

# TUDDENHAM ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Claire Unwin

Clerk: Tina Newell

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 7 December 2023 In The Village Hall, Tuddenham St Mary.

**Councillors Present:** Claire Unwin (CU) (Chairman), Amanda Spence (AS) (Vice Chairman), , Carron Bignall (CB), Kim Burt (MB), Maria Carpenter (MC) and Sharon Garnett (SG).

**Others in attendance:** Tina Newell (Clerk) and eight members of the public.

### Apologies for absence:

071223/01 Councillor Andrew Long offered apologies for absence prior to the meeting.

071223/02 All Councillors accepted apologies for absence from AL.

071223/03 Colin Noble (CN) (County Councillor) and David Taylor (DT) (District Councillor) tendered apologies for absence prior to the meeting.

071223/04 **Declarations of Interest:** AS declared an interest in agenda item 7e as a member of the Youth Club committee and agreed to present the request but take no part in the discussion or vote.

071223/05 **Dispensation:** Councillors noted no requests for dispensations had been received and none were requested at the meeting.

071223/06 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 November 2023 as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised CU to sign the minutes (reference 161123/01-62 inclusive).

### Public Forum:

071223/07 Councillors noted there was no report from DT.

071223/08 CN had sent a report just prior to the meeting and TN will forward to all Councillors. Prior to the report CN had sent an email confirming he has asked for road sweeping to be more frequent given the traffic volumes through the village; funded three speed pole surveys; the two cables along Higham Road were put in place by Suffolk Highways to count the traffic as they do across the 4,000 miles of

Signed: *Amanda Spence*

Dated: 04 01 2024

the network from time to time the results inform the internal road assessment process; the Parish Council can formally request a pavement from the stream in to the village; CN will obtain and send the data from the most recent Automatic Number Plate Recognition survey; CN has suggested Matt Hancock as Member of Parliament for the Parish is best placed to put pressure on National Highways. Cllr Richard Smith, Cabinet member for Strategic Highways, is fully briefed on the issue and Suffolk County Council have written to National Highways seeking more Data about the proposals.

- 071223/09 A resident confirmed Suffolk County Council has no appetite to introduce '20's plenty' citing the key point as the lack of enforcement. TN will look into this further.
- 071223/10 A resident asked why there were no weight restriction signs relating to 'Cherry Hill' at any entrance point to the village other than from the A11 and expressed concern at the lack of signage warning of the dangerous bend in the road near the public house noting the increased number of traffic movements especially lorries.  
**Planning:** Councillors considered the following application made to the Local Planning Authority (MSDC) relating to the Parish
- 071223/11 DC/23/0810 Non material amendment to DC/23/0810HH for extending the single storey element by one metre.  
Mulberry Cottage, 15 High Street, Tuddenham IP28 6SQ.  
After a brief discussion all Councillors resolved to offer **NO COMMENT** to this application.
- 071223/12 All Councillors noted there were no determinations made by the District Council relating to the Parish since the last meeting.
- 071223/13 Councillors noted the old storage sheds at the Bowls Club had been demolished and a new base is being constructed before the replacement sheds are erected.
- 071223/14 Councillors noted the application for first registration of land known as Tuddenham Playing Field is with the solicitors. As the land was purchased in 1988 and before the 1990 rule to register land the land wasn't previously registered; when 3 Bakers Way was registered in 1998 a triangle of land included in the original conveyance of the playing field was registered to 3 Bakers Way. The solicitor recommended the Parish Council proceed to register the playing field less the small triangle. With all Councillors in agreement it was resolved to accept the solicitors recommendation and proceed to

register the land known as the playing field minus a small triangle of land already registered to 3 Bakers Way.

071223/15 It was resolved to request the solicitor carry out a map search of land around The Green to confirm all Parish Council land registered with HM Land registry in this location.

071223/16 Councillors received confirmation the planning enforcement officer at West Suffolk Council has closed the complaint regarding the height of the recently erected play tower noting photographic evidence confirms the height of the highest tower is now below 4m.

