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Minutes of the Annual Tysoe Parish Assembly Meeting  
Held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 at 7.15pm

Present: Cllrs Sinclair (Chair), Locke, Allen, Collier, Cressman, Haines Littlewood & Tongue  
In attendance: CC Seccombe & DC Fielding  
Public: 9

**Welcome to the meeting given by the Chair, Cllr Sinclair.**

Cllr Sinclair opened the meeting and 7.15 pm and welcomed all Councillors and members of the public

**1. Apologies – Cllr Littlewood**

**2. Acceptance of Minutes**

All Councillors accepted the minutes from the meetings Annual Parish Assembly held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016 as a true and accurate record and the minutes were signed by the Chair.

**3. District Councillor John Fielding**

DC Fielding said that he had to leave the meeting early as he had to go to Avon Dassett where the village were trying to buy their pub and he wanted to offer his support.

DC Fielding said that he was aware that there was one contentious planning application and if someone could let him know the views of the PC he would be grateful

DC Fielding highlighted the concerns over the Horton Hospital. Stratford District Council were looking at this very seriously. None of the Parishes appear to have been consulted and the Doctors in the village have not been consulted. Cherwell District Council have filed for a judicial review on the matter and so have SDC and will be following along with the Minister to ensure that this matter is done in an adequate way.

DC Fielding said that he had attended a meeting regarding critical care in Warwickshire. Stratford are going to have maternity and cancer care at the new hospital. The other issue is that the hospital in Redditch is being wound down and Warwickshire hospitals will have to take on a lot more.

Questions: Cllr Locke asked if DC Fielding had a specific planning application in mind. DC Fielding responded that the only one he was aware of is the one to do with an agricultural tie. Clerk asked to send a copy of the minutes to DC Fielding.

**4. Tysoe Parish Council Chair's report – Cllr Jacqui Sinclair**

It is a great pleasure for me to serve and support our wonderful Tysoe community, and an honour and privilege to have served as Chair of the Parish Council this past year.

I would first like to say a big "Thank You" to all those people who have given their time and expertise so generously over the past year to support the Parish Council and its work, and our community in general. We would not have achieved all the things we have without their commitment.

Particular thanks go to Steve Allen, Colin Locke, Beverley Cressman, Jane Millward, and Sarah Patterson for their excellent teamwork in helping to create a safe environment for our younger children to play, where parents can sit and relax watch their children at play.

Special thanks also to Malcolm Littlewood, Jane Millward, and John Tongue for their work in bringing the long-awaited Bus Shelter project to fruition, with the shelter now planned to be in place by the autumn of this year.

I would also like to thank Graham Collier for giving his time along with me to ensure that the trees and green spaces of the parish are kept in good fettle.

A big thank you also to Shirley Cherry and David Roache of our Neighbourhood Plan Group and their team for producing a Draft Plan in a demanding timescale, ready for the six-week Consultation Period due to start this month; and to Neil Pierce for his helpful guidance and advice during the development of the Draft Plan.

Finally, however not least, special thanks to Jane Millward for all her hard work leading up to the relocation of the Dog Waste bins throughout the Parish; and to all dog owners for their valued support in helping to keep our village almost waste free.

Please accept my apologies if I may have missed a special mention for anyone else.

We have experienced one or two changes on the Parish Council during the year. Sue Haines was elected to the Council in May 2016 following the Resignation of Steph Howles, and John Tongue was elected to the Council in November 2016 following the resignation of Keith Risk. I would like to say thank you to Steph and Keith for their work and support on behalf of our community.

The Parish Council was saddened to learn of the passing of George Randerson who served our community as a valued member of the Council for many years.

We have achieved a lot as a community during the past year, and there are many things of which we can justifiably be proud. I have already mentioned the Young Children's Play Area, the Bus Shelter project, the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, and the Dog Waste Bins Relocation project.

We are also very fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and interested local community that helps to make Tysoe such a wonderful place to live. Our community calendar boasts a whole host of functions and events taking place throughout the year that bring people together, including the Flower Show and Fete, the Bonfire and Fireworks event, the gardens open weekend, the Tysoe Windmill run, the Christmas Tree event, and the various musical and other events held at the Village Hall.

