

## Annual Town Meeting 3rd May 2022

**Present:** C’lrs H Jones in the Chair, D Wright, C Webb, P Hedge, A Birch, L Coleman, C Moore, R Agyiri, C Danso, D Kofitia,

GSM Jamie Clark, J Thompson (Brownies/Rainbows), Revd’s Tim Laundon & Sue Hart, F Galvin (Member of public)

C Lovell – Town Clerk

K Mooney - Admin

**1 Apologies:** C’lr M Connolly, R Gregory, S Musikavanhu, D Ahern, Tony Pickernell

**2 Declaration of Interest:** None

**3 Minutes of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting:** Minutes had been circulated. Proposed as a true and accurate record by C’lr P Hedge, seconded by C’lr A Birch, carried.

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

### **APPENDIX 1.**

**5 Police Report:** Unfortunately due to time constraints Pc Duggan was unable to provide a statistical report.

**6. Garrison:** GSM Jamie Clark stated that following the removal of C-19 restrictions, the majority of units based within the garrison are now fully deployed overseas and/or on training exercises, having missed so much during the pandemic. The remainder of the Garrison will be on a stand down during the Jubilee Celebrations.

GSM Jamie Clark asked who is responsible for Bulford Road between Tidworth and Bulford, the potholes and condition of the road needs to be addressed. HJ suggested this should be reported via the MyWiltshire App or via the Wiltshire council website. TTC will look into who is responsible for the highway, should this not be managed by Wiltshire.

**7. Holy Trinity & St James:** Revd Tim Laundon introduced Revd Sue Hart as the new appointment at Holy Trinity. Revd Hart stated she will be moving to Tidworth at the end of May and is very keen to be involved with the community, putting Holy Trinity on the map, creating a central hub for everyone, regardless of their faith. TTC welcomes Revd Sue and looks forward to continued friendship and supporting community events together. Revd. Sue Hart requested a larger sign post for the church on Pennings Road as the current one is rather small. HJ agreed this could be looked into by services committee.

## **8. Town Council Reports**

### **Community Services**

C'llr Hedge reported on the work the committee had carried out during the year. In particular the playpark on Riverbourne Phase 2 is now under construction and we hope to have it open by August 2022.

The reopening of the community centre for public and business use.

Various traffic surveys and metro counts have been conducted.

The Christmas lights contract came to an end and has been re-negotiated.

Finally, the move to unit 3D and the close down of the community centre has been a large operation completed by the office staff. A huge thanks to Annie Nicholls for her hard work this year.

Cllr Wright asked whether the taxi rank up station road can be re-instated? HJ said this will be investigated and will follow up.

### **Community Engagement**

C'llr Webb reported on the activities the committee had carried out during the year. We have had 2 open air cinema events this year with 500+ attending on each day.

Wiltshire creative also joined us with their puppet display.

Mortuary chapel day went very well, with the highest attendance to date. CW thanked Cllr Ann Birch for her support and knowledge hosting this event.

Children's Halloween event was a huge success.

Remembrance was a combined effort between TTC, Garrison & the churches. It went very well with audio support generously supplied by GoCinemas.

Our Christmas event with 1200+ members of the community was a huge success. Also with the addition of a SEND grotto which has been well received. CW also stated that TTC is very proud that TTC events remain free and open to all members of the public.

Also plans for a time lapse camera for the build of the Civic Centre, a time capsule, future plans for the Jubilee and various community competitions have begun.

CW would like to thank members of the committee and Kayleigh Mooney for admin support and work throughout the year.

### **Leadership**

C'llr Jones reported that Leadership continues to support the other committees. HJ also clarified the duties of the staffing committee.

### **Projects**

C'llr Kofitia reported that things have been moving quickly this year with the Civic Centre plans, the allotments and the BMX/Skate park.

Thanks Committee members and Council staff for their support.

