**TILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 8 September 2021 in the Village Hall, Church Lane, Tilbrook, commencing at 8pm.

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

**IN ATTENDANCE** County Councillor I Gardener, District Councillor J Gray, C L Thatcher, Clerk to the Council and 4 members of the public.

**68/21 APOLOGIES**  were received from Councillor Mrs J Pilcher

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**69/21 PUBLIC FORUM** was not held

**70/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None were made.

**71/21 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Councillor Gray referred to the ongoing problems with planning and enforcement within HDC, primarily as a result of staff shortages and an inability to recruit new staff.

He said that the budget was progressing on target, though many variations had necessarily been made, due to the covid situation.

The cinema complex in St Neots, owned by HDC, was causing problems because it consisted mainly of restaurants around the cinema and these have closed down.

A member asked whether the results of planning decisions could be notified to parishes and Councillor Gray said that although they were available on the website he would see what could be done.

**72/21 MINUTES** of the Council meetings of 30June and 4 August 2021 were read, approved and signed as true records of those meetings.

**73/21 MATTERS ARISING**

1. Flood Forum Councillor Haynes confirmed that the Chairman, Councillor Seabrook of Kimbolton PC, had been in touch, but they still awaited a reply from the Environment Agency.

Councillor Gardener said that the County Council hoped to establish community flood action groups.

*Councillor Gutteridge joined the meeting*

1. Traffic Speeds. Councillor Patterson said that he had been busy and a meeting had been held with Councillor Gardener and Karen Lunn, Traffic Engineer. Karen had suggested various options and he was proposing making an LHI bid for ‘buffer zones’ on the B645.

Councillor Gardener said that there are now quite a lot of buffer zones across the county and they do seem to show a reduction in speed.

Currently, the average speed shown by the MVAS is 37.4mph.

Councillor Patterson had also met with the County Council regarding the placement of reminder signs for the 20 mph area of Station Road and he produced a suggested plan for their locations. These were agreed.

1. Little Lane drainage.

Members discussed the report provided, whose author was present. It was agreed that drainage needed improving and that the proposals were good, but the cost was beyond our reach, being estimated at £7000 plus, if spoil has to be removed from site, a further £2000.

The discussion centred around how the drain had ceased to work and it was suspected that it may have been cut when the mains sewer was put in. The Clerk questioned whether the parish council should be doing this work on what must be county council land, being adjacent to the footpath. It was agreed to ask Councillor Gardener to investigate and, if necessary, to offer a contribution to the works to the county council.

**74/21 PLANNING**

The following applications were considered -

21/01601 Hardwicks, High St, Tilbrook - use of 2 fields for weddings etc.

It was noted that this is a retrospective application. The application was very poor, being short of information such as a location plan and scale and also appeared to be incorrect in some areas. It was also thought that this is the site of an ancient earthwork, of which there is no mention.

It was proposed by Councillor Haynes, seconded by Councillor Patterson and unanimously agreed to recommend refusal.

21/01504 The Lodge Station Rd, Tilbrook - demolish garage and erect granny annexe.

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

**75/21 LHI BID**

It was proposed by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Gutteridge and agreed unanimously to make application for funding for ‘40mph buffer zones’ at each end of the village on the B645.

**76/21 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Traffic Management Course.

The Clerk reported an invitation to councillors to attend a Traffic Management Training Course on 22 September at a cost of £85 per person. This was noted.

1. Litter Bin Church Lane.

The Chairman confirmed that he had asked the Clerk to arrange for the bin to be emptied at a cost of £100 and this had been done. Members confirmed the actions taken.

1. Community Gritting
2. Circular received from County Council inviting volunteers to sign up for winter gritting. This was noted.

**77/21 ACCOUNTS**

The following were approved for payment -

K & M Lighting streetlight maintenance 3 mths 75.39

Huntingdon DC Rent of field 100.00

Came & Co Insurance premium 218.00

1. On Energy 214.92

Mrs S Moran Emptying dog bin 100.00

**78/21 COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Councillor Gardener gave information on the new transport on demand system being introduced. It will cover the area Hail Weston - Gt Gidding - Glatton - A1 - St Neots then A428 to Papworth - A14 - A1, though it is possible to go outside that area. Booking the bus would be by an app on your phone and it will come to a specific point in your village to pick you up - not to your door. It will then take the most direct route possible to the destination requested. Operating times will be between 7am and 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 4pm on Saturdays. There is no service on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

The County Council is now meeting quarterly. The current Chief Executive is retiring and the replacement will work only for the County Council. A new Highways Engineer to replace Joe Hudson will be starting soon.

A survey requesting opinions on the new Library service will shortly be available.

**79/21 MEMBERS’ POINTS OF INFORMATION**

No points were raised.

**80/21 NEXT MEETING**

It is proposed that the next meeting be held on 3 November 2021 and that this will commence at 8 pm in the Village Hall, Church Lane, Tilbrook.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2107 hours.