**TILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 3 April 2019 in the Village Hall, Church Lane,Tilbrook, commencing at 2000 hours.

**PRESENT** Councillors C Paull (in the Chair); M Patterson; K Gutteridge; Mrs J Pilcher & C Haynes

**IN ATTENDANCE**  C L Thatcher, Clerk to the Council and eighteen members of the public.

**14/19 APOLOGIES** were received from District Councillor Jonathan Gray & County Councillor Ian Gardener.

**15/19 PUBLIC FORUM** The Chairman invited Mr Derek Suckling of 3 Shires Security to outline his plans for security patrols to supplement normal policing.

Mr Suckling explained the reason behind his actions, which stemmed from the burglary of his own home whilst he was away and his wife and children were sleeping upstairs. Other properties in his road had also been burgled and it is his view that the policing of this area is lacking. There have apparently been 53 attempted burglaries between June and February.

He proposes engaging a private security company to patrol villages within a 7 mile radius of Kimbolton. The patrols would be every night and he was aiming for two patrols.

Funding could be by participating households making individual payments or, preferably, by each Parish Council paying for all from their precepts I.e. adding the cost to the Council Tax.

The likely cost, if all Councils participated , would be £3.28 per household per month. Should it be decided that individual households should fund their own membership of the scheme, then if 25% participated, the likely cost per household would be £10 per month.

Mr Suckling answered questions from those present.

The Chairman thanked Mr Suckling and said that the meeting would now proceed and Council would make a decision upon what action to take.

**16/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** None were made.

**17/19 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL FOR SECURITY PATROLS FUNDED VIA PRECEPT**

The Chairman invited the views of members. Councillor Patterson said that it will be necessary to approach residents. The Chairman agreed and said that a public meeting will be needed. There is certainly a village interest in being better protected, but is simply a ‘comfort’ factor, seeing security patrols in the village.

Following further discussion, it was agreed to circularise all households and to invite them to a public meeting, date to be arranged, at which a decision will be made. It is suggested that the meeting be 6 weeks from now and that it is made clear to residents that if they do not attend they will miss the vote.

Derek Suckling offered to help the Chairman with a fact sheet.

**18/19 WEEPING WILLOWS, PLAYING FIELD**

Councillor Patterson said that the two trees are beginning to shed growth and, being near to the childrens’ play equipment, need attention. The Tree Surgeon’s opinion is that they need severe crown reduction and overhanging branches need to be removed.

One quote for the work in the sum of £480 has been received and the Clerk will ask another Tree Surgeon to contact Councillor Patterson with a view to providing a second quote.

**19/19 MEMBERS’ POINTS OF INFORMATION**

No matters were raised by members.

**20/19 NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Council will take place on Wednesday 8 May 2019, commencing immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting, in the Village Hall, Church Lane, Tilbrook.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2115 hours.