071223/17 Following the approval from the Parish Council for the Cricket Club to have practise nets on the car park in July 2022 AS proposed to retrospectively approve the Cricket Club make a planning application to the District authority on behalf of the Parish Council; the proposal was seconded by CU with all Councillors in favour. It was noted the Cricket Club would make payment in full and would receive a reduction in the planning fee as the application was made on behalf of the Parish Council.

**Finance:**

071223/18 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance report for the period ended 07 December 2023 at the meeting.

071223/19 **Bank Reconciliation:** SG as a non-bank signatory, confirmed the bank reconciliation as presented agrees to the bank statements with cash available of £13,803.20; £11,931.50 in the Treasurer account and £1,871.70 in the Instant account.

071223/20 **Budget to Actual:** This report was unavailable due to the delay in receiving the bank statement.

071223/21 **Reserves:** SG confirmed the reserves account reconciles to the bank statements and all Councillors present accepted the general reserve is 39.40% of the precept.

**Receipts:** Councillors noted there had been one receipt since the last meeting:

071223/22	Lloyds	Interest	2.06
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**Payments:**

All Councillors resolved to approve the following gross payments by internet banking confirming a full schedule, supported by invoices and receipts, had been received prior to the meeting:

	Payee	Details	£
071223/23	Tina Newell	Salary and re-imburements	420.40

071223/24	Polstead Press	Signage for playing field and The Green	252.00
071223/25	Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreaths (ahead of 2024 service)	40.00

071223/26 All Councillors noted TN has completed an application to be added to both the Lloyds bank accounts and CU has submitted the paperwork; CU and TN agreed to contact Lloyds Bank for an update.

071223/27 After a brief discussion CU proposed to support the financial request from the Youth Club for £50 towards the cost of hosting a Christmas party noting there are around 40 children going to the party; the proposal was seconded by KB with CD and SG in favour; TN confirmed this expense was budgeted using S137 funds. AS took no part in the discussion and did not have a vote on the motion.

071223/28 After much discussion and reviewing each expense line in turn all Councillors agreed to set the budget for 2024/25 at £15,070.16; it was decided that there would be no budget for the defibrillator noting there is already a reserve of £700 which is adequate to cover replacement pads and battery as required.

071223/29 All Councillors noted the tax base from which the precept is calculated has increased from 169.18 to 173.09. TN confirmed the precept is the balancing figure of budgeted income less expenditure. CU proposed to request £15,070.16 as the Parish Councils precept from the District authority (an increase on an average Band D Council Tax paying dwelling of 4pence per week). Noting there were no questions or comments from members of the public AS seconded the proposal; with all Councillors in agreement CU and TN signed the 'Precept Upon Charging Authority' form.

**The Green:**

071223/30 KB informed all Councillors until a decision on the funding is known there is no update.

071223/31 The new 'turn engines off' signs have been delivered and it was agreed CU and AS will erect them in a suitable location on The Green.

**Playing field**

071223/32 Noting everything identified on the monthly play inspection report is either low risk or very low risk all Councillors agreed no action is required at this time.

071223/33 Artisan Structures are not concerned structurally about the current splits/shakes in the sweet chestnut posts identified as low risk but these can be rounded off in case there is a sharp edge; it was agreed to request a quotation from Artisan to

carry out sanding and rounding for consideration at the next meeting; Artisan will check the loose swing fixing later this week.

071223/34 Councillors noted TN is still seeking quotes and grants for the purchase of replacement 'ball stop' safety fencing enclosing the play area; a meeting with the playing field committee is yet to be arranged.

071223/35 Councillors noted the replacement signage for the play area was collected today; TN will ask the playing field committee if they are happy for the old sign on the wall to be removed and replaced with the new sign. AS agreed to replace both signs once approval is granted.

071223/36 TN confirmed the order has been emailed for work to repair the entrance walls to the playing field; AS will chase the contractor for a date when the work will be started.

