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Minutes of the Annual Tysoe Parish Assembly Meeting  
Held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Sinclair (Chair), Locke, Allen, Collier, Cressman, Haines Littlewood & Tongue  
In attendance: CC Williams, DC Fielding, D Roache (Chair NPG), Jane Millward (the Clerk)  
Public: 19

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

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

**1. Apologies –None**

**2. Acceptance of Minutes**

Cllr Sinclair asked if Councillors had any amendments. Cllr Littlewood reported that he was in fact absent. The minutes were amended to reflect this, and all Councillors accepted the minutes from the meetings Annual Parish Assembly held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 as a true and accurate record and the minutes were signed by the Chair.

**3. 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. The new addition of the ‘Zip Wire’ has been very successful, as well as the additional seating outside of the enclosed play area.

Special thanks also to Malcolm Littlewood, Jane Millward, and Colin Tongue for their work in bringing the long-awaited bus shelter that was built in the autumn. After the weather we have experienced recently, I think the people who use the bus service are glad of some protection from the elements!

A big thank you also to David Roache of our Neighbourhood Plan Group and his team for producing a Draft Plan in a demanding timescale ready for the six-week Consultation last spring. After the six-week consultation, the Draft Plan was presented to SDC for their review, following which there has been a lot of work undertaken to address the points raised by SDC and, importantly, the feedback from you, the residents of Tysoe, with 200 people responding. Many thanks also to Neil Pierce for his helpful guidance and advice during the development of the Draft Plan. And, not forgetting Beverley Cressman, John Tongue, Graham Collier and Malcolm Littlewood for representing The Council. The next period of consultation is due to start in a few months’ time.

Thank you to Beverley Cressman, Graham Collier and Malcolm Littlewood for carrying out a Village Survey and producing a report.

Finally, however not least, special thanks to Jane Millward for all her hard work and much valued support to The Council.

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

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 Children's Play Area, the new bus shelter, and the Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

We are also very fortunate to have such an enthusiastic 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 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.

Our Post Office and Tea Rooms 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 20 plus planning applications ranging from tree surgery to major housing developments. Thank you to John Tongue for his excellent knowledge which has helped The Council in its considerations and discussions on some very difficult planning situations. Despite the Council having objected to the development at Pendleton's Field, planning permission was eventually granted. It is regrettable; however, that the development will now proceed without the inclusion of the affordable housing envisaged originally.

As you are all aware, the development by Kendrick Homes to which The Council objected, however was overruled by SDC, is nearing completion. SDC has, subsequently, issued a public apology over its handling and granting of this application. Quite a few issues remain unresolved and various solutions are being explored, for example, landscaping to minimize the impact on the areas adjacent to and around the development.

The Council has certain responsibility for maintaining the Parish, for example, ongoing tree maintenance, mowing the grass verges and village greens, street lighting, contributing to the maintenance of the church clock, the churchyard, trees and the playing field. This ongoing programme of regular work adds up to a not insignificant amount of money. Whilst grant funds are available in some cases, much of 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 2018/19.

In relation to street lighting, I'd like to say thank you to Steve Allen for his work on light pollution, resulting in some lights being turned off after midnight and coming back on early morning,

Looking ahead, there are several projects to look forward to and focus on, including the publication of our Neighbourhood Plan following second consultation, and action to discourage speeding through our village. This latter project will be ongoing with further speed camera monitoring operations planned. Thank you to Beverley Cressman for getting this Speed Awareness Campaign up and running. Further projects are envisaged to extend car parking facilities at the Playing Field, and the provision of activity/play equipment for older children.

After the elections last May we welcomed our new Ward Member John Feilding and CC Chris Williams to our meetings.

One final, however 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 10.30am 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!

It is with regret that, on behalf of The Council, I accepted Jane Millward's letter of resignation as Clerk in February. The Council wish Jane the very best for the future and thank her for all her hard work over the last five years, Jane, you are going to be greatly missed.

