**TILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 19 November 2024 in the Village Hall, Church Lane, Tilbrook, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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

**IN ATTENDANCE** District Councillor J Gray; C L Thatcher, Clerk to the Council and 5 members of the public. .

**103/24 APOLOGIES** were received from County Councillor Ian Gardener

**104/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None were made

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**105/24 PUBLIC FORUM**

A resident expressed disappointment that there was no Council representative at the Remembrance Day service and asked whether the Council would pay for a silhouette to be purchased for the 80th anniversary of VE Day next year. The Chairman said that it will be looked at.

A second resident felt that the Council did not consult with the community; that the minutes were inaccurate and that both the boundary of Oak Lodge and the land at Church Lane were badly overgrown.

Resident 3 said that the road surface of Church Lane was very poor. The Chairman asked to be provided with photographs which he offered to send on to Highways.

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**106/24 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** Councillor Gray said that the refuse freighter which visited the layby for collections had now finished for the year. As yet he doesn’t know whether the scheme will continue next year. HDC is pleased with the number of people who are paying for green bins, but conversely the amount and cost of landfill has gone up considerably.

Regarding planning, the Local Plan is on the Planning Portal and responses can be made there. The ‘Call for Sites’ has happened and it is likely that small villages will have to accept housing development if insufficient housing is being built.

The District Council’s finances are in good order with reserves of £17million (including CIL and s106 money).

*Councillor Gray left the meeting.*

**107/24 MINUTES** of the Council meeting of 2 October 2024 were read approved and signed as a true record of that meeting.

**108/24 COUNTY COUNCILLOR** was unable to be present.

**109/24 MVAS REPORT** The Chairman said that he had been unable to get the software to download the data as yet.

**110/24 KYM VALLEY WAY** Councillor M Patterson said he had had a conversation with County Councillor Ian Gardener and Ben Obese-Jacty, our MP and they are both keen to help advance the project.

The Sustrans project from Grafham to Buckden was now uncertain and a feasibility study is to be held.

**111/24 RECREATION GROUND TREES AND SUBSIDENCE**

Mixed messages were still being received as to the necessity or otherwise of felling the trees and it was agreed to defer a decision and write again to our insurers asking them for definite advice. Whatever is decided, the cost is considerable and quotes of £1850 for a crown reduction; £2350 for pollarding and £2350 to fell one tree and reduce the other have been received.

**112/24 AMENITIES COMMITTEE** no report.

**113/24 PLANNING MATTERS**

The following application was considered-

24/02061 30 Church Lane – single storey side extension.

It was proposed by Councillor Hunter, seconded by Councillor Wilcock and agreed to recommend approval.

**114/24 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

Councillor M Patterson said that trees on The Green, in the conservation area, appeared distressed and HDC have agreed that we can carry on with work to remove the dead sycamore and then monitor the second tree. He has applied for some seeds from the ‘Sycamore Gap’ tree.

Jubilee Way has been cut and cleared and will be checked in a week or so to see if weedkiller is necessary.

A Working Party will be gathered to cut the playing field hedge and it was agreed to pay for the mower to be serviced.

**115/24 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. A letter of complaint from a resident regarding the hedges and maintenance of the playing field was received.. It was noted that the lime and apple in the playing field do not require attention at the moment.
2. The Clerk reported on receipt of the National Pay Award for Local Council Staff which was effective from 1 Aporil 2024 and represented an increase, for him, of 64p per hour, or £2.56 for his 4 hours per week.

He took the opportunity to point out that he has been on the very minimum salary scale point for the past 10 years and that is now £12.85 per hour, just above minimum wage. He asked that consideration be given to increasing his hourly rate.

The Clerk also reported that the Council’s computer had failed and the engineer had reported that although he could repair it at the moment, he was not hopeful that it would last long. Perhaps consideration should be given to replacing it?

1. Another resident has expressed concern about the cracks in the bridge parapet, but this has again been reported to Highways, who are not concerned at present.

**116/24 ACCOUNTS**

1. The following were approved for payment:

K & M Lighting Lighting maintenance 30.55

Pulse Digital Computer repair 60.00

1. Budget for 2025/2026.

A considerable discussion ensued about the budget for next year, the result of which, if agreed as presented, could mean an increase of £3000 in the precept, or about an extra 51p per week on a Band D property. It was agreed to defer the decision until the next meeting, by which time it was hoped we would have a decision about the trees.

1. Precept. Consideration deferred until next meeting.

**117/24 MEMBERS’ POINTS OF INFORMATION**

A member asked if there was any update on speeding in the High St.

The Clerk reminded members that the deadline for applying to the LHI was fast approaching, if it was the intention that application for funding for another MVAS be made.

**118/24 NEXT MEETING**

It is proposed that the next normal meeting will be on **Tuesday 10 December 2024**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2100 hours.