**TILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 2 October 2024 in the Village Hall, Church Lane, Tilbrook, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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

**IN ATTENDANCE** Thirteen members of the public .

**89/24 APOLOGIES** were received from Councillor L Hunter, County Councillor Ian Gardener and District Councillor J Gray.

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**90/24 PUBLIC FORUM**

Resident 1 said that the application before Council for the pollarding of an elm tree was not a good way of preserving and maintaining the tree. It is hoped that the Trees Officer would have input to this application and would be able to suggest an alternative method of achieving the desired result.

A Director of Hardwicks spoke in support of her planning application and explained how their business benefitted a number of local traders and how they were very careful not to cause nuisance to people living in the area. Questions were invited.

Resident 2 asked how it is that the Council represented the views of the village and suggested that consultation was poor. The Chairman strongly refuted this and said that the Council were very active in consulting on matters which arose.

Resident 3 said that the works to alleviate flooding in the High St appeared to be working as things have been significantly better during the recent heavy rains. He urged that pressure be maintained on the County Council to make sure that the good work they have done is not wasted due to failure to maintain the drains.

Resident 4 asked whether pressure could be put on the landowners of both Oak Lodge and the land at the corner of High Street and Church Lane to make them maintain their hedges and prevent growth blocking footways.

**91/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None were made.

**92/24 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** was unable to be present.

**93/24 MINUTES** of the Council meeting of 3 September 2024 were read approved and signed as a true record of that meeting.

**94/24 MATTERS ARISING**

1. Traffic Speeds
2. MVAS results Councillor Wilcock said that he was unable to provide any traffic figures tonight as new software had first to be downloaded.
3. Kym Valley Way. Nothing further to report.
4. Story Boards Programme- The formal ‘opening’ will take place on Friday next, 4 October at 10am. Invitations have been issued to our MP, Ben Obese-Jacty , County Councillors ,the Huntingdon Grants Team and others who have made this project possible and at no cost to the Council Taxpayer. The cost has been covered by means of a grant and by sponsors. In fact, enough money has been raised to provide another two boards, perhaps to be placed by the Village Hall or on the car park. It was agreed to obtain prices for the production of two more boards and to change the sponsor logos on the boards.

Thanks was also given to the management of the White Horse pub for their hospitality.

1. Trees on Recreation Ground Correspondence from the insurer was read and considered. It appeared from the wording, that it is now being suggested that the removal of the willow tree is not being sought. The impression is that the claimant’s insurer is now offering the Council the choice as to whether action is taken and even suggesting that a payment of £500 might be available should we pollard the tree. The Clerk will write to the insurer and request clarification.
2. Donation to St Neots Museum. It has been the habit of this Council to give a donation of £100 each year to the Museum and in return free admission to the Museum was offered to Tilbrook residents. The Council wished to ensure that this was in accordance with residents’ wishes. A straw poll of those present showed that they were in favour of giving a donation and it was agreed to continue, but to issue a circular to the village seeking a wider response.
3. Litter Pick. Councillor Di Patterson said that not as many people as they would have wished turned up to help, but the ten who did were able to cover the main areas of the village.

**95/24 PLANNING MATTERS**

The following application was considered-

24/01393 Hardwicks, High St, Tilbrook – retrospective application to use site for wedding events venue including marquee, glamping and car parking.

A discussion had already taken place in the public forum and it had been learned that a detailed noise and light assessment had taken place. Nevertheless, there is concern that the law, in the shape of the National Planning Policy and the Local Plan states clearly that development in open countryside is not permitted. Accordingly, Councillor Di Patterson, seconded by Councillor Wilcock proposed refusal of the application due to it being contrary to law. The vote was carried by 3 votes in favour with 1 abstention.

24/01646 Rook Barn, Station Rd, Tilbrook – T1 Elm. Reduce 4m to create new pollard.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilcock, seconded by Councillor M Patterson and unanimously agreed to recommend approval if subject to the Trees Officer review, with the possibility of thinning rather than pollarding.

**96/24 AMENITIES COMMITTEE/PARISH COUNCIL JOINT WORKING COMMITTEE**

It was felt that it is necessary to reiterate that this Council has agreed to take over the management of the recreation ground and playpark from 1 April 2025. Councillor Di Patterson will provide a written report of the last meeting.

**97/24 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

It was noted that the Station Road hedge is again in need of cutting and it was agreed to ask Councillor Hunter whether he could help by providing a tractor hedge-cutter.

Street sweeping is still awaited, but thanks were given to Councillor Wilcock for all his work relating to the High Street flooding.

**98/24 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk had today received paperwork relating to the new Local Plan and this is now being circulated.

**99/24 ACCOUNTS**

1. The following were approved for payment:

K & M Lighting Lighting maintenance 30.55

Hunts DC grass cutting 252.00

Zurich Insurance Annual premium 437.00

C L Thatcher Pay Oct – Dec 381.14

HMRC PAYE & NIC 254.00

**100/24 COUNTY COUNCILLOR** was unable to be present

**101/24 MEMBERS’ POINTS OF INFORMATION**

No points were raised

**102/24 NEXT MEETING**

It is proposed that the next normal meeting will be on **Tuesday 19 November 2024**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2110 hours.