

## TOLPUDDLE VILLAGE MEETING AGM MINUTES: Tuesday 21 May 2019

Present: Nigel Pitman Chair  
Peter Churchill Chair Parish Council  
Julia Johnstone Clerk  
48 members of the public

**1. Welcome and apologies:** The chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Ian & Francis Cambrook, Nick & Julie Bachelor, Peter & Margaret Walton, Andrew & Jo MCarthy and Roger Harcourt

**2. Election of Chair:** Nigel Pitman was proposed by Tony Gould & seconded by Jonathan Van Baars

**3. Election of Clerk:** Julia Johnstone was proposed by Julie Bonner & seconded by Jim Johnstone

**4. Minutes of the last meeting (19 February) and matters arising:** Tony Gould requested his comments in appreciation of the daffodil planting by Jim & Julia Johnstone be recorded. He requested that future plantings be of the smaller variety. With this amendment the minutes were proposed and seconded as correct.

**5. Martyrs Festival update:** Tom de Witt introduced Sophie Bull (National Trust) and Nigel Costley (TUC).

Tom explained the new code of conduct that has been introduced as a baseline for the respect for and behaviour towards others. It is made known to all those attending the festival and march. Members of the team will be observing at the pinch point outside the pub. Resident's previous concerns have been noted and acted upon where possible. Nigel Pitman thanked Tom for his proactive response.

Nigel Costley reported on the actions being taken to reduce single use plastics. This included catering use & union give aways. A newsletter will be distributed to households & the village BBQ is to be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July. There is to be a Peterloo Massacre art exhibition and Friday night comedy in the village hall.

Sophie Bull detailed the NT artwork involvement with the artist Bob & Roberta Smith and workshops prior to and during the festival.

**6. Police Update:** PCSO Sarah Pilcher was standing in for PCSO Alison Donnison who now works part-time (not Monday or Tuesday). Locally there have been thefts from cars at beauty spots, the theft of a charity box and ongoing issues with scam phone calls/emails. Poaching is under-reported. Sarah encouraged the reporting of minor issues as it helps build up a bigger picture of crime. Fly tipping is also an issue which should be reported to the Police and Highways Authority.

Rural police have access to a tractor and Rhino quad bike; non-emergencies can be reported to 101 or on-line

**7. Parish Council report (PAPC):** Peter Churchill explained the make-up and increasing responsibilities of the PAPC since the recent elections. Issues include lack of councillors, the feeling that the PAPC was not being listened to regarding planning applications and tension between the PAPC & Dorset council. The precept is £44,000 to be spent within the PAPC – can it be spent better? A footpath between Puddletown & Athelhampton is under consideration. Communication will be improved with the reintroduction of the PAPC newsletter. PAPC meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month alternating between Puddletown & Tolpuddle and Peter asked that anyone interested in joining talks to him after the meeting.

**8. St John's Church report:** Hilly Cobban detailed the church services held. The most pressing financial need is the church rewiring (heating, lighting & sounds system). Various fund raising events are being held including a Midsummer Party on 22 June. Hilly thanked all for their support of St John's

**9. Rights of Way report:** Dave Wilkinson (Rights of way Liaison Officer).

The Tolpuddle & Burleston rights of way are, in the main, open and passable although seasonal growth is beginning to build up on some. Two issues have been reported to county recently:

- vehicles are continuing to damage the surface of the bridleway (S46/4) in Tingleton Hang - the 'Authorised vehicles only' sign has been removed;
- the gate onto the A354 at the end of the bridleway (S11/7) north from Burleston has been padlocked shut.

Both are 'under investigation'.

Any issues can be reported to Dave or Lynne or to County via the [dorsetforyou.gov.uk](http://dorsetforyou.gov.uk) website. Go to *Countryside, Coast & Parks* and follow the links through *Rights of Way to Report a Problem*.

Penny Ruddock said that the bridlepath damage was caused by 4x4s not Max Events as often stated.

**10. Village Hall report:** Jonathan Van Baars confirmed the Village Hall AGM is on Friday 24 May. Some charges are increasing in July but there is now no additional electricity charge. Village residents have reduced rates. Jonathan gave an update on past and upcoming events. Jim Johnstone asked when the new noticeboard was going to be installed – Jonathan will enquire Nigel Costley offered a framed photo of the village hall & Martyr's tree to the Village Hall.

**11. Orchard Meadow report:** Martin Cooke has been a Parish Councillor for 12 years & Orchard Meadow has now been open for 10 years. A recent ROSPA report identified several issues and now the PAPC has quarterly safety inspections of all Parish play areas. The pond has had to be fenced, there will be a new kickboard in July and the toddler area replaced in August/September. Regular workparties are held the next one being on Sunday 16 June. Martin was asked about the grass cutting policy - could it be left longer? The main area is kept short but Martin said the meadow area, where orchids have been found, is to be left longer

Copies of these minutes are available by emailing [Tolpuddlemeeting@yahoo.com](mailto:Tolpuddlemeeting@yahoo.com)

12. Telephone Kiosk: There is still a working BT phone fitted but Julia Johnstone asked if residents felt it was needed. The phone looked little used and the kiosk was full of cobwebs. Many redundant telephone boxes have alternative uses. Colin Hamilton said this had been discussed several years ago but not progressed. Tom de Witt confirmed there was no demand for a phone from those attending the Festival. It was agreed that Julia should make tentative enquiries with BT.

**ACTION POINT: Julia Johnstone**

**13. Future Events:** Street Fair 26 May, Village Show 13 July, Craft Fair 26/27 October.

**14. AOB:** Marion Regan suggested that the village needs to signpost the location of the defibrillator (outside the Martyrs Inn) as no visitors would be aware of its location. Peter Churchill agreed to refer this to the Parish Council as it would also apply to the Puddletown defibrillator.

**ACTION POINT: Peter Churchill**

Ali Rolfe questioned the need for paper copies of minutes/agenda. Julia hoped that with the village hall upgrade projection facilities would be available. Jonathan confirmed this was on the 'wish list'. Electronic copies are available by emailing Julia on [Tolpuddlemeeting@yahoo.com](mailto:Tolpuddlemeeting@yahoo.com). They are also uploaded to the PAPC website.

Nigel Pitman gave an update on the village website; Dave Smallwood has been paying the small annual domain charge himself and is willing to continue the administration. After discussion it was agreed that Julia would email village 'stakeholders'. Nigel, Dave and Julia will meet to discuss progress.

**ACTION POINT: Nigel, Dave & Julia**

**15. Date of next meeting:** Thursday 7 November, 7.00pm