**Meeting Type** Ordinary

**Date**  December 9th 2024

**Time**  19.00

**Venue**  Tysoe Village Hall, Main Street, Tysoe

**Councillors Present** David Roache (Chairman), Amanda Venables, Malcolm Littlewood, Adam Wyatt, Chris Bell, John Tongue

**Apologies**  Rebecca Billing, Helen Sayers

**In Attendance** Cllr Chris Mills, Cllr Malcolm Littlewood, Charmaine Swift (Parish Clerk & RFO)

**Members of the Public** 2

**123. WELCOME and APOLOGIES**

Cllr Roache introduced the meeting and welcomed those present.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Billings & Sayers

**124. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

A declaration was received from Cllr Roache regarding planning application at Badgers Lane

**125. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the November meeting had been amended to reflect an error and the proposal was made to accept them as a true record of the meeting of November 2024.

Proposed: Cllr Venables Seconded: Cllr Littlewood All in favour (6)

The minutes were signed by Cllr Roache

**126. PUBLIC FORUM – 15 MINS ONLY**

A local resident wished to point out that being aware of the costs incurred by TPC for energy, she was unhappy that several areas in the village were now constantly in darkness after sunset. She herself expressed concern over resident’s safety in these areas after dark, particularly as crime in the village had recently risen and also a number of falls had taken place. She did say that she had been out walking recently and was very shaken by the fact that she felt she was being followed, and when she slowed down, the person following her also slowed, and stopped when she stopped. Luckily it was a gentleman who was concerned about passing her due to the fact that the pathway was not wide and she had a walking stick.

Cllrs Roache and Venables explained that not only was the cost of energy an issue, but some of the streetlights were old and needed replacing which would cost from £1400 to £3000 each to replace. At present there were 3 on order but more needed replacing and repairing.

Cllr Roache said that Tysoe also had a Dark Skies Policy as agreed and published in Tysoe’s Neighbourhood Plan. He also said that once all of the replacement lights and repairs were taken care of, Councillors would then consider the street lighting situation.

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**127. WARD MEMBERS UPDATE**

1. CC Chris Mills. Cllrs acknowledged receipt of a report from Cllr Mills **Ref: Doc 127a**

CC Mills reported briefly that the number of domestic abuse call had ,risen even higher. He spoke about information on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme being available from the link in his report. The concerns around lithium batteries in items purchased from abroad. He also mentioned the WCC Cabinet meeting, and the awards presentation along with the WCC Gift Appeal.

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CCllr Mills also noted that his report had many items of interest and links to various bodies that could help those in need. Please see Cllr Mills full report on the Parish website, [www.tysoe.org.uk](http://www.tysoe.org.uk) further information is available.

Cllr Roached requested that the Clerk send a letter of congratulations to the Kineton Football Club on the receipt of the Kings Award for Enterprise. Cllr Mills said that he would forward the contact for the club to the Clerk.

Cllr Roache then asked those present if the had any questions, which there were none, but asked on behalf of Tysoe Children’s Group who had emailed him. He said that the Group had been trying to get a response from WCC Education Department regarding their hardstanding. Cllr Mills that he would find out the name of the person who could help and let us know.

Cllr Roache also requested that Cllr Mills ask the appropriate person in Highways to look at the Epwell Road going out from Tysoe as it is now very dangerous. The very bad weather we have had over the past weeks has resulted in a lot of shingle across the road which is a hill and an accident has already occurred because of it. Cllr Mills said he would.

1. DCllr Littlewood said that he had attended the Dementia Café and spent some time speaking with Paul & Heather, who run several Dementia cafes in the villages around Tysoe. In all of these villages the local GP practice has a nurse who visits with them, with the exception of Tysoe.

The Tysoe, Southam and Kineton Practice Group has been voted the best practice in the area but they will not engage in any way at all. He then asked if the Parish Council would write or lobby the surgery?

Cllr Roache said that he had written to the Surgery some time ago but they were not interested. He noted that Wellesbourne is the model surgery.

Cllr Roache confirmed he would write to the surgery once again.

DC Littlewood then went on to report details of the Cold Weather and Fuel Poverty issues, and the five viruses, A new flu virus, Covid, Noro Virus, and RSV. He said that 30,000 people in the SDC area are of pensionable age. He requested that TPC advertise the following on their website and Facebook page –

“LOOK AFTER YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND BE AWARE OF YOUR NEIGHBOURS.”

With regard to housing, DCllr Littlewood was then asked that as the District Budget Process looked to be considering a 5% increase across the board, should residents brace themselves for a 5% increase in council tax? DCllr Littlewood said it was a strong probability.

**110. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The Open Gardens Group had emailed to request that the Recreation Ground car park be used for their open garden’s event on 5th/6th July 2025.