In closing, I would like to extend my personal thanks to my fellow Councillors for all their hard work and support during the year, and to everyone in our community who take an interest in our work, attend our meetings, and contribute their time so generously to enhance Parish life. 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.

#### **4. County Councillor Williams**

We are nearly at the end of the first year that the Conservative Group has been in full control of the administration at Shire Hall. Previously, we were the largest party but not in overall control. Throughout the past year there has been a strong message from government that austerity continues, and this is the second year of a three-year savings plan. I must reassure you that the County Council's finances are in a sound state unlike our neighbours, Northamptonshire. The pressures have been brought about by a reduction in the amount of support we receive from central government. Mandatory services have been maintained despite a 30% reduction in staffing over the last six years.

When I first became elected in 2009, the budget was some £120 million more than the present level. Warwickshire is performing well when compared with other authorities. Unemployment is 2.9% compared with a national average of 4.5%. Productivity is 10% higher than the West Midlands average and there are now more than 25,000 businesses registered in our county. Warwickshire is a popular county in which to live. As well as wealth creation the expanding population and increase in housing numbers brings its problems to the infrastructure especially traffic on our roads. Our budget for 2018/19 provides £100,000 for extra staff in the Highway Planning Section to help with logistics.

From our budget of nearly £470 million, £132 million will be allocated to Adult Care and £57 million to Children's welfare. i.e. Fostering, Adoption and Safeguarding. To put these figures into perspective the total budget for the District Council was £12 million. To continue the strong financial position of the County Council as well as maintaining growth and the well-being of the less well off, we need to increase our revenue by some £45 million over the next two years. Further savings through staff efficiencies will provide £25 million of this sum, increases in housing numbers will produce £9 million and the proposed increase in Council Tax for this year produces £10 million. Basically, a 1% increase in Council Tax produces £2 million in revenue.

It was predicted last year that we intended to increase our Care Staff and I am pleased to report that over the past year we have employed an additional 40 Carers to help with the adult care responsibility

Some 25 children currently in the care of the County Council have been accepted by various Universities including three places to Oxbridge. This is a remarkable success story when compared to other authorities. We currently have over 700 children in care and our Fostering and Adoption Services are recognised nationally for their enviable reputation.

Locally, I have been able to provide support to the Village Hall Committee through our Community Grant Scheme for improvements to the village hall. I must pay tribute to Cllr Beverley Cressman for the work she is doing in ensuring that Tysoe's road safety is brought up to standard. Two meetings have been held outside regular Parish Meetings and a clear way forward has been established. I have been able to facilitate some of these requests through my delegated budget amounting to £12,000. I look forward to useful cooperation between Tysoe Parish Council and the Road Safety Team at Shire Hall who are developing a close and productive relationship.

I am proud to represent Kineton & Red Horse Division at Warwickshire County Council and that with all the gloomy predictions we are able to administer the authority with no reductions in any of our front-line services.

Cllr Allen make sure we get the Tysoe to Kineton Road on the gritting map. CC Williams said that this can be considered but something else would have to be removed.

#### **5. District Councillor Feilding**

The Secretary of State is now supporting a review of the services the community needs in terms of the Horton Hospital and so we are starting with a blank sheet of paper and considering how the hospital can be upgraded to meet the needs of the local community.

The District Council had met with Orbit and given them a list of questions but had heard nothing further.

SDC Cabinet have agreed to put a business plan together for SDC to have their own affordable housing company.

SDC had turned down two planning applications because of the housing mix, as they did not contain smaller houses.

## **6. Tysoe Sports Club – Steve Allen**

During the late 90s the old wooden Sports Pavilion became unsafe to use so was closed. Sadly, at this time the Tysoe Cricket Team folded but the Tysoe United men's team continued to play their games at the football field but had to get changed in their cars.

