

# TILSHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019

**Present:** Cllr. Adam Harris (Chairman), Cllr. Debby Potter (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Robert Leachman (Finance Officer), Cllr. Pauline Colin, Cllr. Gillian Goldsmith, Cllr. George Murray, Cllr. Judith Moore, County Cllr. Darren Henry, the Clerk and 12 members of the public.

The meeting commenced as numbered on the Agenda.

- Chairman's Opening Remarks:** The Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council welcomed everyone and said how pleased he was to see all those present. He reminded the meeting that at every Parish Council meeting there is a fifteen minute open forum wherein the public can discuss anything they wish. The Chairman explained that this meeting was for the public and they were free to interject at any time during the meeting. He then proceeded to give an annual report on all that the Parish Council had achieved, and hoped to achieve, during the past year. These were: Purchase of a memorial bench, purchase of a memorial book, there had been a remembrance coffee morning held on Remembrance Day, working on a new Emergency and Flood Plan with Wiltshire Council (on going), recruitment of a new Clerk, there had been successful Tidy Up Days, saving on insurance costs, a number of training courses attended such community resilience, finance and councillor best practice, a regular attendance at the Amesbury Area Board, Wiltshire Police NTG meetings, CATG meetings, regular submissions in the Tilshead Newsletter and Website, utilising fully the Parish Steward, entered the Best Kept Village, repair of the Village Hall porch with financial help from the Newsletter and Hilda fund raising, painting of the bus shelters, a Winnie plaque put up on the Village Hall, funding for horse and replacement school warning signs and having planted trees commemorating the First World War (Great War) received from Wiltshire Council and the Woodland Trust. A member of the public asked for thanks to the Parish Council for all that they had done to be minuted. Question from the floor: It was asked if sandbags were still held in case of flooding. The Chairman replied that the Parish Council hold a stock of sandbags and salt and would be distributed where needed if the occasion arose. Mention of sandbags and salt would be written into the Flood Plan.
- Military Matters:** The CO of Westdown Camp had sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting and asked if his email could be read out with the following information. HQ Salisbury Plain Training Area have dedicated MoD Police permanently assigned. The team will be made up of a Sergeant and four Constables who will be working direct to HQ SPTA and will have close links with Wiltshire Police. These officers have warranted authority and will be working both during the week and weekends. This is hoped to counteract illegal activity on SPTA. HQ SPTA have also had an uplift in staff manning which will consist of four new Military Warrant Officers and twelve new Landmarc Range Wardens. This now enables HQ SPTA to have authority staff on the training area seven days a week. Question from the floor: A member of the public wondered why there was extensive night firing with hardly any day firing. It was also stated that MoD helicopters are flying over the village when years ago it was agreed that helicopters would fly only around the village. Action: The Clerk was asked to email the CO of HQ SPTA with these concerns. (NB. This has been done).
- Police Matters:** No report received. However, the Parish Council receives monthly emails from the Police. Main advice is to lock up garden sheds and not keep valuables in vehicles where they can be seen.
- Village Reports:** A number of reports have been received. (1) School Report: As at January 2019 there are 60 children attending the school. The School was delighted with their SATs results. In Key Stage 2 once again they met or exceeded the national figures for attainment in reading, writing, maths and grammar and 78% achieved age related expectations in all three subjects – nationally the figure is 64%. In the summer of 2018 the all weather running track and new play equipment were installed on the field together with new access steps. A sum of money was received from Tesco's which funded improvements to the outside space for the children in Skylark class. The school has an active PTFA run by the parents who organise a variety of events throughout the year in order to raise money. The school would be delighted to receive visitors to the school and they would be very welcome. (A full report is attached to these Minutes). (2) Tilshead Newsletter Annual Report 2019. This was read out by Mrs Vicki Harris a member of the Tilshead Newsletter Team. Because of the death of the previous Editor Mrs Libby Anson the previous team decided it was time to retire after many years of service. Everyone was very grateful to them and Mrs Anson for their long service, and thanked them for editing such a

fine Newsletter. A new team was formed in March 2018 and the first edition was published in April 2018. On an average 275 copies of the Newsletter is published each month. Each household receives a copy and there is a wide range of distribution outside the village. In June 2018 the Newsletter published its 200<sup>th</sup> edition with a special cover which emulated the cover used on the first edition. The Newsletter attracts a large number of advertisers who are very important as their payments allow the village to receive their Newsletter free every month without the need for further funding. The Newsletter contributed financially to projects within the village such as £200 towards the rebuilding of the Village Hall porch and £200 towards the World War I (Great War) commemorative bench. The Newsletter welcomes new contributors and articles, and welcomes any feedback and ideas. The Chairman thanked them for their support of the village. (Full report attached to these Minutes).