I must also mention the valued contributions to our community made by the WI, the Tysoe Utilities Trust, and the various local clubs including, the Social Club, the Lunch Club, the Tennis Club, the Bowls Club, and the Football Club.

Again, my apologies if I've missed anyone or anything.

We were sad to lose our local butcher's shop that closed last year, and we extend our sincere thanks and very best wishes to Linda and Martin. Our Post Office, tea rooms, shop and hairdressers continue to thrive, and, of course, we have our wonderful Tysoe Children's Group at the Old Fire Station.

As can be expected, we have faced some challenges too, with planning taking up a significant amount of the Council's time. During the past year, we dealt with nearly 50 planning applications ranging from tree surgery to major housing developments. The Parish Council continues to resist development on the Shenington Road. The Council objected to the development at Pendleton's Field, however planning permission was eventually granted. It is regrettable; however, the development may now proceed without the inclusion of the affordable housing envisaged originally. Although you can be assured the Parish Council will continue to fight for affordable housing at this and other locations around the village.

The Council has certain responsibility for maintaining the Parish, for example, mowing the grass verges and village greens, street lighting, trees and the playing field as well as contributing towards the maintenance of the church clock and the churchyard. This ongoing programme of regular work adds up to a not insignificant amount of money. There are also extra projects to consider such as the Bus Shelter. Whilst grant funds are available in some cases, many costs need to be met out of the Parish Precept. With this in mind, and to ensure the regular programme of work is maintained and new projects implemented, the Council voted in favour of an increase in the Parish Precept for 2017/18 of 1.6%.

Looking ahead, there are several projects to look forward to and focus on, including the publication of our Neighbourhood Plan following consultation, action to discourage speeding through our village, extending car parking facilities at the Playing Field, and the provision of activity/play equipment for older children.

One final important point. The Parish Council values your feedback and ideas. Whether you have lived in our community for a long time, or may have recently joined us, we want to listen to and understand the issues that are important for you. Your Parish Council meets at 7.15pm in the Village Hall on the first Monday of each month, Bank Holidays excepted. We also hold "drop-in surgeries" on the first Tuesday of each month, from 9.00am to 10.00am in the Tysoe Tea Room. These "drop-in surgeries"

have proved very successful. Our thanks go to Beverley Cressman and her team of volunteers for their valued time and efforts in making the “drop-in surgeries” such a great success. So, whether at our monthly meetings or at our “drop-in surgeries”, please do join us and get your views across!

In closing, I would like to extend my personal thanks to my fellow Councillors, and to our Clerk, Jane Millward, Izzi Seccombe our County Councillor and Bart Dalla Mura who has stepped down as District Councillor last year, for all their hard work and support during the year, and to everyone in our community who takes an interest in our work, attend our meetings, and contribute their time so generously to enhance Parish life.

Finally thank you to Steve Millward for setting up the hall prior to the meetings and placing the minutes on the notice board. Fondly known as the “assistant clerk”

## **5. County Councillor Seccombe**

Tonight, is a bitter sweet moment as I realise that this will be the last time I address the Council as your County Councillor. We have elections on the 4<sup>th</sup> May for the County Council and these will be under new boundaries. My own village and parish will now move into the Kinton Division leaving the rest of Stour and the Vale largely as it is with the addition of the Meon Vale community.

So, forgive me for a reflective moment – Tysoe has been a strong and stable Parish Council and has benefit greatly from committed and sensible people who give generously of their time in the best interests of this village. We are incredibly lucky for both past and present Councillors who do not often get deserved thanks. As one of the community I would like to say thanks now. This is a village people want to live in, and want to stay in. We need to be a living village with a variety of ages to help support our Shops, School, Children’s Group and the various Sport Clubs that we are lucky to have. Change always happens and we must not desire this community to be held in aspic as it will be in danger of losing that vibrancy that we love and helps to keep people independent. Development has been a massive issue for Tysoe over the last few years. It has pitted people against each other and has caused rifts. People are passionate and have strong views, I am one of those. However, I find as I drive round other villages and see development emerging now that caused them equal anxiety, I can say that the worst has been in the unknown and formative stage of planning – as they are built and begin to settle somehow the worst expectations are not always realised.

