**TILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 17 March 2021 by means of remote conferencing, commencing at 2000 hours.

**PRESENT** Councillors C Paull (in the Chair); K Gutteridge; C Haynes and M Patterson .

**IN ATTENDANCE** District Councillor J Gray;County Councillor Ian Gardener; C L Thatcher, Clerk to the Council. and six members of the public.

**14/21 APOLOGIES**  were received from Councillor Mrs J Pilcher and County Councillor Ian Gardener

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**15/21 PUBLIC FORUM** was not used.

**16/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None were made.

**17/21 MINUTES** of the Council meeting of 27 January 2021 were read and approved as a true record of that meeting.

**18/21 MATTERS ARISING**

1. Flooding

The Clerk reported that a Flood Forum had been established in Kimbolton, comprising local and County councillors plus the Environment Agency and affected householders.

The Chairman thought that it would be useful for Tilbrook to also be represented on this Forum and the Clerk will request our inclusion. Councillor Haynes was nominated as this Council’s representative.

1. LHI bid. Councillor Haynes reported having attended the virtual meeting where he had presented our case. . He said that a decision will not be notified until the summer.

**19/21 PLANNING**

The following application was considered -

21/00149 1 Tilbrook Mill Cottages, High St - 2 storey front and 1st floor side extensions.

It was proposed by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Gutteridge and unanimously agreed to recommend approval as appropriate development.

**20/21 REPLACEMENT TREES**

Councillor Patterson said that he had purchased two decorative specimen trees for the recreation ground, together with compost and had planted them and watered them in. He asked for reimbursement of the £111 including VAT which he had spent. It was proposed by Councillor Haynes, seconded by Councillor Gutteridge and agreed to reimburse Councillor Patterson the £111 he had spent and to thank him for undertaking the work.

**21/21 TRAFFIC SPEEDS**

Councillor Gutteridge said there had been yet another road traffic collision today on the High St and he suspected that it was due to excessive speed.

It was agreed that there is a clear need for traffic calming of some sort and this is backed up by the reports received from the MVAS near the pub, which shows many vehicles exceeding 38mph well inside the 30mph limit.

It was decided to record the figures from the MVAS on the first of each month and this will be done by Councillor Patterson with the assistance of Paul Wilcock, who has kindly volunteered.

It was also agreed to seek the assistance of VOSA in imposing checks for vehicle noise and to again seek the assistance of surrounding villages to enable a joint approach.

**22/21 GRASS CUTTING**

The Clerk referred to the complaint from one resident about the poor quality of grass cutting last year and the request that we seek another contractor.

He reminded members that we changed to a new contractor last season because the previous contractor had failed to cut the recreation grass until July, by which time it was some two feet tall.

He felt that then problem with the new contractor was that they had not learned the verges which were to be cut and had missed one or two. He had reminded them of the route and suggested that no action be taken at present, but that we monitor the situation and make a decision later in the year. This was agreed.

**23/21 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. A141 re-routing consultation.

This consultation had been circulated and Councillor Gray explained that it had a lot to do with opening up the RAF Wyton site for housing. The proposals were noted.

1. Sandy Lane

A resident had complained to the County Council about the poor surface of the lane and asked for this Council’s support. It was agreed to offer whatever support we could, bearing in mind we have no jurisdiction over Sandy Lane.

**24/21 ACCOUNTS**

The following were approved for payment.

 K & M Lighting Streetlight maintenance £50.26 inc VAT

 E-On Streetlight energy £137.82 inc VAT

 River Lane Nurseries - trees £111.00 “ “

 CAPALC - Planning course fee £80.00 no VAT

**25/21 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** Councillor Gray said that setting the budget had consumed a lot of time recently and he is pleased to say that there will be no cuts to key services. HDC is making a big investment in economic development, supporting businesses and employers. £12million is being spent on improving the centre of St Neots, with the Old Falcon being subject to compulsory purchase. Huntingdon and St Ives will follow on from this and whilst they wish to support retail, they see those as areas for residential and leisure development.

There will be no increase in Council Tax in 2021-2022 and the budget will total c£20million.

The Planning Department is going through a very difficult time and finding it difficult to recruit qualified staff and this is causing problems with delays in determining applications etc.

**26/21 MEMBERS’ POINTS OF INFORMATION**

 Councillor Haynes reported the streetlight outside Summerfield Farm as not working.

**27/21 NEXT MEETING**

The next normal meeting of Council will be held on 5 May 2021, commencing immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting, which will itself commence at 7.30pm. in the Village Hall if permissible, otherwise by remote conferencing.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2105 hours.