

# TILSHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL OPEN PARISH MEETING – 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017

**Present:** Cllr. Brian Peaty (Chairman), Cllr. Robert Leachman (Finance Officer), Cllr. Judith Moore, Cllr. Gillian Goldsmith, Cllr. Adam Harris, Cllr. Andrew Reed, Cllr. Debby Potter, County Cllr. Ian West, Lt. Colonel Stewart Andrews (CO of Westdown Camp), the Clerk & 10 members of the general public.

**Apologies were received & accepted from:** George and Gill Murray

The meeting commenced as numbered on the Agenda.

1. **Chairman's Opening Remarks:** The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. He thanked all the Parish Councillors and Clerk for their hard work during the past year on behalf of the village. This had included: Seeking legal advice on the land known as the Empire plot at the request of a villager. It was confirmed that the land had been left to the church and not to the civil parish. Therefore unable to buy the Pipe Factory as hoped. (2) Cllr. Harris organising and obtaining grants for Clean Up Tilshead. Cllr. Harris was thanked for his hard work in organising this and future events. (3) Constantly in touch with Highways with the help of County Cllr. Ian West for the ongoing saga of the A360 pot holes etc. The Parish Council were informed by WC that no re-surfacing will take place for possibly 2-3 years. (4) In touch with the MoD and police about the 4x4 vehicles and motor bikes on the Plain close to the village. He reported that Parish Council elections would take place in May. All information on village notice board. He thanked County Cllr. Ian West for his help and advice during the past year on behalf of the Parish Council.
2. **Military:** The Chairman introduced Lt. Colonel Stewart Andrews the Commanding Officer of Westdown Camp. The Colonel gave a report on the latest information regarding exercises on the Plain. Soldiers train on the Plain from all over England. There will probably be less tracked vehicles and live firing will begin in June. (NB. Tilshead is in the middle of the impact area). Seven major exercises planned for the year. RA firing has been reduced and when taken place probably noticed more as a result. **Off road activity on the Plain:** The Colonel reported that Operation Austin had taken place with the MoD and civil police and his staff on the hot-spots of such activity. 26 tickets had been issued and confiscated two motor bikes. This had been reported on Face Book and as a result the MoD had been given very positive comments and so more of this action would take place. **Drones:** The Colonel reported that this was illegal on MoD land and if seen to report immediately to the police and MoD stating that this was "anti social behaviour" as this is the second priority for the Wiltshire Police Commissioner. **Questions from the floor:** **Low Flying Helicopters:** The Colonel was reminded from the floor that helicopters are not allowed to fly over the village. The Colonel agreed and said that pilots are reminded not to fly over the village. **June live flying over the west:** There would be no increased live firing over the village in June. **Fly tipping of rubbish:** The Colonel was informed how quickly landmarc removed rubbish when informed which was very impressive. It was also remarked from the floor, and wished to be passed on, how courteous and well behaved the soldiers were when in the village. A credit to their regiments. There being no further military business the Colonel left the meeting.
3. **Police:** An emailed report to the Clerk. Their concerns are theft from motor vehicles and hare coursing. **Questions from the floor:** It was noted that no police are seen in the village apart from speed traps.
4. **Village Reports:** The Clerk read out written reports from the police, school and web site. Cllr. Goldsmith read out the church report. All these written reports are now attached to these Minutes. Cllr. Leachman reported on the Village Hall and Hillier Playing Field.
5. **Planning Applications:** No controversial ones during the past year.

6. **Finance:** Cllr. Leachman ran through how the parish operated with the regard to the Precept. **From the floor:** Cllr. Leachman was thanked for all the hard work that he carries out on behalf of the village and the Parish Council. It is much appreciated.
7. **Highways:** Cllr. Harris gave a report on highways. He had organised three separate Clean Up Tilshead events and these had proved very successful. He thanked all those who had helped and those who had made much needed delicious refreshments. He was thanked from the floor for organising the clean up. Cllr. Harris thanked County Cllr. Ian West for his help and support in obtaining a grant for tools and brooms from the Area Board via Wiltshire Council. Again this was much appreciated.  
**Railings & Street lights:** Cllr. Moore reported on the number of times that she had reported the street lights were out of action. (13 to 14 times!). Eventually in desperation she contacted John Glen MP (for Salisbury) and the next day they were repaired! She emailed her thanks to him on behalf of the Parish Council. The railings are awaiting repair. **Action:** County Cllr. Ian West said that he would take this matter up again with Highways. **From the floor:** It was stated that reflectors should be attached to the railings when repaired. This was agreed. **Pavement by garage:** It was remarked from the floor that water was coming from the garage (washer?) and breaking up the pavement. The wall was also broken and might fall down as a result. **Action:** Chairman would approach the garage manager about this matter.
8. **Flooding:** Cllr. Harris said there were no concerns and PC prepared for flooding.
9. **Environment: Berry Lane:** Cllr. Goldsmith reported that she had contacted Byways about the damage done by 4x4 vehicles and motor bikes making it almost impossible for dog walkers, walkers and riders to access it. Byways confirmed that Berry Lane is a bye way. From Imber to the garage is a restricted by way. Highways would consider a “seasonal closure” to Berry Lane while it is being repaired and recovering from the damage. **Action:** Cllr. Goldsmith was asked to obtain a quote from a digger to repair Berry lane and to level it. **From the floor:** Cllr. Goldsmith was thanked from the floor for all the hard work that she had put into this matter.
10. **Any Other Business:** County Cllr. Ian West asked if James Kyte could be thanked for his hard work in cutting back the hedge along the A360 opposite Tilshead House, and his workers. **Action:** The Chairman agreed to do this on behalf of the Parish Council and village.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15

Minutes approved by:

Brian Peaty (Chairman)

Dated:

2017

