

Minutes of the Annual Tysoe Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.15pm

Present: Cllrs Allen, Sinclair, Collier, Cressman, Littlewood, Locke & Risk

In attendance: DC Dalla Mura

Apologies: CC Seccombe

Public 33

Minutes from the previous Annual Parish Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2015 where agreed.

**Declaration of interest** – Cllr Allen opened the meeting by welcoming Councillors and members of the public. Cllr Allen reminded councillors of the need to declare any interests.

**Acceptance of previous Minutes** – The minutes from the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were agreed and signed.

**Tysoe Parish Council Chairman's Report**

Cllr Allen read out his annual report.

During the last 12 months the Parish Council has faced some big challenges and some major changes within the council which led to an election in May. In April we said goodbye to 4 parish councillors Doreen Smith, Peter Paxton, Simon Forrester and our Chairman Mark Sewell all of whom had given many years of service to the parish. At the election in May we retained 4 councillors Jacqui Sinclair, Colin Locke, Graham Collier and I. We also welcomed 4 new councillors Beverley Cressman, Steph Howles, Malcolm Littlewood and Keith Risk.

With a newly formed council we all needed to get up to speed but also take account of council matters which included the Neighbourhood Plan. As a result we invited Matthew Neale from Stratford District Council to our July meeting to go over the current plan and advise us of the next steps to enable us to get the plan ready to be submitted to Stratford District Council as soon as possible. A big part of the process will involve engaging with the village to ensure that our consultation with the people of Tysoe is maximised. To help in this process we are currently looking for a number of volunteers to help take the plan forward to completion. A number of individuals have already come forward but we do still need a few more. If anyone is interested they should contact the Parish Clerk.

Throughout the year the council has certain areas of responsibility in maintaining the parish, for example mowing the grass verges and village greens, street lighting, tree maintenance, playing field maintenance, church clock and churchyard maintenance. Each year we also have extra projects within the parish, some costs come out of the precept and for some projects we can apply for a grant. Some of the projects that the parish council carried out this year included the wall by the church, repair of the fence on the playing field, repair to the millennium stone and replacement of the Parish notice board and issuing a grant for village hall refurbishments.

The above programme of repairs, maintenance and new projects add up to a significant amount of money, particularly when you take into account that many of the costs rise each year with inflation. To enable us to cope with this increase in costs together with our ambitious programme of new works, the Parish Council voted through an increase in the Parish Precept for the year 2016/17. This increase will ensure that the regular programme of work is maintained and our planned new work, which amongst other projects includes an extension to the car park on the playing field, to ease congestion in the village and a long awaited bus shelter.



This year the council was approached by a Tysoe resident Sarah Patterson to upgrade the playground. Sarah along with Jane our clerk and 3 councillors, Beverley, Colin and me put a proposal together and we were awarded a lottery grant for £9,988 to complete this upgrade. During the summer we removed the skateboard ramp and installed 2 new items of play equipment. The final item, a wonderful full size tractor, was installed in February. I would like to thank Sarah and Jane, plus all the other Tysoe residents that have helped and made this project possible.

There are many issues that we have discussed and looked at during the past year, some key examples being the high level of parked vehicles, speeding through the village, the Bus Shelter, the Village Minibus, Village Hall refurbishment and the Village Post Office. It is particularly good to see the huge improvement achieved by the Village hall committee in improving the Village Hall. Saving the village Post Office is a huge credit to Jacqui and her team.

Not everyone can find time to come to our meetings so councillors came up with the idea of an open surgery at the tea room. I would like to thank all the councillors who have been involved in this great new idea. I hope that an increasing number of villagers will make use of this new facility.

Planning always takes up a lot of the councillor's time and this year has been no different. We have looked at over 40 planning applications. Planning is always a concern where ever you live and Tysoe is no exception. It was good when a group of residents got together to form the Neighbourhood Planning Group back in 2014 and did some outstanding work. Sadly the group decided to resign in November last year. I would like to thank Chris Butchart chairman and all members of the NPG for all the hard work they have done.

Due to the resignation in February of Cllr Howles there will be an election for the vacant post on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016. There are 2 candidates; they are Mr Gary Cressman and Mrs Sue Haines.

It's good to see functions and events that take place in the village so I would like to say well done to all the clubs and other hardworking committees. Some of these events include the Flower Show and fete, the after show party, Church Manor fete, Tysoe Christmas Tree, There are also clubs like the Lunch Club, WI, Bowls Club, Tennis Club and Adults and Junior Football Club. These activities and many more besides are what make Tysoe the wonderful community it is and a really great place to live.

