

Annual Town Meeting 10th May 2016

Present: C’lrs Franklin, Birch, O’Connell, Anderton, Slater, Pratt, Fell, Dawson, Swinyard-Jordan, Jones, Gabriello, Hedge

Barry Rhodes, Laura Kitchener-Pain (Tesco Community Champion), Marc Read (Wiltshire Community Engagement Manager for Tidworth, Rev. A Copeland, Liz Darcy, Dave Minty (Police)

1. **Apologies:** TCAP, J Tridgell (Zouch Academy), Josh Deer(Aster)
2. **Declaration of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes of the 2015 Annual Town Meeting** had been circulated. Proposed as a true and accurate record by C’llr Jones, seconded by C’llr Birch.
4. **Wiltshire Councillors Report:** **Wiltshire Councillors Report:** Public Transport consultation had 12,000 responses following a campaign by the Salisbury Journal to save buses services. Cllr Connolly confirmed there will be no cuts this financial year, but £25m per year savings need to be made over the next few years, the £5m Wiltshire provides as subsidies for bus services may be reduced and services provided differently in future. The Activ8 route for is a commercial run route during normal week day working hours but is subsidised at weekend, evenings and Bank Holidays. Unable to unify prices between different operators due to Bus Regulation Rules which is why Wilts & Dorset and Stagecoach operate different prices. The A338 has been resurfaced & the pothole by Ordnance Road has been filled. Humber Lane sports pitches have now been transferred from MOD to Town Council ownership.
The zebra crossing on Pennings road by the post office will be changed to a light controlled toucan crossing as part of the Wimpey housing Development, in late summer, early autumn.
The mini roundabouts at the bottom of Ordnance Road and St Andrews Roads, will be replaced with 1 large roundabout and the St Andrews Road junction will be located almost opposite Ordnance Road. Traffic lights will be provided at the Meerut Road junction, the Hampshire Cross traffic lights will be upgraded and the approaches on the A338 widened. The Ram junction will also be widened to allow right turn lanes both into and out of Ludgershall Road .
The new footpath on Somme Road was completed as a partnership between the Garrison, DIO, 26 Engineer Regiment, Wiltshire Council and the Community Area Transport Group. Lighting will be added in June/July and the official opening will be in August.
5. **Police Report:** New Police Inspector for Tidworth, Ludgershall 7 Amesbury area, Dave minty, has now taken over due to retirement of Christian Lane. Changes will be made to the current model of policing, from October. Trowbridge are currently trialling the new system, Angus Mcpherson, Police 7 Crime Commissioner, has ultimate decision of whether or not to bring the new system into effect. Current system of PCSO’s has not been very effective, resulting in a lot of intermediary people becoming involved, especially with 101 calls, resulting in lack of continuity. However, does not wish to lose neighbourhood policing experience.

In the new system, each team will be run by a Sergeant, with every officer having ownership of a specific area along with civilian investigators and CID. PCSO's for the area can also do house to house visits which should result in a better service. There will be 5 shifts in a 24 hour period, with an allocated police officer to each area allowing for local ownership of incidents. Advised that TTC's routine input into policing via the CAP will continue, however there may not always be a warranted officer at the meetings. PCSO's will stay as they cannot be deployed.

Tidworth police station will be staying.

Vacancies have occurred recently due to retirement only as P/O cannot be made redundant, training periods cause delays in vacancies being filled. £17m had to be cut from the budget, however assurance that there will not be a merger with Dorset, instead there is a strategic alliance with Avon & Somerset and Gloucester forces to share fire arms and dogs, which also allows for freedom of movement across county borders.

Recognition that there will be an increase in local population in the next few years of both military & civilian, this is why Tidworth police Station will be staying and Beck Lenanne is due back to Tidworth in the next few weeks. C'Ilr Franklin invited police to move into the new civic centre once it is built.

There will be a significantly reduced police presence at the Summer Solstice this year, with emphasis falling on English heritage to police the event. Car parking charges have been introduced to encourage visitors to use the bus as it would be cheaper and road restrictions will be put in place.

Should there be an incident in Tidworth and all officers were currently in another location, cover can be gained by using the National Mutual Aid Arrangements.

Andrea Fairclough will be asked to contact Laura at Tesco regarding promotion of volunteering.