Proposed: Cllr Littlewood Seconded: Cllr Tongue **All in Favour**  
**Action: Clerk to advise. Actioned 11/12/2024**

b) Cllr Roache wished it noted that subsequent to the issues around the donation of this year’s village Christmas Tree, lights & decorations, everything has been sorted and the Sports & Social Club will be running Santa’s Grotto.

**129. FINANCIAL REPORT November 2024 – Parish Clerk**

1. The Council received and approved the Finance Report for November

Proposed: Cllr Wyatt Seconded; Cllr Venables **All in favour (6)**

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1. The Council approved the following payments already paid by the authority of the Annual Payments List or awaiting payment:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Voucher No | Item | Payable to | Amount £ |
| P | Salary | Clerk |  |
| P | WFH Allowance | Clerk | 26.65 |
| P | Income Tax | HMRC |  |
| P | Street lighting | Green Energy | 370.24 |
| Paid 5/12/2024 | Woodchip and tree cutting on the recreation ground | Attwell & Son | 1356.00 |
| P | Donation | CPRE | 300.00 |
| P | Bank Charges | HSBC | 5.00 |
| P | Bank charges | Unity Trust | 6.00 |
| P | Hedge cutting | T Fox invoice | 453.60 |
| P | Black ink cartridge | Charmaine Swift | 12.90 |
| P | Donation | Rebecca Billing (Ukraine) | 200.00 |

Proposed: Cllr Wyatt Seconded: Cllr Venables **All in Favour**

1. The Council received and approved the bank statements and bank reconciliation for the period. Cllr Roache checked and signed the bank statements and the bank reconciliation.

Proposed: Cllr Wyatt Seconded: Cllr Venables **All in Favour**

1. Net position report was received.
2. Reserves report was received.
3. Budget 2025-26

Cllr Roache spoke to the circulated draft budget for 2025/26.With the projected 5 month expenditure for the current year our closing balance would be just under £47,400 which would be the opening position for 2025. If expenditure runs as a normal year with no other projects than the street lighting completion which should cost £10,000, then the total expenditure for 25/26 should be approximately £52,400. 24/25 expenditure is projected at £54,900.

The Local Authority increase is capped at 5% and should we increase our precept to more than 5% in order to account for such projects as parking at the Recreation Ground, or opposite Church Farm Walk we could have difficulty trying to explain the rise in precept to residents.

Cllr Littlewood said that should Councillors decide to raise the precept by more than 5% it would make no difference to Council Tax, and that the precept comes from the Council Tax, which would mean that more of residents’ money was being used for their village.

Cllr Roache explained to everyone present that TPC should maintain the savings of one years’ expenditure less the income (Breech Furlong) and this would give us a precept requirement of £37,000 compared to £36,384 in 24/25. This would mean the precept would increase by less than 2% but would mean there was no spare capacity for any parking projects or speed control issues. TPC could set the precept to maintain status quo or we could put in £12,000 for parking in Meadow Lane, which would increase the Precept by 7% on last year.

He then asked Councillors for their views and 4 Councillors felt that 5% was the maximum to raise the precept, with the extra money to be split across the projects. Cllr Roache said that he would look at recasting the budget once again and it would be presented at the January 2025 meeting.

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1. **Moore Audit payment**

Cllr Roache explained that he had written to Moore (external Auditors) regarding the extra charge of £1,000 + VAT and subsequent to several emails and actions he had made an offer of a £500 settlement as agreed at the November meeting.

Moore have declined this offer and are awaiting payment of the full amount. Cllr Roache has said that other than refusing to make payment and facing the likelihood of being taken to court for payment, TPC’s only other option is to pay up. After some discussion, Councillors agreed that payment should be made, but on the understanding that we are told the details of the complaint.

Proposed: Cllr Venables Seconded: Cllr Littlewood 5 in favour 1 abstention

Cllr Roache agreed to write to Moore and ask for these details, after which, payment will be made.

1. **Energy Supply Contract – Clerk**

The Clerk reported that after some research, working with Clear Utility Solutions and WALC, a company called Tomato Energy had offered a contract for our 3 maps at 34.3p per kwh. With a caveat that rates change daily so this could go up or down by a few pence. The big difference is that there is no daily standing charge. This would mean that the annual bill for Tysoe’s electricity would be approximately £1700 compared to the current annual bill of approximately £3600.

The proposal was received to sign up for a 36 month contract with Tomato Energy from January 1st 2025.

Proposed: Cllr Littlewood Seconded: Cllr Bell All in favour

Cllr Venables requested that the Clerk check that should the electricity usage go down, this would be reflected in our monthly bill. This has since been confirmed by email from Clear Utility Solutions.

