

TILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 116th ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in the Village Hall at 8.00pm on Wednesday 24 March 2010.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Harvey, Bryant, Mee, Reeds, and Potten.
13 Members of the Public.
Press: None.

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Harvey.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllrs Champion and Hammond. Michael Tuckett.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 25 March 2009 were read and approved as a correct record. Proposed Cllr. Mee seconded Tony Pluckrose.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mrs Bailey requested an update on the Deed of Protection for the West Field. Cllr Harvey informed her that the Parish Council was in the process of registering the deeds with HM Land Registry and that once this was completed, they would be able to make progress with the Deed of Protection.

4. THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Report from Chairman Cllr Robert Harvey:

"I'm sure most of you are aware of the duties of the Parish Council and the work we do and the responsibilities we have or hold on your behalf. Much of our work is routine, annually, monthly, weekly or even daily.

We look after our village green – The Square, the village pumps, our West Field and children's play area, the toilet block and car park, street lights, allotments, grass areas and more. Many meetings are also attended during the year by councillors and our clerk. We act as consultees to MDC on planning applications in the village. Meetings are held with the Police and representatives from ECC on Highways and public rights of way on a regular basis.

We are involved with the Rural Community Council for Essex (RCCE) with the need for affordable housing in the village. The RCCE is also available to help the Community Led Planning Group. The Essex Association of Local Councils is used by us for training courses and we are also able to contact them for advice or guidance on the rules and regulations that surround us nowadays.

Many of you – the public come to us with problems or points of view on village matters and we do our best to accommodate you.

One of the highlights of the year was the installation of the Ramp on the multi-track on 16 Sept 2009 followed by the official opening on 28 October 2009.

The youngsters of the village love it and so do some of the older villagers that are still young at heart. It's just great to see such a wide age group using and enjoying this facility. I've even had a go myself – and I live to tell the tale!

I'm sure you will agree the new children's play area fence is far safer and superior than the old fence and gates. We will be having some work done on the two large oak trees in this area in the very near future.

Over the next few weeks we hope to have a new notice board for the official Parish Council notices and other information outside the village hall, and a new community notice board for use by villagers in the public car park alongside 'Rathscar' fence near the village pump.

Congratulations to the Tillingham Village Hall Management Committee (TVHMC) and their helpers on the transformation of the Village Hall led by Tony Pluckrose. Tillingham Parish Council was pleased to help financially with this project. One of our councillors, also a member of the TVHMC who helped physically with the task, keeps us informed on village hall matters at our parish council meetings

The RCCE has identified the need for 10 affordable houses as a result of the survey they conducted at our request. Discussions are ongoing. They have also guided the Community Led Planning Group. This group of villagers have also conducted a survey and are in the process of analysing the completed questionnaire and will soon publish the village Parish Plan and/or Design Statement. Thanks again to Tony Pluckrose who got this group 'off the ground' and to Tracey Hammond for continuing the work started by Tony and the small group she works with.

Tracey has joined us at Tillingham Parish Council after being co-opted onto the council on 16 February 2010, after the resignation of Barbara Church due to work commitments.

Grants secured by our clerk have helped the village immensely over the last few years and continue to do so. This last year the Multi – Track Ramp was made possible due to obtaining a £15000 grant from the Essex County Council Community Imitative Youth Fund and the official Parish Council notice board has become a reality due to a £500 grant from the ECC Community Initiatives Fund.

Our precept for 2009/2010 was £23500 and will increase to £24000 for 2010/2011.

This year we are entering the Best Kept Village Competition for the first time for many years. Please help us to make as good an impression as possible by keeping everywhere neat and tidy and asking others to do the same.

Finally I thank our clerk Sheila Welham for her conscientious work throughout the year, my fellow councillors and other helpers and groups around the village, some paid and some volunteers, for their help."

5. A BRIEF FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk reported that the Insurance figure of £3341 included a grant of £1811 to the TVHMC for their insurance on the village hall. The Parish Council insurance premium of £1530 covered the parish assets, public liability etc.

As a member of the Essex Association of Local Councils the Parish Council had been able to secure a 15% reduction in the annual insurance premium. The Parish Council decided to make good use of this 'reduction' by paying an additional premium to increase the cover of the Public Liability insurance from £5m to the maximum of £10m.

The Parish Council has used its insurance policy as a risk management tool and hopes

that the insurance cover is ample to protect the parish precept in the event of a claim.

Street Lighting costs had increased due to the electricity supply contract increasing by £20 per month.

The toilet block costs had remained stable. There had been no burst pipes in the freezing weather despite there being no lagging or heating! The Parish Council had decided not to push its luck, and by next winter it hopes to have installed a simple heating system. Everyone should be proud of the public toilet – It is an essential facility in our rural area that the village maintains totally from the parish precept.

A gesture of goodwill of two benches and a picnic table had been received from Wicksteed Leisure. These were obtained through Chairman Robert Harvey making a 'loud noise' at the Wicksteed stand at the Saltex exhibition in September 2009. He travelled to Saltex to complain personally to the managing director about our project installation problems. That was a dedicated Councillor working for your village!

6. A REPORT AND ACCOUNT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHARITY

Roger Lawrence reported that the charity income was £367 and expenditure £290. The fund stood at £2800 and due to the recession income was minimal.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Questions from the floor followed:

Mrs Bailey asked why signs had been erected outside of the fire station. She was advised this was to enforce the yellow zig zag markings on the highway.

Mrs Lawrence was concerned that cars continued to park outside of the village hall at school times. She suggested yellow zig zags on the highway on both sides of the road outside of the school.

Cllr Harvey stated that the Square grass areas were in a poor state following the bad weather and that signs were due to be erected to request the public not to drive or park on the grass. He suggested that a long term remedy may be to widen the diagonal from Marsh Road to the Church gate so that two cars could pass on the highway.

Cllr Harvey advised there was a petition circulating for signatures, 'Fight for our Hospital' – a new hospital in Maldon.

Cllr Harvey informed the public about the 'One Place' mobile unit visiting the village on the second Monday of every month. Leaflets were given out.

Cllr Potten requested the public to inform her of highway problems requiring attention.

Cllr Harvey advised the Post Office was open again after a sudden and short term closure.

Mrs Hewitt thanked the Parish Council for looking after the village.

8. CLOSE

The meeting closed at 9.08pm, followed by refreshments of wine and nibbles.

Sheila Welham
Clerk to the Council