

Annual Town Meeting 9th May 2017

Present: C'llrs M Connolly, B Pratt, S Fell, A Dawson, J Hughes, S Slater, N Arch, R Gregory, H Jones

TCAP Coordinator T Pickernell, F Galvin, Mark Andrews – Wiltshire Police

1. **Apologies:** C'llrs A Connolly, P Hedge, D Wright, Fire Service, Clarendon and Zouch Schools, Garrison Commander, Marc Read (Wiltshire), Laura Kitchener-Pain (Tesco)
2. **Declaration of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting** had been circulated. Proposed as a true and accurate record by C'lr Dawson, seconded by C'lr Fell.
4. **Wiltshire Councillors Report: Wiltshire Councillors Report:** Home Farm planning application was approved to convert the barns into housing and seven new build houses and demolition of the modern barns. Negotiations for the transfer of over eight acres of land to the Town Council along with £30K maintenance money have now been concluded. This will transfer when the tenth property is occupied. CATG which I chair provided over £100K funding towards the new foot/cycle on Somme Road between the Wellington Academy and Perham Down. This is a long awaited project that I think we are all pleased has finally been completed. I have negotiated with Wiltshire and DIO for part of the footpath between Perham Down and Tidworth and the land next to the married quarters off Kennet Road, to be dedicated as joint foot/cycle path and footpath respectively. Wiltshire are presently drawing up the plans for this and will report to CATG in June. We hope to start work in September. We can only do part of the path as Wiltshire have some s106 funding that needs to be spent or allocated by September. If it is not, then it has to go back to the developer. DIO will be looking at the remainder of the path of the Perham side to assess the cost and viability of doing the rest of this section. Army Basing is very important and although it does not affect Tidworth in terms of new housing, there are road improvements coming as part of this such as the new roundabout to replace the two min-roundabouts, traffic lights at the Meerut Road junction, Hampshire Cross traffic lights to be upgraded and the road widened and the Ram junction to have right-hand turn filters. I also insisted that there should be a light controlled junction outside Wellington Academy to link with the new foot and cycle path. MOD accepted this and it will be implemented. I am pushing for this work to be done earlier than the s106 states. The upgraded Toucan crossing outside the Post Office was installed last year. This was as a result of the negotiations I had with the Wimpey development. This year Wiltshire Council put up its Council Tax by 4.99%. 3% was for adult social care that the Government pushed into local authorities. The Government has provided some additional funding following the media campaign about this crisis, which has closed some of the gap in funding over the next few years. However, there needs to be an all-party inquiry into adult social care as this is a national problem as we are living longer and care needs are more acute than they used to be.
5. **Police Report:** Mark Andrews advised changes had been made to the policing model used in October 2016. The Devizes and Amesbury stations cover the Tidworth Area,

with Tidworth police based at Amesbury, along with Nick Moss. The Tidworth station is still in use by the Community policing team with Natalie Cliefe PCSO and Lucy Wileman. There are 95 police officers covering the East Area of which Tidworth is a part. There has been some difficulty in identifying what the issues are in the area, they are looking for advice and support from the community in this regard. There will be a Neighbourhood Policing meeting in the CC on 27th June at 7pm. Lucy will raise priorities for Tidworth based on the results of this meeting. Thefts from vehicles are ongoing police are working with RMP/ English Heritage and the National Trust to provide signage to prevent thefts, which is being supported by the Tidworth Area Board. Off roading on the Salisbury plains and Tidworth area is also an issue, there is a volunteer officer dealing with this issue who has been given access to the Registration database. There were a number of burglaries in the Ludgershall area on 20th April for which they have arrested someone who is currently on police bail. Public consultations are on-going, the most recent ones being held at Pothead and Panface, along with drop ins with the Army Welfare Service. Hare Coursing is still an issue, they are working with the Rural Crime Partnership with regards to this. Would encourage use of the Community Messaging App for Wiltshire which enables subscribers to receive alerts, safety advice and issues. A question was raised as to whether there is a Sergeant with direct responsibility for Tidworth, there are 5 teams each with a Sergeant, which have responsibility for covering the area. AD encouraged participation in the Neighbourhood Tasking Group, details to be posted on the Councils social media platforms. MC asked if there were any specific stats for the Tidworth Area for the last 12 months, MA advised a report will be sent through to CL for distribution.