Areas of Responsibility

**130.**

**i. Employment – no update**

**Infrastructure & Environment**

**ii. Streetlighting – Update Cllr Venables**

Cllr Venables reported no change to any streetlights at present, although the light close to the War Memorial will cost £2,473 to replace as it is a Heritage light. There are a total of 4 non-heritage lights to replace which cost in the region of £1400 each to replace and 2 Heritage at £2,473. There are also 2 more replacements needed on Shenington Road, and one on Oxhill.

A proposal was received to have all of the outstanding streetlights replaced and one with a broken cowl, this would then mean that we start the coming tax year with a clean sheet.

Proposed: Cllr Venables Seconded: Cllr Tongue All in favour

1. **Planning – Cllrs Tongue, Venables & Wyatt  *Ref: Doc130iii***

**Councillor Littlewood recused himself from any decisions and left the table.**

Cllr Venables reported that the trees and Appeal had been upheld, the Inspector stated that a condition would be placed on the application.

With regard to the garage at Badgers Farmhouse, Cllr Venables went through the various details of the application and said that the Planning Group recommended no objection.

This was then proposed: Cllr Venables Seconded: Cllr Tongue 4 in favour 2 Abstentions

1. **Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Roache noted that Tysoe’s Neighbourhood Plan is valid until 2030, but it will need to be revised in order to comply with Warwickshire’s Plan. Tysoe’s revision will need to be done before the end of 2026 and another revision in order to comply with NPBF early in 2027.

1. **Road Safety – Cllrs Bell & Wyatt**

Cllr Bell reported that the speed awareness teams had been out and report that the road past Badgers Lane and the Oxhill Road are the worst areas for speeding cars in the Parish.

Communication was still ongoing with the Community Policing Team.

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A local resident then requested that flood signs be placed by the Policeman’s tree in the village as this area of the road floods frequently and is dangerous.

Clerk to speak with Michael Rogers at WCC.

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1. **Trees & Green Space**
2. **Poolgate**

Lord Marks has now asked Pete Lewis to act quickly on the work at Poolgate along with some other dangerous trees he has identified.

1. **Middleton Close Oak Tree**

Orbit Housing maintain that this 100-year-old Oak tree was cut down because it was diseased. Cllr Roache and other members present said that many residents and they themselves do not remember this tree being in a bad state.

After some discussion, Cllr Roache agreed to make contact with Orbit and ask them to identify all the trees in Tysoe that are their responsibility, and also send a plan of the trees they have offered to plant in recompense for cutting down the Oak tree.

1. **Overgrown trees on the pathway from the school**

Clerk to contact Garetth Atwell & Thomas Fox for a quote to cut back the overgrown trees.

1. **Woodchip and tree cutting on the recreation Ground**

This work has been completed.

1. Cllr Venables requested that the hedge by the playground be cut back, and Cllr Bell reported that the grass verge from Templars Close to Lower Ground also needed cutting back to the edge of the ditch.

**Action: Clerk to notify Thomas Fox.**

1. **Welfare - Defibrillators**

Cllr Venables reported that the work to place and connect both new defibrillators was in hand. Shipston Community First Responders plan to run Defib Training on the evening of January 20th in the Village Hall and another session during the day shortly after that.

**131. VE80 Celebrations- Cllr Roache**

Cllr Roache had previously circulated his notes from a meeting held to begin planning these celebrations. He reported that confirmation had been received from Anna Harcourt, COTTS who said the Choir would be happy to attend the celebrations, and the Fish & Chip van had been booked. He also noted that he would look at a provision for this event would be made in next year’s budget.

**132. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

All meetings are held in Tysoe Village Hall, Main Street, at 7.00pm in the McNulty Room.

a) January 13th 2025 Ordinary Meeting

a) February 10th 2025 Ordinary meeting

b) March 10th 2025 Ordinary Meeting

c) April 14th 2025 Ordinary Meeting

d) May 12th 2025 Ordinary meeting

e) June 9th 2025 Ordinary meeting

f) Dates for AGM and Parish Assembly to be agreed.

**133. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & MATTERS ARISING**

a) Cllr Roache advised everyone of the suggestion to hold the Annual Parish Assembly in the Village Hall on a Saturday and make it a Village event, inviting all new residents and for groups to put up displays showing the work they do in the Parish. This would be discussed further in January.

b) Cllrs expressed concern over the rising crime within the village. Cllr Bell said he would speak with the Shipston Team

**134. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Cllr Roache closed the meeting at 9.20pm

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**135. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

a) A proposal was received to donate £200 to a GoFundme website run by Cllr Billings in order to help with travel costs when driving vehicles and items to the Ukraine. Cllr Billings makes around 4 trips per year, with a cost of approximately £500 each trip.

Proposed: Cllr Tongue Seconded: Cllr Bell All in favour

1. Cllr Littlewood expressed concern over the fact that finding quotes for tree work to be carried out was obviously difficult, but it was necessary as he was aware that some companies TPC have used have given prices which were questionable compared to others.