**TILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Church Lane, Tilbrook on Wednesday 21 January 2015, commencing at 2000 hours.

**PRESENT** Councillors C Paull (in the Chair); B Faherty; and K Gutteridge

**IN ATTENDANCE** District Councillor J Gray**;** C L Thatcher, Clerk to the Council

**1/15 APOLOGIES** were received from Councillors Mrs Rowland and C Haynes, County Councillor P Downes.

**2/15 PUBLIC FORUM** was not used.

**3/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.** None were made.

**4/15 MINUTES** of the Council meeting held on 3 December 2014 were read, approved and signed as a true record of that meeting.

**5/15 MATTERS ARISING**

1. Sale of Reactive Signs. The Clerk reported that, although he had previously received confirmation from County Highways that the signs were Parish Council property, he had recently received a further email stating the opposite.

 Councillor Gutteridge suggested that County Councillor Peter Downes be asked to

confirm one way or the other.

1. Local Highway Initiative 2015. The Clerk has been told that we were unsuccessful in our bid.
2. Station Road ‘puddle’. The Clerk read the letter from a resident. Councillor Gray said that he had contacted Anglian Water regarding two leaks in Station Rd and nothing appears to have happened. The Chairman said that he had ‘phoned Anglian Water about the leaks and told them that the road was like a skating rink and that they would be held responsible should there be an accident. They came and made a temporary repair the next day.

Councillor Gray said that he has spoken to Anglian Water about the pumping station and told them the situation is totally unacceptable and that should effluent continue to come out of the drain cover then he will publicise the Anglian Water job number and invite residents to contact them individually.

1. Request for 20 mph speed limit in Station Rd. The Clerk reported receipt of two emails from residents. There was concern about the cost of undertaking this work – if permitted by County Highways – as not only would this Council have to fund the signage, but also the very expensive statutory advertising.

Council, having been unsuccessful in a bid for funding to change the reactive signs on High St, will now have to pay for that work and it was felt that this should be completed before consideration is given to Station Rd.

**6/15 COUNTY COUNCILLOR** was unable to be present.

**7/15 PLANNING MATTERS.**

1. No applications have been received.
2. 24 High St. The Clerk reported that Huntingdonshire District Council’s Enforcement Officer will be visiting the property regarding the metal gate and fence which has been erected and the very bright light which floodlights the field to the east of the property and to check that the property has been extended in accordance with the plans approved.

**8/15 TRAINING FOR COUNCILLORS**

 It was confirmed that Councillors Paull and Haynes will attend the training seminar on planning to be held at Little Paxton on Thursday 29 January and that the fee of £35 per person will be paid by this Council.

**9/15 ACCOUNTS**

The following were approved for payment:

 E-ON Streetlight Energy Nov/Dec 59.32 inc VAT

 CGM Ltd Grasscutting 112.80 “ “

 Westcotec Streetlight maintenance 69.42 “ “

 Lt Paxton PC Planning training course 70.00 no “

 C L Thatcher Pay January 54.80 “ “

 HMRC PAYE Jan 13.70 “ “

**10/15 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Verges. An email was received from a resident who is concerned about the mowing of verges, including the green area near to the bridge, and urged that the Parish Council consider establishing a wild flower area there, for the benefit of the environment including bees.

This was discussed at length and the particular concerns are that we do not have the expertise to do this and the fact that it will inevitably cost considerably more to do than simply to run a mower over it periodically.

It was agreed to ask the resident whether he would be willing to assist by planting and maintaining it as a wildflower area.

1. Huntingdonshire Local Plan. Notification has been received from the District Council of their intention to hold two seminars on the Local Plan and it has been agreed that Councillors Paull and Haynes will attend. A ‘hard copy’ of the Plan has been requested and will be available for collection at the seminar.

**11/15 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

 Councillor Gray reported that the Bicton Windfarm planning outcome is due in early February.

He said that Huntingdonshire District Council is yet again freezing the level of its Council Tax demand. Many cost savings are being made and there will be a 9% reduction in their expenditure compared with last year.

**12/15 MEMBERS’ POINTS OF INFORMATION**

Councillor Faherty advised that it is his intention not to seek re-election this year.

**13/15 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday 18 March 2015, commencing at 8pm in the Village Hall.

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