

Annual Town Meeting 7th May 2019

Present: C’lrs B Pratt, S Anderton, A Birch, S Fell, R Gregory, E O’Connell, D Wright, S Slater, G Paine.

A Pickernell (TCAP), LtCol N Turner (Garrison), K Bryan (Decibelles and Whistles) J Thompson (Rainbows/Brownies) J Dear, N Kane (Aster), Rev T Laundon, J Holden, T Edwards (Holy Trinity Church), Dawn Whiting (Splash), F Galvin, R Nicholls

A Nicholls – Admin

C Lovell – Town Clerk

1 Apologies: C’lrs A Connolly, M Connolly, H Jones, N Arch, A Sharlott.

2 Declaration of Interest: None

3 Minutes of the 2018 Annual Town Meeting: Minutes had been circulated. Proposed as a true and accurate record by C’lr Birch, seconded by C’lr Anderton, carried.

4 Wiltshire Councillors Report: In his absence C’lr Connolly provided a report to be circulated.

In the report the following points were made

Wiltshire has been consulting on the provision of special educational needs schools. The preferred option is to provide 200 additional places by developing two schools in Salisbury and near Devizes.

Unfortunately, Everleigh Household Recycling Centre was closed, making Amesbury the closest one now.

The Boundary Commission has been reviewing electoral arrangements for WC for the 2021 elections. It has been agreed to keep the present number of 98 Councillors. However, there will be significant changes for the Tidworth Area Board as Tidworth and Ludgershall are too large to have one Councillor representing the towns.

Wiltshire Council agreed a 2.99% increase to Council Tax this year. This is a £45 a year increase for a Band D property, or £4.50 a month. Some £27M of savings are required this coming year, another £21M the following year. WC is investing an additional £8M into highways maintenance, of which £3M will go to resurfacing, £1M resurfacing of footpaths, £900K on potholes, £500K on verge overrun and £800K for white lining.

Weight restrictions will go live when the link road opens. This means HGVs should not use the Ram junction, the Castle Street/Butt Street bend in Ludgershall and Ludgershall Road in Collingbourne Ducis. It will solve a problem in Ludgershall and Ludgershall Road but cause issues for Collingbourne Ducis Church bends. The link road is due to open in June, he said it definitely needs to be before the Army Basing works commence. The Ram junction improvements will be first with the off-road works for the new large roundabout to replace the two mini roundabouts being undertaken concurrently. The on-road works will commence once the Ram junction works are completed. Traffic lights will also be provided at the Meerut Road junction with pedestrian phasing. Once this work is completed, the improvements at the Hampshire Cross traffic lights commence. This will see the right-hand

lane at the bottom of Station Road removed but it will allow phased pedestrian movements, rather than all roads stopping for any pedestrian movements. WC will then do bridge strengthening works in Lova Road once the Army Basing works are complete. CATG has widened the path between Ashdown Terrace and Church Lane with dropped kerbs for the residents of Ashdown Copse and a new path from the Riverbourne Fields roundabout on the A338 to the tank track. The Town Council will provide 25% funding for both schemes.

5 Police Report: In their absence the Police provided a report to be circulated.

In the report it listed Crimes logged over the year.

Tidworths local officers are PC L Wileman, PCSO L Hoskin and PCSO D Catterick.

Following a review of the geographic area of responsibility and number of staff that Sgt Hutchings and Insp Sparrow have had to manage day to day, the decision has been made to provide a further Inspector and Deputy post with geographic responsibility for the Amesbury Area, including Tidworth and Ludgershall. This change will allow them to focus much more on the individual CPT areas that they manage, which in turn will provide for greater efficiency and allow more contact time with our staff and the community. Inspector Liz Coles will join the team in June and Detective Sergeant Lucy Thorne will be filling the Deputy position.

There will also be a new Community Coordinator joining the team in Amesbury. PC Richard Salter will be taking up the post covering the South East Area.

The first Independent Advisory Group (IAG) have recently met at Amesbury Police Station. The IAG for the South of the County sits roughly 4 times a year. This group is made up of members of the public from a diverse background to assist as an organisation with advice from the ground on certain aspects of our work.

Operation Artemis is the ongoing rural crime operation overseen by the Rural Crime Team for the county. They will arrange for specific patrols during the course of the year in cooperation with and supported by the farming community with a view to tackling, deterring and detecting overnight rural crimes.

6 Schools:

No representation

7 TCAP: AP thanked the Garrison for their support of the role and the Town Council for the grant awarded which allows him to do his job.

He sits on many committees and groups as TCAP Co-ordinator some of those being – Older Persons Champion, Stop and Search Workshop, Plain Action, Link and Dementia Café.

He is currently involved in a project with the Chamber of Commerce to try and raise the footfall in the area for local shops and businesses.

