

TILSHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10th JANUARY 2019

Present: Cllr. Adam Harris (Chairman), Cllr. Debby Potter (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Robert Leachman (Finance Officer), Cllr. Pauline Colin, Cllr. Gillian Goldsmith, Cllr. Judith Moore, Cllr. George Murray, the Clerk and one member of the public.

Apologies were received and accepted from: County Cllr. Darren Henry.

As no questions were raised from the floor, the meeting went into the closed meeting as numbered on the Agenda.

1. **Opening remarks by the Chairman.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained the reason for calling the meeting. (It had been decided in December not to call a meeting in January, being the winter break). It was to discuss the increase in the Precept and to discuss the advertisement for a new Parish Council Clerk. He then signed the Minutes of the previous meeting with the full approval of those present, as a true record of that meeting.
2. **Finance – Precept & finance for Village Signs.** Cllr. Leachman, as Finance Officer, informed the meeting that he had been in contact with Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (Katie Fielding) about the proposed increase in the Precept due to funding of a new Clerk. The meeting then went through the proposed Precept 2019-2020 to see where any savings could be made. A discussion took place in particular on the proposed amount for the cutting of the church yard. Cllr. Goldsmith declared an interest and would not vote on any proposal that would be made. Two proposals were made to reduce the amount for grass cutting in the church yard. (1) Cllr. Murray proposed £500 for the cutting of the church yard, seconded by Cllr. Moore. The Chairman made a counter proposal (2) To reduce the amount paid for cutting the church yard by £150 per annum for the next three years. Seconded by Cllr. Colin. The vote on the first proposal was 1 in favour, 4 against and 1 abstention. On the second proposal 4 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention. The second vote carried and Cllr. Murray said that he was happy with that decision. The cutting of the playing field was discussed and would go on the Agenda for next meeting. **Action:** Agenda item. The Chairman said that he felt that there should be a budget for village maintenance of £150 per annum. His proposal was seconded by Cllr. Murray. Vote was taken and carried unanimously. A vote was taken for the Precept to be £7,240 which is an increase of 15% from the 2018-2019 level of £6,300 to include the cost of a new Clerk. This was carried unanimously. Cllr. Leachman mentioned that although the 15% increase on the Parish Precept is substantial for Band D, it equates to an increase of 70p per month per house to support the running of the village. A vote of thanks was given to Cllr. Leachman for preparing the Precept. Cllr. Leachman has done a fantastic job in securing a new deal on insurance. This has saved nearly half a year on last year's cost. The Chairman wished to have minuted particularly his thanks, and the Parish Council and Clerk wished to have minuted their appreciation to Cllr. Leachman. **Village Signs:** Cllr. Potter reported that she had walked around the village with the Highways Engineer to agree where the proposed signs would be put, but would not be put in place until March or April. An estimated cost of £1,600 was for two school warning signs and for two horse warning signs at either end of the village. A contribution of 25% from the Parish Council was required. A vote was taken for £400 towards the cost of the signs, this was carried unanimously.
3. **Advertisement for new Clerk:** The Chairman discussed the prepared advertisement, and this was agreed. **Action:** To go on the web site, sent to the Newsletter and advertised more widely.
4. **Planning Applications:** None received since the previous meeting.
5. **Confirmation of next meeting 12th February at 7 pm:** All agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45.

Signed as approved:
Dated:

Adam Harris (Chairman)
2019