



MINUTES

Meeting Type:	Parish Meeting
Date & Time:	25 February 2021 at 19.00hours
Location:	Zoom multi-user video software
Councillors Present:	David Roache (Vice-Chairman), Jane Millward, Alison Cross, Malcolm Littlewood, John Tongue, James Bardey.
Councillors Not in Attendance:	Jacqui Sinclair (Chairman),
In Attendance:	DC John Feilding; Beverley Thorpe (Parish Clerk)
Members of the Public (MOP)	10

1. **WELCOME and APOLOGIES**

Cllr Roache welcomed everyone to the Parish Meeting. He explained that Cllr Sinclair was unable to attend the meeting due to family commitments and that he would be hosting the meeting on her behalf. Apologies were also received from MP Nadhim Zahawi, Cllr Izzy Seccombe, PC Sid Hammond and Tysoe School head, Ms Paige Neal.

2. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Councillors confirmed the minutes from the Parish Meeting 1 April 2019.

3. **TYSOE PARISH COUNCIL**

Cllr Roache read the report on behalf of Chairman, Cllr Sinclair. He took the opportunity to thank her for her dedication and hard work for the parish which now spans over 19 years.

Cllr Sinclair's report thanked and acknowledged:

- a) Colin Locke, Steve Allen and Sue Haines, who stood down as Councillors in May 2019.
- b) To those people who gave their time and expertise so generously over the past year to support the Parish Council and its work, and the community in general. The Council could not have achieved the things it has without their commitment.
- c) Cllr. David Roache for his supporting role as Vice Chairman.
- d) Councillors Jane Millward and Alison Cross for their excellent teamwork in helping to create a safe environment for young and older children to play and for parents to sit and relax.
- e) Cllr. John Tongue for his knowledge of planning, a fantastic asset to the Council. Also, to Cllrs. Jane Millward & Malcolm Littlewood for working alongside John. Applications for 10 new houses and 3 holiday lets were supported or no representation made and applications for 6 houses were objected to, 5 of which were subsequently granted permission by the District Council. Also, during the same period 3 appeals were raised against a refusal to grant, all of which were dismissed on appeal. This very significant workload continues with the recently submitted application by Cameron Homes for 31 new houses including 11 affordable homes. A new Affordable Housing sub-committee was established in December 2020 to look specifically at opportunities to provide much needed affordable housing in the parish.
- f) Cllr. David Roache for Chairing the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, and Cllrs. John Tongue, Jeremy Rivers-Fletcher and Malcom Littlewood for representing the Council at the Neighbourhood Plan meetings. With thanks also to John Hunter, Isobel Watson and Alison Edwards for their valued input. Cllr Sinclair also mentioned the help and advice received from Neil Pearce, planning consultant. His input has been hugely valuable in guiding the Council through the process. Hopefully, the Plan will go to a referendum in the village during 2021.
- g) Cllr. James Bardey for providing valuable arboriculture knowledge when considering the many tree work applications and advising on tree maintenance and planting.
- h) Cllr Alison Cross for leading on the ongoing programme of street light replacement.
- i) Cllr John Feilding and Cllr Chris Williams from District and County Councils for their help and valued assistance throughout the year. Bests wishes were sent to CC Chris Williams who continues to battle ill health.

- j) In November 2020 Jeremy Rivers-Fletcher resigned from the Council and Cllr Sinclair thanked him for his valued contribution.
- k) In late 2019 Parish Clerk, Kerry Finlayson tendered her resignation. Cllr Sinclair thanked Kerry on behalf of the Council for her support and dedication during her employment. In February 2020 village resident Beverley Thorpe was appointed as Parish Clerk to the Council. Beverley has tackled the job with enormous energy and her contribution during a tumultuous first year has been outstanding.
- l) On the 1 April 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Council delegated powers to the Proper Officer of the Parish Council (also known as the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer). This decision was taken to ensure the Parish Council continued to support the community whilst it was unable to meet. When the COVID-19 restrictions became clear the Council set out to keep all residents, especially those who were vulnerable or self-isolating, informed as to how to access services. The Council are grateful to all those who worked hard as volunteers to keep in touch with that community. Thanks also to Parish Clerk Beverley Thorpe and Cllrs Jane Millward and Alison Cross for coordinating the volunteer group and for ensuring that prescriptions were safely delivered to people self-isolating.
- m) Tribute was also paid to the staff at the GP surgeries that serve the parish for ensuring that the vaccine roll-out has been so efficiently handled. Thanks also to MP Nadhim Zahawi for his outstanding work on the national roll-out programme.
- n) The community has achieved a lot during the past year, and there are many things to be proud of. Tysoe is very fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and participative local community that helps to make the Parish such a wonderful place to live. The community calendar would normally include a host of functions and events taking place throughout the year that bring people together, including the Flower Show, Summer Church Fete, the Bonfire and Fireworks event, the Christmas Tree event, and the various musical and other events held at the Village Hall. Thanks to all who organize those events in normal times, including the WI, 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. Cllr Sinclair said that the Parish Council should support village organizations when needed.
- o) Thanks also to those Councillors and residents who have undertaken litter-picking around the village. A not too pleasant but most important job unfortunately.
- p) Special mention was made of the Post Office, and Shop both of which continued to serve the village magnificently during these trying times. Thanks to Bart, Louise and staff for their outstanding work to keep the shelves filled and for their delivery service to residents who could not get to the shop, and Jacqui for keeping the Post Office service running. We also thank the wonderful Tysoe Children's Group at the Old Fire Station, thank you to Yvonne for helping look after children of key workers.

