND, UPPERTON ON THURSDAY 7TH JULY 2022 AT 6.45 PM

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

The Chairman welcomed 22 parishioners to the meeting, including Cllr Janet Duncton (County Council).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs S Wickham, Mrs J Lowe, Mr R ter Haar, Mr C Drake, Cllr E Lintill (District Councillor) and, subsequently, Ms M Connor.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2021 MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th July 2021, having been circulated, it was proposed by Mr G Gresham Cooke, seconded by Mr R Miller, that they be passed and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman presented his report.

Welcome to another glorious summer evening.

Hard to believe that another year has passed and it certainly feels like parish life has settled back into a comfortable routine.....even if our Politicians are NOT!

For the Parish Council we too have focussed our effort on maintaining and trying to improve our environment, principally our Recreation Ground and Pavilion.

Your Parish Councillors have met 6 times during the year, Jean is constantly administering our business and occasionally chasing us for responses or decisions.

During the year three new Councillors were elected, Mary O'Connor, Jenny Lowe and Roger Te Haar.

We all do this voluntarily because we take a pride in our parish. On your behalf I would like to thank all of them and, particularly Jean, for supporting Roger and I especially fulfil our duties.....even when Roger is absent without leave on a walkabout!

Financially we started the year with a cash balance of approx. £8,000, received our precept of £17,640 and some modest rents and hirings of the Pavilion. We spent £6,760 on Administration and Insurance of the Parish's assets, donated £300 to Parish magazine production, £1,000 to the Churchyard maintenance and £500 to the Sylvia Beaufoy Centre, an institution close to my heart. (Tillington Charitable Trust has also been very generous this year too.) Our main expenses, £7,924, have been the maintenance of our recreation ground, repair of a damaged bus shelter and running the website. We ended the year with a more positive cash balance of £14,265.....But we are going to spend it!

Our plans for this year beyond the running expenses have already been started with a complete upgrade of the **Pavilion kitchen**. Jo Clevely has designed and led the whole process, using her many skills and contacts to deliver a super upgrade. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I would formally like to declare the KITCHEN NOW OPEN! The reason we have done this is because the old one was not fit for purpose and we were struggling to hire the Pavilion with such a poor facility. The cost of just over £5,000 has been funded from our Recreational Ground Trust Fund, now since closed.

The other big project that will happen this year is the lovely **Cart Shed** in Upperton. We have been working steadily on plans, planning permissions and quotes to enable us to properly repair and restore this valuable structure. Please feel free to look at the drawings and specifications on the boards. After the meeting I will put these by the Cart Shed itself so you can browse at your leisure. We want to do the job properly so that the structure will sustain itself for several more decades...and finally come off the Council's Agenda! Once completed, I would also invite Upperton residents to consider how they want to evolve the use of the structure and surrounding area. The total cost is £26,000 + VAT which is quite a large bill but through a combination of careful budgeting, development levy for the Nithurst Farm development and agreement with the TVHMC to draw some of their accumulated funds as a short-term loan, we are only £6,000 short. Thank you very much to Jon Pollard and committee for agreeing to this. We are going to proceed and hope that there may be some generous parishioners to help us over the line. I would be very pleased to talk with you over a glass in a moment.

Our Footpaths are one of the joys of living here. Many thanks to Gerald, our Footpath Champion, for both walking them regularly and keeping them open with the assistance of their 'owners'. During the year a new permissive path, was established and formally opened by Lord Egremont down to the River, and in recent weeks Gerald has coordinated efforts to oppose the creation of a BOAT down Willets and Hungers Lane. (What is a BOAT!) (The Chairman was informed a BOAT stands for Byway Open to All Traffic.)

Our A272 remains both our artery and nemesis. Operation Downsway through West Sussex has continued this year. Jenny Lowe has been our liason and I would like to share the 13th June update with you.

I took part in a Zoom meeting on 13th June regarding Operation Downsway where various members of the Police Force spoke at length. In a nutshell, they pledged to take noise and speed seriously and said they have a responsibility to provide the public with as much support as possible. They also said that they will never be able to completely resolve the problem but will step up proactivity due to the impact the noise and speed has on our communities. West Sussex is the only county with a dedicated chief for Operation Downsway. There are additional resources at weekends with covert motorbikes, cars and drones. The trouble is that West Sussex is so beautiful that it attracts people and therefore more accidents. There are specialist enforcement agents with camera vans at events such as Goodwood and they're trialling acoustic cameras at the moment. The police stressed that we must give them as much feedback as possible whether it be good or bad. So far this year, there have been 471 people badly injured on the roads and 23 dead. They have issued 2,200 tickets from cameras in the first eight weeks of the year and 451 tickets given out. They have arrested 61 people and warned 59 people for antisocial behaviour. 51 people have had their cars taken away, having been warned once before. Progress is definitely being made and the figures are almost double that of last year.

Jenny could not make this evening's meeting as she is on holiday but has delightfully signed off as 'Jenny in Sweden XXX'!

Mrs Clevely said the bikers are meeting at Benbow Pond, and others are congregating at the BP garage on the A32. Mr Morgan-Grenville suggested land owners should be written to asking them not to allow use of their land. It was noted there had been a noise monitor near Wisborough Green for 6 to 8 weeks but that had now been taken down. As this is not a permanent structure would it be possible to have it in Tillington? Cllr Duncton said there is a Task and Finish Group who are looking into noise and speed. A short discussion took place on reducing the 40 mph limit to 30 mph, something Mr Warwick Gee has been in correspondence with Highways for a very long time, but with no satisfactory conclusion. The Chairman said the Parish Council will continue to fight for this, it is important for Tillington.

Fibre Broadband.....Almost! Karen Miller certainly gets the prize for the most dogged pursuit of the mirage that is BT Openreach. We did everything we needed to get the voucher scheme approved, only for it to fall at the last administrative hurdle. I'm sure we will get there eventually....but, thank you Karen.

Mrs Miller said it was very disappointing, BT didn't send to any houses so no one signed up.

That's all from me, now for our very own author and poet.....Roger MG.

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr Morgan-Grenville, now he is back from his walking, said he will be more involved, he will talk briefly about four things.

Website: Alex has done a fantastic job with the website, it is now up dated and informative.

Green Villages: Covid came, and then I went away, so there is not much to report except to say there will be a ‘soft’ launch in October to find out what the village wants.

Allotments: The allotments were leased by the Council from the Leconfield Estates before Covid, there are two medium and two small ones. Some work is needed but the soil is great. If anyone is interested, they will be advertised on the website.

Recreation Ground: The Recreation Ground was sprayed last July but the broadleaf weed is coming back, he is taking advice on what should be done. The mowers and the tractor need servicing. There is now no Tillington Cricket Club but private matches are being held. The Council wants to build on this and will be further advertising the facilities for cricket weekends, which can bring in up to £500. It is also an ideal spot for wedding receptions. The Chairman said a local Croquet Club had looked at using the ground, but they wanted two and a half pitches which took up too much of the ground. The Stoolball Club, which moved to Petworth, has now folded.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Cycle Ride: The Chairman was asked if he knew anything about a cycle ride that is to take place in this area. The Clerk said she thinks it has taken place, she had seen notices out the previous week, a few cyclists and one or two marshals.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45 pm, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and invited them to stay for refreshments.