We have lived in Tysoe for 33 years and it has been a joy and privilege to be elected by my own Community to try to help. We have had some interesting and challenging times as well as some great successes – getting the Children’s Centre in the Old Fire Station being one of the very early projects that has been so positive for the village, a project team of the community which I was pleased to help with.

I would just end by wishing you all well and thanks for your support.

## **6. Representative from Neighbourhood Planning Group**

Shirley Cherry said that as this was a look back at what has taken place in the Parish during the last 12 months she thought she would share what the NPG have been doing over the last 9 months. Firstly, like to thank Cllr Sinclair for her support during this time. The NPG started in May of last year. Originally the group came together as a voluntary group with a remit to review the last Neighbourhood Plan which they did. Basically, the points that were identified were carried forward in the next period of months. Therefore, an action plan was put in place and that is what the NPG have followed through. A Steering Group was formed and Neil Pearce was appointed as an independent adviser.

Planning is a very passionate issue and the NPG wanted to ensure that everyone’s views were heard. Met with Lower Tysoe to see whether they wished to be part of the LSV. We met with the children at the school to gather their thoughts. Had a consultation with the whole community. We have undertaken site assessments. There was a lot of vigorous activity. On the 4<sup>th</sup> January a meeting was attending with co-housing in Stroud. Very keen to support both young people and the older residents of the Parish. On the 6<sup>th</sup> February, there was a presentation to the Tysoe Utilities Trust to see if they wanted to come on board with a project of social housing.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> February we had a meeting with Neal Pearce as we thought we had a pretty robust plan. However, SDC housing numbers had been changed and it was felt that we needed to meet the housing number set for Tysoe.

There has been some positive feedback from the Compton Estates. The Compton Estate have undertaken a project at a site that they were developing near Canons Ashby which will have 8 affordable houses that the estate will manage into the future. This idea is to be carried forward into the draft NP for Tysoe.

The NPG have updated the Draft NP with all the comments from Neal Pearce, and is has also been updated following the consultation feedback. The NPG wanted to take you through the draft NP as they were hopeful that they now have a plan that can go out for consultation. There will be an extra ordinary meeting of the PC on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April to agree the next steps in the process.

## **7. Tysoe Village Hall & Tysoe Utilities Trust – Percy Sewell**

Tysoe Utility Estate is a village trust set up about 480 years ago. The Trust owns a small holding, the post office a flat and the Reading Room. The original purpose of the Trust was for helping the poor and helping with education. The introduction of the Education Act meant that part of its remit went by the wayside. The Trust does now give money to the school, to the play group and the Trust gives grants to people going off to university. Pensioners get a small Christmas bonus handed out in January each year. If you die the Trust will pay a grant for your funeral costs.

The Trust make a small profit each year and Percy would encourage anyone who is going off to further education, not just classic, for example a tree surgeon, to apply for a grant from the Trust.

There is also a discretionary fund where we hand out funds to people who through no fault of their own get themselves into difficulties. Yvonne Dhillon is the Clerk. We have relied on the generosity of individuals so if anyone is considering a legacy that would be most gratefully received.

There are ten trustees.

Percy then asked if anyone had any questions:

How do you publicise the work of the Trust? Percy responded that articles have been placed in the Tysoe Record in the past but I must admit it has not been very well advertised. Member of the public said that many people are not aware of the work of the Trust. Percy said that about 7 years ago was very concerned that it was seen as something of a secret society. Suggestions were put forward that may be something could be placed on the website and the village notice board. Cllr Cressman said about getting something into the school in encourage the grants given to people going to college and university.

Tysoe Village Hall – Percy said that most people will be aware of the renovations that have been going on in the village hall. The hall was built in around 1930 it had become sad and unattractive. We decided to embark upon a consultation which proved people wanted to retain it rather than flatten it. Spent in the region of £60k. At the last AGM we did not have a single member of the public turn up.