A committee was formed to help fundraise for a new pavilion and after lots of fundraising and a lottery grant, with the help of lots of villagers and friends the new pavilion was built and opened in 2002. I would also like to thank the parish council for their help of a 25-year peppercorn rent for the land which has helped keep the costs down. We would also like to thank the late Les Carter for all his hard work over the years, he will be missed.

The pavilion is used by several sports clubs like Tysoe United (men's) football club, Tysoe Tennis Club and Tysoe United Junior Football Club.

Tysoe United Juniors Football club would not be the club it is today if it were not for the outstanding pavilion we have. Tysoe JFC has over 120 children aged 6 – 14 and have 6 teams playing in either the 3 counties football league or the Mid Warwickshire Football League. Again, this year Tysoe JFC will be holding 2 football tournaments which are Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June and without the outstanding pavilion we could not hold these events. For more information about junior football or the tournaments go to [www.tysoeunitedjf.co.uk](http://www.tysoeunitedjf.co.uk)

The pavilion supports other events like the Tysoe Flower Show and fete, who always make a donation. Also the now popular annual Tysoe cricket match between Tysoe and Oxhill and new to last year the lades rounder's match.

The pavilion committee holds two events every year to help with their fundraising these are the Tysoe Windmill 10k run and 5k fun run and the Tysoe Bonfire and Firework Display.

The windmill 10k run has grown with around 200 entries last year. This year's run will take place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 10am. The Committee would like to thank four people who help make this event possible. They are Steph Howes, Rose Morris, Jane Millward and Ian Hook.

For more information about the Windmill 10k run please go to [www.tysoewindmill10k.com](http://www.tysoewindmill10k.com) or visit our Facebook page and make sure you have a look at the video.

Tysoe Bonfire and Firework Display this year will take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October and again we could not put this event on without the support and help for the Committee would like to thank Kevin Wyles, Dave Paxton, John Gardener, Mark Wyles, Lee Wyles, Pete Gubbins and Gareth Attwell.

The Committee are Jo Freeston, Julie Butcher, Steve Allen, Neil Dudfield, Neil Chick, Steph Howes, Rose Morris and Ian Hook.

If you would like to join the committee or help at our fund-raising events, please contact any member of the committee.

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

A year ago, we reported that we were only a few weeks away from publishing a draft Plan for 6 weeks of public consultation – here we are again and again we are saying that we are weeks away from presenting the Parish Council with a second draft Plan for their endorsement to go out for a further period of consultation.

A lot has happened in that intervening year. We published our draft Plan at the end of May 2017 and received an unprecedented response from the residents of Tysoe. Whilst that was very gratifying as it meant that residents were engaged with the process, it led to a huge amount of work to digest and react to the comments we received, especially those from the District Council.

We believe that we have now done this, and we believe that the new draft Plan reflects those concerns expressed from all sides.

Drafting a document such as the Plan is never easy. One thing is certain – it will not please everyone, but we are endeavouring to draft a Plan that addresses the concerns of all residents as well as we can. We have been very conscious from the beginning that the Plan must be a Plan for the whole Parish. No group of residents is any more or less important than any other group. We are mindful that the final document will have to be accepted by the majority of residents in the Parish voting in a referendum and we have therefore always tried to consider the views of all constituents in the Parish – the young, the old, young families, those who aspire to live in the Parish and those whose families may have lived here for generations. This has not been easy. We have received robust and sometimes personal criticism of the work we're doing but at the end of the day we have one goal and that is to produce a Plan that considers the position of the entire Parish.

We believe that we will produce a document which will be a template for continuing the modest growth in housing that Tysoe has seen over recent years, we believe that this is both sustainable and desirable. It will, hopefully, provide support for the school and other village amenities whilst maintaining the rural and historical context of the Parish – not an easy balancing act. The document will provide the Parish Council with the tools to manage both the extent and style of new houses in the Parish. We have received many comments expressing the need to maintain the traditional building style as well as support for small, in-fill developments of small houses. Our policies will endorse these wishes.