He reported on the success of the new Youth Club in Ludgershall which is for all in the area, not just Ludgershall.

Blue Light Day still proves popular and will be held again this July.

Area Awards will be held in September but with a slightly different format to previous years.

8 Town Council Reports:

C’Ilr Slater Community Services: C’Ilr Slater explained that the main purpose of the Committee is to oversee the maintenance and management of the Community Centre, surrounding grounds, general grounds maintenance across the Town, 5 play parks, the Mortuary Chapel and Cemetery.

He thanked the Committee members for their hard work and also thanked A Nicholls (Admin) and C Lovell (Town Clerk) for their support.

This is the first year with a new contractor for Ground Maintenance, Tivoli and he is pleased to report how flexible they have been and quick to respond to requests.

It was agreed the fees for the Cemetery and Community Centre should remain the same. Due to the high usage of the Community Centre the kitchen has been upgraded and a new front door has been installed.

He said although the Committees profile is low key the work it carries out is essential to the running of the Town.

C’Ilr Fell Community Engagement: C’Ilr Fell started by thanking the Committee for all their help and support over the last year.

She spoke about how successful Tidworth Town Festival 2018 had been. Preparations are well underway for the 2019 Festival on 20th July, updates will be on the Facebook pages and website.

The winners for both the Photography and Tidworth in Bloom competitions were announced at the Festival. Both competitions will be running again this year.

The annual Mortuary Chapel Open Day was held in September, she gave her thanks to Cllr Birch for being such a knowledgeable guide and to Cllr Anderton for serving the tea and cakes.

The long-awaited playpark at Connolly Way, on the Riverbourne Estate was opened by the Mayor. The plans for the Phase 2 playpark have been submitted to planning at Wiltshire Council.

Santa and his Elf paid a special visit to the Community Centre in December along with his reindeers. The hog roast van did not attend due to the winds and rain that was forecast, at the last minute Cllr Slater and his wife came to the rescue with hot dogs and burgers, thanks was given to them and Karen Connolly for helping.

Easter was later this year and was a huge success, she said this is thanks to the committee, Cllr Birch, Sarah and Zoe Pratt and the Engagement admin assistant Kayleigh Mooney.

She advised the new website has been launched after much behind the scenes work from the Town Clerk and both admin assistants.

The committee is responsible for publishing Tidworth Times four times a year. Cllr Gregory is the Editor and asked if anyone has an article please let him know.

She reported that there will be fun and games at the Community Centre for the children on 31st October to celebrate Halloween and plans are being finalised for Christmas.

The Committee have also organised several Litter Picks over the year which have been well attended by members of the Community.

The Committee is also looking into holding a Christmas lunch for vulnerable and lonely people.

She ended her report by extending her thanks again to the hardworking Committee, the Town Clerk and to both admin assistants, Annie and Kayleigh for all the work they do behind the scenes.

C’Ilr B Pratt Leadership: C’Ilr Pratt started by thanking all the members for their support over the last year, he also thanked all staff.

He reported that TTC has responded to the GDPR legislation and at the same time upgraded its IT resilience.

He advised that a HR company has been employed to evaluate TTC’s current position and what’s needed going forward with the new Civic Centre.

Admin staff and Town Steward are now first aid trained.

He reported that Wiltshire Police are confirmed as a strategic partner with the Civic Centre project.

TTC’s precept request for 2019/20 is £409,000.00, this is in line with the previously agreed ten year plan.

Various grants have been awarded over the year totalling £8768.00.

Mayor: In his absence C’Ilr Connolly provided a report to be circulated.

In the report the following points were made:

He has attended various 1st Tidworth Scouts events, such as their AGM, a Q&A session with one of the cub groups and presenting the new Beaver and Cub packs their flags that were funded by the Area Board. He also judged their Christmas cake competition.

He also did a Q&A session with a year 5 class in Zouch and even had to sign autographs for all of the class.

The first AF Day for Tidworth was held in June and he had the pleasure of opening it. After getting the Area Board to fund the fantastic street art on the Queen’s Wall off Ludgershall Road he was pleased that the Town Council supported his suggestion that there is a mural on the Community Centre wall which was also done by students of Wellington Academy.

He thanked everyone involved in the huge success of last year’s Festival.

One of the terrible things to happen was the felling of the trees outside the Ashdown estate. However, he did not allow MOD to get away with this and got Wiltshire to take enforcement action to provide replacement trees. He felt they had to be held accountable for this vandalism and the re-planting scheme was completed recently.

He expressed his disappointment that the Garrison and DIO have not supported plans for the Humber Lane area of sporting excellence where both could have worked together to provide improved facilities for the community. He has also tried to get an agreement to land swap so that the Town Council could have a single site in that area, rather than a split site.

