

**Minutes of Tilston Parish Council Meeting  
held at Tilston War Memorial Hall  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors**

Chairman – Mike Hearn

Penny Honeyborne                      Neil Ritchie

Chris Kenny                                Ben Hatton

Non-Parish Councillor CW&C Cllr Paul Roberts

Public – 3

**APOLOGIES**

Bill Joyce – Family holiday

**RESIGNATION**

Cllr. Dave Morgan gave notice of his resignation with immediate effect on January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023. This was due to work commitments

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

**RESOLVED 23/056 –**

Cllr. Neil Ritchie declared an interest in Agenda item no.8 Crowdfunding for new Path to School as a governor of Tilston Primary School.

Cllr. Penny Honeyborne declared an interest in Agenda item no.10 Budget 2023/24 as a member of Tilston Playing Field Committee.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

CW&W Cllr. Paul Roberts asked if all members of the Parish Council had received his most recent report sent to the clerk in December. Safe receipt and distribution to all councillors was confirmed. There were no matters arising from this report and Cllr. Roberts had nothing to add at the present time.

**CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS**

A resident who had recently expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor had sent apologies for not attending the meeting. Thursday evenings were problematic at the present time due to family commitments and in view of this they would now wait until the May elections were announced before making a decision about standing as a Parish Councillor. The clerk was advised not to approach a second possible candidate as they had committed to another village committee and were fully involved in that at present.

**MINUTES**

**RESOLVED 23/057 –** Cllr. Ritchie proposed and Cllr. Hatton seconded that the Chairman signs, as a correct record the circulated minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022

The notes from the additional meeting held on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 had been made available to all councillors and would be kept on record with the minutes.

**CLERK'S REPORT**

Feasibility of dog bins on proposed new path to Tilston School

Email sent to Team Leader Infrastructure, Cheshire West & Chester Council, November 7<sup>th</sup> to attaching photos of where the bins could be sited as provided by Cllr. Kenny. Reply received November 30<sup>th</sup> informing the clerk that a recent “bin survey” had been carried out and had concluded that the two locations did not meet the criteria to install bins at this time. The matter has been put on hold until such time as the path is completed, in use and need can be more easily ascertained.

#### Councillors’ response / comments

Although some councillors felt there was a significant number of dogs being walked along this area currently, they were content to wait until the path was “up and running” before pursuing this matter further.

#### Responsibility for cutting overgrown hedges on Malpas Road

Cheshire West & Chester Council contacted by clerk, November 7<sup>th</sup> to ask who has responsibility for the hedge growing in the area from Lodge Cottage to the left hand side of the gate at Tilston Lodge (property owner or Council?) and to clarify who is responsible for the entire lane stretching from Well House to Tilston Lodge. Reply received November 8<sup>th</sup> stating CW&C owned this land and will take responsibility for cutting hedges. A further cut had been ordered to address the problem of overhang onto the path.

#### Councillors’ response / comments

Cllr. Kenny informed the meeting that a recent cut had taken place and the hedges were a lot easier to pass. Unfortunately, some branches had been left on the footpath.

#### Speeding Traffic on Malpas Road

Formal Letter of Complaint sent (06/11/22 ) to PC Hurst as he advised at the Parish Council meeting. PC Rachael McKeivitt copied in. Contacted PC Hurst and PC McKeivitt November 30<sup>th</sup> for update and to check that the letter had prompted the raising of F43 as indicated by PC Hurst. PC McKeivitt to chase this up. Awaiting reply at date of this report.

During November it was noticed that a speed monitor box had been installed on a lamppost on Malpas Road. Enquiries with Highways department confirmed this was a Cheshire West and Chester Council project to gather more up to date data with regards to traffic speed on Malpas Road.

Speed data per 24hr period showed:

- 1) Eastbound in 2022 - Mean speed = 24.6 mph
- 2) Westbound in 2022 – Mean speed = 25.6 mph

Previous data collected in 2018 is shown below:

- 1) Eastbound in 2018 – Mean speed = 25.6 mph
- 2) Westbound in 2018 – Mean speed = 26.9 mph

Both counts were taken in front of the Village Hall.

The data shows a slight reduction in mean speeds since 2018, with motorists generally compliant with the speed limit. The reduction in mean speeds has taken place since the introduction of the speed limit signage improvements and Vehicle Activated signs installed via s106 funding.

Based on these findings Highways have no plans for any further speed improvements on Malpas Road.

