

## TIDWORTH TOWN COUNCIL DECEMBER 2025

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 at Tidworth Civic Centre, Wylle Road at 7pm.

<b>Attended</b> Cllr's C Webb (CW) in the chair, H Jones (HJ), P Hedge (PH), S Musikvanhu (SM), R Mason (RM), C Daborn (CDB), C Danso (CD), O Flowers (OF), A Edwards (AE), C Lovell Town Clerk (CL) Cllr Allen – Tidworth North and West Cllr Lumsden East/Ludgershall West WO1 Tomlinson T Edwards - Church F Galvin T Jones L Coleman		<b>25/164 1. Consideration of Apologies for Absence</b> Cllr Anim, Cllr Senna  Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a record to be kept of the members present and that this record form part of the minutes of the meeting. Members who cannot attend a meeting should tender apologies to the Town Clerk as it is usual for the grounds upon which apologies are tendered also to be recorded. Under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act1972, members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence are accepted.
Item	Agenda Item	Action by
	<b>***Freedom of the Town Presentation**</b> Cllr Webb welcomed Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory, Vice Lord-Lieutenant who had been invited to present the scroll to Mr Connolly. Cllr H Jones gave a speech which briefly covered Mr Connolly’s contribution to Tidworth, this was by no means the full extensive list. The scroll was given to Mr Connolly who gave a short speech and his thanks for being the first to be bestowed this honour.	
25/165	<b>2. Declaration of Interest</b> (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/1464) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations). None	
25/166	<b>3. Public Questions:</b> Tracy Jones raised the ongoing issue of off road bikes being dangerous and asked what could be done. The advice is to keep reporting with as much information as possible. WO1 Tomlinson asked for timings so that he can arrange a patrol.	
25/167	<b>4. Minutes of Previous Meeting:</b> Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 had been circulated. <b>PH proposed that they were a true and accurate record, seconded by SM carried.</b> No matters arising.	



25/168	<p><b>5. Wiltshire Councillors Report:</b></p> <p>Cllr Allen thanked everyone who were involved with making Remembrance a success.</p> <p>He asked if anyone was aware of any homeless people in Tidworth as he is working with local organisations. He also advised that the food bank was in need of volunteers.</p>	
25/169	<p><b>6. Mayor's Report</b></p> <p>Cllr Webb provided the following report:</p> <p>The month started on 5th December with a meeting at TLC regarding the Antisocial behaviour of young people particularly over the half term period. The incidents of theft and harassment at local shops involving children as young as 11 has reduced with greater police involvement but damage and abuse has increased at the Leisure Centre.</p> <p>The police have found it difficult to take any proactive measures against these children as they need identification evidence and even though they know a lot of the perpetrators they are constrained by policies in involving children of such young ages in the criminal justice system. Tidworth, Ludgershall and Wiltshire continue to work with the police to try to address these issues.</p> <p>In the meantime the young people have moved on to the mindless vandalism by graffiti which started as tagging every possible surface from the Skatepark, bus shelters, electric cabinets and trees in the woods to racial and inappropriate sexual images.</p> <p>The skatepark needs specialist cleaning and it has taken a few days to find the appropriate treatment and contractor.</p> <p>SMASH sent out some youth workers in half term to meet with young people in areas where they congregate and there are plans to fund another visit but that does involve a cost of £2,000 on each occasion.</p> <p>There was a great deal of work in preparation for the very successful Act of Remembrance on 9th November. Gratitude is given to WO2 Jason Kingsford and Wiltshire Councillor Keith Allen who together with other volunteers put up Remembrance poppies on the lampposts.</p> <p>Thanks was also given to WO1 Tomlinson GSM and Carol Baxter for all their hard work in bringing the event home. It was not expected to secure a road closure to enable the military and veterans to march to the War Memorial were delighted when the permission was received, then having the British Army Band march as well was the icing on the cake. She also recognised Cllr Rob Mason's vision for the march as without his perseverance and nagging over the last 2 or 3 years it would simply not have happened.</p> <p>She also acknowledged and thanked Mr Galvin for his contribution on the day. Another great achievement this month has included the breaking of ground on the allotments.</p> <p>Tenders for the new external storage will be scored in the New Year.</p> <p>20<sup>th</sup> November was the "Ukraine Front Line" exhibition of photography by Yan Dobronisov who is serving in the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The Ukrainian Ambassador to the UK made an address and there was a very powerful speech by a young man of 11 who talked about the effect of the war on children.</p>	



