

Minutes of Tilston Parish Council Meeting held at Tilston War Memorial Hall 7th September 2023

PRESENT

Councillors Bill Joyce (Chair), Chris Kenny, Ben Hatton, Julie Horner, Paul Roberts, Lynsey Jackson

Non-Parish Councillors - 0

Public – 5

APOLOGIES

CW&C Cllr. Adrian Waddelove

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

RESOLVED 23/036 – that Cllr. Bill Joyce be granted a dispensation in relation to Tilston War Memorial Hall grant application to allow him to remain in the meeting when this item is discussed but not speak or vote.

COUNCILLOR WADDELOVE REPORT

The Report was received by the Clerk on the day of the meeting and emailed to all councillors who confirmed they had read it. The Chair, Cllr. Bill Joyce, gave an overview of the points covered in the report which included an update on the trees at Stanley House which remain uncut by CWAC; the footpath at the bottom of Long Lane which is scheduled to be cleared soon; Cllr. Waddelove's meeting with Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, John Dwyer in Tilston in August; issues that have cropped up regarding Tattenhall Household and Waste Recycling Centre mostly around health and safety; ongoing Highways' issues; the possibility of the Green Bin charges being increased and a reminder that organisations can apply for funding via Cllr. Waddelove's members budget for any special projects they have in mind.

Cllr. Roberts in response to the matter of Tattenhall HWRC stated that if it is likely that this centre will close and if the Parish Council feel that it is of value to residents then there would be no harm in writing to express their concern and press for it to be kept open because of its importance to residents particularly in rural and outlying areas. Should the only available tip be in Chester this will have an adverse environmental impact with people traveling further distances in their cars and there may be an increase in the numbers of waste being disposed of illegally at roadsides and in laybys

Cllr. Kenny pointed out that the changes being introduced at Tattenhall HWRC rendered it inadequate for residents' needs. Only cars are allowed, no trailers or vans so only a small amount of waste can be disposed of at any time.

RESOLVED 23/037 – it was agreed that the Parish Council would write a letter to CWAC expressing concern at the proposals for Tattenhall HWRC and urging them to work towards keeping this facility open to residents of Cheshire West and Chester.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public stated that there had recently been a lot of activity on Hill Field which was very commendable. However, whilst dogs were not allowed at events such as the planned Apple Day on the Playing Fields, a report on Hill Field in

the recently published local paper states that dogs can be walked on Hill Field. This was clearly a case of double standards and he had seen a number of dogs off their lead on Hill Field as a result.

It was pointed out by another member of the public that Hill Field had always been used for dog walking and that the nature and purpose of the Playing Fields was very different. Cllr. Horner, who has been leading a working group on tidying up and developing Hill Field and who had written the article in the local paper explained that she had tried to change the wording to “walking dogs on a lead” but it had gone to press before she could do so and she now had to wait for the next edition before the error could be rectified. She pointed out that it had been agreed by the Parish Council some years earlier that dogs could be walked on a lead on Hill Field.

The member of the public expressed his further concern about overall safety on the field which has ponds and a brook. He felt because of the danger posed by the presence of water which can be extremely deep in winter time children were being put at risk. It was explained by the clerk that lengthy discussions had taken place with the Council Insurers Risk Management Team and a comprehensive guide had been received. Full Risk Assessments were in place and signs stating the danger of water and dogs on leads were on order. No Fouling signs and signs stating it is an offence to leave dog excrement in grass would be added.

A member of the public stated that there was an expectation that dog owners and parents would take some responsibility and not every waterway, pond, stream or brook in this area or in areas further afield are fenced off.

Regarding the possible closure of the tip in Tattenhall, a resident had calculated the distance to 3 other tips that residents might have to use – Chester would be a journey of 14 miles, Winsford 20 miles and Ellesmere Port 45 miles. All these additional journeys would be added fuel costs and impact on the environment. There had been no response from Sanctuary Housing regarding the use of land behind Wynter Lane and Rookery Road for storing a boat and dumping rubbish. Cllr. Roberts suggested the council contact CWAC explaining the problem and the lack of response from the housing association responsible for this development.

Concern was expressed by a member of the public that a new house was to be built next to Grafton Hall Farm. It was pointed out that as planning has been agreed the parish council has no grounds to challenge the building of the house.

A member of the public spoke on behalf of a friend who had received a note from TWMH stating do not park here as this is a private car park, The owner was elderly, his car had broken down and he had had to get a bus to an appointment. He had been upset by receiving the note.

MINUTES

RESOLVED 23/038 – that the Chairman signs, as a correct record the circulated minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 6th July 2023.

PLANNING

The Council noted the planning register as circulated:

23/02010/FUL – Demolition of rear lean-to, erection of rear two storey extension and installation of replacement sewage treatment plant – Old Rectory Cottage, Church Road, Tilston, Malpas SY14 7HB

RESOLVED 23/039 The Council had no objections to this application.

23/02215/FUL – Installation of ground mounted solar PV array comprising of 72x38w solar panels – Lost Barn Café. Stretton Hall Lane, Malpas nr Tilston.

The Council noted that this was the second identical application to be submitted and that a decision made by CWAC Planning on 20/06/23 had been withdrawn on 11/07/23.

RESOLVED 23/040– Tilston Parish Council would want to be assured that the archaeological sites in the vicinity of the café are not compromised by the installation of the solar panels.

