



## TIDWORTH TOWN COUNCIL JANUARY 2025



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at Tidworth Civic Centre, Wylve Road at 7pm.

<p><b>Attended</b>  Cllr's C Webb (CW) (in the Chair), H Jones (HJ), P Hedge (PH), A White (AW), A Birch (AB), L Coleman (LC), B Pratt (BP), D Wright (DW), C Daborn (CDB), S Musikavanhu (SM)  C Lovell Town Clerk (CL)  C Baxter (CB) Admin  WO1 Tomlinson  Tina Edwards  C Topliss  F Galvin  L Hatton</p>	<p><b>25/001 1. Apologies</b>  C'Ilr Danso, C'Ilr Gregory, Police, C'Ilr Connolly, C'Ilr Pickernell  Absent Cllr D Kofitia, Cllr Anim  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.</p>	
Item	Agenda Item	Action by
25/002	<p><b>2. Declaration of Interest</b>  (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/1464) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).</p>	
25/003	<p><b>3. General Public Questions</b>  WO1 Tomlinson said that all had been quiet over the Festive period and all units were returning.  Garrison is working with the Police and the council regarding the graffiti and vandalising of playparks. F Galvin said that there had been racist and sexually explicit graffiti at St Mary's Church, WO1 Tomlinson will look into this.  Mr Topliss attended the meeting regarding recent contact he had had with the Monitoring Officer. CW assured Mr Topliss that the matter was being investigated. It was deemed not appropriate for this to be discussed in the public forum and members of the public left the room.  <b>HJ proposed that members of the public leave the meeting, seconded by CW, carried.</b>  CW informed the members of the situation and told them that she had previously told Mr Topliss that any investigations would be conducted after the Christmas/New Year period.  Members of the public returned to the room and the Chair (CW) made the following statement:  Tidworth Town Council do not condone disrespectful behaviour to members of the public and cannot comment on an individual matter until full investigations have been completed.</p>	

25/004	<p><b>4. Minutes of December 2024 meeting</b>  Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 had been circulated.  <b>PH proposed that they were a true and accurate record, seconded by BP carried.</b>  <b>No matters arising.</b></p>	
25/005	<p><b>5. Wiltshire Councillors Report</b>  In his absence Cllr Connolly provided the following report:  Wiltshire Council is having an Extra-ordinary Meeting of Full Council on 9 January to discuss the Heart of Wiltshire devolution bid, which has to be submitted by 10 January. As the bid only seeks to create a Mayor for the Wiltshire, Somerset and Dorset areas, it will not mean a delay to the County Council elections in May. If the bid is successful, the strategic Mayoral election will be held in 2026.  Wiltshire Council had had some £6.5M of grants removed by Central Government for the coming financial year. Such money is being re-directed to the Northers authorities. The initial Local Authority settlement has also seen Wiltshire only receive 4.3%, compared to the average of 5.6%. It seems the Government has assessed this on the basis that Wiltshire Council would increase its precept by 5%. As Richard Clewer stated at the recent meet the leader Q&amp;A session, he was looking at a 3% increase. The Government seem to be forcing the Council to increase its precept by more than it wanted!  If you sign up to one of Wiltshire's 20 leisure centres before Sunday 19 January you can save £25 on their membership fee. You can choose from a wide range of memberships to start you on your personal fitness journey, including Life Zone, Fitness Zone, or Swim Zone. Whether you want to take a dip in the pool, hit the gym, or join a fitness class, our centres have something for everyone.</p>	
25/006	<p><b>6. Mayors Report</b>  During December 2024 Cllr Webb reported the following:  The companies previously engaged with for an Youth Outreach Worker have pulled out. The Tidworth Equine Charity has put together a proposal for a three year plan, there are concerns that if TTC commit financially to three years there is no guaranteed outcome. CW has asked for further information.  6<sup>th</sup> December along with others she had met with Neilcott regarding defects still not complete. The Town Clerk is working with TTC's project manager to ensure actions are completed by 29<sup>th</sup> January, however if works are not satisfactory there will be negotiations over the retention fee held.  9<sup>th</sup> December was the Area Board.  12<sup>th</sup> December Herself and Cllr Coleman attended the Haven, they have a fantastic sensory room and IT facilities for the youth.</p>	