The play area in Riverbourne Fields opened on 26 Oct after a delay due to health and safety concerns about some of the equipment. Around 20 children were there for the opening and there have been a lot of children playing there since.

Other events he attended were the planting of the first of 10,000 trees across the County to represent the 10,000 Wiltshire soldiers who died in WW1. Wellington Academy for its Remembrance event and on another occasion to see a play called Bin It with Year 7 students. Holy Trinity’s service in candlelight on 16 December and

the induction of the Rev'd Timothy Laundon, the new vicar for the Benefice of Ludgershall and Tidworth held at St James' church, Ludgershall. He also attended the Christmas Concert at the Garrison Theatre where the Band of the Royal Artillery performed.

Last month he opened the Tidworth Teenage Café at the Clarendon Club. He had played a big part in getting it going and is pleased the Town Council supported it with a grant.

He said that the joint Garrison and Town Council Remembrance event at the Garrison Theatre and the War Memorial was a truly magnificent event. The Theatre was packed and there was over 800 people at the War Memorial. He was most pleased with the participation of the Nepalese, Ghanaian and Fijian communities. The Council's Christmas event on 8 December was successful with 200 children seeing Father Christmas. He thanked the Councillors and their partners who helped out on the day.

The Easter event was also a great success with some 180 children doing the Easter egg hunt.

During the year he has met many times with Wiltshire Police to discuss plans for the Civic Centre and it is now close to Tidworth Town Council being able to seek planning permission.

He recently met the Mayor of Pokhara Metropolitan City of Nepal, Mr Man Bahadur. The area is the largest in area and second largest in population, with over 600,000 population, of any Mayor of that country. The local Nepalese community were invited and there are discussions about a form of twinning with Pokhara.

In the report thanks was given to all Councillors and staff for the work they have done over the past year. Councillors give their time freely as it is a voluntary role. The staff also do more than they are actually paid for. Everyone wants to work as a team to provide services for the Community.

His report concluded by him announcing that he is stepping down as Mayor at the Annual Town Council Meeting. He states that two and a half years have flown by and it has been an honour and privilege to have represented the Town, and he wishes the future Mayor success.

9 Guests:

Holy Trinity Church: Rev Tim Laundon thanked the Town Council for making him so welcome. He wants to be an outward facing member of the Community and would like to encourage volunteers within the Church. He would like to dispel the myth that the Church is rich, Holy Trinity is currently subsidised by the Diocese but his aim is for it to be self sufficient. He invited all to a hog roast to be held after the service on 16th June.

Lt Col Turner (Garrison): LtCol Turner informed everyone that his role is that of Garrison Engagement Officer, he is fairly new to the role and thanked everyone for making him feel welcome.

Army Re Basing will see 14,000 troops moving to the area between June and September. With family members included this will take the total to 30,000. Approximately 900 new homes have been built to accommodate this. Many of the troops are currently are on exercise in Canada and Estonia.

He thanked all for the support given by TTC to the Garrison.

Armed Forces Day: GP thanked the Town Council for their support so that this years AFD could go ahead on 22nd June.

Karrina Bryan (Decibelles and Whistles) – Karrina explained that they were a Community Choir who meet at the Community Centre, she thanked the Town Council for the grant they provided to cover the hire fees. They perform at many Community events and raise money for local charities. This year’s charity is Air Ambulance and Wiltshire Portage.

Janet Thompson (Rainbows) – Janet introduced herself as the leader of Tidworth’s Rainbows who meet in the Community Centre, she thanked the Town Council for the grant they provided to cover the hire fees. She is the District Commissioner for the area and she currently has a waiting list of 33, so they are very popular. They are in contact with units in Senelager in preparation for Army Re-basing. Some of the activities they partake in are sleepovers and visits to theme parks.

Dawn Whiting (Splash) – Dawn explained that Splash provides free, positive activities for young people aged between 9-16 years facing challenges in their lives. The majority of them being young carers. She thanked the Town Council for the grant given, which enabled them to provide activities last year.

Ann Birch (Tidworth Over Sixties) – Ann advised that the Over Sixties meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Community Centre. They have approximately 30 members and try to do a variety of activities and outings. She thanked the Town Council for the grant they provided which pays for their Christmas Lunch and coach hire. She made a special mention to Mr and Mrs Percy who rescued the group several years previously, unfortunately they are no longer able to attend so she thanked them for their hard work.

Josh Dear (Aster) – Josh introduced himself as the Group Neighbourhood Manager and he oversees 500 units. 23 of the new builds in the area are to be affordable housing and 8 shared.

10 Any Other Business None

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

Signed as a true record Date

**C’Illr B Pratt
Mayor**