	The 'toddlers' playpark has been installed on the grass area by the patio at the Civic Centre and should be ready for use very soon.	
25/170	<p><b>7. Committee Reports</b></p> <p><b>Community Services</b> PH reported on a meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025, minutes had been circulated. <b>HJ proposed that they were a true and accurate record, seconded by PH carried.</b></p> <p><b>Civic Centre &amp; FM Update</b>  Extra sound boards have been received, and FM will put them in place.  FM volunteered to paint the walls in Tedworth Hall.  FM suggested a dado around the walls in Tedworth Hall to prevent further damage from the tables and chairs banging into them. Quotes to be obtained.  A request had been received regarding fixing the mobile projector onto the wall in Tedworth Hall. It is not technically possible to install onto the wall or the ceiling. However the Committee would like to get a larger projector. CDB has offered to look into options.  National Service Veterans Alliance Plaque – The Padre has been given a plaque honouring veterans. He has asked if this could be displayed at the Civic Centre as it will be more of a focal point than the Church. It was agreed that this could be displayed alongside the time capsule plaque.</p> <p><b>Grounds Maintenance</b>  <b>PH proposed to pay GW Shelters £447.00, to repair the Pennings Road Bus Shelter by Trinity View Road, with glass, seconded by HJ, carried.</b></p> <p><b>Wiltshire Council - Local Highways &amp; Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG)</b>  Next LHFIG 7th January 2026 - Footpath Repairs/Improvements  "Waiting restrictions" requests. None  Traffic Survey Requests None</p> <p><b>River Bourne Corridor Update</b> -No water in swales yet.</p> <p><b>Skatepark</b> - Quotes to be obtained for the removal of graffiti.</p> <p><b>Playparks</b>  Elite Playpark Quarterly Inspections November 2025.  Connolly Way – 2 x Fence coach bolts missing for the Winter Program.  Shepperd Street –No Issues.  Beech Hill Road – Patchy areas will need to be re-seeded in the Spring.  Zouch Farm Road – There is a hole at the east end of the park, which will need filling in and re-seeding in the Spring.  Thompson Road – No additional issues, other than the hole near the west end gate still outstanding.  Mortuary Chapel  After the open day, investigations were made regarding restoring the bell. It has resulted in the discovery of a lot of damage mainly to the structure which holds the bell making it unsafe.</p> <p><b>Defibrillators</b>  Civic Centre – no issues  Spar Pennings Road – no issues  Poppies Perham Down – no issues</p>	

**Community Engagement** CDB reported on a meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025, minutes had been circulated and taken as read. There were no questions. **CDB proposed that they were a true and accurate record, seconded by SM, carried.**

**Litter Pick**

**CDB proposed to purchase 40 vests in various sizes from Print & Craft Studio, Ludgershall at a cost of £7 per vest. Seconded by CW, carried.**

**Christmas Fair 6th Dec**

Fees for stallholders discussed and it was agreed to charge £15 for 1 table and £10 for a second.

**CW proposed 50 books to be purchased from the works at a cost of £1 each as an alternative to selections boxes for children who have dietary restrictions. Total cost £50. Seconded by RM, carried.**

**Freedom of the Town – 2nd Dec, by Invite Only**

**CW proposed to pay Ben's drycleaners Andover to wash the 16 table clothes used at remembrance at a cost of £6.95 per cloth due volunteers being unable to wash and dry them before next use. Total cost £111.20 Seconded by OF, carried.**

**CW proposed to purchase 3 additional red tablecloths be purchased. Seconded by CDB, carried.**

**Parish Magazine**

Costings given to the Cllrs regarding the retrospective bill from the parish magazine and it was discussed on whether it was worthwhile to continue and if it reached that many Tidworth residents. The Cllrs decide to continue until the end of the financial year and then review.