Finally I would like to thank all the parish councillors, the clerk, Jane Millward, the District Councillor Bart Dalla Mura, the County Councillor Izzi Seccombe and the members of the public for all their work and support during the year.

### **County Councillor Seccombe**

CC Seccombe had sent her apologies and was sorry that she was not able to make the meeting.

### **District Councillor Dalla Mura**

DC Dalla Mura said that he would just bullet point a few things. DC Dalla Mura said that being a District Councillor was not quite what they say it is "on the tin". Some of the Parish Meetings that I go to would be delighted to have a turnout like we have here in Tysoe this evening. The key thing I am going to talk about is Stratford District Council's Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy is now in its final stages of being sent to the Inspector for approval. The Inspector has asked the statutory bodies to go through it one more time. The housing numbers should be held, these are based on economic growth of the area.



What the core strategy means is that NPs becomes even more important and the Planning Committee would need to take more account of them. Between now and 2031 there needs to be another 55 houses in the Tysoe Parish. The NP gives you some protection but it is not a guarantee. The work that has been done so far is excellent but you need to get it together as quickly as you can.

The Council tax from the District has not gone up very much. SDC have one of the lowest local Council Taxes in the country. This next year's budget is set but going forward things are going to be a challenge.

The satellite Council Office, above the Old Fire Station, is nearly ready to go. Members of the public will be able to go online to a Council Officer from SDC and speak to them about any queries they may have.

DC Dalla Mura finished by thanking everyone for their support and thanked those who voted for him and he would still do what he could for those who did not vote for him.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Unfortunately Matthew Neale from Stratford District Council was unable to attend but had sent something to be read out on his behalf. This was read by Cllr Sinclair

Apologies I am unable to attend due to a prior personal engagement this evening. You have asked if I could write a short statement on the current status of Tysoe's NDP, which I set out below:

Firstly, I would like to confirm that the Memorandum produced by Keith Risk dated 14<sup>th</sup> January this year for the attention of Tysoe Parish Council (attached to this e-mail, Appendix A) is a true and accurate record of the discussion that took place with myself at the District Council's office that day.

It is difficult for me to precisely indicate the current status of the Tysoe NDP, since it is clear that there has been significant upheaval over the last few months, both in terms of the mass resignation of the Steering Group and what appear to be differences of opinion from within the community as to the appropriateness and/or completeness of the content of the NDP as drafted. Personally, I have not seen any further drafts of the NDP since the February 2015 version but I know from correspondence with both members of the PC and NDP Steering Group throughout 2015 that consideration has been being given to alternative/additional work, particularly in relation to housing provision. These considerations have clearly not led to further drafts of the NP at this stage, but do indicate to me that the Plan is potentially in a state of flux at present.

When people talk about the status of a neighbourhood plan, they are invariably questioning what 'weight' a Plan has at any particular point in time in the determination of planning applications. As you can imagine, the topic of what status or 'weight' a NDP has in the decision making process is one that is being debated by many groups in this District. I have had very clear legal advice that in the early stages of Plan preparation, the NDP will only have 'very limited weight'. In the latter stages of Plan preparation (which could be construed as the period following pre-submission consultation and up to the point that a NDP reaches Examination), the NDP can only be afforded 'limited weight' as the policies have yet to be independently examined and properly assessed against the Basic Conditions tests. It is only following a successful Examination (with the prospect of proceeding to Referendum with or without modifications) that the weight afforded a NDP will begin to increase beyond the level of 'limited weight' as it continues to progress through the various statutory processes (i.e. 'some' weight, leading to 'moderate' weight, through 'significant' weight, 'considerable' weight and finally 'full' weight post adoption of the Plan by the Local Planning Authority following successful referendum).



Therefore, given that the meeting in January this year with Mr Risk appeared to suggest that it will be more than likely be necessary to take a fresh look at the Tysoe neighbourhood plan process and even take a few steps back in order to re-evaluate the purpose and content of the NDP, I can only conclude that currently the Tysoe NDP can only be afforded 'very limited weight' given the uncertainty surrounding the Plan at the present time.

Kind regards, Matthew Neale

### **Tysoe Village Hall**

Percy Sewell said that the village hall was first established in 1929 and by 2011 bookings were down and the building was looking pretty tatty and old fashioned, so the Committee had to do something. They had spent about a year looking at plans and came up with a wish list. 50 years before a plea had gone out and the village had raised £5. Since the Committee kicked off the fund raising in 2012 they have raised over £53,000 and are over 70% towards completing the project.

The Committee have completely insulated the roof space, new lighting, new heating, complete re-wire, painting and decorating, Sound proofing between the social club and the village hall. Presently in the process of doing curtains and blinds, the floor is to be resealed and new front doors. Need to raise a further £20,000 to finish the project.