## **Mayors Report**

In his absence C'Ilr Connolly provided a report

It has been a very busy year for the Council, despite the pandemic and the effects it had on some functions of the Council. I would like to start by thanking the Chairs of Committees and Councilors the work they have done over the year. They are all volunteers and give their time freely to undertake their roles as Town Councilors. I would also like to thank the Council's staff for the work they have done, despite having to adjust working patterns because of the pandemic and the move to Castledown Business Park in preparation for the Civic Centre build.

There have been many meetings with the Police, our legal team and the project board for the Civic Centre. We hope all pre-commencement planning conditions will be completed and work to start by early July.

The following major milestones achieved;

- The planning application being submitted last March;
- Permission granted in the summer;
- Nine expressions of interest received from potential contractors;
- £4 loan received from the Public Works Loans Board at 2.33% over 49 years;
- Five formal bids received from contractors – all under the expected budget.
- The appointment of Neilcott as contractors;
- The temporary move to Castledown Business Park;
- The demolition of the Community Centre in a couple of weeks;

A lease for Tidworth Town FC to use Humber lane pitches has been agreed.

Allotment plans for Tidworth are now moving forward to the planning stage now a location has been agreed. We hope to be nearing completion this time next year.

Persimmon, Wiltshire Council and our legal team have discussed the transfer of the Riverbourne Felds phase 2 play area land the River Bourne Corridor. The play area has finally transferred and is about to open in a few weeks and we recently received £178K from persimmon for the build and forward maintenance of the play area. The Corridor is finally moving forward and will hopefully transfer across to the Council in the next few months.

Garrison Commander, MOD has agreed in principle to a skate/BMX facility on the Esso field on the site of the present half-pipe. A public consultation will take place this year and it has been negotiated with our Civic Centre contractor, Neilcott, will undertake the groundworks for the project at cost price.

## **Town Clerk**

CL reported that the Mayors Charity has made contributions of £3,003.62 to members of the Tidworth & Perham Down community.

CL stated that TTC will be working with The Castle Practice to offer further assistance to members of our community who may not know about the financial help available. This can be confidential. Fundraising will continue for the Mayors Charity through collection buckets at events and donations.

CL stated that TTC has granted £15,371 in Section137 grants during 2021/22.

**Janet Thompson – Rainbows/Brownies/Girlguides**

JT thanks TTC and MoD for their help in securing new accommodation following the closure of the Community Centre.

After a year holding Zoom groups during the Covid19 restrictions all groups have now returned in persona and they are busier than ever with a healthy waiting list of applicants.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.35pm

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

**C'Ilr M Connolly  
Mayor**

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR REPORT**

At a Wiltshire level funding of services, especially adult social care, is a real problem. Although Council Tax was raised by 3%, one percent of which was for adult social care, this was much less than real inflation and contract inflation, which is more like 10% due to the National Insurance and National Minimum Wage uplifts in April. The next financial year will be even more difficult.

The Council's Local Plan has been going through early consultations. Whilst the number of new houses in the Tidworth Community Area is small, less than 200, the fact we are not meeting the five-year land supply means the Council could have an issue with developers putting forward sites that are not in the plan and succeed.

Locally, I chair the Community Area Transport Group, which has in partnership with the Town Council funded new chevron signs at the top of Station Road, has agreed to fund waiting restrictions in the parking bays near the Post Office and is looking at a safe crossing at the roundabout outside the Ashdown estate.

The Group is changing its name to Local Highways and Footways Improvement Group (just rolls of the tongue doesn't it?). The good news is that the new Groups will be able to do more things than before and will have their funding doubled to do this. Tidworth's group will have a little over £22K. We will, however, require the continued financial support from Town and Parish Councils to make this money go further.

As a result of the Local Highways Group getting more money, the down-side is that the Area Board Capital Grants are being reduced significantly. The Area Board provided Tidworth Town Council with a grant of £11,400 towards the proposed Skate/BMX facility in the last financial year, which was most welcome.