

MINUTES of the Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Annual Assembly held via Zoom on Friday 30th April 2021 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Parish Councillors - Cllr. J Smith (Chairman, Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Council), Barwick, Brown, Munson, Scott

District Councillors – M Thompson
Michelle Curtis - Clerk to Parish Council
2 Members of the public

1. Welcome and Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman welcomed the parishioners to the assembly.

The Chairman remarked as follows:

Looking back on a unique year for us all I am pleased to say that the council has been able to maintain standards due in part to the very rapid adoption of technology by members and the widespread use of virtual meetings and messaging applications.

I will report on the financial outcomes and significant achievements of the last year and outline the plans for the coming year but first I want to pay special tribute to a very positive aspect of this quite extraordinary year. Right at the beginning of the pandemic, a team of volunteers were established even before the NHS call for volunteers. These truly remarkable parishioners provided much-appreciated help and assistance to residents both in D'Arcy but also to neighbouring parishes not fortunate to have such a well organised and supportive facility available to them. They were there for many people doing their weekly shopping, posting letters, delivering food parcels, driving patients to hospital appointments and many other acts of care and kindness. They have remained available throughout the pandemic and I know they are still willing to help anyone in need.

On behalf of the council members and all parishioners to thank our Covid 19 Volunteers for all their selfless efforts.

Also and originally as a consequence of people being local because of the pandemic Dawn Pitt set up a team of residents that have worked extraordinarily hard to litter pick the parish and have collected significant quantities of rubbish from in and around the village. The council was pleased to be able to support their efforts by providing equipment. They are a credit to the parish and we hope they can continue with their much-appreciated efforts.

2. Minutes of the Annual Assembly 15th March 2019

The minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 15th March 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

The Chairman would sign the minutes as soon as possible

3. Financial Summary

The 2018/19 and 2019/20 Annual Audit were submitted and returned no adverse comments.

The 2020/21 Internal Audit will commence in May 2021.

Income and expenditure for 2020/21:

- Income - £36,757 (includes £21,515 precept and £11,315 grants)
- Expenditure - £22,020
- Earmarked Reserves - £8,719.58
- Closing balance as of 31st March 2021 - £39,092.44

Notable expenditure items were:

- Grant of £2,000 given to the Village Hall
- Defibrillator
- Replacement Noticeboard in the centre of the parish

The Precept was kept at £21,515 for the new accounting period (2021/22) and the following notable items of expenditure are planned:

- Replacement fence around the play area
- Table tennis facility at the Recreation Ground

4. Achievements and status Reports

- A new defibrillator installed in the telephone kiosk. Funding obtained from a grant.
- COVID 19 Volunteer Team set up and coordinated.
- Parish Litter Pickers supported and provided with equipment etc.
- Installed a new Parish Notice Board in the village.
- Entire parish leafletted twice with COVID 19 support information.

5. Issues raised by parishioners

Festival Gardens

A parishioner, who was not present at the meeting, had expressed concern that the fencing on the amenity land in Festival Gardens had not been taken down.

The Chairman reported that following the planning application for the fencing in September 2020, as far as we are aware, the applicant should have removed the fencing and this is a matter for Enforcement at Maldon District Council (MDC).

Cllr Thompson agreed to take this up with MDC.

Speeding in the Village

A parishioner, who was not present at the meeting, had expressed concern regarding speeding in the village

Cllr Scott reported that following several complaints to the Parish Council regarding speeding in the village, the Parish Council contacted Essex County Council (ECC) Highways Department who arranged for speed surveys to be carried out on some roads in the village. These surveys were carried out in 2019.

The results of the surveys indicated that there was not an issue with speeding except for in Tollesbury Road. ECC has applied to the Local Highways Panel (LHP) to extend the 30mph speed limit as far down Tollesbury Road as possible.

The Chairman reported that ECC had advised that the scheme in Tollesbury Road would cost approx. £12,000.

Cllr Scott reported that the Parish Council pay for the Community Protection Officers (CPOs) to carry out TruCam patrols. The CPOs carry out patrols for 2 hours per month.

Zebra Crossing

A parishioner, who was not present at the meeting, had suggested that a zebra crossing was required for the safety of the children especially when walking to and from school.

A resident reported that due to the school now only having one Lollipop person and the heavy traffic, it is very dangerous for parents/children when crossing the road to school.

A resident reported that there was always two Lollipop persons but it is understood that one retired and the school have been unable to find a replacement.

The Chairman advised that to have a zebra crossing, an upgrade to the street lighting would be required.

Cllr Thompson reported that there are strict restrictions on a zebra crossing.

A resident suggested alternative traffic calming measures.

The Chairman reported that any scheme could only be progressed if agreed by ECC.

Action: Parish Council to explore further and provide assistance to the school to recruit another Lollipop person.

The path leading from the Village Hall to the School

A resident reported that markings had been made on the path between the Village Hall and the School.

Action: Clerk to find out when the repairs will be carried out.

Rookery

A resident reported that the path underneath the rookery needed clearing as there are lots of broken twigs on the path which is dangerous to pedestrians.

Facemasks

A resident expressed thanks to the two ladies in the village who had been making and selling facemasks. The ladies have raised over £3,000 towards the improvement works to the Village Hall.

6. The year ahead

As we return to something nearer normal the council plan to achieve the following:

- Attain the next level in the Local Council Quality Scheme
- Further improvements to the play area – new fence and table tennis facility, maintenance to the goalposts, repairs to the entrance of recreation ground
- Redecoration of the Pavilion internally and externally
- Complete the refurbishment works of the Maypole

- Complete work beneath the rookery outside the school
- Re-install Tudwick Road noticeboard in a new location
- Support residents in their efforts to obtain protection for Champions Wood
- Produce and distribute a regular newsletter
- Support the Village Hall Management Committee who has now applied for planning permission for the new village hall.

There being no other business for discussion, the Chairman closed the assembly at 7.51pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....