**TILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 12 December 2023 in the Village Hall, Church Lane, Tilbrook, commencing at 8 p.m.

**PRESENT**  Councillors M Patterson; P Wilcock; L Hunter, M Wallis and Mrs D Patterson

**IN ATTENDANCE** County Councillor Ian Gardener, C L Thatcher, Clerk to the Council and five members of the public .

**116/23 APOLOGIES** were received from District Councillor Jonathan Gray

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**117/23 PUBLIC FORUM** centred around the weather and the flooding in the village. It was said that the floods are getting worse and the drains clearly are not working.

The gate at the entrance to Jubilee Way has a rope with which to latch it and this is soaked, so could a metal hasp be fitted?

The parapet of the bridge over the river at Station Rd is giving cause for concern due to the cracking. It has been reported to County Highways who do not consider there is any need for urgency.

**118/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None were made.

**119/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR** Councillor Ian Gardener referred to the introduction of the green bin charges which commence on 1 April next. It will, however, be possible to apply for a bin before April and receive a discount on the annual charge.

He has forwarded photographs of the flooding in Tilbrook to the Highways Dept and met with the drainage team last week. Works to improve drainage will be done early in 2024 subject to funds being available. They have determined where in the field there is a blockage.

LHI bids must be submitted by 12 January but if applying for 20mph limits, the deadline is later in the year.

The TING service has been extended until the end of March 2024 and the Mayor of the combined authority is undertaking a bus review. He is also proposing trebling his precept to £36 primarily to cover the cost of new bus services – none of which will visit this area of the county.

The County Council will be increasing its precept by the maximum amount permitted.

The Chairman said he was making progress on the Story Boards for the village but he needed to speak with Councillor Gray regarding the District Council’s input.

**120/23 MINUTES** of the Council meeting of 15 November 2023 were read approved and signed as a true record of those meetings.

**121/23 MATTERS ARISING**

1. Traffic Speeds Councillor Wilcock said that he had tried to analyse the data showing pre- and post- 40mph buffer zones.

Pre-buffer zones on 20 Nov the average was 31mph and the max was 79mph. 40-45% were travelling above 30mph with the average at 42.

Post buffer 30% were above 30mph; only 11% over 35and an average of 29mph.

1. Kym Valley Way. The first design has been produced, the Graphic Designer being very good and reasonably priced. A feasibility study is needed as soon as possible.
2. Story Boards. Councillor Wallis said that sponsors are needed. The proofs are being checked and an OS licence is to be added. The walks and cycling routes start at the pub and it is hoped to have the boards mounted on the stable building at the pub, though both listed building and brewery consent is needed.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Patterson, seconded by Councillor Wallis and agreed to pay 50% of the designer’s fee amounting to £500 plus VAT.

1. Trees on Recreation Ground. The Clerk reported on the present position and it was agreed he should chase the insurer for an update.
2. High St drains .Discussed during County Councillor’s report.

**122 /23 PLANNING MATTERS**

No applications have been received.

**123/23 AMENITIES COMMITTEE/PARISH COUNCIL JOINT WORKING COMMITTEE**

Councillor Wilcock said that the Amenities Committee hoped to make improvements to the Hall. These are a hearing loop; the fitting of solar panels and ultimately the reconfiguration of the layout of the Hall.

They are still recruiting for the post of Secretary and looking for other volunteers to assist with the running of events.

The turnout for the village quiz had been poor, unfortunately. Councillor Wilcock pointed out that agreement on roles and responsibilities and the use of the car park was still awaited.

The Amenities Committee thanked the Parish Council for their donation towards the cost of the hearing loop.

**124/23 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

Flood prevention remains a priority and representations have been made to the County Council.

It was noted that Jubilee Way required attention to the overgrowth and the accumulation of leaves. The use of a blower is necessary and then the area needs to be sprayed.

There are still concerns about the hedge at Bustard Hill and the Clerk was asked to write to the landowner who, it is thought, lives at Bramble Cottage, and ask for it to be cut back.

Hunters Farm were thanked for the work they have done.

The gateway planters have now been completed and receipts for the expenditure will be passed to the Clerk for payment. It was proposed by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Mrs Patterson and agreed that expenditure of up to £100 per annum may be made on plants for the planters.

**125/23 CORRESPONDENCE** It was proposed by Councillor Wilcock, seconded by Councillor Hunter and agreed to donate the sum of £100 to both MAGPAS and St Neots Museum.

**126/23 ACCOUNTS a)**The following were approved for payment -

VisionICT website hosting 150.00

K & M Lighting streetlight maintenance 30.55

Grafton Projects computer mouse 23.98

b) Precept 2024/25

The budget and the level of precept required was discussed at length. The figures provided by the Clerk were accepted with the exception of a decision to include an additional £700 in the budget for the purchase of a mower.

The Clerk had recommended an increase of £500 in the precept for the coming year but this was not agreed. Instead it was proposed by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Wilcock and agreed that there should be no change in the precept, which will remain at £10,000.

**127/23 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** was unable to be present

**128/23 MEMBERS’ POINTS OF INFORMATION**

Councillor Mrs Patterson said that she would like to attend the training day for new councillors to be held by CAPALC on 13 January 2024. The Clerk will make the booking.

**129/23 NEXT MEETING**

It is proposed that the next normal meeting will be on **Tuesday 23 January 2024**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2135 hours.