

TIDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7pm on Wednesday 8th April 2015 at Tidenham War Memorial Hall, Coleford Road, Tutshill

Present: Parish Councillors: Mrs C Dawson – Chairman, Mr L Allan, Mr R Birch, Mr G Birt, Mrs S Bollen, Mr B Bowshall, Miss S Gregory, Mr A Hossack, Mrs H Molyneux plus District Cllr and P Molyneux, PC Nick Assirati and 9 members of the public.

Apologies: were received from Councillor S Ford, Revd Treharne and Janice Hamilton.

Chairman's Report: Mrs Dawson welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and read her Annual Report.

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th April 2014: Having given the public time to read the Minutes they were approved and duly signed.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Police Report: PC Assirati gave his report detailing the decreases and increases in crime in the area. He highlighted the difficulty in interpreting statistical data but that the overall crime incidents had decreased. There were some instances where similar crimes occurred in a short space of time by the same suspects. Although some of these remain undetected, suspects are known to the Police. Where possible suspects have been visited in jail whilst interred for other crimes and asked to confess to other crimes they have been involved in. Most burglars are from the Newport area, raising cross border policing issues. Sandra Gregory asked about the response to emails from the public. PC Assirati advised emailing him direct for the most direct response. John Kitto questioned why neighbourhood watch advice is to call 101, even though there are problems with cross border reporting. PC Assirati advised that whilst contact through 101 will be responded to, the most direct way is to email him direct. Andy Hossack questioned whether the reduction in crime will result in reduced hours of local policing. PC Assirati acknowledged that although Lydney Police Station is closing, the Police and Crime Commissioner is committed to a hub in the Forest. This will be based at Coleford but there are plans to provide mobile IT equipment to enable updates on the move. Bernard Bowshall expressed concern that postcodes NP16 7 should be recognised as Gloucestershire by all services. Gareth Birt thanked PC Assirati for the excellent work he does locally, in particular the Tutshill School Safety Campaign, describing him as an asset to the community.

Tidenham Parish Council Committee Reports:

Amenities Committee – In Councillor Ford's absence Kevin Duffin, admin assistant, presented the report. Colin Pears asked why the money for the new fort on the playing field did not show in the amenities financial spreadsheet. Mr Duffin confirmed that this was paid

for from the TPC capital and reserves. Richard Kirkpatrick asked about tree works in Shirley's Grove. A quotation has been obtained for close trimming not for tree works.

Planning, Development Control and Highways Committee – Gareth Birt gave an overview of his report. Roy Birch asked County Councillor Molyneux for comment on the poor state of the roads. Mr Molyneux reported that the change to the County system which awarded a brand new contract to Amey had not gone to plan with lots of problems. The issues are the same across the County. The County Council are aware of the problems and are currently trying to get Amey to perform to contract. Once behind it is difficult to deal with the backlog. Fiona Bowie asked whether in view of the problems the Amey contract is less cost effective. Mr Molyneux responded that this is not necessarily the case but that it will take time to get right. Amey are penalised financially for underperformance and he did not know if the contract could be withdrawn. Andy Hossack commented on the peeling of the new lines outside Tutshill School. Mr Molyneux stated that there were a whole range of issues with the same complaints across the County. Richard Kirkpatrick asked who was accountable for the contract problems. Mr Molyneux responded that ultimately the Councillors are. Helen Molyneux asked how long the Amey contract is for – Mr Molyneux did not know. John Powell questioned this, but Mr Molyneux responded that he is not the cabinet member for highways and is therefore not privy to this information. The Clerk will contact Mr Molyneux for updated information.

To Receive Financial Statements from:

Tidenham Parish Council – Lance Allan thanked the Clerk for the Income and Expenditure and Bank Reconciliation reports. There were no questions on the accounts. Mr Allan presented a revised budget sheet. The District Council has changed the way the precept and the Council Tax Grant are requested. He explained that the Council Tax Grant is paid following the change in 2013 in the way Council Tax Benefit is paid to claimants. Mr Allan thanked the District Council for continuing to support the Parish Council. District Council administered this incorrectly last year but it was correctly done this year (15/16). The precept figure that was requested on 29 December 2014 was £92,000 which was not exactly what had been agreed at the December meeting. At the January meeting it was resolved to change the budget rather than change the precept figure with the District Council. The report given out by Mr Allan showed the revised budget and previous budget/precept information to 2009. John Powell questioned the increase in budget when the Government had expected no increase and why wasn't the extra taken from reserves. Mr Allan explained that each committee considers and decides the requirements for the following year. Current reserves are at 55.5% of total expenditure which is within the guidelines of 25% - 75%. The precept has stayed the same this year but the Council Tax Grant has decreased, resulting in a higher Council Tax charge. Mr Allan reported that the Parish Council precept is not currently capped under rules that cap other elements of Council Tax, but this may change.

Mopla Cottages – Lance Allan reported that both cottages had been rented for the whole year. No other grants or payments had been made. Future requests are welcome.

To Receive Reports from:

Tidenham War Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Trust - Andy Hossack gave an overview of the report. The Hall roof is now watertight. The Trust are particularly proud of the no dogs rule on the recreation ground – which is unusual.

Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall Charity – In Steve Ford’s absence the report was noted. Questions may be forwarded to the Clerk.

Poor’s Allotment Trust – Carole Dawson gave an overview of the report and confirmed there is now a 15 year licensed agreement with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

Items Submitted by the Public:

There had been no items submitted.

John Powell questioned the resignation of the previous Clerk. Carole Dawson responded that this had been dealt with and minuted at the January meeting. No official grievance had been lodged with the Finance and Probity Committee or the monitoring officer at the District Council.

Fiona Bowie, Sandra Gregory and Helen Molyneux introduced themselves as new members of the Council.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm