**TILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Council meeting held on Thursday 4 September 2025 at the Village Hall, Church Lane, Tilbrook, commencing at 7.30p.m.

**PRESENT** Councillors M Wallis; M Patterson and D Patterson .

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

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Wallis took the Chair.

**064/25 APOLOGIES** were received from Councillors P Wilcock and L Hunter

**065/25 PUBLIC FORUM** . It was suggested that the Public Forum at these meetings should take place at the end of the meeting, rather than at the beginning. This was noted.

It was confirmed that the defibrillator on the front of the Hall is the responsibility of the Parish Council and the point was made that it is not registered on The Circuit. The Clerk will investigate and ensure that it is registered.

**066/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

**067/25 COUNTY COUNCILLOR** Ian Gardener referred to the current Engagement Survey together with other Councils to better inform the public on the impending Local Government reorganisation and to seek feedback on the favoured option, A.

The intention is to replace 7 councils with just 2 Unitary Councils and, in this area, the favoured Unitary Council would cover Huntingdonshire, Fenland and Peterborough. The benefits of this move are questionable and the cost could be as much as £850million over 5 years and deliver no long-term savings.

A new Highways reporting system is being introduced (called Aurora) with effect from 22 September and should improve communication by directing problems straight to the relevant officer.

*Councillor Gray joined the meeting*

In conjunction with this, there is a new Highways Manager and there has been a reorganisation within the Highways Department. Richard Kingston is now our Senior Highways Maintenance Engineer.

**068/25 MINUTES** of the Council meeting of 25 June 2025 were read, approved and signed as a true record of that meeting.

**069/25 MATTERS ARISING**

a)MVAS SIGNS. Councillor Wilcock is not able to continue interrogating the signs, so volunteers with laptop computers are sought. It has been reported that the sign by The Shuttles is not working and it is believed that new mother boards are needed for both that sign and another. They cost £100 each and it was proposed by Councillor Wallis, seconded by Councillor M Patterson and agreed, that they be purchased and Councillor Wallis will fit them. The alternative is to send both machines back to the manufacturer.

b) Meet the Councillors event has been postponed to Saturday 13 September. Councillor M Patterson outlined the displays which he is proposing and hoped that the councillors from the principal authorities might be able to attend. Councillor Gardener said that regrettably our MP is unable to attend due to a prior engagement.

**070/25 PLANNING**

No applications have been received.

**071/25 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

a) High St hedge. Despite many requests the hedge has still not been trimmed and concerns for the safety of those using the footway remain.

b) Bridge. It is thought that the parapet of the bridge in Station Road has moved even more, to the extent that a fist can now be inserted in the gap between bricks. This will once more be reported.

c) Kym Valley Way Councillor M Patterson met the Active Travel Lead together with Councillor Gardener and showed her around and explained the history behind the project. What he would hope is that a feasibility study is completed, so that the project could be got underway the moment funding is approved.

**072/25 CORRESPONDENCE**

a) Playing Field hedge. The resident whose home shares a boundary with the playing field said that, due to the dry summer, some of the saplings planted have dies and there is a section where vines are strangling some other hedging. He asked that members of the council meet with him to determine what action to take. This was agreed and Councillor M Patterson said he would hope that the hedge could be cut down to 1.8m to make it more manageable.

b) Insurance. The Clerk said that he had paid the insurance premium for the next year and it was the same as last year.

c) Temporary Road Traffic order. Councillor Wallis explained the Order which would result in Station Road being closed to through traffic for up to two days.

d) Grass Cutting at Jubilee Way. It was agreed to set up a regular cut of Jubilee Way by HDC every other time they visit.

**073/25 ACCOUNTS**

a)The following were approved for payment

St Neots Museum Donation 100.00

M Wallis Fuel for mower 20.01

R M Smith Plant troughs 38.50

Hunts DC Grass cutting 544.32

CAPALC Subscription 220.92

K & M Lighting Maintenance 57.08

Information Commissioner Fee 52.00

Zurich Insurance premium 437.00

Hunts DC Grass cutting 2024 504.00

Hunts DC Rent of field 100.00

Hunts DC Grass cutting 272.16

C L Thatcher Pay July-Sept + arrears 470.40

HMRC PAYE & NIC 313.20

**074/25 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** Jonathan Gray said that work continued on the Local Plan and, although there was little effect upon Tilbrook, Kimbolton was impacted by several applications for development. The application for a solar farm at Rookery Farm had been approved and a small part of that will be within Tilbrook parish.

Consultation is taking place upon Brampton Cross, a development of commercial/industrial (but not warehousing)proposed for land situated between Brampton Hut and Ellington on the A14 as its southern boundary and the A1 and HLS as its eastern and northern limits. It is said that it will provide 15,000 to 20,000 jobs when complete and the effect upon traffic in that area could be considerable.

The District Council has not yet given an opinion upon Local Government reorganisation and with which option it wishes to be aligned.

Civil Parking Enforcement has now commenced in the District and officers are being employed to police parking.

Food bins will shortly be distributed to households, who will be asked to place all foodstuffs in them in future.

**075/25 MEMBERS POINTS OF INFORMATION**

Councillor Wallis said that the bins provided by this council at the Village Hall were being used and emptied regularly and the scheme seems to be a success.

He also mentioned that the White Horse pub is re-opening tomorrow.

**076/25 NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next Council meeting would be held on Tuesday evening, either 4 or 11 November, depending upon availability of the Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2050 hours