(3) Tilshead Village Website: The webmaster is Melanie Baker who sent in a report. The website differs from others in the area because it is a community website funded by the Parish Council rather than a Parish Council Website. Looking forward to 2018/2019. Continue general housekeeping and tidying up behind the scenes. Create a new interactive front page rather than the static landing page. Publish new updated photographs of the village and village landmarks throughout the seasons and increase subscriptions. The Chairman thanked the webmaster for her contribution to village life. (Full report attached to these Minutes).

(4) Church Report: A report was sent to the Clerk with apologies from the Rector who was unable to attend. The church has continued to thrive during 2018. During the week approximately 60 people come to church to worship. The school attends church on a Thursday morning. The church hosts RE lessons in the church. In December the St. Nicholas Fair was held which was a joint venture between the school PTFA and the church. It is hoped that this will continue. All the works that were advised to be done in the church's Quinquennial Architect's Inspection were completed last year and the building is now considered weather proof and safe. There may be some significant changes in the coming year, a revision of the electrics in the church and a possible re-configuration of seating in the Nave. The village will be kept informed. The church was delighted to be asked to resume their contributions to the Newsletter in 2018. The Rector and her team wished to thank all those who contribute to church life in so many ways. The Parish Council was thanked for their support. (Full report attached to these Minutes).

5. **Planning Applications**: Only a few in 2018, mostly on trees in a Conservation Area.
6. **Finance**: Cllr. Leachman as Finance Officer explained the accounts and what the Precept meant. Question from the floor: Was the Winnie plaque on the Village Hall external wall included in the Parish insurance? Yes it is. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Leachman for all the financial help and advice that he gives the Parish Council and for this to be minuted. The Clerk also wished to be included in the thanks to Cllr. Leachman.
7. **Highways**: The Chairman informed the meeting that the Parish Steward reports to Cllr. Debby Potter who gives him a list of things that require doing. The Parish Steward visits for one morning a month. He also reported that the resurfacing team has been in the village repairing pot holes. Question from the floor: It was asked if a community speed watch could be formed. The Chairman replied that he would be willing to form one if enough volunteers came forward. A group of four is required. He explained how they worked and the consequences for speeding drivers. He also reminded the meeting that the A360 through the village is 30 mph and for tractors 25 mph. Action: The Chairman said that he would put an advertisement in the Newsletter for a community speed watch. He would be asking for volunteers.
8. **Flooding**: The Chairman informed the meeting that the village came very close to being flooded in 2018. He explained the work that Wiltshire Council and the MoD had done to help prevent flooding at the top of Candown Road. Once the Flood Plan had been completed the village would be informed. Once the sandbags had gone, they would be replaced with gel bags which are easier to dispose of by normal household waste.
9. **Environment**: Dog fouling: Cllr. Goldsmith reported that dog fouling continues unabated and that notices have gone up for dog walkers. Some dog poo plastic bags have been left hanging on trees. Horses have been known to die from eating these bags. A heavy fine for those caught. Motor Bikes and 4x4s: These vehicles are causing a lot of damage on the Plain. However, once reported the MoD Police have responded very quickly and to any other reported illegal activity. The Chairman said that drones are not allowed on the Plain at all. Action: The Clerk was asked to email the CO of HQ SPTA to say how impressed people were at the quick response to reported illegal activity. (NB. This has been done). North Croft: It was reported from the floor that a dumper truck regularly goes up and down North Croft depositing garden waste which has resulted in blocked drains. Action: The Chairman said that he would look into this and report back to the next meeting.
10. **URGENT MATTERS**: (1) A request was made from the floor for a small number of trees to be planted on the green verge close to the Village Hall. Action: The Chairman said that he would make enquiries of Wiltshire Council Highways, but thought consent was unlikely. (2) Cllr. Leachman (Finance Officer) gave the reason for the Precept going up by 15%. This is because the Clerk is retiring and a new one appointed. The rise has not been taken lightly and savings would need to be made. (3) Thanks and appreciation were given to the Chairman

and Parish Council for all their hard work during the past year. (4) The Chairman made a speech thanking the Clerk for her work on the Parish Council and presented her with a sundial/bird bath, a rose named Thomas a Becket and a card on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk thanked the Chairman and Parish Councillors for their extremely generous gifts, and said how much she had enjoyed working with the Parish Council over so many years and wished them and their new Clerk well for the future.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed as approved:

Adam Harris (Chairman)

Dated:

2019