One area that concerns us greatly is the provision of affordable housing. There is an indicated need for up to 19 so-called affordable dwellings and whilst it will always be difficult to ensure that developers are compelled to deliver on this, in accordance with the District Council's own policies, we are determined to try to satisfy at least some of the indicated demand. Young families are the life-blood of any community and this is no more so than in rural Parishes such as Tysoe and we intend to be able to make some real provision in the Plan for this need.

Whilst the provision of housing is always upper most in people's minds when considering the Plan, we must remember that it is about far more than that. The Plan has policies that should enable the protection of our environment, historic settings, valued views and landscapes and the assets and facilities that are so highly valued. We believe that we have struck the right balance between protecting what we value so highly and enabling the Parish to continue to grow and develop in a controlled way. You will be the judge of how well we've succeeded in doing this when you see the next draft.

So, a year on and I am saying that, with a reasonable following wind, we will be able, within weeks, to put in front of the Parish Council a new draft Plan for their endorsement to publish for a period of public consultation. It is vital that once again the residents of Tysoe, the entire Parish, read and comment on the Plan – even if you agree entirely with what it says it is important for you to tell us that. We need to get this right, it's the Parish's Plan and it needs to reflect the views of the majority not just the views of a vocal minority.

Finally, Madam Chairman, I would like to thank you and your fellow Councillors for your continued support for this project and I would like to thank my colleagues on the Group for all of the countless hours of work that they have put into preparing the Plan – it's not over yet!

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

**Tysoe Utilities Trust** – comprising of buildings like the Reading rooms, the Post Office, a portfolio of stocks and shares and 43 acres of farm land. The Trust provides various grants. The prime purpose of the Trust is to look after people in the village who are in financial dire straits through no fault of their own. Every pensioner gets a small donation of £30 at Christmas if they have lived in the village for more 3 months. Also give financial help for burials. Student grants are available to students going into further education, which includes vocational courses. The grant is £300. The Trust need to get the message out more about the grants that are available. The Trust has given £15,000 in grant funding over the year.

The Trust is talking to the NPG regarding the farm. Percy was not able to tell the audience anything, but they are aware of what is happening, and they are aware of the need for housing and they are listening.

Nothing has happened in relation to the Reading Room. Nobody has come forward wanting to use the Reading Room. A decision will be taken shortly as to whether it is converted into a one/two bed property to be rented out to a local person

Cllr Cressman wanted to give a big thank you from the school and particularly for the swimming classes. The Trust has been a big supporter and it has really made a difference

Cllr Allen wanted to thank the Trust for the financing of the chip timing for the Tysoe Windmill Run. It was a huge success last year and runners do welcome being able to know their times immediately upon completion.

Member of the public stated that they were not sure about giving money to pensioners. They did not think that a lot of people in Tysoe need the money. Percy said traditionally a lot of pensioners in the Parish were very appreciative of any help and those who don't really need it are welcome to hand it back or donate it to a good cause.

**Tysoe Village Hall** – An article has been put something into the Tysoe Record. It has been a quite year. Now gathering for the next phase which should be happening in a couple of months. This will include the re-tarmacking of the car park and re-roofing the Social Club.

Percy said to ease the cashflow of the Village Hall, the Parish Council had offered a loan of £4,500. Percy thanked the Parish Council for all their support over the years.

Percy reported that Tysoe Village Hall is now self-sustaining and that they need more people to come and join the Committee.

## **9. Rev George Heighton – Tysoe St Mary's Parish Church**

Thank you for inviting me to talk about churches in rural communities.

Many challenges facing the church. The days of one minister for one church are gone. One ordained minister can look after a great number of churches.

Lay people taking on ministerial tasks. Empowerment – challenge for a lot of clergy who have kept the knowledge to themselves. Its about trying to get other people involved. Rural churches must get other people involved.

Many years ago, the church was built by a wealthy land owner but then left the church to the parishioners to maintain it. In many instances 5 churches must pay for an ordained minister.