- 6. Civic Centre:** Read by CL due to apologies given by C'Ilr AC. The Council has long held the ambition to replace the existing Town Council CC with a purpose built, modern Civic Centre which will provide the opportunity to bridge the gap between our military and civilian residents, bringing our growing community together in 1 key location. Social cohesion is the key driver and the project is aptly called, 'The Meeting Places' project. There will be a dedicated space for TTC and a new wedding venue, also included are various meeting and function rooms, a main hall to accommodate public and private events, a café, and a playschool to help meet the increased childcare demand in the area. Outside, there will be a community garden and a public events space. Full planning permission was granted last May by Wiltshire Council. During the last 12 months senior Councillors have been in negotiations with various large public organisations with the objective of securing a significant strategic partner. This has proved unproductive and further discussions were aborted in January this year. It was decided the Council would go it alone. In February it was decided to apply for a £3.2M loan from the Public Works Loan Board; this loan will be required to build the new Civic Centre. The loan application is handled by WALK, the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils and they requested a comprehensive 'Business Case' proposal to submit to the Loan Board. Our Architects, 'Thrive' were initially approached to compile the requested report, but it was with much disappointment that they declined to assist. We are currently in discussion with a National Company of specialist accountants to have the report completed. The objective for 2017 is to secure the necessary funding to commence the project and to progress to the tender stage by the end of the year.

7. **TCAP Report:** TCAP is involved in a number of events, most recently the Tidworth Area Awards with 40 nominations received. Thanks given to the Area Board and Castledown FM for interviewing all award winners at the event. TCAP runs the Link Scheme allowing transport to local hospitals for those who are not mobile, over 12,000 journeys were made in the past year with just 10 drivers. This is a free service, for which a donation can be given, the monies from this are passed to the treasurer from which drivers are paid for their mileage. Currently the shortfall between mileage claimed and donations received is £69. A fund raising event was recently held at the Queens Head to raise money for the scheme and another driver has now been taken on, meaning there are now 3 drivers from the Tidworth Area. Following negotiations Link Drivers are now able to park in the main carpark at Salisbury Hospital free of charge and can have refreshments at reduced cost in the restaurant. Plain Action receives EU grant money £1.4M currently, however this is on hold due to Brexit. A local firm has received funds from this to enlarge their premises which will allow for a further 4 jobs to be created. Blue Light Day will be held again this year on July 14th, with the event held in Tidworth in the morning and Ludgershall in the afternoon. TCAP is also involved with the Health and Wellbeing Group which is chaired by Reia Jones. As the Chair of TCAP is the Garrison Commander, a lot of liaison takes place with the military. TCAP will again be hosting the Schools concert at Christmas time which was very successful last year. TCAP has been involved with the LYN, with the students now chairing their own meetings. As part of this the Youth Centre has been taken on by TCAP with funding provided to have the area fenced and CCTV installed. 26 Engineer Regt will be decorating and renovating the premises with materials to be supplied by TCAP for which an Area Board grant is being submitted at the next meeting on 17th May. Idea is for the premises to be accessible for all the youth of the area. TCAP are also going to be submitting a grant for new cabinets for the Garrison Theatre to hold all the Tidworth Archives in 1 place. AD questioned whether these Archives would be held in the new Civic Centre once built, TP advised he would like the Archives to remain together, with TTC ultimately holding them. FG questioned whether the Mens Shed project was going ahead. TP advised this is a project put forward by Wiltshire Council, there is a large garage at the Youth Club in Ludgershall which is going to be used for this, with the understanding that they will teach woodworking etc to the youth members. The Mens Shed Area has been fenced off within the Youth Centre itself, as the centre is also used during the day for toddler groups etc. Tidworth Town Football Club will be re-roofing the garage. The Youth Club will be open to 11 – 18 year olds, but funding is needed for a qualified youth worker to work alongside the volunteers. TP is the Older Peoples and Carers Champion and works closely with both Trinity House and Bartlett House organising events, which LKP has also been involved with and is arranging further visits for. TP is on the police Stop and Search Scrutiny panel, which meets in Devizes and as part of this attended a public session to test out the new computer system.

8. **Town Council Reports:**

C'Ilr Slater Community Services: Main aim of the committee is to oversee maintenance for the CC, surrounding grounds, Chapel and Cemetery. A major project recently has been the War Memorial, building of which has now started, thanks given to Daz Stevenson, HJ and the War Memorial Committee for this, which will be

a fantastic and meaningful addition to Tidworth. A defibrillator has now been installed at the CC, a training session for which was held in January, and from which a number of first responders have been recruited. It is a public access machine which can be used without training. The Committee has developed a Memorial Plaque policy for the cemetery along with a review of cemetery and hall hire fees, which are to remain the same. Riverbourne Fields residents will soon be consulted on the design of a new playpark to be funded by the Council. Thanks extended to all members of the committee for their hard work.

