

## TIPTREE PARISH COUNCIL



### MINUTES OF THE FULL PARISH COUNCIL

The Meeting of the Full Tiptree Parish Council took place via Video Conference on Monday 8 March 2021 at 7.32pm.

Present via Video Conference: Cllrs

M Maund (Chairman)	S Allen-Shepherd
D Coe	C Bigg
J Greenwood	N Mattinson
S Redgewell	B Wood
D Webb	

Also in attendance –County Cllr J Jowers, a member of the press, the Clerk of the Council and the Deputy Clerk.

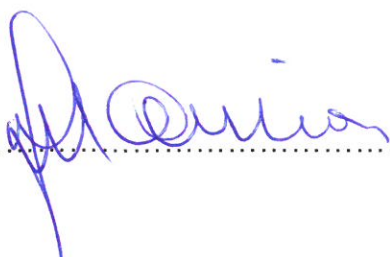
- 149/20 **Apologies for Absence:** – Apologies for absence were Received and Noted from Cllrs Anderson, Bunney, Mannion and Smithson.
- 150/20 **Declarations of Interest** – None.
- 151/20 **Chairman's comments** – The chairman reported on (a) The current legal position with Video meetings. The current law enabling meeting by video conference is due to expire on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Indoor Public meetings are not due to be enabled until Phase III of the lockdown is lifted, which is currently planned for June 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is expected that this "gap" will be addressed by government, but this is the law as it currently stands. (b) Our Head Groundsman has reported an increase of dog walkers on the Grove Road Playing Fields, and an attendant rise in dog faeces being left in situ. It is hoped that all will assist in reminding the dog walkers that it is not allowed to take dogs into the Playing Fields (because of the risk of harm through dog faeces to young children). (c) Our Parish Chairman is back on the mend, after suffering a hospitalisation following an adverse reaction to medication. He will be back with us shortly.
- 152/20 **Questions and statements from the public** – There were no questions from the public attending the meeting.
- 153/20 **Minutes of the Full Council.** The minutes for 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were **unanimously approved for signature** by the Chairman.
- 154/20 **Receipt of Minutes from Committees:**
- (a) It was unanimously agreed to **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** Minutes 013- 035/20 of the **Planning Committee**.
- (b) It was unanimously agreed to **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** Minutes 016-025/20 of the **Policy & Finance Committee**

- 155/20  
(a) **County Councillors report:** Cllr Jowers reported on the recent receipt of Part A of the Colchester Local Plan, thereby increasing the weight that can be afforded to it when examined. Cllr Jowers then talked about the volunteer sector and how important it had been during the pandemic. This was recognised by ECC, with a number of further grants made to aid that sector. On the Zoom meeting capability discussed in Chairman's Comments (above), Cllr Jowers was also of the opinion that this would be shortly resolved. Finally, Cllr Jowers talked about Highways matters, and offered to assist in getting a member of ECC Highways to meet with the council. **The verbal report was received and noted by council.**
- 155/20  
(b) **Borough Councillors Report:** Cllr Wood reported on the closure of the Tiptree Barclays on 4<sup>th</sup> June. **The verbal report was received and noted by council.**
- 156/20 **Scout Hut Rebuild (\$106 Project):** The clerk reported that this item had been sitting in the project list for some time without movement, and that CBC had made an initial enquiry regarding next steps (an architectural drawing and "firmer" price estimate). After a lengthy discussion on project viability and existing plans, it was **RESOLVED that the item be brought back to council at the next meeting.** In the interim, the clerk was to determine whether architectural drawings exist for the building, and determine if there is an appetite for a shared building.
- 157/20 **Neighbourhood Plan update:** Cllr Greenwood reported that the Steering Group are now awaiting a number of important reports on traffic studies and the subsequent Strategic Environmental Assessment update, in order to proceed with the plan. A timetable to deliver the plan up to referendum has been developed, and this shows that there is approximately 12 months of work ahead, with the majority of the time being taken by statutory timelines for consultation/review. **Council RESOLVED to receive and note the report.**
- 158/20 **New Parish offices:**
- (a) The clerk reported that progress on the project is continuing at pace. All internal walls are now insulated, dry-walled and plastered, awaiting first coat of paint. The electrician is due at the end of the week. It is expected that a move-in date of April 12<sup>th</sup> is not unreasonable.
  - (b) The sale of the old Office at Mynott Court was raised by Cllr Bigg. With a valuation in hand, and at least two private expressions of Interest, it was asked whether council would like to place the sale externally with an estate agent, or proceed to a blind auction with bids above valuation accepted, and the highest bid awarded the sale. **Council debated the merits of both, and RESOLVED to proceed with a sealed envelope bid from any interested party.**
  - (c) The bi-annual maintenance of the Mynott Court site was due to commence shortly, and Cllr Bigg informed Council that it made sense to defer the Parish Council offices until we had left site. **This was Noted and agreed by Council.**
  - (d) **Electric Charging Points:** Cllr Bigg and the Clerk were interested in gaining the council's viewpoint in attempting to place an electric vehicle charging point beside the Parish Council offices. As there are currently none in the village, it would be an asset, but the tree's on site are all protected, and a discussion with CBC needed to be held in in order to determine viability. **Council agreed unanimously for the investigation into feasibility with CBC.**

