

**MINUTES OF THE TOLPUDDLE PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TOLPUDDLE VILLAGE HALL – THURSDAY 29TH MAY 2014**

Present:	Nigel Pitman	Chair
	Diana Foreman	Parish Councillor
	Peter Walton	Parish Councillor
	Dave Smallwood	Parish Councillor
	Stephen Baynard	Chairman of the Parish Council
	Tom de Wit	TUC – guest
	Trevor Bevins	Dorset Partnership – guest
	Tony Gould	Clerk

And 37 members of the village community

Welcome. The Chair welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and in particular Stephen Baynard, Tom de Wit and Trevor Bevins. Mr Bevins made a short statement about his work for the PoPP Wayfinder Service which gives help to older people – telephone number 01305 548111 or 01202 946111 and the Chair thanked him for this information.

Apologies. Apologies were accepted from the following:- Ray & Anna Kerslake, John & Anne Bacon, Martin & Lesley Usherwood and Lynn Bailey & Dave Wilkinson.

Minutes of the previous meeting dated 24th October 2013. It was agreed that these constituted a correct record. Proposed by Paul Taylor and seconded by Peter Walton.

Matters arising from the minutes. The question was raised as to whether the Police had been invited and if so whether they had accepted. It was explained that PCSO Sarah Hart had attended a coffee morning in the village and indicated that she hoped to be present but that operational needs sometimes overtook an item placed in the diary.

Election of Chair. The Chair vacated the position and it was agreed that for this item the Clerk would take the Chair. Accordingly, the acting Chair called for nominations. Nigel Pitman was nominated by Diana Foreman and seconded by Liz Gould. There being no other nominations, it was agreed to close nominations. Nigel Pitman was declared elected.

Election of Clerk. The Chair called for nominations. Tony Gould was nominated by Peter Walton and seconded. There being no other nominations, Tony Gould was declared elected.

Wind Farm update. Philippa Francis reporting.

West Coast Energy has submitted a revised application for five windmills which had not yet been validated. Fundraising event at Waterston Manor on 8th June referred to and help needed with car parking, gates and catering. It was agreed to note the report.

Traffic/highway/road traffic issues.

- **Need for a “dropped kerb”.** Dropped kerb needed on left hand side of village at East end near Paddock Row. It was agreed to notify the Parish Council Clerk.
- **Speeding at Eastern end.** High speeds especially at going to and returning from work. It was suggested that there is a need for illuminated signs advising drivers to “SLOW DOWN” and that these should be erected as in other villages. It was agreed to refer this to the Parish Council.
- **Parking.** Half-parking on the pavement continues and it was advised that the Police had been active in this matter and had spoken to local residents. It was pointed out that it is not always easy to park within the designated parking area. After discussion, it was agreed that the issue is complex and that if necessary the Chair and Clerk would meet residents for clarification.
- **Jan Hopkin was thanked for her work.** It was agreed to record grateful thanks to Jan for her work in getting night-time illumination of street lamps reduced which it was estimated would reduce expenditure by £100,000 in several villages over three years.

Village Hall report. Peter Walton reporting.

Successful AGM recently where it was reported that the accounts are satisfactory. The Hall is well used. The originally proposed plan for expansion had been abandoned as too expensive. A revised plan which would incorporate new facilities at the back is now being considered. It was hoped to arrange a public consultation during the summer with a view to submitting a planning application in the autumn and to eventually get the work going next summer. It was agreed to note the report.

St John's Church. Hilly Cobban reporting.

The installation of water had taken place today. The Church will look somewhat untidy for a few weeks more but the installation of new facilities was eagerly anticipated although this was inhibiting services. Pews from the north aisle had been sold off. A fundraising event with cream teas at the Manor would take place on the afternoon of Sunday 29th June. It was agreed to note the report.

Rights of Way. Written report in the un-avoidable absence of Lynn and Dave.

The rights of way are passable but continue to be muddy in places. Issues referred to at the last meeting at Footpath S46/5 and S6/1 have been resolved but an "authorised vehicles only" sign for S/46/4 at Tincton Hang has not yet been put in place. Lynn and Dave were thanked for their report.

Parish Councillors. Former parish councillors Jan Hopkin and Nigel Pitman who had both recently retired from the council were thanked most sincerely for their periods of service. This was wholeheartedly agreed.

Best wishes were offered to Dave Smallwood who had been elected to fill the vacancy on the Council.

Future Events:-

- **Tolpuddle Festival and Rally – car park** – John Taylor reported on the new joint initiative with the TUC on car parking wherein funds would be "pooled". Volunteers were called for to assist.
- **Village Flower and Vegetable Show** – Angie Reed reported that the Show will take place on Saturday 9th August 2014 with surplus funds shared between Village Hall, the Church and one other charity. She pointed out that new blood is needed to ensure survival of the event as the existing organisers may not be able to continue. It was agreed to note the report.
- **Barnes Night** – Three course supper in the Corn Dryer, East Farm on Saturday 21st June for which tickets are available. Supper, music and entertainment at £20.00 a head – CXL.
- **TUC presentation by Ton de Wit** – Tom explained that he is the new Manager at the Museum and shop and that he was not only delighted to have been invited to address the meeting but so pleased to be working in a village with so much historic association as Tolpuddle has. Plans for the Rally/Festival well advanced. Presentation in the Village Hall on Saturday 7th June about a new trail which employs an audio/visual device telling the story of the Martyrs. He advised that he has a colleague who assists him and that his name is Cameron Clarke.
- **Tolpuddle Festival and Rally – refreshments.** Liz Gould reported that lunches and cream teas would be sold from the village hall as usual on Sunday but that teas on Saturday had been abandoned. She explained that plans were in hand and that she was still looking for volunteers.
- **Tolpuddle Festival and Rally – breakfasts.** Tony Gould reported that Martin Usherwood had called for volunteers by pro forma and that a good few offers had been made to help both on Saturday and Sunday mornings the aim of which is to raise money for village charities.

Any Other Business

- **Street Fayre on Saturday May 25th.** Annette Pitman thanked all of the many people who had helped and reported that a good response had ensured a surplus in the region of £3,700 to £4,000 but that she did not yet have the final figure. A barbecue and teas in the Village Hall had contributed £752 to the total sum. It was agreed to thank Annette and helpers for all their hard work.
- **Police attendance.** It was agreed to note that Sarah Hart had indicated that she would like to be present. It was assumed that she had been otherwise detained by her duties. After discussion it was agreed that she should be invited to the next meeting.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 7pm on Thursday 23rd October 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.55pm