Carly Lovell Community Engagement: Engagements Committee has organised a number of very successful events over the past year, including the Festival, the Christmas event with some additional elements and the recent Easter event. Following on from a request from a number of local parents due to the Killer Clown scares, the committee also organised a Halloween event at relatively short notice which was hugely successful and which is likely to become an annual event. This year's Festival is being co – organised with AJ Mayhew, plans for which are progressing well. The Committee has been in talks with Wiltshire Wildlife with regards to a community garden and plans for this are ongoing. Changes have recently been made to the layout of the Tidworth Times to make it more readable and a new website has been worked on with committee members, launch for which is scheduled for June. The Committee works very closely with LKP from Tesco who supports many of the events and along with Wiltshire Wildlife, is also involved with the regular Keep Tidworth Tidy litter picks.

C'Ilr B Pratt Leadership: Firstly wanted to thank C'Ilrs SS and MG for their chairmanship of the Committees and the hard work they do. Discussions regarding the Riverbourne Fields playpark layout are ongoing with a number of site visits with suppliers already undertaken. The Riverbourne residents will be given an opportunity to attend a consultation on the design and have been advised on the amount available for this. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations will be adopted at Junes meeting. As part of Dementia Awareness Week 14th – 20th May, AD and BP are taking part in a Spinathon organised by Jonathan Hargrave at Tidworth Leisure Centre, as part of a competition between the Tidworth and Devizes leisure centres. The Dementia cafes are continuing in both Ludgerhsall (1st Monday monthly) and Tidworth (3rd Monday monthly). The Keep Tidworth Tidy litter picks are proving very successful as is the Thursday morning show on Castledown FM.

Mayor: I can only give half a years report as I only became Mayor in December. I would like to thank Chris Franklin for his service to the Town and the Council over the previous five years as Mayor. It has been another good year for the Council with successful Easter, Christmas and the Tidworth Festival events. All of these are free and have been well received by the community. I have attended a number of events as Mayor, some of which are as follows: MOD jobs fair, High Sheriffs service for the making of law at Salisbury Cathedral, Opening of the refurbished and extended Spar shop in Pennings Road, Community Concert in the Garrison Theatre, Show-Off Dance in December at Wellington Academy, the Town Councils Christmas and Easter events. The Town Council is now reaping the benefits of negotiations that I, the former Mayor and Andrew Connolly had with developers a few years ago, these include: £100K from Persimmon for the new War Memorial being built in the field outside the CC building, £160K received from Wimpey to help fund a community

building and sports facilities, Land for a play area at the bottom of Connolly Way in Riverbourne Fields along with approx. £160K for the play equipment and its maintenance. A second play area and funding will follow later in the development. The Council will also get over 8 acres of land and £30K maintenance for land associated with the Home Farm development. The Town Council increased its Council Tax by 2.98%, this being for inflationary costs and additional funding for the free Tidworth Festival and for the opening of the War Memorial on Armed Forces Day (24th June). The average increase in Wiltshire for Town and Parish Councils was 9.35%, so we were less than a third of this. Last year saw us get closer to the Civic Centre becoming a reality with planning permission being granted. We are now at the stage where we are getting a business case put together by professionals to apply for £3M from the Public Loans Works Board. The cost of the project is expected to be approx. £4M. However, with prudent planning the Council has set aside around £750K towards the cost of the project and has the budget in place to pay for the loan, which will hopefully mean we will not need to increase Council Tax to pay for it – assuming the project comes in on budget! I would like to thank all of the Councillors for the work they have done. They are all unpaid volunteers who put a lot of time and effort into making things work. I would also like to thank all the partner organisations who have supported and helped the Town Council over the last year. My final thanks are for the staff of the Council, Carly, Georgina and Ro. Without them, we would not be able to do half of the things we do. So thank you, it is much appreciated.

- 9. Guests:** BP as a Governor of Zouch Primary Academy advised that following a recent OFSTED visit, the school has been awarded a Good rating.

10. Any Other Business

None

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.25pm

Signed as a true record Date

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**C’Ilr M Connolly
Mayor**