

TILSHEAD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL OPEN PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 15TH
MARCH 2016

Present: Cllr. Elizabeth Palmer (Chairman), Cllr. Robert Leachman (Finance Officer), Cllr. Brian Peaty, Cllr. Judith Moore, Cllr. Adam Harris, Cllr. Debby Potter, the Clerk, Lt. Colonel Stewart Andrew representing the MoD, PCSO Shona Maycock representing the Police and 10 members of the public.

Apologies were received & accepted from: County Cllr. Ian West & Mrs Elizabeth Anson

The meeting was conducted as numbered on the Agenda:

1. **Chairman's Opening Remarks:** The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting and introducing the representative of the MoD and the Police. She thanked the Parish Councillors and the Clerk for their attendance during the past year. She explained the purchase of the playing field now renamed as The Hillier Field. She thanked on behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr. Robert Leachman and Mr Andy Mundy for their advice for the purchase of The Hillier Field. She also informed the meeting that the Parish Council had paid for the restoration and cleaning of the village War Memorial in the church yard. The names of the dead had been freshly outlined in black. They had not gone for grants because the Parish Council had felt that they should honour their dead by paying for the restoration themselves.

She said that they had lost Nicola Moore as a Parish Councillor and thanked her for the work that she had carried out as a Parish Councillor. She welcomed Cllr. Adam Harris onto the Parish Council. She then opened the meeting to the general public and informed them that it was their meeting.

2. **Military Matters:** Colonel Andrew gave a potted history of his own life and military career. He is a Wiltshire man born and bred and knows Salisbury Plain very well. The MoD are working with the Police to prevent illegal activity on the Plain. Man power for taking care of the Plain had been greatly reduced but was now, as a result, hoping to increase man power. He informed the meeting that military activity will increase on the Plain owing to the return of the Army by 2019. Armoured vehicle exercises are increasing. He appreciated that gun noises sometimes appeared very loud but the MoD were well within their noise limit. **QUESTIONS FROM THE**

FLOOR: (1) It was asked if villagers such as dog walkers could be given leaflets to place on vehicles illegally parked. The Colonel would see if he could deliver suitable leaflets to be put on illegally parked vehicles. He would have them delivered to the Clerk. (2) It was stated from the floor that a strong amount of vibration to houses had been felt during firing of guns. The Colonel responded by saying that there had been no noise change, and that they were doing what was allowed and was well within limits. Monitors monitor sound all the time. (3) It was noted that there is fly tipping on the Lodge area, and this was reported to Plain Watch. He was asked if a camera could be placed where this happened but the Colonel replied that this was not possible. (4) Asked if he could help with a cull of rabbits – explained why not. (5) It was stated from the floor that firing guns on a Sunday at 6 am was not acceptable. There being no other questions it was suggested by the Chairman that the Colonel

could leave the meeting, but he said that he would like to remain for the rest of the meeting.

3. **Police Matters:** PCSO Shona Maycock introduced herself and gave a general Police report. She informed the meeting that crime is well down in Tilshead. The offender accused of the theft of fuel from the garage would be attending court this month. Mostly dealing with crime prevention. She has visited the school and visited the village to patrol parents' parking at the school. This was done at the request of the Parish Council. **Rogue Traders:** She warned the meeting of rogue traders knocking on doors during the spring and summer months. They seek work for cash only. PC Ivor Noyce was sitting with the public and explained that his role will be disappearing within the next six months. **Spike found on Berry Road:** PCSO Maycock gave a potted history of the spike (nails on a board) that had been found on Berry Road (NB reported in the Salisbury Journal). She was in touch with Wiltshire Council, and were doing everything they could to find the culprit who had laid it. There being no other Police matters PCSO Maycock left the meeting with the consent of the Chairman.

4. **Village Reports:** The Clerk had received reports from the Primary School, the Church, Tilshead Web Site and the Village Hall & Hillier Field. These were read out and the reports are now attached to these Minutes.

5. **Finance:** Cllr. Leachman as Finance Officer passed around copies of the Statement of Accounts year ending 3.3.2015 (which are attached to these Minutes) and went through them. He thanked Mr Humphrie James for auditing them. There were no questions from the floor. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Leachman on behalf of everyone present for all the hard work that he has put into looking after the accounts. His work is very much appreciated.

6. **Planning Applications:** No controversial ones over the past year.

7. **Highways:** The Chairman explained to the meeting that Wiltshire Council are no longer responsible for tidying up the pavements which is now the responsibility of house holders. Their responsibility lies where their boundary meets the pavement. However Wiltshire Council will continue to cut the grass verges and clean the gutters. She reported that a few areas of the village are not considered council land for grass cutting, but the Wiltshire Council are dealing with this problem for the future.

Question: It was asked from the floor when the Parish Stewards were returning.

Reply: Not as often as in the past, and some work will not be carried out because of Health & Safety.

8. **Flooding:** Cllr. Peaty reported on the Tilshead Borehole readings. Copy attached to these Minutes. These readings are done frequently and it is hoped that flooding will be avoided this year. The Parish Stewards have cleaned out the gulleys/letts on a monthly basis. However the Parish Council has been informed that they will be lucky if they are now done once a year! No questions from the floor.

9. **Environment:** Nothing to report. No questions or concerns raised.

10. **Any Other Business:** The owners of Tara invited the Parish Council to visit the trees concerned on planning 16/01590/tca.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Minutes approved by:
(Chairman)

E. Palmer

Dated:

2016