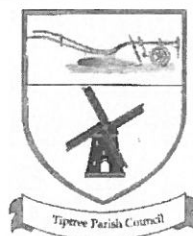


TIPTREE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING of TIPTREE PARISH COUNCIL

The Monthly Meeting of Tiptree Parish Council took place in the Small Hall at the Community Centre, Caxton Close on Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 7:22pm.

Present: Cllrs

Jonathan Greenwood (Chairman)	Michael Maund (Vice Chairman)
Sue Allen-Shepherd	Ashley Girling
Stuart Gulleford	Matthew Hatton
Tony Peck	Victoria Murrell
Sandra Redgewell	Diana Webb
Barbara Wood	

Also present: One member of the Public, CCC Cllr P Dundas, the Clerk to the Council and the Deputy Clerk.

113/23 **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from CCC Councillor R Mannion and TPC Cllrs E Birkin, C Kitley and M Woodcraft.

114/23 **Declarations of Interest** – None.

115/23 **Chairman's Remarks:**

- (a) The City Council have stated that there has been no call for an election, following the resignation of Sarah Bond on 9 October 2023. The requisite period of advertising has now expired, and we are able Co-Opt for the position.
- (b) Scout Hut: As some in the Council may be aware, we have been seeking assistance via S106 funding to help re-build the very dilapidated Scout Hut. Some funding is likely to come to fruition in the next 18-24 months, and so a brief meeting was held with the Scouts, The Chair of Amenities, the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk. It was confirmed that the Scouts would want the hut re-built, would want the Parish Council to be the owner of the building, and would enable other groups to use the hut when they were not needing it. Next steps would be to gain a list of requirements for the building, and then bring to Full Council to enable the engagement of an Architect. That would not be expected until January at the earliest.
- (c) Remembrance Sunday: A reminder to all Councillors that this Sunday is Remembrance Sunday, where there will be a parade and a brief service at the War Memorial. Parade will be mustering at the Car Park outside of Boots from 1:55pm. Councillors are encouraged to attend.
- (d) Local Government Cost of Living pay rise: After a significant ballot and call for strikes by both Unions (Unite and GMB), the unions have finally agreed that their base is too fractured and representationally small at each site to make a significant difference, and therefore have agreed to accept the

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Government offer. The pay rise is the same as last year (£1,925 pro-rata) and will be implemented and back dated to April 1st.

- 116/23 **Questions and statements from the public:** None
- 117/23 **Minutes of the Full Council.** The minutes for 3 October 2023 were **APPROVED unanimously for signature** by the Chairman.
- 118/23 (a) **ECC Cllr Verbal Report:** Cllr Bentley was not present.
(b) **CCC Cllr verbal Report:** Cllr Dundas reported on a number of items, including (i) Staff at Colchester City Council are being balloted for strike action (ii) providing the results of two Planning Appeals (both dismissed), (iii) The spend result of his Locality Budget and (iv) that the Thyme Road Play area was being processed, and it was expected to be up before committee at CCC in the next two/three months.
- 119/23 **Payment Lists:** The payments for October 1st and October 15th were **unanimously approved en-bloc (having been previously approved by email)**. The clerk stated that the authorised payment to Rialtas had not been made, as the VAT invoice had not yet been submitted, and this would be re-submitted for approval in the coming weeks.
- 120/23 **Events Committee:** Cllr Woodcraft was regrettably unable to attend the meeting and therefore Cllr Webb spoke on the matter: The 3 Cllr Committee was very concerned about the number of members available to them, and the ability to maintain a quorum. It was felt that the committee was least effective as a stand-alone group. The assessment of need had not been completed, and there was a concern that this was a vital step that was missing. Likewise, the differing way of achieving events (outsource, support of local events or TPC initiated and run events) had not been fully resolved. This led to a conversation regarding how other Parish Council's manage their events. It was finally Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED that the matter be reviewed in the following months, after the Clerk had been able to determine how surrounding Parish's of comparable size manage their events, and build a list of Local events already in place.**
- 121/23 **IT Upgrade:**
The Clerk reported that all mailboxes were now fully operational, and that the old mailboxes would be shut down by the end of the week. **It was RESOLVED to receive and note the report.**
- 122/23 **Banking:** The Clerk reported that mandates needed to be changed in order to allow the incoming Clerk access to the Bank Accounts, before assuming the role of Clerk. It was therefore requested that the Council approve the Incoming Clerk as "key Contact" for the 3 Banks associated with the Parish Council. Council **unanimously RESOLVED to approve the request to add the Incoming Clerk as Key Contact on the Bank Mandates.**
- 123/23 **Grove Lake: Reed Bed recovery:** Council were informed that the Reed bed at Grove Lake that was closest to Church Road had failed, primarily because the ducks had used the young shoots as a source of food. The reed beds were a necessary part of the eco-structure, as they provided a habitat, and also helped secure the silt bed in place. The contractor who completed the silt drainage for council had provided a scheme to enable re-planting the reed bed, with a secure "structure", preventing access by the ducks. **Councillors RESOLVED unanimously to accept the plan provided by the Contractor.**

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- 124/23 **Meeting Schedule for H1 of 2024:** A draft schedule of meetings for the first half of 2024 had been previously shown to members. It followed the same format as previous meetings. It was **unanimously RESOLVED that the meeting schedule be adopted.**
- 125/23 **Youth Club Hire of the Community Centre:** The Clerk reported that the Youth Club approvals for renting the Hall at no charge had now expired, and that a further term of approvals was required. It was further requested by Youth Club, that they extend their hire from 16:15 to 18:45 (a period of an additional half hour). Councillors **Unanimously RESOLVED to approve the hire, with the additional half hour.**
- 126/23 **Receipt of Minutes:** Council determined to receive the minutes "en-bloc", and **unanimously agreed to receive and note the minutes of:**
- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Amenities Committee | 12 September 2023 |
| Planning Committee | 05 September 2023 |
| Policy & Finance Committee | 19 September 2023 |
| Highways Committee | 26 September 2023 |
- 127/23 **Bank Reconciliations:** Cllr Peck reported that the October Bank Reconciliations were complete, without issue.
- 128/23 **Financial Overview:** The spend to date Vs Budget numbers were presented to Council. **Councillors were content to receive and note the report.**

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 20:12 pm.

Signed... J. Greenwood Date... 5th December 2023