	<p>17<sup>th</sup> December She went to the Tidworth Craft Group which TTC had awarded a grant to the previous month. It was an opportunity for some residents to raise some housing concerns they had.</p>	
25/007	<p><b>7. Committee Reports</b></p> <p><b>Community Services</b> PH reported on a meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024. The meeting had not been quorate therefore no decisions were made and were made available.</p> <p><b>Community Engagement</b> LC reported on a meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024, minutes had been circulated and taken as read. <b>CDB proposed that they were a true and accurate record, seconded by AW, carried.</b></p> <p><b>Christmas 7th December 2024</b> As the first Christmas in the Civic Centre the event was a huge success, with lots of positive feedback. Unfortunately, due to the storm the outside rides and reindeer were unable to attend. Thanks were given to all who were involved, and it was noted that there was a large contingency of councillors on the day. Date for 2025: 6th December.</p> <p><b>Community Awards 2025</b> Date: 19th February 6.30pm-8pm Agreed to same categories as 2024.</p> <p><b>Easter 2025</b> Date: 5th April 2025 2pm-4pm Will be similar format to 2024.</p> <p><b>VE Day</b> Date: 8th May 2025 A quote of £500.00 had been received for Pipers, although the members agree this is worth it, alternatives are being looked at. A quote has been requested for a fish and chip supper as a food option – as with DD Day this will be for 60 covers. C’lIr Gregory has done a fantastic job of upgrading the beacon.</p> <p><b>Tidworth Town Festival and Skate Park Jam.</b> Date: 26th July 2025</p> <p><b>VJ Day</b> Date: 15th August 2025</p> <p><b>Mortuary Chapel Open Day</b> Date: 20th or 27th September 2025</p> <p><b>Litter Picks</b> Half Term commences 17th February 2025 so weather dependent will be during this week.</p> <p><b>Tidworth Times</b> Volunteers were asked to contribute pieces for the Tidworth Times, will be due for publication in February 2025. RG to coordinate. Volunteers will be needed for distribution.</p> <p><b>Community Services/ Christmas Lights</b> - Due to not being quorate at their meeting Community Services have asked for a recommendation to full Council for an expenditure of up to £6000.00 to install the infrastructure to lamp posts on Penning Road to extend the Christmas Lights in 2025. <b>Proposed by DW, seconded by PH, carried.</b></p>	
25/007	<p><b>8. Co-options</b></p> <p>Unfortunately the applicant received has been unable to attend and will be invited when they are in a position to be able to.</p>	
25/008	<p><b>9. S137 Requests</b></p> <p>None received</p>	
25/009	<p><b>10. Precept 2025/2026</b></p> <p>Following a meeting with the accountant Leadership are recommending to full Town Council that there is no increase to the Precept for 2025/2026.</p>	

	<p>Thanks to previous stringent planning and measures put in place the predicted expenditure and costs for the Civic Centre are below those predicted. The budget proposal and reserves for 2025/2026 had been circulated, and following clarity on a few matters a vote took place.</p> <p><b>CDB proposed that the Precept for 2025/2026 is £577,510, seconded by AW, carried.</b></p>	
25/010	<p><b>11. Correspondence and Updates</b></p> <p>Neighbourhood Policing Team report had been circulated. A letter had been received from Castledown FM and was read by B Pratt – Vice Chair. They have been given notice by Wellington Academy to vacate the premises they currently use. They can continue to broadcast by converting to the Cloud based Myriad system. But are looking to find somewhere local to be able to build at least a single studio for 2 or 3 presenters/guests, so that they can still have live programs and guests as we continue to support the local community. If anyone is aware of any suitable premises in the Ludgershall/Tidworth area please let a board member know.</p>	
25/011	<p><b>12. Bills for Payment</b></p> <p>Bills for payment totalling £38,991.35 had been circulated.</p> <p><b>PH proposed Bills for Payment totalling £38,991.35 seconded by SM, carried.</b></p> <p>Quarterly Bank reconciliation completed for July, August and September 2024.</p>	
25/012	<p><b>13. Date of next meeting</b></p> <p><b>4<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b></p> <p>Agenda items to be submitted to the Clerk 7 days before the meeting</p>	

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.40pm.

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