

Community Committee Minutes

The meeting of the Community committee took place on Tuesday 17th September 2024 at 19.00 in the meeting room, Tiptree Community Centre, 1A Caxton Close, Tiptree CO5 0AH.

Councillors Present:

CLlr A Dickey - *Chair*
CLlr M Maund

CLlr M Hatton
CLlr M Woodcraft

Also in attendance: Deputy Clerk, Community Centre Manager

040/24 **Apologies for absence:**
There were no apologies.

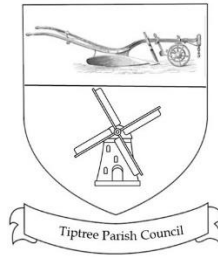
041/24 **Declarations of interest:**
There were no Declarations of Interest.

042/24 **Minutes of Meeting:**
The minutes of the meetings held on 21st May and 16th July 2024 were proposed, seconded, and unanimously **Resolved** as being an accurate record and duly signed

043/24 **Chairs Announcements:**
1. Considering the recent departure of two Councillors from the council, a call was made for the remaining committee members to work together.

044/24 **Election of a Vice Chair:**
It was proposed, seconded and unanimously **Resolved** to appoint Councillor Hatton as the Vice Chair

045/24 **Public questions:**
There were no questions from the public.



046/24 Clerks Report and Update:

The decoration of the Community Centre is ongoing; however, progress has been slower than anticipated. Additionally, there have been ongoing issues with Anglian Water regarding a potential leak at the Centre. While the issue was previously investigated and believed to be resolved, recent correspondence from Anglian Water indicates otherwise. Upon further communication, the Centre Manager confirmed there is indeed a leak or water loss occurring. Based on prior investigations, the plumber has suggested that the likely cause is a faulty systemiser, which regulates the urinals' flushing system. Replacing the systemiser is estimated to cost around £500, though there is no guarantee this will resolve the issue. Currently, the leak is approximately 6 litres, which is below the enforceable threshold of 10 litres. Centre staff will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Occupancy rates for Centre hires in September have been very high, with several new hirers joining us.

Considering the recent Southport incident, one of our hirers has raised concerns about access control for the small hall. A temporary solution has been implemented, and we are in the process of identifying a more permanent option.

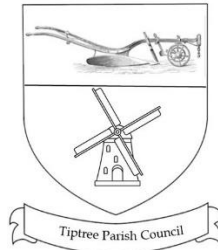
The Community Centre has been in operation for 13 years, and during this time, we have been unsuccessful in securing a nursery to utilize the small hall and the dedicated children's toilet facilities installed when the Centre was built. Following a discussion, the committee has requested quotes to convert the existing children's toilets into unisex adult facilities.

047/24 Financial overview:

The financial overview was received and noted by the committee. The funds for events were not shown and the Deputy Clerk will report back on this.

048/24 Quotes for doors at the Community Centre:

The double external doors to the small hall have previously had lock repairs, but both the door and lock are now deteriorating and could soon pose a security risk if not addressed. Additionally, the rear office fire exit door is currently accessible only from inside, creating difficulties as the number of hirers using the small hall continues to grow. A quote of £390 has been obtained to install a lock on the external fire exit door, allowing access from outside.



The Deputy Clerk will seek additional quotes for this work and explore solutions for the small hall's external fire exit doors to provide restricted access from the outside. Other concerns have been raised regarding the continued use of the rear office, as conversations can be overheard by hirers in the small hall, and the current access issues complicate operations. Installing an external lock on the fire exit would require the Centre Manager to walk around the building's perimeter to greet visitors or potential hirers, even in bad weather.

Given the increase in hall bookings, another option being considered is relocating the Centre Manager to the front office near the main entrance. This would improve accessibility for visitors and enhance the opportunity to engage with the community and prospective hirers. Privacy film could be applied to the office glass for security. The Centre Manager has expressed concerns about potential interruptions with this relocation, but the increased visibility could lead to additional hire opportunities and stronger community relations.

A fire safety report has also highlighted the need for maintenance and repairs on some internal fire doors. A quote of £1,860 was obtained for this work, though the Centre Manager has faced challenges in finding suppliers willing to provide quotes. The Deputy Clerk will obtain additional quotes, and Cllr Hatton may be able to offer a contact for this purpose.

049/24 Solstice Parade:

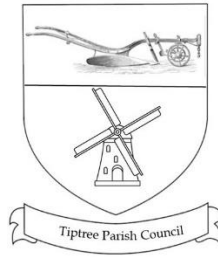
The Clerk again spoke to the Member of the Public (MoP) that was looking to bring this event to the village. It was suggested that the MoP contact Thurstable school to use as a potential location.

050/24 Air conditioning for the Community Centre and CIF Funding

The need for air conditioning at the Community Centre was discussed, with the possibility of applying for CIF funding to support the project. Cllr Dickey has already met with a contractor to obtain an initial quote, and additional contractors are being contacted for further estimates.

During the site visit, the existing air recovery system was reviewed and found to be unsuitable for cooling the Centre.

It was proposed, seconded, and **Resolved** that Cllr Dickey would proceed with investigating the CIF funding application process



051/24 **Possible Future Events**

The committee discussed potential future events, including the suggestion of a summer fete.

Cllr Hatton suggested reaching out to community groups to explore how the council could be involved in their events. The funds for events were also discussed.

052/24 **Chair closed the meeting at 20.08.**

Date of next meeting Tuesday 15th October 2024

Signed

Date 15th October 2024