**TILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2025 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** County Councillor Ian Gardener;; C L Thatcher, Clerk to the Council and 2 members of the public. .

**001/25 APOLOGIES** were received from District Councillor J Gray

**002/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None were made

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**003/25 PUBLIC FORUM**

A resident mentioned the verges in Station Road towards the bridge which were being churned up by vehicles and asked whether more bollards could be placed there to prevent this and, perhaps, a ‘passing place’ could be created. It was pointed out that this would be a matter for County Highways but we could perhaps place signage there.

**004/25 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** Councillor Gray was unable to be present.

**005/25 MINUTES** of the Council meeting of 10 December 2024 were read approved and signed as a true record of that meeting.

**006/25 MATTERS ARISING**

1. MVAS. Councillor Wilcock said that this was now working again. There is a problem with water ingress. It was proposed by Councillor M Patterson, seconded by Councillor Wilcock and agreed to spend £100 plus VAT plus £14 delivery to replace faulty parts.
2. Kim Valley Way No further progress and it was agreed to ask Ben Obese-Jecty MP if he would facilitate an exploratory meeting with other Councils.
3. Subsidence Claim A letter has now been received from our Insurer advising that we should remove the willow tree. Two quotes have been received, one to remove the tree and reduce the crown of the other by 30%,and it was proposed by Councillor Hunter, seconded by Councillor Wilcock and agreed to authorise Councillors Wilcock and M Patterson to decide upon which contractor to appoint at a total cost including VAT of up to £3000.
4. Budget 2025-2026. It was proposed by Councillor Wilcock, seconded by Councillor M Patterson and agreed to issue the approved budget to residents.
5. .gov email addresses. The Clerk said that the grants towards the change to .gov had ended and consequently it would now cost us around £250. Use of .gov is not mandatory yet, but is certainly best practice and highly recommended. It was agreed to defer consideration for the time being.
6. Computer. It was proposed by Councillor M Patterson, seconded by Councillor D Patterson and agreed to purchase a Dell computer for the use of the Clerk at a cost of £616.50 plus VAT
7. Clerk’s salary. It was Proposed by Councillor Wilcock, seconded by Councillor M Patterson and agreed that the Clerk’s salary be increased to SCP11 (£14.13 per hour) with effect from 1 January 2025.

**007/25 PLANNING MATTERS** No applications received

**008/25 AMENITIES COMMITTEE** It was agreed to write to the committee regarding signage for the recreation ground and to ask whether any activities were planned for the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

We will also ask when the hearing loop, to which we contributed £800, will be installed in the Hall.

**009/25 LOCAL HIGHWAY INITIATIVE** The Chairman said that a bid has been made for an MVAS sign plus solar panel and post upon which to erect it.

**010/25 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE** The Clerk explained the purpose of the power, which had been introduced as a part of the Localism Act 2011 and, as both this Council and the Clerk are qualified to use the Power, it was proposed by Councillor Hunter, seconded by Councillor M Patterson and unanimously agreed to adopt the General Power of Competence.

**011/25 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

Councillor M Patterson said that a resident had volunteered to look after the Jubilee Way gate.

A small working party is to cut the hedge by the playing field on Station Rd from 9am to 11am on 27 January and a volunteer to keep the bus stop tidy has been sought.

*Councillor Gardener joined the meeting*

**012/25 CORRESPONDENCE** None other than that dealt with elsewhere in these minutes.

**013/25 ACCOUNTS**

1. The following were approved for payment:

K & M Lighting maintenance 30.55

R M Smith plants for gateway 36.96

C L Thatcher salary Jan to Mar 442.20

HMRC PAYE 294.80 .

**014/25 COUNTY COUNCILLOR** Councillor Gardener said he had received a briefing on the intended government reorganisation of local government. In this county, the intention is to abolish both the District and County Councils in favour of two Unitary Authorities. This will also include Peterborough and Cambridge. The question is, where will the boundaries of these areas be sited? Proposals will be considered to the end of March and then go back to government in the autumn.

The size of authorities preferred by government is 500,000 electors, but in Cambridgeshire dividing the electorate into two will give about 395,000 per authority.

Shadow authorities will be operating by April 2027 so it is unlikely that District Council elections in 2026 will take place. The new Unitaries will be operational by April 2028.

**015/25 MEMBERS’ POINTS OF INFORMATION**

Councillor Wallis asked that a soldier silhouette be purchased for VE day and that this be considered in February. Perhaps the cost could be shared with the PCC and the Amenities Committee?

Councillor Wilcock said that we should enquire whether there are locally any plans to commemorate VE Day.

Councillor M Patterson suggested a training day be organised for all on how to use the defibrillator.

**016/25 NEXT MEETING**

It is proposed that the next normal meeting will be on **Tuesday 12 March 2025**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2045 hours.