Cllr Sinclair concluded that it had been an honour and a privilege to have been re-elected to serve as Chairman of Tysoe Parish Council and to support the wonderful Tysoe community.

The Council has responsibility for maintaining the Parish, for example, mowing the grass verges and village greens, street lighting, trees and the playing field. This ongoing program of regular work adds up to a not insignificant amount of money. Whilst grant funds are available in some cases, the majority of costs need to be met out of the Parish Precept. For the year to 31st March 2021 Tysoe enjoyed one of the lowest per-household precepts in Stratford District.

For the year starting in April 2021 the precept will increase to cover a number of longer-term projects. The Council intend to address parking issues in the village, this will take time and money, and also continue the programme of street lighting replacement. The budget for next year also includes a modest contingency amount to cover any unforeseen matters that may arise. Next year's precept will still only amount to £63.82 on a Band D property in Tysoe.

The Council has improved its communication with residents by updating the parish website, introducing a Facebook page and by the publication by Beverley, Parish Clerk, of a monthly newsletter.

The Parish Council values feedback and ideas. Whether residents have lived in the community for a long time, or have recently moved here, Councillors want to understand the issues that are important.

The Parish Council meets at 7.15pm in the Village Hall on the second Monday of each month, Bank Holidays excepted.

In closing, Cllr Sinclair extended thanks to her fellow Councillors for all their hard work and support during the year, and to everyone in the community who takes an interest in the work of the Council, attending meetings, and contributing their time so generously to enhance Parish life.

4. **MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - Nadhim Zahawi MP**

Cllrs received and noted the written report provided Nadhim Zahawi MP. Annex 1.

5. **WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – Leader and County Councillor Izzi Seccombe**

Due to technical issues the report from Leader Izzy Seccombe would not be available until after the meeting. It will be available on the Parish website. Annex 2.

6. **STRATFORD-UPON-AVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

District Councillor (DC) John Feilding reported that it has been a year like no other. The District Council has had to completely reorganise how officers and committees are run and organised. Praise was given to the way that has been done. At the same time the staff had to organise food parcels and distribution to those in need.

The most important thing during the first lockdown was the way that parishioners pulled together. Everybody helping each other, dealing with distributing subscriptions, making scrubs for the NHS and looking after the vulnerable members of the community.

Cllr Feilding said that he had been actively helping businesses to obtain business grants particularly when there was a problem with business rate's reference numbers.

Once the pandemic looks as if it is being controlled by vaccination, Cllr Feilding will look forward to seeing village halls, pubs, and hairdressers re-open.

Cllr Feilding has made sure that Covid-19 reports are available particularly with regards information from the surgeries concerning vaccinations.

Other matters have successfully included helping Orbit's tenants. Working to help with problems associated with the planners and the District Council officers. This has included the never-ending problem of cars, vans etc park near the school.

The election on the 6 May 2021 will be for the Police Commissioner and a new County Councillor. The only candidate Cllr Feilding was aware is Chris Mills, District Councillor for Kineton. DC Mills is a hard-working Councillor who has been in post for a number of years.

Looking forward, Councillors will be working around the amalgamation of Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council. There is a long way to go before there is a consultation. The two districts are sharing council officers with regards to IT and leisure and tourism. They are also working closely on recycling.

There are no dates for the reopening of council offices, but it is hoped that will happen in the second half of 2021. It will be nice to get back to seeing officers and working in the council chamber on committees and other such matters.

DC Fielding went on to thank Cllr John Tongue particularly for helping him with planning matters within the village. He also thanked Cllr Sinclair and the Council for working with him over the past year and he looked forward to the year to come.

7. **WARWICKSHIRE POLICE**

Mr Philip Seccombe, Police & Crime Commissioner, reported that the crime rate has dropped by 12% in the county year to date and by 14% in Stratford District. Within those figures, residential burglary has dropped by 48%, vehicle crime by 37%, rape 40% and violence with injury by 16%. The challenge will be to keep those low figures at the end of the pandemic.