The data did suggest that the road may be close to meeting the criteria for a 20mph limit. However, further correspondence with Highways informed us that the average speed has to be 24.0 mph or less and when considering the total flow the data showed the average here to be just over 25mph. hence Malpas Road does not meet the criteria for a 20mph speed limit at this time.

### Councillors' response/comments

Both Cllr. Kenny and Cllr. Honeyborne stated that they regularly observed cars travelling at very fast speeds through the village. Cllr. Kenny asked that councillors push for a 20mph speed limit despite the data not showing a significant problem. Because the data does not hit the requirement for this speed limit it was pointed out by Cllr. Ritchie that it would be necessary to do something physical to get the speed down and there would be costs involved. Councillors considered the fact that they had to decide what direction to take on the matter of traffic speed in Tilston Village. They could either accept the recent data provided which suggested there was not a significant speeding problem or consider means of slowing the traffic down through road humps, road narrowing, greater police presence, speed guns.

**RESOLVED 23/058** – That the Parish Council will wait for the Police response to the F43 Complaint.

Cllr. Roberts through the Chair informed the meeting that CW&C policy has been that if speed limits are to be reduced the local council would be required to fund 50% of the total costs.

### Requirement for Planning Permission for new path to Tilston School

CW&C informed Parish Council that no formal Planning Permission will be required but should the new path affect the hedgerows and trees growing alongside the route it will be necessary to apply to the Tree Officer for advice. Ecological survey quote has been requested from Cheshire Ecological Services ([Cheshireecologicalservices.co.uk](http://Cheshireecologicalservices.co.uk)) as recommended by Planning Department.

### Councillors' response/comments

The Ecological Survey quote is in relation to Hill Field development.

### Inveresk Residents' Response to Proposed new Path to School

Owner of the land upon which the proposed path is to be sited contacted November 6<sup>th</sup> They confirmed that the path will be positioned on the field side of the trees and shrubs and as such will be away from the Inveresk residents' boundary gardens. Cllr Joyce informed and has written to the residents to re-assure them that their outlook will not be affected.

### Feasibility of a Mirror at bus stop / shelter to assist passengers sheltering on the other side of the road

CW&C contacted November 7<sup>th</sup> with this suggestion. Replied November 30<sup>th</sup> stating Road Safety Officer would not recommend siting a mirror on or near the carriageway.

### Feasibility of No. 41 bus drivers stopping and waiting a little longer at northbound bus stop in Tilston to allow passengers sheltering in bus shelter across the road, time to cross back over the road and board the bus.

Contacted Aintree Coaches with this proposal November 11<sup>th</sup>. Very positive reply received from MD of bus company ([helmscoaches@btconnect.com](mailto:helmscoaches@btconnect.com)) who also offered to come to a Parish Council meeting to discuss the bus service with residents and councillors.

On being informed that permission for a Mirror at the bus stop would not be granted, the clerk contacted Aintree coaches for confirmation that the buses would in fact stop longer ie that all the drivers were aware of this request, and asked if a notice could be put inside the bus timetable noticeboard informing the public that if they needed to shelter across the road in the bus shelter itself, the bus would wait for them to cross back. Email acknowledged but no confirmation of the request as yet.

### Informing new and established Tilston residents of what is happening in Tilston and what services are available

Currently information is distributed via The Reporter, Village News, School Newsletters, Village Noticeboards. Parish Council Website and Parish Council Facebook page.

Contacted colleagues in Tattenhall regarding this matter as Tattenhall Online used personally since coming to live in this area. Tattenhall Online

(<https://www.tattenhall.org/>) is managed separately from the Parish Council. The system used is shared with a number of other villages.

Contact information available when and if required.

### **PLANNING**

The Council noted the planning register, pages 166 and 167 as circulated, no further applications had been received.

#### **22/03513/FUL – Erection of agricultural building to store hay and machinery at OS Field Number 4171 Wet Lane, Tilston**

**RESOLVED 23/059** – That the council submit the following comment: No objection in principle to the erection of an agricultural building on the site in question, however they would seek assurance that the size of the building matches the proposed need for such a building.

#### **22/03595/FUL – Installation of ground mounted solar PV array comprising of 72 x 380w solar panels at the Lost Barn Café Stretton Hall Lane, Stretton, Malpas, SY14 7JE**

**RESOLVED 23/060** – That the council submit the following comment: the Parish Council would want to be assured that the archaeological sites in the vicinity of the café are not compromised by the installation of solar panels.