23/02426/CAT- Remove Yew Tree, two Conifers, two Birches. Larger Ash pollard by pruning back by 3m to previous pollard points. Two Oaks – 2m crown reduction. Ash – 2m crown reduction – Willow Cottage, 19 Church Road, Tilston, SY14 7HB

23/02597/CAT – Felling of Rowan, Blue Cedar, Himalayan Cedar and Silver Birch – Mulberry Cottage, Church Road, Tilston, SY14 7HB

RESOLVED 23/041 – The Parish Council to inform the Planning Department of its growing concerns over the number of trees removed or felled in the Church Road area of the village and seeks assurance that the felling and removal of trees in this conservation area is as a result of the significant risk the trees pose to people, property and structures.

ACCOUNTS & PAYMENTS

RESOLVED 23/042– that the Council approve the accounts and payments as circulated on page 46 of the Cash Book and additional payments as below: -

To whom paid	Particulars	Amount
CHALC	Subscription Fee	£129.50
Tilston School Fund	Printing Mobile Survey	£10.00
ICO Renewal	GDPR	£35.00
TWMH	Room Hire July	£36.00
Marian Hagan	Salary July 2023	£269.50
KJ & JA Cundill	Memoriam Donation	£25.00

Outstanding payments

RESOLVED 23/043 - that the Council pay the following outstanding payments:

Marian Hagan, Clerk, Tilston Parish Council Salary August 2023 £269.30

Marian Hagan, £49.96 as reimbursement for Copier Paper and Printer Ink

SLCC, Membership Fee £112.00

Zurich Municipal, Insurance Fee £308.30

RESOLVED 23/044 – The updated Financial Regulations circulated August 2023 be adopted by the Council.

MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE

A survey of Mobile Phone Connectivity had been distributed to every household in Tilston since the last meeting in July. Cllr. Bill Joyce had looked at the returns to date which showed an overriding picture of poor mobile coverage. Broadband connectivity was variable with plenty of room for improvement. The survey is open until September 16th after which time Cllr. Joyce will provide a full written report showing

the statistics and their analysis which will be sent to Mike Dugine, Digital Connectivity Officer at CWAC.

HILL FIELD

Cllr. Julie Horner presented the meeting with a report on actions to date on the development of Hill Field.

The volunteers had met on the Field twice during the summer. At the first meeting a strimmer was used to create a path through the bottom half of the field which was very overgrown. A path was then mown part way round and some of the cut grass was raked up. This was a difficult job due to new grass already growing through. At the second meeting the path was mown again (it is planned that this work will take place twice a month during the growing season but as more people use the path this should only be necessary as required) and some undergrowth was cut back between the young trees in the top part of the Field where it is impossible for a tractor and topper to gain access.

There are 30+ species of wildflower in the top part of the Field. This area is earmarked to be kept as a wildflower meadow with a path going around it. Butterflies are in abundance in the area and there have been sightings of toads as well as grasshoppers.

All councillors have received documents relating to the reinstatement of the Friends of Hill Field. The first meeting of this group which is a working party attached to the Parish Council Hill Field Development Priority and which it is hoped will encourage further community involvement is planned for Tuesday, September 27th. 2023.

Proposed work and spending until the end of this financial year, March 31st 2024 includes mowing of the field, hedge cutting, removal of 12 self - seeded trees from around the pond area, removal of some fencing and removal of bushes that are harming the soil in parts of the Field. An Annual Maintenance Plan will be drawn up at the September meeting with full costings made available to councillors following that meeting.

RESOLVED 23/045 it was agreed that £600 be allocated for Hill Field maintenance and development works 2023-2024.

MAINTENANCE OF THE NEW PATH TO TILSTON SCHOOL

RESOLVED 23/046 - £200 to be allocated for the maintenance of the new path to Tilston School with the owner of the land cutting and clearing and “topping” as necessary. Cllr Kenny to liaise with the owner in this matter.

ACTION PLANNING AND PRIORITIES FOR 2023/2024

RESOLVED 23/047 It was felt that this item required a meeting in itself and so it was agreed that councillors would meet informally to discuss an Action Plan and its priorities on Tuesday, September 12th at 7.45 in TWMH.

HILL FIELD CAR PARK

A meeting had taken place on August 16th between the Parish Council and Tilston War Memorial Hall Committee regarding the possibility of siting a car park on land to the rear of the Village Hall

RESOLVED 23/048 – it was agreed that prices would be sought for an Ecological Survey on the car park area only.

RESOLVED 23/049 – It was further agreed that 3 quotes would be sought for plans and construction costs.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comments on items discussed during the course of the meeting included the importance of maintaining the ponds on Hill Field and this would include the clearing of matter from around and within the ponds such as trees whose roots would grow beneath the ponds and reducing the number of bullrushes. It was pointed out that there are grants for pond maintenance.

Regarding the Path to School - the field belongs to the Willett family and it is commendable that they are keen to manage it and do the right things in the right way.

An Ecologist living in the Tilston area was suggested.

A request was made for the parish council to pursue a resolution to the matter of the fencing and gates and trees at School House Farm. The clerk will write for an update from the Planning Enforcement Officer.

Regarding the mobile connectivity issue, the area needs a mobile company to take it on and a location to site the required mast.

RESOLVED 23/050 -That the public leave the meeting and councillors and clerk move to Part B of the agenda

PART B

SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS

Three applications were received over the summer.

RESOLVED 23/051 – Tilston Parish Council to grant £200 funding to Tilston Landscape and Wildlife Group towards the costs of the next Tilston Trail leaflet.

RESOLVED 23/052 - The Clerk to write to a second applicant to make a further request for submission of the group’s accounts in compliance with due process in the matter of grant applications and awarding of funding.

RESOLVED 23/053 – Tilston Parish Council to grant £600 funding to Tilston War Memorial Hall towards the cost of installing heat and smoke detectors and some additional emergency lighting.

Signed

Dated

The Meeting closed at 20.50

**The next PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
will be on Thursday November 2nd 2023 7.00pm**

Tilston Parish Council

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