**Leadership** - HJ reported on a meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025, minutes had been circulated and taken as read. There were no questions. **PH proposed that they were a true and accurate record, seconded by CW, carried.**

*Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the following agenda item will be closed to the public due to its confidential nature.*

**Urgent Matter**

**Proposed by HJ, seconded by PH, carried.**

**Projects** - PH reported on a meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025, minutes had been circulated and taken as read. There were no questions. **CDB proposed that they were a true and accurate record, seconded by HJ, carried.**

**External Storage – Tenders due.**

*Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the following agenda item will be closed to the public due to its confidential nature.*

**Allotments/Humber Lane**

**Proposed by HJ, seconded by PH, carried.**

**Leadership** - HJ reported on a meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025, minutes had been circulated and taken as read. There were no questions. **PH proposed that they were a true and accurate record, seconded by CW, carried.**



	<p><b>Budget</b> Recommendation for 2026/2027 precept. The draft budget for 2026/2027 had been circulated. <b>PH proposed the precept for 2026/2027 be £577,200, seconded by CW, carried.</b></p> <p>A Reserves Policy has been drafted for approval, due to the infancy of the Civic Centre, the anticipated allotments and the current economic uncertainties the Committee has agreed that the level for TTC should be 12 months. They have also agreed to increase the Civic Centre Sinking Fund from £50,000 a year to £100,000 a year as this is much more realistic.</p> <p><b>Investment</b> The Investment Policy had been circulated with no changes. The Close Brothers investment of £800,000 has matured with a value of <b>£838,400.</b> Having looked at interest rates from other providers it was agreed that the full amount of £838,400 plus £11,600 be reinvested with Close Brothers at a rate of 4.15% for a 1 year term. The investment of £900,000 with CCLA will remain, the interest is paid monthly and so far in 2025/2026 £22,186 has been received. <b>Proposed by PH, seconded by HJ, carried.</b></p> <p><b>Recruitment Update</b> There has been a steady flow of applications for the Services Admin Officer role. Closing date 28th November 2025. Interviews 3/4th December 2025.</p>	
25/168	<p><b>8. Policies for Review</b> All policies had been circulated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial Regulations – <b>AE proposed that the Financial Regulations are adopted, seconded by DK, carried.</b></li> <li>Financial Risk Assessment - <b>RM proposed that the Financial Risk Assessment is adopted, seconded by DK, carried.</b></li> </ul>	
25/169	<p><b>9. Internal Audit</b> – Had been circulated, recommendations have been noted and will be implemented.</p>	
25/170	<p><b>10. Co-Option</b> None received</p>	
25/171	<p><b>11. S137 Grant</b> None received</p>	
25/172	<p><b>12. Correspondence and Updates</b> Members were advised that the January 2026 meeting will be held a week later than usual on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026.</p>	
25/173	<p><b>13. Bills for Payment</b> Bills for payment totalling £36,414.67 had been circulated. <b>HJ proposed Bills for Payment totalling £47,496.79 be paid, seconded by OL carried.</b> <a href="https://tidworthtowncouncil.gov.uk/town-council/minutes-agendas-and-finance/monthly-expenditure-and-finance">https://tidworthtowncouncil.gov.uk/town-council/minutes-agendas-and-finance/monthly-expenditure-and-finance</a></p>	

	It was noted that the quarterly bank reconciliation had been completed with no issues raised.	
25/174	<b>14. Date of next meeting</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 Agenda items to be submitted to the Clerk 7 days before the meeting.	

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.50pm.

Agreed as a true record.......... C Webb, Chair

Date: