

## **Tuddenham St Martin's Parish Council**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 commencing at 7pm at the village hall.

Present: Mr W Pipe, Mr D Lugo, Mrs J Ellinor, Mr H Brightwell, Mrs H Hollier, Mr R Blake, Mr C Hedgley (District Councillor) and Mrs C Frost (Clerk).

- 1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies.** Apologies were received from Councillor Bryce (County Councillor), Ms P Procter (Parish Councillor) and Mr Frost (Chair of Village Hall Committee). Apologies were also received from Mr J Bird (Parish Councillor) as he would be arriving later in the evening. The Chairman welcomed every one present to the meeting.
- 2. Minutes of Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021.** These were approved and signed.
- 3. Matters arising.** There were none.
- 4. Chairman's Report.** The report from the Chairman had been emailed to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. It was as follows:

Following on from the previous two years restrictions imposed on us by the Covid pandemic, it was good to be able to return to a degree of normality with face-to-face meetings. As usual, over the year our activities tend to revolve around highway and traffic issues, planning, and the ongoing upkeep of the playground, together with support for the village hall, church and community at large.

This year planning applications have reverted to more normal levels, albeit not without the odd contentious issue involving work being carried out without planning permission and within the village conservation area.

Highways matters as always, take up a considerable amount of time at our meetings. Parking issues remain an ongoing problem, and it has been necessary to remind car owners not to park on the footpaths, which are not the widest to start with. SAVID and Speedwatch are ongoing thanks to Pauline Procter. More volunteers continue to be needed to man the speed monitoring device. The County Council initiative to promote 'Quiet lanes' is currently under consideration for Westerfield Lane. The main road through the village was resurfaced last summer and in a very efficient manner. Sadly, just recently another water leak necessitated digging up the new surface and we currently await final reinstatement of the excavated area. The County Council are embarking on a planned replacement of older street lights with new LED fittings, and we intend to take the opportunity to upgrade the lights that we are responsible for.

We are very grateful for the continuing supervision and maintenance of the playing field and playground undertaken by David Lugo and Jim Bird with some help from others. The grass cutting contractors have not performed very satisfactorily and have been replaced for this year by Suffolk Coastal Norse. With the help of a significant contribution from the Boost Grant Scheme, proposals are in hand to introduce some new playground equipment specifically geared to provision for youngsters with disability issues. It is also hoped to develop the playground in other ways to encompass all members of the community. Special thanks to Jean Ellinor and Roger Blake for master minding this.

At the instigation of Trevor Wright and with grant funding, we have embarked on installing swift nest boxes on appropriate properties around the centre of the village, with the occupant's permission of course, and we await the outcome with interest.

We continue to support the village hall committee with a contribution towards ongoing upkeep and maintenance of this valuable community facility. We also continue to provide funding to the church as a contribution to the maintenance of the churchyard, and in addition make small donations to, the air ambulance and Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.

Our contact with the local police through the Safer Neighbourhood Team continues thanks to the involvement of Holly Hollier for which we thank her.

In view of the fact that we are now in the Queen's jubilee year, the Council has been encouraging appropriate arrangements to celebrate the occasion at the beginning of June.

After careful consideration, we have agreed to keep the precept at £6,200 for the 2022/23 year. This has remained unaltered for several years and in view of the current economic situation, hopefully will be appreciated.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of our District and County Councillors Colin Hedley, and Elaine Bryce. Without volunteers we would not have a Parish Council and I am delighted to welcome Roger Blake, who has joined us during this last year. The administration involved in running the Parish Council seems to become heavier every year and not helped by the constraints of Covid-19 at times, involving extra work for Carol Frost our clerk. We are very fortunate in having the services of a very efficient and long-suffering person who just gets on with it in her quiet way. I very much doubt that any of us fully appreciate just how much time she devotes to the task. A very big thank you to you Carol from us all. And finally, to my fellow Councillors, thank you for your continuing support and contribution to the village community.

