

TILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, TILLINGTON ON THURSDAY 11TH JANUARY 2024 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Mr T Compton (Chairman), Mr R ter Haar, Ms M Connor, Mr R Morgan-Grenville, Mrs S Wickham and Mrs J Lowe.

CLERK: Mrs J Huggett.

Cllr Janet Duncton (County Councillor)
Cllr Harsha Desai (District Councillor)

The Chairman welcomed Mr Pollard to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs A Lunt, Mrs J Clevely and Mr C Drake.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. (a) County Councillor

Cllr Duncton said she had sent a report to the Clerk and asked if it had been circulated. The Clerk said she hadn't received it in time to do so. Cllr Duncton took Councillors through it.

Chief Executives: Both County and the South Downs National Park are looking for new Chief Executives. In County's case the present one is staying until the position is filled when she will return to East Sussex full time. In the case of the National Park the Chief Executive only left on the 1st January and it is possible the position may not be filled until at least June. In the meantime the interim Chief Executive is Tim Slaney, who is currently Head of Planning.

Roads: The background is that it's been road closures and floods all over this Christmas period and if this weather continues I can only advise all to check web sites before they venture far. We have had a lot of trees falling and blocking roads which of course can be very hazardous to the driver or rider who has no idea a tree is across the road just around the corner. I can only urge all to drive with great care in this very bad weather. I have actually seen floods where I have never seen them before.

Budget: We start the new year with County Plan and Budget workshops, when we will get the chance to have our say on County issues.

Notice in Upperton: Mr Morgan-Grenville said when driving from his house recently a van had come along far too fast and hit his car which had been a write

off. He was lucky not to be very badly injured, other villagers can give many other examples of near misses. The Council has tried, on various occasions, to have a sign erected, but has been unsuccessful. He would be really grateful if she could get some movement on Upperton getting a village sign at each end such as 'UPPERTON - Please Drive Carefully'. Cllr Duncton asked him to send her an email, she will follow this up.

Footpath in The Harrows: The Clerk said as she cannot be at the meeting Mrs Lunt had asked her to report that the pavement on the left approaching The Harrows from Westside has been badly damaged, she thought by a lorry delivering there, and is in a very dangerous and rough state. Cllr Duncton also asked her to send her an email.

Potholes: The Chairman said the County should be doing more in repairing the number of large potholes and sink holes that are appearing on our roads. Cllr Duncton said they work on a points system, details are then sent to different contractor's teams to carry out the work. A short discussion took place on the standard of the repairs carried out. Cllr Duncton said they have had over 50,000 potholes to deal with. It was agreed that Mr Morgan-Grenville ask his son to put a notice on the website to let the public know how they can report potholes online.

(b) District Councillor

Cllr Desai had sent the following report to the Clerk and she took Councillors through it.

Hyde Housing: I'm working with residents who are in desperate need of repairs or revaluation of their housing needs, much of this is in Petworth, but if there is anyone in Tillington struggling with Hyde, please let them know that I can help.

Parking Update: Parking charges have been proposed across the district and, when passed through Full Council, will come into force as of 1st April 2024.

Grant Funding: CDC are asking local businesses, organisations, etc. to apply for funding for their communities, I did share this information with Tom and also Gerald about what you could do with the funding, ie internet in the Village Hall etc.

Supporting You team update: The Supporting You Team continues to make a real difference to residents and the success of this team is very evident. The team can take referrals from members, using the email supportingyou@chichester.gov.uk or by directing residents to refer themselves online www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingyoucampaign

Surgeries at Petworth Library: Continuing my local surgeries at the library, which is proving to be successful, I would encourage residents from Tillington/Upperton/River area to visit or contact me directly as I do want to hear from them. To help with this I would like to do the same in Tillington on the

afternoon of the Petworth surgeries. This was agreed. The Chairman said he hoped the Village Hall would waive the charge.

Grants: Mr Pollard told Cllr Desai that he had sent her an email asking about grants for Village Halls but had received no response. She said she hadn't received it and asked him to resend it.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 21st September 2023, having been circulated, it was proposed by Mr de Haar, seconded by Mrs Lowe, that they be passed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Gate at the Cemetery end of the Glebe Field: Ms Connor gave the details of her application for a grant of £485 from the District Council's Prosperity Fund for the gate to the Glebe Fields. This has been acknowledged. The Clerk had pointed out there were two small errors in her application, she had now rectified these. She should hear in late March/early April if the Council has been successful.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mr Pollard said he had nothing further to add to what he had said earlier.

6. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- (a) Current Financial Situation: The Chairman referred to the accounts which the Clerk had previously circulated and asked her if she had anything to add. The Clerk said all had gone as she had anticipated. Expenses/postage was over budget as this included items such as Parish Elections, George Warren's 100th and Archiving which had not been budgeted for. With grants to pay and the District Council's waste and dog bin collections it was going to be tight to the end of March.

Balances at 31st December 2023

Current Account	217.56		
Deposit Account	<u>1,887.05</u>	2,104.61	
Post Office		<u>1,232.86</u>	£3,337.47

- (b) Budget 2024/2025: The Chairman referred to the draft budget which he and the Clerk had prepared and took Councillors through it.