Drug crimes and reports have gone up by 52% during the lockdown. The lockdown has enabled the force to be more proactive. Known vehicles have been easier to spot on the roads.

Reports of domestic abuse have only gone up by only 2% in Stratford District. Mr Seccombe said that there was an ongoing challenge encouraging victims to report these crimes, especially difficult when living with a long-term abusive partner.

The force is going through a huge transformation after leaving the strategic alliance with West Mercia Police. Work as a result has been focused on rebuilding the force so that it is reactive, efficient, and responsive. Warwickshire had had to set up a new ICT system and Control room. Provision of forensic services, which are expensive, will be in collaboration with West Midlands Police.

In March 2018 there were 805 police officers, currently there are 1030 and in April 2022 there will 1100.

The Police precept has been raised by £14.99 this year, which equates to 25p per week on a Band D property. £4m savings have been made but there is still a need to raise income. For the rise in precept, residents will get: 41 new Police Officers, more money will be available to distribute to organisations supported by the police such as domestic abuse charities etc., a new Control room and existing teams will be bolstered e.g., Safer Custody teams, four new domestic abuse and sexual violence staff and £100,000 has been earmarked for a Covid-19 recovery fund,

The Chief Constable is retiring in June and recruitment is underway for the replacement due to start 1 July 2021.

There is an election on 6 May 2021. In Tysoe there will be two votes, one for the Police & Crime Commissioner and one for a new County Councillor.

8. **RURAL POLICING TEAM or SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM** – PC 1508 Sid Hammond
Cllrs received and noted the written report provided PC Sid Hammond. Annex 3.

9. **TYSOE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL** – Ms Paige Neale
Cllrs received and noted the written report provided by Ms Paige Neal. Annex 4.

10. **ST MARY'S CHURCH**
Reverend George Heighton reported that 2020 has been a very challenging year for many due mostly to the Covid-19 pandemic. The doors to the church were closed for many weeks and when they were open again there were restrictions that made worship difficult and challenging. Utilising the internet and Zoom technology the church has continued to have services on Sunday & Wednesdays each week. On average 75 people have joined services from the five churches, including some who were shielding and unable to leave their homes, a great outreach opportunity. The technology allowed the streaming of services to people in their homes and allowed them to be able to join in and chat with friends. Despite the lockdown the church has continued funeral ministry and hosted one wedding.

In December, villagers designed a wonderful Nativity which was constructed, painted, and set up in the churchyard. People came from around the area specially to see the display and it brought a great deal of joy to the passing children on their way to and from school. Resident actor, Anton Lesser, recorded the Christmas story from a book which Colin & Chris Locke had read with their children and grandchildren.

The community said goodbye to Reverend Tom and Emma Moffatt, who moved here about 13 years ago. They were both active members of the community. As a retired priest Tom helped with services and also took on the role of foundation governor at the school. They have moved to be closer to family. Unable to have an event to send them on their way, we wished them all the best for the future.

New Associate Minister, Reverend Heather Parbury, has moved into the vicarage at Brailes and is licensed to the five churches.

During the period, two points in the village were set up for people to give towards the Foodbank, in the porch of the Methodist Church and at the vicarage. Through their generosity the church has supported many families mainly via the Shipston Foodbank. Thanks to all for their backing.

In 2020 there began a detailed investigation into the work required from the most recent quinquennial inspection of St. Mary's Church. The main areas of work are around the windows, with major stonework repairs being required urgently to prevent further erosion damage. In addition, the four faces of the tower have suffered erosion over the last 110 years.

A recently discovered photograph taken in 1912 showed scaffolding being erected around the tower for remedial works. The view is that cement mortar was used during these repairs which the architect believes has exacerbated the erosion. This problem will be rectified during the summer and will protect the building for future generations. The work is planned to commence soon so there will be scaffolding around the church for some time. Thanks to the generous donations made in the past the church will use their investments to cover the costs of the building, whilst retaining sufficient in reserve to ensure provision has been made for the continuing upkeep of the churchyard (as per the wishes of Doris Smith), and to support plans for outreach to the school and the village, to encourage all to be part of the worshipping community in this place. It has been evident that in recent years there has existed an imbalance between income and expenditure of the church and we hope to address that too.

The wildflower area of the churchyard planted in August 2019, took shape in 2020 and a wildlife hedge was planted by the wall nearest the school. As Rosemary Collier has reported in the Record every month, a range of species have established themselves in a short period. There is also a Hedgehog bunker to complement the bird boxes put up last year.

Shirley Cherry has been formulating plans for a Wildlife friendly parish summer school at St. Mary's. More to follow in due course.

