

# MINUTES of the Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Annual Assembly held in the village hall on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

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

County Councillor – M Durham  
District Councillor – M Thompson  
Michelle Curtis - Clerk to Parish Council  
41 members of the public

## 1. Introduction

The Chairman made a statement to the Assembly explaining the nature of the meeting. It was a meeting of parishioners; by law, if the Chairman of the Parish Council was present, he must preside at the meeting; the role of the Parish Council is to facilitate the discussion; by convention, the Minutes of the Meeting was taken by the Clerk to the Parish Council.

## 2. Minutes of the Annual Assembly 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

## 3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a PowerPoint Presentation (Appendix A) to the assembly giving an overview of the Parish Council's work over the last year.

## 4. Parish Improvements Working Group

The Chairman reported that a Parish Improvements Working Group (PIWG) made up of non-councillors had been set up. The PIWG will put together a plan to make improvements throughout 2022/23. The first meeting is being arranged and should anyone be interested in joining they should contact him.

## 5. Tolleshunt D'Arcy Litter Pickers

Catherine and Gemma of the Tolleshunt D'Arcy Litters Pickers addressed the assembly.

They advised:

- The Litter Pickers were set up by Dawn in lockdown.
- A Facebook Group has been set up if residents wish to join
- The Parish Council provided the equipment
- Two replacement litter bins have been ordered by the Parish Council
- Everyone is well to join, any help is appreciated

On behalf of the parish, the Chairman expressed thanks to the team of litter pickers keeping our village tidy.

## 6. Issues raised by parishioners

### Speeding in the village

The Chairman reported that approx. 3 years ago, the Parish Council raised concern with Essex County Council (ECC) regarding speeding in the village. ECC surveyed several roads Church Street, Beckingham Road, Kelvedon Road, Chapel Road and

Tollesbury Road. From the data of the surveys, they advised that there was not a speeding issue in the Parish. The only road which indicated an issue was Tollesbury Road and the 30mph speed limit has recently been extended.

The Parish Council has considered a 20mph speed limit through the village and was advised it would be a difficult process to achieve this as it is a through route.

The Parish Council has recently considered the installation of Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (VASS). Due to the recent change in speed limit in Tollesbury Road, it would not meet the criteria of ECC to have a device installed. Church Street – advice was sought from the Maldon District Council (MDC) Conservation Officer and we were advised a VASS would not be suitable in a conservation area. Kelvedon Road – residents from Kelvedon Road recently attended a Parish Council meeting and stated that they felt strongly that enforcement was the best solution and not a VASS.

Following discussions with the Kelvedon Road residents, the Parish Council agreed to increase the TruCam patrols on Kelvedon Road to four hours per month. Unfortunately, a large van parked on the road invalidated the area as an enforcement site so the patrols were unable to proceed. The MDC Community Protection Officers (CPOs) are discussing the location with Essex Police and will report back on the potential for enforcement.

A resident asked whether consideration had been given to having gates on the entrance to the village.

County Councillor Mark Durham reported:

- Speed limits are governed by statutory regulations. The ECC strategy is currently being reviewed.
- Enforcement was very effective, unfortunately, this has to be paid for via the MDC CPOs.
- Installation of gates was also an effective way of speed management and could be applied for via an application to the Local Highways Panel.
- VASS are no longer funded by ECC but Parish Councils can install them providing they met the criteria of ECC.
- The Local Highways Panel is currently under review.
- There is a Street Improvement Scheme – this allows the Parish Council to identify a street for a survey and if ECC agrees, the street will be brought up to scratch.
- 20mph speed limits are also impossible to get under the current legislative rules although this is currently under review.
- About how funding is split, from every £1 received by ECC, 74p goes to ECC, 12p to MDC, 1p to Parish Councils and 13p to the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner.
- Of the 1.2 million received by ECC,  $\frac{2}{3}$  is spent on child and adult care and 11p goes to highways.

- The pothole scheme is returning – Parishes will be asked to submit details of their worst potholes to him for consideration. Details of the scheme will be circulated in due course.
- The Locality Fund will be available but the allocation of money will be different. £5k will be for particular parish projects and £5k will be used for projects for people with special needs, mental health and families on low incomes.

The Chairman suggested the installation of gates could be looked at further by the PIWG.

A resident expressed concern regarding litter on the A12. Cllr Durham advised that he had written to the ECC Leader and the MP regarding this. The A12 is not the responsibility of ECC it belongs to Highways England.

The Chairman advised with regards to speeding the Parish Council has no powers but will continue to raise concerns of residents with ECC.

Tollesbury Road – an extension of the 30mph speed limit and levelling of the verge  
The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had requested that the 30mph speed limit be extended as far down Tollesbury Road as possible. This was assessed by ECC and they made the decision as to where the 30mph should stop.

Residents were concerned regarding the lack of footpath between numbers 12 and 20 Tollesbury Road. Residents suggested that the verge was levelled and finished with a more suitable surface i.e tarmac making it easier to use by pedestrians. The verge can become very slippery when wet and is very dangerous as this section of road is on a 60mph speed limit.

County Councillor Durham advised this could be done via an application to the Local Highways Panel.

The Chairman stated an application to the Local Highways Panels would be considered further by the Parish Council at their next meeting.

#### Tolleshunt D'Arcy First Responders

A resident had expressed concern that following the recent passing of the late Cllr Dorman, she was concerned that Tolleshunt D'Arcy does not have First Responders. A First Responder from Mersea would be happy to visit the parish to give information on how to set up a new group.

The Chairman advised that the First Responders would need volunteers to come forward and the Parish Council would be happy to assist in facilitating a meeting with volunteers and the representative from Mersea First Responders.

Volunteers should contact the Clerk if they are willing to become First Responders.

## **7. Questions from residents**

During the Chairman's report, residents were advised that the Parish Council would be applying for the Local Council Quality Award. What can the Parish do with the achievement.?

The Chairman reported that it to get the award is a significant achievement and means that the Parish Council have good recognised working practices in place.

What is happening with the fence on the amenity land in Festival Gardens?  
Cllr Thompson advised this is an enforcement case and we do not know how long this will take. Cllr Thompson suggested that residents write to Matt Leigh at MDC to express their concerns.

The vegetation on Tollesbury Road near the school needs clearing.  
To be looked into further by the Parish Council.

Cllr Thompson thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the residents for all their hard work.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The Parish Council will consider the comments made and any action necessary will be taken.

There being no other business for discussion, the Chairman closed the assembly at 8.03 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....