

TISBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly

held in the Victoria Hall on 18th May 2010 commencing at 7 pm

1. Public Participation:

The following topics were raised:

- a. Composting Site - the use of public money to support this project was questioned. In response, the Chairman undertook to review the project as a whole during the present season.
- b. Amalgamation of West Tisbury and Tisbury Parish Councils - it was noted that the 2 PCs did liaise and co-operate through the Joint Working initiative and WCnllr TD indicated that the review of boundaries would be looking at the situation, but would take into account the super rural nature of West Tisbury and semi urban nature of Tisbury.
- c. Community Campus - the Chairman explained that the Steering Group had been formed from all groups present on the site and a round of public consultation was imminent. The exact position with the Plymouth Brethren was still unclear.
- d. At this point the Community Beat Officer for Mere, Richard Salter (RS), made himself available to answer questions, the issues raised being:
 - i. Parking on Station Road - the effect of issuing the notices advising that cars parked in dangerous locations would subsequently be issued with Fixed Penalty tickets if caught again was explored and thought to be worthwhile doing. However, it was agreed that input from WC was also required, but little would be forthcoming. RS indicated that he would support a parking order (personal view).
 - ii. Anti Social Behaviour - it was noted that the level incidents had decreased since the same time last year.
 - iii. Skateboarding on pavements- this was confirmed as being illegal.
 - iv. Transfer to Salisbury of Police Sergeant Andy Fell (AF) - TPC asked that RS thank AF for all the hard work and support given in support of TPC.

2. Present: P.Cnllrs P. Duffy (Chairman), J. Berkley-Matthews (RFO), Mrs J. Amos, D. Carroll, Mrs Pam Chave, P. Coopman, Miss F. Corp and M. McGrath - 8.
Also in attendance: WCnllr T. Deane; 15 residents; Mrs S. Harry (Clerk).

Apologies received and accepted: P.Cnllrs Ms J. Golder (Vice-Chairman) and R. Dearden; Ms J. Farrell, Rev Staley, Mrs T. Austreng, Mrs D. Carter.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 19th May 2009

These were accepted as a correct record once the date had been corrected to show 2009 and not 2008.

Proposed MrsPamC/ seconded MissFC / unanimous of those present - 4

4. Chairman's report for 2009/10

The past Chairman, David Carroll, gave the following report:

'The Parish Council has seen some changes with the resignation of Richard Beattie becoming a Wiltshire Councillor and Councillor Patrick Duffy becoming the new Chairman and I wish him well in his new position.

2009/10 is the first year of operating without our former District Council in Salisbury and we are now working with our new Councillor, Tony Deane who is down to earth and we are lucky to have such a caring Councillor. He is willing to help us when dealing with Wiltshire Council and works hard to get the Parish a fair deal. We hope to keep this relationship going for a long time.

We had 27 planning applications relating to building works and two "changes of use" applications, one of which relates to a conversion of a retail shop to a cafe - something that the village has wanted for some time.

This compares with 30 applications in 2008/9 and 86 in the year before that, indicating a marked decrease over the past three years.

With regard to the Hindon Lane development, it is hoped that the final design will be submitted soon and certainly during this year, but the legal agreements are still being negotiated and this has taken much longer than envisaged.

R2 and R 4 monies are funds received from builders for recreational purposes. These monies have this year provided funding for the refurbishment of the cricket pavilion on the King George V playing field and also a bowling machine to help the Youth cricket team during practice sessions. Added to which the tennis courts have benefitted from floodlighting with the swimming and football clubs benefitting from swimming pool covers and a new mower respectively.

The Allotment Society formed to manage the allotments went from strength to strength last year and in the current year will be completely self supporting.

Volunteers have continued to run the composting site and finance their activities by exchanging products from the site for small donations, together with grants and a small subsidy from the Parish Council that was previously used to finance the provision of skips in the Village. The group finished the year with a sum of just over £2,000 that will be used to make the site more secure and functional.

During the year the Composting group purchased a shredder which has helped immensely to keep the site tidy and hopefully bring in more revenue. The biggest problem we have is of people dumping.

I have enjoyed my 3 year term as Chairman which was made far easier by the Councillors support and would like to add my thanks to Avril for all her hard work in keeping the Village tidy and her added displays around the Village are delightful. Last but not least I would like to thank Sandra Harry for all her hard work during the past year It has been my privilege to have worked with her as she has always kept me on the straight and narrow which I think at times may have been difficult. I am sure she will do

the same for the incoming Chairman. Thank you.'