Looking forward, outreach included sponsoring the refurbishment and decoration of the school entrance area.

Reverend Heather & I have begun to put together plans for outreach and mission and would like to hear any suggestions from people in the village, especially those with young families or any ideas to use the church during the week for outreach initiatives.

11. **TYSOE UTILITIES TRUST**

Mr Percy Sewell, Chairman of Tysoe Utilities Trust, reported on the charity established several hundred years ago. The Trust was originally set up to provide for education and those in need within the Parish. Although its Constitution was updated in 2000 to reflect current needs in the 21st century, it still abides by its original remit under the management and discretion of ten trustees. It is a registered Charitable Trust.

Income is derived from a number of assets owned by the Trust, including a smallholding (31 acres), the Post Office, Reading Rooms, Charity Cottage (above the Reading Rooms) and professionally managed investment portfolios. This income enables it to cover its expenses and to provide grants throughout the year.

In 2020, the Trust made a loss, primarily due to having to partially subsidise the Post Office rent and a drop in share dividend income, both resulting from Covid-19. It also incurred extra professional fees arising from a new farm tenancy and planning applications on the Reading Rooms. Nevertheless, it was able to distribute over £10,000 during the year.

Points of note during 2020:-

- The age at which pensioners can receive their annual bonus has had to be increased in line with the national figure.
- A new farm business tenancy for the farm was set up in September after approximately 50 years with Peter Paxton.
- The planning process for the Reading Rooms conversion to a 2-bed flat continues, albeit at a painfully slow pace.
- Following the death of the former postmistress, negotiations have been ongoing to set up a new lease for the Post Office in early 2021, securing the Post Office for another seven years.

Mr Sewell reminded electors that the Trust specifically supports students who attend a recognised course and encouraged applications to help with costs.

12. **MATTERS RAISED BY ELECTORS**

Parish Clerk for Mr Sewell. When was Tysoe Utilities Trust actually up? Mr Sewell confirmed that Feoffee land was gifted in Henry VIII's time.

MOP1 for Mr Seccombe. You commented that burglaries have gone down but the village has suffered a recent spate in Lower and Middle Tysoe earlier this year. There was a very quick response from Shipston which should be commended. Has anybody been apprehended for those burglaries? Mr Seccombe did not know whether anybody had been apprehended. All Safer Neighbourhood teams have been encouraged to report back to communities. Please report any suspicious behaviour via the website online service or call 101.

Cllr Millward for Mr Sewell. What is happening with the Planning Application on the Reading Room? Mr Sewell answered that he spoke to the architects a fortnight ago and they are waiting for a decision.

MOP2 for Mr Seccombe. You mentioned drugs in your report. Are County line problems for our villages? Mr Seccombe said that County Lines are serious organised crime gangs from bigger urban areas peddling drugs into outlying areas. Towns and villages both suffer. The criminal gangs are running a business and are constantly adapting how to operate to keep ahead of the Police. In the last 2 weeks, three County lines operations have been stopped in Stratford. Warwickshire Police work with the Regional Organised Crime Unit, funded by the Precept. They have been successful. Warwickshire Police also work with British Transport Police.

Cllr Feilding commented that he would chase up the planning application on the Reading Rooms.

Cllr Roache for Mr Seccombe. You said that you will have recruited over 300 people. Are they all Police Officers. How easy have you found it to recruit? Mr Seccombe said that the numbers were all warranted officers who have been recruited, the force has recruited 400 due to natural attrition.

Parish Clerk for Mr Sewell. Who is the new tenant of Feoffee Farm? Mr Sewell answered that it is William Parker and he will have the tenancy for five years.

MOP3 for Cllr Feilding. Do you have a comment on the proposed abolition of the £10 concessionary parking for residents in Stratford? Cllr Feilding said that he did not have any current information about this, but it would be available on the website.

Cllr Roache for Cllr Feilding. How many people had bought Green Bin licences? Cllr Feilding suggested it was in the region of 200,000 across the district.

MOP 4 for Mr Sewell. Has the Utility Trust helped with the provision of laptops for local school children? Mr Sewell said that the Trust had not been approached on this matter, but he would raise it with the trustees. MOP3 added that Shipston Rotary Club had approached local schools and confirmed that the schools are looking for new IT equipment.

MOP4 for Mr Seccombe. You mentioned that the Force would have 1100 warranted officers by 2022. Is it true that this more than when we had village bobbies? Mr Seccombe reported that in 1959, Warwickshire Police owned 350 houses and by inference had roughly the same number of police officers. The force now owns no houses. Forces were much smaller back then and did not have to deal with cybercrime, child sexual exploitation, armed officers.

13. **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Cllr Roache thanked those present and closed the meeting at 20.05 hours.

B Thorpe

Parish Clerk
15 March 2021