## **5. Report of County Council and District Council Representatives**

The County Council and District Council reports had been emailed to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. Copies of both are available to view on the Parish Council website [www.tuddenhamstmartin.onesuffolk.net](http://www.tuddenhamstmartin.onesuffolk.net) Mr Hedgley presented his report and highlighted some of the topics included. He added that there will be a contribution of £2,000 of District Councillors budget money to a hardship fund and this will be used to help residents of the East Suffolk Council area in difficult circumstances. Mr Hedgley was pleased that money from his Enabling Communities Budget had been able to help the village with the purchase of a defibrillator, a new laptop for the Parish Council and help towards the replacement of the swing safety surface. Mr Hedgley was aware of the further improvements being considered for the village playing field and playground and suggested that Councillors may wish to contact Grundisburgh Parish Council to seek advice about funding, following their success for their playground upgrade. Mr Hedgley would provide the Parish Council with the relevant Grundisburgh contact details after the meeting. Mr Hedgley invited questions and welcomed contact if he could be of assistance to the Parish Council. He also reminded the Parish Council to make use of the Community Enabling Budget for village projects.

The Clerk would contact Councillor Bryce to follow up the reimbursement from Suffolk County Council towards the overpayment in respect of last year's snow clearance.

**6. Presentation of Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.** The Clerk presented the Accounts for the year ending March 2022. These would go forward to the meeting of the Parish Council.

**7. Report from the Village Hall Committee.** The report had been emailed to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting and was as follows:

Here is my latest report to the Parish Council, an update to the annual report that I provided in November 2021.

I'm pleased to say that we have a new booking clerk. Whilst passing on the responsibilities to her, I took the opportunity to write down the procedures that the booking clerk follows, something we have not had in written form before. We also have set up a dedicated mobile phone number for the booking clerk. I'm sure both of these will be helpful when we eventually need to pass the role on again, hopefully not for a long time ahead!

Bookings have started to resume now that Covid restrictions have been lifted, but we find that there are frequent cancellations and some of the regular users of the hall find that attendance can be patchy. We have kept our hire rates low for now (and we are attracting external hirers because of our competitive rates), but we will need to review our charges in the autumn, particularly in the light of increased energy costs. A baby and toddler class is starting as a regular new Thursday morning booking on 26 April.

Once again, I'd like to thank the Parish Council for the £500 donation to funds. We are constantly finding new expenses. The Village Hall notice board was badly damaged in the storms, and Colin Williamson, our caretaker has done a magnificent job in making repairs. I'd also like to thank Councillor Bird for repairing the shed roof when that was also damaged in the storm, and Councillor Lugo for keeping the grounds in good order.

The village hall remains a key asset for the parish, and all the support that the Council, the committee and other villagers give is much appreciated.

**8. Report from Parochial Church Council.**

The report had been emailed to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting and was as follows:

Despite ongoing restrictions during the past year, we have mostly managed to maintain a weekly service as well as to show our support for the village during another year of Covid.

Floodlighting the church on a regular basis has proved popular and a beacon of hope in difficult times. The outdoor services on Church Hill for Remembrance Sunday and around Christmas were again very well received, and everyone seemed to enjoy the lit Christmas tree, crib and 'Merry Christmas' banner.

Our Electoral Roll currently stands at 31 members.

The fabric and churchyard are in generally good order. Andrew Offord continues to cut the grass and hedges in the churchyard, and several volunteers have undertaken various additional tasks which have much improved the appearance of the churchyard. Our Churchyard is very much alive, especially at festival times, where it is a joy to see it so appreciated by relatives, as well as by the many walkers who pass through. The financial support given by the Parish Council for the maintenance work is much appreciated.

In support of the Council's initiative to 'Save our Swifts' we are pleased to have installed 5 nesting boxes in the church belfry in accordance with the advice given to us by Trevor Wright.

We were delighted to finally be able to hold one or two events last year. We had a Quiz in the village hall and also Harvest Lunch. We sadly missed the Fete again, but had 2 stalls on Church Hill which were well supported and much enjoyed. These kind of events provide an opportunity for contact and community spirit which such are a key part to life here in Tuddenham St. Martin.

**9. Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting. 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Mrs C Frost  
Parish Clerk. Tuddenham St Martin