5. The Lord Arundell of Wardour Trust Annual Report

Cnllr. Mike McGrath gave the annual report 2009 for the Lord Arundell of Wardour Trust.

'The Lord Arundell of Wardour Charity covers Wardour, Tisbury, Ansty, Donhead St. Andrew, Donhead St. Mary and Semley (the area covered by the Wardour Estate on the death of Lord Arundell in 1944).

The Charity's aims are for the relief of need due to sickness and infirmity; including heating, hospital visiting and supply of medical or other needs. Grants can also be made for education and training, e.g. books, tools etc so as to earn a living.

During 2009, £4,800 was distributed to 11 students and individuals that have benefitted from, for example, lifeguard training and there has also been help for the Brownies and Rainbow group.

The Charity also has 4 mobility scooters, donated by members of a deceased's family as there was no longer a need for them. These scooters are used in the area covered by the Charity and are returned to the charity when no longer needed.'

[Note: At this point the Chairman indicated that the Swimming Club had recently finished the pool covers project that had received R2 monies from TPC and that the club wished to thank parish councillors for their support.]

6. Alice Combes Trust

Cnllr. J. Berkley-Matthews indicated that the whole annual income from the trust was available for awards over 3 areas:

- a. Tisbury Relief in Need Trust (Reg. number 214218) - grants may be available for a wide variety of situations including heating bills, extra expenses incurred due to ill health or a change of circumstances incurring hardship. 16 grants had been disbursed to individuals.
- b. Education Foundation of Alive Combes and Others (Reg. Number 309359) - Grants may be given to meet expenses for education and training, for example, special books, equipment or travelling expenses. 16 grants had been awarded to individuals.
- c. The Alice Combes Newtown Trust (Reg. number 1086842) - dedicated to support of clubs, societies and organisations established for charitable purposes within the community of Newtown. 7 grants to institutions and organisations with charitable purpose had been made.

7. Tisbury Parish Council Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 2009

The Responsible Financial Officer for Tisbury PC (Cnllr. J. Berkley-Matthews) reported that:

'The precept for 2009/10 was £34373; compared to £31320 the previous year.

This was an increase of £2782; equivalent to £3.47 for a Band D household, i.e. less than 1p per day per household.

In addition to inflation increases, the precept rose to accommodate the EXPECTED increases in expenditure:

Joint Burial Committee - £543

Training costs for strimmer licences (Youth Club) and Christmas lighting - £700

Grant application match funding for composting group shredder - £1250

Website costs/unitary authority costs - £3000

The difference in expected increases in expenditure of £5493 and the increase in precept of £2782 was £2711 and this amount was accounted for in expected savings from the budgets of allotments, office expenses, repairs & renewals and legal fees.

At the year end, expenditure was £2026 less than income and this brought the total reserves to £18805.40; with £2737 of this being funds held on behalf of others.

The Community Composting group ended the year with a balance of £2187.27. This figure includes the balance of grant monies obtained to provide a shredder and housing for the shredder together with fencing to secure the whole area.

Actual spends were broadly in line with budgeted figures except for amenity maintenance and repairs & renewals where spending on playground maintenance for wetpour cleaning, repairs to ironwork in both playgrounds, repair of seats and skateboarding equipment pushed the actual spends some £2088 above budget. This was balanced by virtually no spending on the allowance made for additional work resulting from the unitary authority.

R2 monies, the financial contributions from developers of, for example, the land adjacent to Ladydown View and the Allotments site were used to fund:

- £6850 - the refurbishment of the cricket pavilion on the King George V playing field,*
- £1500 - a bowling machine to help the Youth cricket team during practice sessions,*
- £20500 the tennis courts have benefitted from floodlighting,*
- £11700 (50%) - the swimming club has had new covers fitted to the pool, and*
- £5300 - the football club has benefitted from new mowing equipment.*

In conclusion, the finances of the Parish Council are in good shape, with healthy reserves and with a clean bill of health from the Internal Auditor except for a couple of minor anomalies relating to VAT that will entail a further claim being made.'

8. Wiltshire Councillor's Annual Report

WCnllr TD began his report by emphasising that although there were 61 conservative Cnllrs and 37 Cnllrs belonging to other parties/independents, the members as a whole were apolitical and devoted to service delivery.