071223/37 Councillors noted there had been some feedback to the display boards showing a proposed extension to the current play area; After discussion it was resolved for TN and CU to meet with the playing field committee to discuss/consider options to ensure the best facilities possible are available for residents and visitors early in the new year.

071223/38 Councillors noted the Playing Field Committee have been asked to provide quarterly reports but as yet no response has been received.

071223/39 After consideration all Councillors resolved for TN to obtain a quote for a large litter bin to replace the current dog poo bin at the entrance to the playing field.

**Road safety:**

071223/40 Councillors noted as soon as payment is received the replacement 'Tuddenham' sign will be made and delivered within 14 days allowing for the festive break. It was agreed to meet an engineer from SCC to confirm the location for this sign and to ensure there are no utilities likely to be effected from the installation.

071223/41 CN has agreed to fund three pole speed surveys and these are on order likely to be installed February 2024. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to apply for location/s to fix the Speed Indicator Device and carry out Community Speedwatch on the Icklingham Road noting a visible presence may have a more positive effect on slowing down of speeding vehicles.

071223/42 The new Speed Indicator Device has been ordered and with a lead time of around eight weeks it should be delivered early 2024. Colin Noble County Councillor has received the quote and will make an application for £2,000 from his locality grant as will DT.

**Village Hall:**

071223/43 To note the village hall committee have committed to give two reports a year in May and November; the next report will be May 2024.

071223/44 Councillors heard the application for a brown directional tourist sign for the village hall is a rather comprehensive application; once completed it will be sent to CN who will submit it with the application fee (CN has agreed to fund the application fee). If the application is successful a quote to produce the sign will be received.

071223/45 It was noted there were a number of local parishes represented at the meeting held with National Highways on 29 November 2023. National Highways have a remit to close the gaps only and have no role in how this may effect more minor roads in the displacement of traffic neither are they allowed to 'land grab' to allow a safer slip road on to the A11 from 'Cherry Hill'. The original proposals are back with the design development team and it was agreed before the 21 day consultation commences all the local Parish Councils will be given details of the new plan. It was agreed a meeting with Suffolk County Council, as owners of the minor roads, is required urgently with Matt Hancock as the local Member of Parliament and representation from the statutory consultees. TN has sent invitations for a meeting to be held early 2024.

071223/46 **Street Lighting:** Councillors noted TN has submitted an expression of interest to the District Council for funding to replace Parish Council owned street lanterns to LED; the deadline for expressions is 31 January 2024 therefore the next phase of the scheme cannot be implemented until after this date. It is expected a formal grant agreement will be received in the next few weeks which will need to be signed before any grant is paid. It was agreed TN and CU would sign the grant form if received in advance of a future Parish Council meeting.

071223/47 TN has requested again a cost to replace streetlight No 15 on Higham Road.

- 071223/48 **Mobile Phone Signal:** On 20 November 2023 Matt Hancock, Member of Parliament for West Suffolk agreed to take up the matter of the mobile phone signal. Whilst to date there has been no report or update TN is chasing for this.
- 071223/49 **Grounds maintenance:** Councillors agreed to look at the land the Parish Council wish to have maintained by an external contractor for the forthcoming season and request quotes before the next meeting.
- 071223/50 **Flooding and Drainage:** Councillors agreed to set up a working party to consider the recently flooding and appointed KB, SG and a member of the public to the group. It was agreed the group would look at public comments and agree a plan of action to recommend to full Council.
- 071223/51 **Correspondence:** Councillors noted an email had been received from the trustees of the playing field committee and agreed the points from this email had been considered previously in the meeting.
- 071223/52 **Working Together:** Councillors agreed to hold a public 'working together' event in January with a proposed date of 20 January 2024 it was agreed to await confirmation of the village halls availability prior to publicising this event.
- 071223/53 **Councillors to note any items for inclusion in a future meeting:** Anglian Water, agree the Parish Councils formal response to the proposed gap closures on A11.
- 071223/54 **Councillors agreed to hold the next meeting on Thursday 11 January 2024.**
- 071223/55 **Chairman closed the meeting at 9.19pm.**