#### **22/04152/S73 – Variation of condition 15 (approved plans) on Planning Permission 10/04152/EXT at Grafton New Covert. Hall Lane, Stretton, Malpas**

**RESOLVED 23/061** - That the council submit the following comment: The Parish Council notes that the new drawings are not by Robert Adam the original architect renowned as outstanding in buildings of classical design but by Portman Surveyors and as such they would like to be assured by an architectural appraisal that the alterations to the overall design and to the detailing do not detract from the quality of the architectural design of the original.

### **CROWDFUNDING INITIATIVE**

Cllr. Ritchie informed the meeting that as of today's date we had raised and been donated a total of £7680.00 which was only £1822.00 off the £9502.00 target for the proposed Path to Tilston School. He described how the initiative had been assessed via a Teams presentation that he and Cllr. Joyce had given to a panel of Officers and Councillors who were tasked with judging a number of projects in the Rural area. As a result of the bid and presentation we had been pledged £7270.00 by the panel which included approximately £2800.00 pledged via Cllr. Roberts. Cllr. Ritchie expressed his gratitude to all those who had donated and pledged so far including Cllr. Mike Hall of Tattenhall Parish Council who had donated a significant sum to the project. There were 55 days left to raise the outstanding amount and so the Parish Council would have to make a concerted effort to reach the target amount or the project would fail and all pledges and donations be "lost" that is returned to those who had given to the fundraising so far.

**RESOLVED – 23/062** That the flyers already printed would now be distributed to every household in Tilston.

That an Auction of Promises would be held and a sub committee would be formed to organise this;

That letters advertising the crowdfunding initiative would be sent to all those businesses that advertised in The Reporter.

Cllr. Hatton would investigate the VAT aspect of the project with a view to having this included in the final amount raised if needed and allowed;

Tilston Parish Council would pledge £330.00 Community Infrastructure Levy to the Crowdfunding Account (Stripe) with a transfer from the Parish Council account to be made as soon as possible.

Any gap in funds found near to the deadline date of February 28<sup>th</sup> would be funded through Parish Council reserves.

To gauge and report on progress the Parish Council would hold an Extra-ordinary Meeting on Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm. in the Village Hall.

### **WARM SPACES INITIATIVE**

The bid for funding had been submitted and approved in December and the Warm Space offered by the Carden Arms which included free soup and roll and tea/coffee and biscuits from 12.00-17.00 Tuesday to Friday was now advertised via notice boards, website and Facebook. Cllr. Kenny informed the meeting that the Carden Arms was due to re-open after the Christmas Break from January 6<sup>th</sup> and both the owner and staff were on board to make this a success.

Cllr. Kenny will monitor this and informed the clerk that staff knew to invoice her for refreshments given to those using the pub as a Warm Space.

### **ACCOUNTS & PAYMENTS**

#### 1) Accounts & Payments

**RESOLVED 22/063** – that the Council approve the accounts and payments as circulated on page 33 of the Cash Book and additional payments as below: -

<b>To whom paid</b>	<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Amount</b>
TWMH	Room Hire November	18.00
Marian Hagan	Salary November	269.50
TWMH	Room Hire December 12th	20.00
Ann Wright	Salary	117.32
ChALC	Clerk's Training, Elections	45.00

#### 1.Outstanding payments

**RESOLVED 23/064** – that the Council pay the following outstanding payments:-

Marian Hagan, Clerk Tilston Parish Council, £269.50 for December Salary

HMRC £201.60 for Tax and NI Oct 2022- Dec 2022

Marian Hagan, Clerk Tilston Parish Council, £99.36 Reimbursement for

crowdfunding flyers, postage, copier paper and ink and envelopes

Cheshire Community Action £1899.00 for Housing Needs Survey and Report.

#### 2.Budget 2023/24

**RESOLVED 23/065**

That the Parish Council agree to earmark the following funds for 2023/24:-

	<b>2023/24</b>	2022/23
Salary & Payroll	4600.00	3100.00
Admin	1800.00	1500.00
Training	500.00	200.00
Insurance	350.00	350.00
Room Hire	250.00	200.00
Subscriptions	250.00	100.00
Internal Audit	50.00	50.00
Election	600.00	500.00
Gritting	600.00	500.00
Working Funds	2500.00	2000.00
Grants and Donations	3000.00	3000.00
Hill Field Project	3500.00	5000.00
Civic Event Coronation	1000.00	1000.00
CIL	575.00	575.00
Projects	2000.00	1500.00
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>21575.00</b>	19575.00
<b>NET PRECEPT</b>		10303.00

Balance in Reserve Account November 2022	£17,344.98
Balance in Reserve Account December 2022	£16,598.95
Projected Balance in Reserve Account March 2023	£13,000.00

Cllr. Hatton stated that the “must haves” in the above budget came to £11,500 and it was unwise to keep eating into reserves.