TD has specific responsibilities within WC, namely:

- a. Budget & Performance Task Group (Chairman)
- b. Joint Overview & Scrutiny Select Committee Meeting

- c. Overview & Scrutiny Organisation and Resources Select Committee (Vice Chairman)
- d. South West Wiltshire Area Board
- e. Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee (Chairman)

WCnllr TD informed the meeting that he had recently stood down from the Southern Area Planning Committee due to inconsistency of decisions and liaison with Officers, and felt that the community would be better served from outside of the committee process. WCnllr TD also indicated the importance of the area board as the 'last finger' of local democracy and praised the input of the Police, via Inspector Minty in particular, the Fire and Rescue service and the Primary Care Trust.

Comment was made on the unique asset that Tisbury will have, namely a community campus and also the likely impact on the WC budgets following the creation of a coalition government, highlighting that real budget cuts could really only be made by losing staff.

The desire of the primary school Headteacher and Chair of Governors in becoming more involved in the community - with the prospect of a governor link being created to the Parish Council - was mentioned, as well as developing a stronger Christian core value. Other ongoing projects in the village, such as the Tisbury Bowls Club pavilion, the Aerobic Hall at the Sports Centre.

Finally, WCnllr TD thanked P.Cnllr DC for his kind words during his report.

9. Report from Tree Warden

The report was read aloud by the Clerk on behalf of the Tree Warden, Mrs D. Carter.

'I have been in the post for just over one year and have been involved in 12 applications regarding trees in Tisbury's Conservation area.

Some were applications to fell the trees, but the majority involved cutting back or pollarding. I make an appointment to visit the owner, look at the tree for its environmental, aesthetic, amenity and rarity value and also its conservation status. I then report back to the Parish Council any concerns: - e.g. risk factor of falling branches or the tree itself falling, possibility of roosting bats or nesting birds in the summer (if present, any work has to be delayed until autumn) or possible disease of the tree. The PC then feeds this information to the Salisbury Tree Officer who makes the ultimate decision.

A Tree Warden is a volunteer, appointed by a Parish Council to become the 'Eyes and Ears' of the Parish. The scheme was launched in 1990 countrywide but only in Wiltshire in 2009. The warden aims to raise awareness of trees and to encourage local people to play an active role in identifying trees in need of conservation or protection from the pressure of development and other threats and also to keep an eye out for vandalism or disease.

The Warden might also involve the local community in planting new hedges and trees and helping to care for them. They need local people to help in identifying trees that are considered of value because of their age, size, rarity or rich habitat for wildlife so that they can be documented and protected.

The Warden might be consulted about choosing suitable trees or appropriate hedging plants for the area.

A tree Warden is the liaison between the Parish and the experts.'

10. Parking in Tisbury

The presentation by WCnllr TD was preceded by a summary of parking habits during the morning over 6 days, indicating that that as an average there were 31 spaces available in the station car park and 7 cars parked outside on Station Road.

The report prepared by WSP consultants had been previously circulated and the following were highlighted:

- i. Parking issues had been identified on the High Street and also at the station, but the main concern was for safety at the station due to the inconsiderate parking leading to obstruction, especially for emergency vehicles. This was only likely to get worse with known developments in the area (Hindon Lane and Shaftesbury), with an expected increase in passenger traffic of 35% before 2017.
- ii. The necessity for car use in the Tisbury area due to inadequate alternative transport.
- iii. Johnson's field, although identified as a flood plain, was still at a higher level than the Lower Recreation Ground that had been identified as a possible alternative.
- iv. Johnson's field was on the market and available to buy at £40,000.
- v. Land was not available to extend the Nadder Close car park.

In conclusion, 4 proposals were put forward for TPC to consider:

- a. Use of Johnson's field - with attendant questions relating to free/residents parking, restricting hours, income and use of site as a whole.
- b. TPC to buy Johnson's field, even if just 'to bank' for future use.
- c. Alternative car park for non-Tisbury residents using the station but with possible additional benefits of spin-off shopping. This could be combined with the use of yellow lines and restrictive hours for the car park.
- d. Use of a car park based on the 'Melksham model', whereby tickets are available for 2 hours free parking. A similar system is in use in Warminster, but is to be taken out having weighed up the maintenance costs against the benefit of free parking.

The Chairman summed up the discussion by asking for all present to forward their views to the Parish Council, so that a balanced view could be taken.

No other business was conducted before the meeting finished at 8:58pm.