

Extraordinary Meeting Minutes of Tittleshall Parish Council
Tuesday 31st May 2022 at 19.30 held at St Edmunds Church

Parish Councillors present Sue Lane (Chairperson), Kay Gingell (Deputy Chairperson), Barry Bowyer, and Stephen Olley.

Also present: Donna Secker (Parish Clerk), and 13 members of the public.

Cllr Lane opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

1. To consider and accept apologies for absence.

Cllr Colman sent his apologies

2. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensations.

No request received.

3. Open Forum for Public Participation

It was raised by a resident to block the driveway of Courtney House up with a concrete barricade, but the council are not able to carry this out unless we receive permission from the owner. A resident suggested that he would like to start a petition to have the building and land secured properly and confirmed that this is going to be an action that he would like to do personally.

4. To discuss the security of Courtney House and concerns

It was reported that the residents who have been living in Courtney House have recently moved out and therefore the council are concerned about the safety and security of the building and grounds. Apparently, the doors have been left wide open and windows open. Within the area, outside Tittleshall there are confirmed three travellers' sites, and this has the council concerned further. Before the meeting, the clerk contacted the agency that has submitted the planning application to raise the concerns about the building being left empty and requested permission from the owner for the council to secure the driveway by a form of blocking it to prevent squatters or travellers from siting themselves on the land. The clerk received a reply, stating that the onsite resident is on holiday but reassured us that a new resident will be moving in immediately and that a meeting is planned to discuss further security of the building and land. The council would like the clerk to arrange a meeting on-site to discuss this further, with Breckland, the agency and the police. It was decided not to take any action on blocking the driveway or security of the entrance as no permission was granted from the agency and this would be illegal.

5. To discuss the vacancies of Parish Councillors

The Chairperson wanted to make a personal statement as recent social media posts have been very negative towards the council. Please see the statement attached.

Cllr Gingell reported that items like potholes etc can be reported directly to highways by residents and don't have to come through the council. There are only five councillors, and the quota should be seven councillors for the council to be able to continue at full strength. The question that needs to be asked is whether parishioners really value their parish council? Do parishioners really understand the powers of the parish council and what they can implement and what they can't

implement? Every parishioner has a voice and the council is asking for everybody to please attend a meeting so that ideas can be shared.

It was noted that Tittleshall Parish council have only raised the precept once in the last five years as the council has continued to work around the existing budget.

The council asked the parishioners present if anyone would consider joining the council. One parishioner kindly volunteered and one has showed interest but is not a permanent resident in Tittleshall. The clerk will contact them to confirm their interest.

Please see attached further information regarding the items that the council are responsible for.

Meeting finished at 8.33pm

STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO CONCERNS ABOUT THE PARISH COUNCIL 31/5/22

Having been shown some of the recent comments on the Tittleshall Facebook page, I would like to make a personal statement in reply because the council cannot get involved online. I say it's personal because hasn't been discussed or agreed with the other councillors

First of all I would like to thank the messages of support both on and off the village Facebook page.

However, we are always concerned when parishioners are worried about something. Therefore I shall address some of those worries.

1. I am not sure which trods the village is waiting for, but the safety of an existing trod is on the agenda for the next meeting. In addition, we have been contacting Highways for some time now regarding the repair and reinstating of existing trods that the parish paid towards.

2. If anybody has an innovative, progressive, dynamic and preservative idea please let us know because, if it is within the council's remit and there is money for it, we will certainly discuss and very likely approve it. Random examples of ideas include:

- Allotments - a councillors idea and council approved.
- Plants such as chamomile planted in the cracks and edges along the Fakenham Road/ Blenheim Crescent alleyway instead of the weeds. Turned down due to concerns over private land. Most cracks now repaired.
- Centenary of end of World War 1. A very successful event.
- Norfolk Village Games - partnership with Active Norfolk.
- Turning a pond into somewhere pleasant for people to visit. It was being discussed until we were advised that it wasn't part of the council's remit in part because it is on private land. There were concerns raised about safety issues.
- Plant a Million Trees - this is still being pursued but there are obstacles to overcome.
- Planting of wildflowers - this is still being pursued but there are obstacles to overcome.

There has also been an objection.

- As a matter of interest, I would love to see the village able to generate its own electricity, but I believe this would fall outside the council's remit because of land issues.

3. With regard to new ideas, every year the council hosts the Annual Parish Meeting. This is not for council business, but is an opportunity for villagers to get together; for village groups to tell us all about themselves; to discuss new ideas. This year we changed the meeting to a Saturday morning café-style event. It was very successful and we all learned new information. Unfortunately very few people attended.

4. Another point raised was that we need new blood. I absolutely, 100% agree.