Fewer people attend church and so the collections have gone down. Many people will only come to church for ceremonies at Christmas and Easter or there are people who attend for christenings, weddings and funerals but the church needs to think of other things like community users.

30/40 people regularly attend the church in Tysoe.

See the challenges as opportunities a connection with the journey the future for rural churches more ecumenical work. Things like messy church, something completely different that will attract young children and families. Fresh expressions of church.

The most important factor is that the church is part of the community we must get out and get involved. Having tea with a neighbour, sitting on different committees within the parish.

If people want to keep a church going and want to get things done you can get things done. For me the church is at the heart of the community and the people are the church.

#### **10. Warwickshire Police Crime Commissioner – Philip Seccombe**

Mr Seccombe gave a brief history of his own back grounds before going on to introduce the role of the Police Crime Commissioner. Mr Seccombe said that the role of the commissioner was to act as the mouth piece for the community, listening to what people want. Have a plan and give this to the Chief Constable.

In addition to holding the Chief Constable accountable for the policing of Warwickshire. The Police Crime Commissions Office supplies funding for victims of crime. There are 45 speed watch schemes throughout the council. Have a fund to spend on road safety. Looking at purchasing kit and equipment. 36 people killed on Warwickshire road's killed last year. The PCC's office can help with funding for equipment locally.

Leek Wotton has been sold which will hopefully raise significant sums and save funds.

Commissioners grants have enabled two business and cybercrime advisor to be taken on and they are happy to come out to the Parishes and give advice. Duty to keep vulnerable people protected.

Rural crime advisers are always available to come out and give advice.

Mentoring for younger people in schools. A third of children will be playing games and talking to people on-line that they have never met. Determined to make sure that children are aware of the dangers.

Funding has provided street marshals in Leamington. As well as grants for a domestic abuse counselling service.

Mr Seccombe said that he liked the Safer Neighbourhood team to visit Parish Councils once a quarter.

Cllr Allen asked if Warwickshire worked closely with Thames valley etc. Mr Seccombe responded that absolutely, they worked with all the other forces that they border. A lot of activity that takes place in Warwickshire is from people coming in from the West Midlands. There is a lot of cross border work with Mercia.

Member of the public asked a question about the rate of effectiveness having declined? Mr Seccombe responded that some of this was to do with process, but we have put things in place to see how we are going to address this. The crime rate has gone up 18% in the year.

DC Feilding advised that SDC are going to be upgrading all the CCTV. In Radway a car was stolen and used to ramraid a cashpoint. Villages are vulnerable to car crime. Mr Seccombe advised that the best way to protect your car is the old-fashioned crook lock. Mr Seccombe went on to say that CCTV is excellent, but it is expensive to operate.

Member of the public said that although crime was low the fear of crime is a great concern, were Warwickshire Police considering funding for Neighbourhood Watch Schemes? Mr Seccombe said that they would, and the Safer Neighbourhood team will do a series of presentations on crimes and how to protect yourself.

Member of the pubic asked what areas of crime had increased? Mr Seccombe responded that cybercrime and hate crime. Vehicle crime tends to go up and down and be quite seasonal. Domestic burglary had decreased slightly. A lot of petty crime is opportunists.

Cllr Locke said that at the beginning of the meeting Cllr Sinclair had said thank you to many people but that the one person, that she wasn't able to thank was herself. Cllr Sinclair has been to go through one of the most difficult twelve months of any Chair of the Parish Councillor has ever had to go through. It has not always been easy. Cllr Locke wanted to say thank you to Cllr Sinclair on behalf of all of us.

Cllr Locke said that this had been a very pleasant meeting and asked that if there were any issues that anyone wished to raise then please do so politely.

#### **11. Other Matters raised by an Elector of the Parish**

Member of the public said that he would echo what Cllr Locke has just said we are all very grateful and acknowledge what a really unpleasant job this can be. Thank you to Cllr Sinclair and the Councillors.

**12. Closure of the formal meeting – 9.00pm** – 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.