In 2012 the Committee produced an income of £1,000. In the first 3 months of this year we had an income of £11,000.

The Committee had a grant from the PC of £1,000 last year which has spent on the chairs.

Percy said that donations are always appreciated. If every single parishioner came to one event it would make a real difference both economically and give a real boost to those who undertake all the work.

There is a Jazz night on the 21<sup>st</sup> April and tickets which are only £10 each are available from the local shop.

£7,500 has got to be spent on the car park in front of the village hall, which is not only used for village hall purposes but most of the village.

Looking for a secretary and would be very grateful if anyone would like to take this on. The role is not too onerous.

Member of the public said that she would like to congratulate the Committee on all the wonderful work that they have done.

Percy said that there is a person who does not even live in the village, Sue Baxter and she alone has raised over £40,000. Without Sue we would just about had half a disabled lavatory.

Member of the public asked how they could make a donation. Percy said that a donation could be given to either Ken or one of the Committee.

Member of the public said why not set up a Just Giving page?

### **Tysoe Utilities Trust**

Percy Sewell said that a year or two ago people did not know what the Tysoe Utilities Trust was about. Percy attended the Annual Parish meeting in 2014 and gave a presentation giving people more information about the Trust and its work.



The Trust owns the Post Office, The Reading Room, the flat above the Post Office and 30 acres of land.

Every year the Trust gives out money to various causes. In the beginning the Trust gave money to the poor and to education.

Primarily the Trust now makes grants for secondary education and good causes in the village. On a discretionary basis the Trust can and does make funds available where someone, within the village falls on hard times.

The Trust made the following payments in the last 12 months; £12,300, £5,000 to pensioners, £2,600 death grants and £4,705 to other causes.

The Trust wants more students to come forward, to ask for grants, if they are going to university. Percy said that it is now a problem to know who the pensioners are within the Parish. The criteria are 65 for males and 62 for females. If anyone is not on the list of pensioners they should contact Yvonne Dhillon.

The Trust does sometimes get left legacies.

A member of the public asked whether the village hall car park would constitute a good cause for the Trust. The response was that the Trust had already made a donation towards the village hall.

Member of the public wanted to thank the Trust for all their efforts

Cllr Allen extended the Parish Council thanks for all the work of Tysoe Utilities Trust

### **Public Participation –**

Member of the public said that given that we now have another planning application they were anxious that all that has been talked about this evening shows that there is further procrastination and delay. Their question was simply, what assurance could the PC give the public that there will be urgency and transparency?

Cllr Risk said that it had taken nearly 2 months to get the number of volunteers required. Cllr Risk went on to say that we hope that the reports will be produced as soon as possible and hopefully within 2 months. Everyone working on this is a volunteer. They may be able to produce the Reports earlier than anticipated. There is no interest in delaying matters, and the PC will do all it can to support this; but it is difficult at the moment to give definitive timescales.

There is only one NP in the District which has got as far as a Referendum. That is Long Compton and that is being challenged by developers. There is another completed NP for Hook Norton but this too has been challenged. There are difficult matters to be dealt with and these examples show how important it is to get it right.

Member of the public said why don't we just bury the hatchet and all pull together. It is in this disarray that we become vulnerable. What we lack currently is the appetite.

Cllr Sinclair said she totally endorsed what was being said. Cllr Sinclair had personally delivered the leaflets seeking volunteers for the working groups with her email address on and had only received one response.



A member of the public who had been involved with the Kineton NP stated that when she heard that the committee (NPG) had resigned she thought it getting involved with the Tysoe NP was a poisoned chalice and she would personally be put off because of all the politics involved.

Cllr Littlewood said that we do not want a talking shop we want action and that personal issues need to be put to one side.

Cllr Littlewood said that the original plan had not been scrapped it needs to be built on. The opinions and views have to come from the village not from the Parish Council. Cllr Littlewood said that one wonderful tool that can be used to collect opinions is called Survey Monkey but we need email addresses.

Member of the public said that he was glad that Cllr Littlewood had mentioned Survey Monkey. They went on to say that one of the last things the NPG had tried to do was to institute surveys. Steve Millward and I ran a pilot with the Parish Clerk. We went to the Parish Council in September to discuss the use of Survey Monkey.

Cllr Risk said that the NPG did put forward a paper regarding Survey Monkey but that it was not sufficiently clear as to what the Parish council were being asked to approve.

Member of the public said that their parting shot on this is that I can have no confidence in the Parish Council

Member of the public asked if external consultants could be used. Cllr Risk said that we can use money from the Precept to get professional independent support and in addition to this the PC will look to see what grants may be available.