### 3.Precept 2023/24

**RESOLVED 23/066**-Council agree to request the following as the Precept allocation for Tilston Parish – 10% £11,430 which equates to £39.91 Band D Value, £3.63 Band D Increase. Proposed by Cllr. Hatton and Seconded by Cllr Ritchie.

### **TRAFFIC SURVEY MALPAS ROAD**

The Data provided by Stuart Bateman, Principal Engineer, CW&C December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022 which was captured during a survey undertaken in November 2022 and included:

Total Volume of Traffic in 24 Hour Period	1486
Eastbound	751
Westbound	735
85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Maximum Speed of Total	30.8 mph
Eastbound	30.4 mph
Westbound	31.4 mph
Mean Average Speed of Total	25.1 mph
Eastbound	24.6 mph
Westbound	25.6 mph

had been discussed at length as part of the Clerk's report, Agenda item 6, and councillors felt there was no need to go over this again.

### **POLICE COMMISSIONERS'S MEETING**

**RESOLVED 23/067** – The Council agreed the following questions/ concerns would be raised by Cllr. Mike Hearn when he attended the Police Commissioner's meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> :-

1. Police co-operation over speeding issues in the Tilston area.
2. The salutary presence of the Police within the village including a significant increase in Police patrols and visibility.
3. Vandalism in Tilston.

### **WILDFLOWER PLANTING / NPS FUNDING**

Through the Chair, Cllr. Roberts explained that Neighbourhood Pride Scheme money was available to plant wildflowers in villages and towns as suggested by him. The Council would do the planting once the neighbourhoods had identified the areas to plant within. This initiative had worked very well in Farndon and Saighton.

Anything that had an adverse effect on Road Safety would not be considered.

**RESOLVED 23/068** – it was agreed that the Neighbourhood Pride Scheme funding for Wildflower planting in Tilston could be used to plant wildflower seeds in the village entrance, on the approach to the Church, Duckington Lane, the approach to the Sewage Works and or the Green by Inveresk Road. It was further agreed that the Wildlife Group based in Tilston be approached for advice and assistance in this matter. Cllr. Honeyborne to provide contact details.

### **CORONATION MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> 2023**

Cllr. Honeyborne informed the meeting that the Events Committee was due to meet next Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 and that she would raise the matter of celebrating the Coronation at this meeting.

Cllr. Hatton stated that it was not up to the Parish Council to lead on this as there were numerous groups and associations within the village upon whom the organisation of a celebration to mark the coronation could rest.

Cllr. Kenny felt it was a good opportunity to bring all the groups including the Wakes Committee, Playing Field Association, School, Church, TWMH Committee and the Parish Council together to support each other.

It was suggested that the Parish Council could provide the children of the Parish with a keepsake such as a mug. The clerk will price this and inform councillors of costs involved.

### **LOCAL ELECTIONS 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023**

Councillors were informed of the key dates around the election period:

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March Notice of Election published

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April by 4pm. Deadline for Nominations

From 17<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April Nomination Papers will be accepted.

Every Councillor who wants to continue has to complete a nomination form.

The pre-election period often referred to as Purdah is from March 16<sup>th</sup>.

From April 5<sup>th</sup> Clerk advised if contested or uncontested election and if quorate.

Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> Clerk informed of results of election.

May 9<sup>th</sup> Date of retirement or stepping down. There can be no meeting before this date and should have taken place within 14 calendar days which is May 22<sup>nd</sup>. TPC could meet May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**RESOLVED 23/069** it was agreed that the Election would be promoted as soon as possible within the community through The Reporter publication, Posters provided by Electoral department of the Council, website and Facebook.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A resident reminded the meeting that the village shop was a very good way to publicise events and the election and to generally get information out to the public. Cllr. Roberts said that he was sorry to have to inform us that as part of the government scheme to make all bus fares £2.00 the various bus companies had to agree to opt in to the initiative. Unfortunately, the 41A serving our Ward had decided against opting in and therefore the fares would not be standardised at £2.00 on this route.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....

**The next PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
will be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 7.00pm.**

Tilston Parish Council

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