- 159/20 **Land Transfers:** The clerk reported that the Caxton Close Land transfer had now been agreed, and that the Parish council now owned this section of land. The next item due to be handed over was expected to be the Grove Rd PF Extension, though this was dependent on CBC releasing the transfer prohibition on the site. Allotments are still no further forward. **The report was received and noted.**
- 160/20 **Community Hall Booking System:** The clerk reported that a lengthy trial had now been completed on the HallMaster booking system. It was not as robust as the Edge system currently in use, lacking some of the additional features that Edge utilises. It was however more than 50% less costly, and would suffice for our needs. The bookings clerk is trained in both, but after 4 years of use, has an obvious preference for the Edge system. **Council debated, and RESOLVED unanimously to adopt the HallMaster bookings system.**
- 161/20 **Windmill Green Christmas Tree Project:** The clerk provided a report on a project to deliver a Christmas tree on Windmill Green for the Village. **Council RESOLVED to approve the project.**
- 162/20 **Brook Meadow.** Cllr Greenwood reported on the recent application for Development on Brook Meadow, and the associated Ecological Appraisal. This particular document received a very large number of letters of objection from botanists around the country. It was suggested that the Parish Council object to CIEEM (the governing body for these reports) regarding the quality of the report, as it severely misleads on the harm that can be occasioned to wildlife. After a brief discussion, it was **unanimously RESOLVED to ask Cllr Greenwood (on behalf of the Parish Council) to object to CIEEM regarding the report produced on Brook Meadow.**
- 163/20 **Complaints Policy:** Policy and Finance Committee had forwarded a draft Complaints Policy for review and acceptance by Council. After a short discussion it was **RESOLVED that the Complaints Policy be adopted.**
- 164/20 **Zoom Meetings Balancing:** The clerk reported that there was an inequity in attendance at the zoom meetings for a single Councillor who did not have Internet access. It was within the ability of the council to rectify this, by loaning a laptop, and providing a cellular dongle. We have the laptop available to loan, and the dongle is inexpensive to purchase – the minutes for the SIM card would be the responsibility of the Cllr. After debate, **it was unanimously RESOLVED that the dongle be purchased and the loan enabled.**
- 165/20 **Bank Reconciliations:** Cllr Wood reported that bank reconciliations up to and including the end of February 2021 have been correctly carried out. **This report was received and noted.**
- 166/20 **Budget Vs Spend Report.** The clerk walked councillors through the report, highlighting areas for discussion. **The report was received and noted**

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 20.47 pm.

Signed.....



Date.....

14/04/21