Member of public said: One point on the Survey Monkey sure the response would be go ahead guys do the consultation bring me what you've got and we will look at it. I do not understand it from a management perspective.

Cllr Risk said that the Inspectors want to know exactly where the information and questions for surveys have come from.

Chris Butchart said that trying to get the public engaged was difficult and that you only had to look at the achievements that the PC have got in terms of consultation during the last 10 months.

Cllr Cressman said that she understands there dilemma but when a relationship breaks down it takes a long time to get things back on track.

CB said that the content for the survey the NPG was discussing, was discussed in a public meeting and put forward as part of the proposal.

DC Dalla Mura said that what he saw in this room were people who probably would get involved in a NP but how do they have the reassurance that the same thing will not happen as happen last time. DC Dalla Mura said of course NPs are going to be appealed but the fact that it is being challenged is because it is there. DC Dalla Mura went on to say that he would urge the Parish Council to get this group to help pull the NP together.

To telescope that Survey procedure are you not able to come up with the questions that should be asked. It has to come from people independent of the PC.

The reason Hook Norton lost is was because they rushed it and made mistakes.



Member of the public said that if the Parish Council cannot prepare the questions but the previous NP group did why can't those questions be used? Cllr Risk said that if this village wants a NP then this village has to decide what goes in it. The questions for a survey have to come from the aims of the NP.

CB said that the basis of the survey and the need for the survey was discussed in a public meeting. We did not have many people there but it was a public meeting.

CB said do not go away with the impression that one survey is going to answer all the questions.

Cllr Risk said that there is no intention to hold this up any more than is necessary. In so far as it is at all possible we need to be sure that everyone has had every opportunity to be heard if they want to.

MS said if you go back to September. There was a suggestion put forward that a test survey should be undertaken simply asking one question. The Clerk actually came up with the question, which was "do you think Tysoe should have an NP?"

Another member of the public said that what Cllr Risk had just said that the NP comes from the village and not the PC but in last October's meeting, he had identified the volunteers himself, that he must have been in a completely different place to where he is now?

Member of the public read from the October minutes. Cllr Risk responded saying that he was asked by the PC to be the representative of the PC on the NPG. His proposal had been intended to ensure that he was taking this responsibility seriously. Cllr Risk said that his proposal was rejected and an alternative was put forward to the NPG for their comment. The NPG came back with further proposals and whilst there was almost agreement, and a meeting was set up to discuss those issues that still remained. But the NPG resigned.

A member of the public said that the new teams really need the old NPG to support them and that they thought this would be the ideal scenario.

Cllr Cressman echo what the member of the public said about rushing and we have tried to make contact with the old NPG.

Reassurance was given that neither Cllr Risk nor any other individual Councillor would have influence or control over the housing allocation. The village would vote on where the houses would be built.

Cllr Collier said I do not care what people think about me but can we stop going over history and move forward together.

CB said that it has been stated a number of times about the new groups getting together "informally", whilst that can happen to get up to speed most of the meetings have to take place in public.

Cllr Cressman asked if CB would be willing to get involved again? CB the only way he would consider involved again is if all the history and politics could be put behind us.

Member of the public said that they had raised the Puddle by Old Tree Lane with one of the Councillors but had not had any feedback. Cllr Collier said that the problem related to the size of the culvert which cannot carry the rain water away as quickly as is necessary to avoid surface accumulation.

Cllr Collier said that there is a very fundamental question does the village want a neighbourhood plan or not? DC Dalla Mura said hang on the rules are very clear if only 3 people turn up to the referendum and 2 vote in favour then the NP would be valid.

MS said the reason for that question being asked via Survey Monkey. MS said if you asked me the question would I be involved again, if you go out and ask that question then yes I would be involved.

I support all those people who are trying to get the two sides together. With this planning application on the Oxhill Road everyone needs to pull together.

Cllr Littlewood said that as a PC we act as a body. May I recommend that the Chair of the Steering Committee report to the Parish Council a whole.

Cllr Locke said that the meeting was going around in circles. Cllr Locke said that it saddened him in many ways as the PC was more than just a body who looks at the NP. It is nice that nobody has criticised the other things.

Nobody would deny that the NP came about to defeat Gladman's and Cllr Locke said that he was really proud of how the whole village pulled together. The effect it is having now is to pull the village apart. All those serving on the Council want the best for the village. All of you want the best for the village. CB as the leader of the group has had the generosity to say let's let bygones by be bygones. From now on we have a view of what you want. Let's bury the hatchet. Come forward with objective criticism. Cllr Locke added that what puts me off being a parish councillor is the present unpleasantness. Don't call each other and don't be nasty.

Closure of the meeting at 8.50pm