Income

Precept: increased by 5%

Contribution to lettings: Reduced by £1,000

Tennis Club: A further payment of £400 is due for this year

Expenditure

Clerk's Salary: The Clerk has received a pay increase

Website: Mr Alex Morgan-Grenville to be asked if he would reduce his fee by £25 per month to £75

Parish Magazine: Following a letter received regarding increased printing costs the grant is increased by £100

A discussion took place, it was pointed out a negative budget had been set and it was agreed to reduce the following expenditure.

General Maintenance from £1,000 to £500

Recreation Ground Equipment from £5,000 to £1,500

With these amendments the Chairman proposed that the budget be adopted. This was seconded by Mrs Wickham and, on a vote, unanimously agreed. The Clerk to send the Precept requirement to the District Council.

- (c) Post Office Account: The Clerk said once the 2023 interest has been added she will close the account.

CHEQUES PAID FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER TO 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Manorwood Construction	1,500.00	Cart Shed - Management Fee
Sylvia Beaufoy Centre	500.00	Grant
Mrs K Knight	60.00	Pavilion - Cleaning
Mr A Morgan-Grenville	200.00	Website - Aug/Sep
Mrs J Huggett	166.80	Salary, Expenses - Sep
TVH Management Ctte	2,350.00	1st Loan Repayment + Interest
Inland Revenue	423.80	PAYE - Jul/Aug/Sep
Starlight	216.00	Fireworks - George Warren's 100th
Moore	250.00	External Audit 2022/23
Business Stream	81.01	Recreation Ground - Water
Mrs J Huggett	178.80	Salary, Expenses, Postage - Oct
3 Parishes Magazine	70.00	Office Expenditure - Pavilion Advert
Ms M Connor	490.97	Office Expenditure - Archiving
Royal British Legion	50.00	Office Expenditure - Poppy Appeal
The Leconfield Estates	100.00	Orchard - Annual Lease
Mr A Morgan-Grenville	200.00	Website - Oct/Nov
Manorwood Construction	703.20	Cart Shed - Loo and Skip Hire
Mrs J Huggett	172.60	Salary, Expenses, Postage - Nov
SSE	34.63	Pavilion - Electricity
Sam Perry Gardening	576.00	Gen Maintenance - Orchard and Verges
Mrs J Huggett	337.75	Salary, Expenses - Dec + Salary Increase
Mr G Westmore	104.00	Recreation Ground - Wicket Preparation
Mr J Naldrett	250.00	Cart Shed - Grass and Hedge Cutting
SLCC	105.00	Subscriptions - Clerks Affiliation Fee

7. ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

- (a) Jubilee Orchard Care Plan: Mr Morgan Grenville said he has met with Jonathan Pannell and a maintenance programme has been set up. He asked the Clerk if

she had received an invoice from him, she said she hadn't, he will follow this up. He would like to put a seat in the corner and an owl box in the oak tree.

The Clerk said the lease from the Leconfield Estates still has to be agreed and signed. The Chairman said he would like Mr ter Haar to look at it, the Clerk passed it in to him.

(Clerk's Note: Mr ter Haar has agreed the lease, the Chairman has signed it and returned it to the Leconfield Estates.)

- (b) Petworth Cricket Club Share Proposal: Mr Morgan-Grenville said he has had a discussion with Alex Rees from Petworth Cricket Club and they would like their 3rd team to play at Tillington this summer. Bruce Wickham will still look after the outfield, Petworth will look after the square, dressing it, etc., which will be done by Graham Westmore. The Council will be able to rent it out, he will put an advert in The Cricketer.
- (c) Parish Inspection: Mr Morgan-Grenville said he will look at dates and circulate to those involved.

(Clerk's Note: This will take place at 9.30 am on Friday 26th January, meeting at the pavilion.)

- (d) Footpath on A272: The Chairman said the Leconfield Estates will cut the hedges with a flail, he will then ask Highways to clear the rest.

8. PLANNING COMMITTEE

- (a) Planning Applications: The Clerk said there hadn't been any recent planning applications but one for The Larks, Westside, had been withdrawn.

9. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- (a) Footpaths: The Chairman said Mr Gresham-Cooke has given up as Footpath Warden, Mr Paul de Zulueta has taken over from him.
- (b) SSE: The Clerk said the Council's electricity contract with SSE expires at the end of February. She has received the new charges, the Standing Charge had risen nearly 100% from £29.49 to £58.72. It was agreed she contact SSE to see if there is a cheaper tariff.

(Clerk's Note: SSE has responded. *'The way that standing charges are applied has recently changed as per the instruction from Ofgem,. Unfortunately, the standing charge amount cannot be amended'*.)

- (c) Cart Shed: Mrs Wickham asked if the remaining parking space at the Cart Shed has been taken, the Clerk said it hadn't. Mr Morgan-Grenville said he will enquire around Upperton.

10. PROPOSAL DATES FOR 2024 MEETINGS

Thursday, 7.00 pm in the Village Hall (except 11th July)

14th March

9th May - Annual Parish Council Meeting

11th July - Annual Meeting of the Parish on the Recreation Ground

12th September

14th November

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.