6. **Local Schools Report: Zouch Academy** – Apologies given by J Tridgell, report was instead read out by C'Ilr Pratt, School Governor. Mrs Tridgell will be retiring at the end of July, Mrs O'Brien will become the new head for the 2016/17 academic year, and will be shadowed by Mrs Hargreaves, who will then become head in 2017. School has made a number of improvements and are hoping to have an Ofsted report before the end of term.
7. **TCAP Report:** Apologies given by Tony Pickernell, report given instead by C'Ilr Jones. Steve Lawton is now Chair of TCAP, Tony Pickernell remains Co-Ordinator, meeting frequency and groupings to be reviewed, there will be a minimum of 2 p/a with the ability to call ad hoc meetings where necessary.
8. **Town Council Reports:**
 - C'Ilr Slater Community Services:** Firstly expressed thanks to C'Ilr Jones for standing in a temporary Chair. Ringway have now taken over the Balfour beatty contract, they hope to be up to speed with all works by October. Some of the personnel will remain the same as under BB so local area knowledge should remain. C'Ilr Franklin thanked the Services Committee for all that they have achieved over the year, often more than is realised.
 - C'Ilr Pratt Community Engagement:** Firstly wanted to extend his thanks to Corby Kemp, previous Committee Chair. Arrangements for Tidworth Town Festival are coming together, head line act 'Not the Rolling Stones' have been booked to perform. Festival Factor has been a success, the finals are to be held on Wednesday

25th May, with the winner given a chance to sing at the festival. Keep Tidworth Tidy is working well, regular litter picks have now been arranged with start and finish at the Community Centre where all equipment and refreshments will be provided. C’Ilr Franklin thanked the Committee for all that they have done over the past year, praised the Keep Tidworth Tidy group, very positive endeavour. Marc Read advised Wiltshire Wildlife Trust will be working in the Tidworth Area for the next 6 months aiming to work with schools etc to educate them on how to reduce litter. Laura Kitchener-Pain advised there will be a team of store managers attending one of the litter picks in a effort to engage the community.

C’Ilr A Connolly Projects: This was set up for overseeing of bigger projects, especially the new Civic Centre. C’Ilr A Connolly has done a lot of work with C’Ilr M Connolly with regards to planning. Planning permission has now been granted so funding and building, are the next steps. Hopeful that the police will use the building so that it becomes a centre for everything. Details of a Grant for Wiltshire Funding to bring military & civilian communities closer together have been received and will be looked into. C’Ilr Jones added new civic centre idea is a credit to C’Ilr A Connolly as he had the vision to buy the land.

C’Ilr M Connolly Leadership: Standing Orders & Financial Regs will be reviewed at the June FTC. Persimmons S.106 agreement was signed in the New Year, to provide a play area and the funds to maintain it. Humber Lane transfer has been completed. The civic centre has also been discussed on several occasions. Precept was increased by 2.4%, the 10 year budget allows for a 2% p/a increase for the next 10 years, so this along with the additional council tax funds from the new houses will mean that the Town Council element of the Council tax will not need to increase to fund the new civic centre based on current projections.

Mayor: Chairman’s role is to summarise everyone’s ideas and to help reach an agreement. It is necessary also to represent Tidworth outside of the area, by creating good relationships with other town and County councils, police, etc. Wished to thank all C’Ilrs for their support to both the council and the Chairman. Council itself gives a lot of support to local organisations, through grants etc. There have been some issues with youth over the last year, such as the graffiti, but suitable punishments were given which has now led to a reciprocal relationship with the youngsters. Also wished to thank the Town Clerk, Admin Assistant and Town Steward for all their support over the year.

9. **Guests:**

Lorna Swinyard-Jordan – Tidworth War Memorial Committee – local residents have been given the opportunity to enter their designs for the monoliths around the memorial. Planning permission has now been granted, there is still £15,000 funding to be raised. At the latest meeting it was proposed that a plinth is installed on the new roundabout, of the same material as the monument, to thank those who contributed to its building. There will be a collection in the Tidworth Tesco store, dates to be confirmed, to raise awareness of the project.

Marc Read – Wiltshire Community Engagement Manager – Tidworth Town Council very lucky as very forward thinking members. He has been in the role since Aug 2015 aim to fill the gaps eft by town councils, TCC has made his role much easier. His aim is to now make Tidworth a dementia friendly town, being aided in this by the memory

café. Is also involved with the Child Poverty Working Group, to make things better for poorer families, involvement from TCC is appreciated.

Rev. Copeland Holy Trinity Church – Currently runs a toddler group with on a Monday afternoon in the Church hall. Has attended a number of the Council events, including Easter and Christmas, provides the church hall for free for the memory Café. Will be running a summer holiday club at the Garrison Church in Conjunction with St Michaels Church. Church is a Grade 2 listed building with a number of repairs needed included damp in the vestry due to removal of an old boiler, open to volunteer of help from anyone who would like to project manage these repairs. Provision of church ground grass cutting from Town Steward has been greatly appreciated as this allows Rev. Copeland to send her time on other projects. Greatly enjoys working so closely with the Council and Community.

10. Any Other Business

None

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed as a true record **Date**
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C'Ilr C Franklin MBE
Mayor