

## Annual Town Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018

**Present:** C’lrs M Connolly, B Pratt, S Anderton, A Birch, S Fell, R Gregory, H Jones, E O’Connell,

Wiltshire Police, M Jarvis (Holy Trinity Church), Lt Col Balls

C Lovell – Town Clerk

A McIntyre – Admin

**1 Apologies:** C’lrs A Connolly, P Hedge, D Wright, N Arch, S Slater, Fire Service, Zouch Schools, A Pickernell (TCAP), J Thompson (Rainbows)

**2 Declaration of Interest:** None – it was agreed that there is no need for declaration of interest in the future

**3 Minutes of the 2017 Annual Town Meeting** had been circulated. Proposed as a true and accurate record by C’lrs Fell, seconded by C’lrs Birch, carried.

**4 Wiltshire Councillors Report** C’lrs Connolly reported on cutbacks to the budget needed and that there is currently a £50 million shortfall.

Currently there is a Boundary Review to be implemented in 2021.

The toucan crossing at the Wellington Academy should be in place by September 2018.

He reported on the work carried out on the much improved Perham Down footpath. There is to be a footpath built from the Riverbourne Estate to the tank track making it much safer for residents. There is also to be improvement/remedial work made to the footpath on the Ashdown Estate.

He reminded people that grants are available through the Area Board and encouraged people to attend the meetings.

**5 Police Report:** WPC Pippa Brewer introduced the new PSCO David Simons, he is keen to be actively involved in the community and will soon be seen out and about on his bike.

As a result of a meeting with C’lrs Pratt and the Town Clerk there are to be some surgeries held at the Community Centre.

A report of the target patrols and neighbourhood priorities was circulated, this included the recent arrest of a 22 year old man on suspicion of drug offences and money laundering.

**6 TCAP/Garrison Report:** Lt Col Balls, Garrison Commander introduced himself, and explained his role. He is currently responsible for 55 units in the Tidworth and Bulford Garrison. When he arrived he was of the mind that TCAP would be disbanded but now feels it is too valuable at a grass roots level feeding in to the Area Board. He circulated an information sheet listing the different thematic groups within TCAP and their purpose.

**7 Town Council Reports:**

**C’Ilr Slater Community Services:** In C’Ilr Slaters absence the Town Clerk read the following report: The main aim of the committee is to oversee the maintenance and the management of the Community Centre, surrounding grounds, general grounds maintenance, play parks and the mortuary Chapel and Cemetery.

Firstly, I would like to thank the members of the community services committee for their commitment and hard work over the last year - I would also like to thank Carly and Anna for their assistance over the past 12 months.

A major project this year has been the War Memorial; the building of which is now complete. I am sure you will agree it really is an exceptional piece of craftsmanship - our thanks to Humph Jones and the War Memorial Committee for their hard work and commitment.

River Bourne Fields residents will soon be enjoying a new play park to be funded by the Town Council following a successful planning application - thanks extended to all members involved for their hard work.

Last month we carried out our annual review of the cemetery fees and have decided to increase these this year by around 10%, that said we are still half the cost of other cemeteries in the county.

Community centre hall hire fees are to remain the same.

This year the grounds maintenance contract was due for renewal and following a tendering process we decided to award the contract to ISS.

We would like to thank our previous contractor Aspire for their hard work and attention to detail during their tenure.

I would like to thank the Mayor and the town council for their support over the last 12 months.

**C’Ilr Fell Community Engagement:** C’Ilr Fell thanked the committee for all their help and support over the last year.

She reported that they have had a busy time, organising several events throughout the year firstly with Festival 2017, which was a great success despite the weather.

The Mortuary Chapel Open Day in September was a lovely warm afternoon, C’Ilr Birch was thanked for being such a knowledgeable guide.

Christmas and Easter events had both been a success and she thanked the ladies from Holy Trinity Church for providing the craft activities.

As Cllr Slater mentioned, the residents of Riverbourne Fields were consulted to find out what equipment they would like to be included in the new Riverbourne playpark. Plans have been approved by Wiltshire Council and building work should start in about six weeks’ time.

She advised that Tidworth Times is produced four times a year, we are always looking at ways to improve the content, Cllr Gregory and Anna work closely together to make sure each issue is published on time and with lots of interesting articles. The new website will be launched very soon.

She told people to look out for the Tidworth in Bloom and The Photography Competition posters, the winners will be announced at the Festival.

**C’Ilr B Pratt Leadership:** C’Ilr Pratt started by thanking all the members for their support over the last year.

He announced that a total of £10912.50 S137 grants had been awarded plus further grants of £6000.00 to Castledown FM and £200.00 toward the Halloween Party.

The Town Council are now in year three of their financial plan and the precept demand for 2018/19 is £337,000.00.

The Committee are currently working on updating policies and implementing the GDPR regulations.

**Mayor:** C’Ilr Connolly reported that he had attended various local events over the year including visiting local groups such as the Over Sixties, opening a children’s activity business. He had also met with the Nepalese Community which has resulted in them taking an active part in the upcoming Armed Forces Day and Festival, they also had a large presence at the recent Community Litter Pick organised by Tidworth Angels.

He has attended Bands Concerts at the Garrison Theatre and was also invited to the 1 Brigade boxing competition.

He reported that he has also represented the town at a tour of Julia’s House, a SAFFA service at Salisbury Cathedral and Armed Forces Day (AFD) in Trowbridge. He explained that his attendance at Trowbridge promoted a lot of queries as to why Tidworth doesn’t have its own AFD, as a result this year will see Tidworth having its own AFD run by volunteers supported by himself.

He spoke about the long awaited War Memorial now being built and that the opening in September and Remembrance Day Service were both great events. Despite the number of vacancies on the Council, its committees have been very active and have provided a Festival, Easter event and Christmas event for the residents as well as an open day at the Mortuary Chapel.

Negotiations with developers involving himself, the previous Mayor and C’Ilr A Connolly have born real fruit for the Town and the Town Council who have recently received eight acres of land next to Home Farm, land at Riverbourne Fields for a play park, land on Phase two will follow. As well as ownership of two play parks on the Manor Rise Estate.

He also reported that he has been in talks with Wiltshire Council and another potential strategic partner for the Civic Centre. Architects have now been appointed and specification are to be discussed in the near future.

He thanked all the Councillors for their time and work which they give for free and he thanked the Town Clerk and her Assistant for their hard work and support.

He informed people of the Mayors Charity which now has a balance of approximately £3500.00.

**8 Guests:** None

**9 Any Other Business** None

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.10pm

**Signed as a true record** ..... **Date** .....

**C’Ilr M Connolly**  
**Mayor**