The hall is now being used much more and it is becoming self-sustainable. Believe that the Hall is in a better place than it was been for 20 years. You would no longer be ashamed to hold a party here. The more visible things have now been done, the floor, curtain and blinds. By the beginning of 2019 Percy was anticipating that the work will all be complete.

There was a problem with the film equipment this has now been resolved. The coin meter will not take the new one pound coins but again this is being looked at.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> June, the Village Hall are having an open day to show what we have done and what the hall can be used for.

Cllr Allen said you mentioned the film equipment do you know when they will be running again? Percy said that they wanted to try and make it a regular thing so that people know when the films are going to be shown.

Cllr Locke said that he would like to record the PC thanks to the Village Hall Committee. If anything goes wrong everyone turns up but if things go right people tend not to say anything. The works that have been undertaken means that the hall is a great asset to the village.

## **8. Shipston Police Safe Neighbourhood Team**

PC Craig Purcell based out of Shipston been putting out leaflets to let people know exactly how to contact us for all age ranges.

At present, there is just myself here as an officer, and two PCSO but no volunteers. The low police numbers are due to the crime figures for the area.

PC Purcell went through the crime figures and stated that Tysoe was the only place where all crime numbers were down. 32 crimes down from 49 on last year. All types of recorded crime are down.

PC Purcell said that they were trying to encourage people to mark their property. If the police recover property it can only be returned to the owner if they can establish who that is. PC Purcell advice was to put your postcode on anything that is valuable and keep a note of the serial numbers. PC Purcell said that everything considered we are one of the most proactive police teams in the area. PC Purcell said that they needed people to tell us things. If you have a gut feeling and get a registration plate and tell us if we can link this through to some criminality we can take action. Two convictions have happened from a 5 minute marker on a vehicle. In the past people have not been getting the feedback but this has now changed and we do now feedback on all calls.

Cllr Allen asked a question about smart water marking. PC Purcell advised to mark property with big bold markings on the kit. There are kits available. The Clerk stated that a kit had been provided and perhaps the PC could use it as future public events.

Cllr Cressman involved in a community speed watch we have quite a lot of issues with inappropriate vehicles going through the village and speeding? PC Purcell responded that this is happening everywhere in all villages. Need to get the support of the local community to justify why the police are going to Tysoe and not elsewhere. Speed is the biggest thing that gets complained about. The other biggest way of stopping speeding is changing the geography or layout of the road. A lot of villages are against speed reducing measures but the only real way of doing this. Most of the people that we catch speeding are local people. Older people blame the younger people but they have black boxes in their cars and therefore are less likely to speed. Whatever action is taken it is very much a sticking plaster and we will never stop it.

CC Seccombe stated that the speed calming methods that were being talked about cost money and they also require lighting. It is that fine balance of trying to keep the rural environment. PC Purcell it is about education, enforcement and environment.

Brailes had a very committed community group they now have a static van in the village.

CC Seccombe said that she gets more complaints from Ettington residents about the traffic calming measures, as people speed to get through before the oncoming vehicles.

Member of the public said that Tysoe has a very particular problem with slurry lorries? There are two options speed enforcement at set times. The police will contact the people that are doing this. If you can tell us on the date and time that they are doing this we will write to the companies.

Cllr Allen said that it is not just the speed some of the large vehicles do not give way. The police said that even if you are within the speed limit you can be done for driving without due care and attention.

PC Purcell said that if communities can prove that this is a big problem they can go to TomTom and Garmin and ask them to change their mapping so that people do not get routed through the village.

Cllr Cressman queried the lorries from the Kendrick homes development going through the village. PC Purcell said that things can be put into planning applications to stop this. The Clerk was asked to speak to SDC Planning to see if this could be done retrospectively.

**9. Other Matters raised by an Elector of the Parish** – None raised.

**10. Closure of the formal meeting – 8.20pm** – Councillors and members of the public then retired for tea, coffee and refreshments which were very kindly catered for by Chris Locke and Jenny Tongue.