

Tuddenham St Mary Annual Parish Meeting

Date:15/05/2025

Time: 19:00 – 19:41

Venue: Tuddenham Village Hall

Present:

- 8 members of the public
- Cllr Dunnett
- Cllr Phillips
- Cllr Davidson
- Cllr Staaf
- Cllr J Keeble

Apologies for Absence:

- Cllr M Keeble
- Parish Clerk

150525/2.1. Welcome by the Chairman

- Welcomed attendees to the meeting.

150525/2.2. Apologies for Absence

- Apologies received from:
 - Cllr M Keeble
 - Parish Clerk
- Council unanimously accepted absence for both Clerk and Cllr M Keeble
- Cllr Phillips acted as minutes taker in the absence of the Parish Clerk.

150525/2.3. Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Meeting

- Approval of minutes from 16/05/2024: Minutes have been approved by council
- **ACTION – Clerk to upload to the website.**
- Noted: Ongoing technical difficulties with admin access to the village website, despite **150525**/payment being made. Clerk reported the website was still down as of the day before the meeting.
- **ACTION – Clerk to continue to pursue resolution for website, as still remains down.**

150525/2.4. Reports from Local Groups

- **Rob Gray – Village Hall Committee** – Memories of old village hall, some sad to see it go. And the old school. Happy to say majority of people who hire the hall are very complimentary. Book sale for the Church is this Saturday. June 14th Supper quiz night. Friday 18th July – playing field committee having sports festival, going to try to open hall. Not date. But will be shared.
- **Rob Gray – Speed watch** - Thank Gary Cocksedge for digital recordings. No data at the minute to establish. 2 lots of data received so far this year. Amanda Spence was thanked for her efforts in setting up Speed Watch; she had to resign last year due to family commitments

- **Rob Gray – Gardening club** – Daffodils will be ordered next week. Only need another £12 to pay for everything so will all be covered. A planting plan for the daffodil bulbs has not yet been devised and will be discussed at the next Gardening Club meeting. 3,000 have been allocated to private individuals.
- **Rob Gray – Umbrella** – been editor for 7 years. Notes that almost everyone in the village is involved so grateful for their efforts and support. If everyone didn't get involved there wouldn't be a newsletter. Wanted to say thanks for all the support. Costs of the umbrella are so adequately covered. Printer is however getting old.
- **Rachael Brittain – Friends of Tuddenham St Mary Church** – oldest building in the village. Changes to the structure and fabrication over the years. Responsibility of upkeep lands with the council. Friends group was set up to support the church. Friends attracts wider group of people interested in the upkeep of the church. Currently 4 people on committee, met on 2 occasions. Focus has been upkeeping of grounds, integrity of the tower and bell frames. Requires work in next 2 years. Management plan has been implemented by Phil & volunteer group from RAF Lakenheath. Thanks to everyone who's been involved in upkeep. Difficulties in managing conservation and well-kept appearance. Requires conviction and leadership – thanks to Phil. Thanks to Parish Council for donations for cutting grass and one-off grant for maintaining church. Tower already received attention. Volunteers cleaned debris, hatch at top of ladder now opens. James and Claire Unwin, Tom Britain – thanks to them. Structure of tower has been reviewed, structural integrity is okay, but some beams are showing decay. Quotations being sought. Bell frames need to be strengthened, or bells relocated. 5 bells located in tower, oldest 15th century. Requested visit from firm of engineers. £12 for membership for the society. Committee thanks the members for renewing their membership and renewing their interest in the church. Urges anyway who is interested to join up. Thank Sam and Rob Gray for contribution to book sale. Fundraiser for the friends to rebuild the flint wall that's on the borders. Membership is 15 now. When bells repaired, will we hear more than one bell. Question around whether we want to have bells re-hung in the future. There is a way of them ringing without them being re-hung. Last option is to bring them down from the tower and have them on display. A resident offered to contact Mr Palmer, an authority on bells from Fordham, to advise on the bell restoration project.
- **Andrew Garnett – Playing Field Committee** – Busy and interesting year. Important to have good relationship with council. Pleased with their relationship and thank their help. Value Mark's input into them. Suggestion to extend the play area – extension currently not required. Been ongoing discussions on clearing of drains from the playing field – with multiple in attendance, Flood Management etc./ Highways cleared the drain. Been cleared and are happy its now clear. Flood management team have said drain clearing and maintenance is with landowner. Suggestions made to support flow of water in ditch. Potential for flooding in pond, but it does have an overflow. Planning has been granted for outdoor cricket nets; have been installed and are very well used. Bore hole has not been completed this year. Only option is for a full drilling rig and a liner – c.£12k to do. Jack Davey cup big success, trophy went back to Newmarket. Helps raise funds for the playing field. Roller and mower shelter installed – provides security and helps keep playing field tidy. Special thanks to Harvey for installing them and Mill House Homes for the shelter. Renovation of pavilion – committee sourced funds to repair roof and renovate showers and changing rooms. Thanks Council, Cockerton trust and parish council for funding. Have now been completed. Want to thank committee and volunteers

for supporting and helping. Unable to host Moulton veterans due to refurbishments. Cricket and bowls season now in full swing. Look forward to hosting – Jac Davey Cup 25th May, Sports festival 18th look forward to joining up with village hall and other business in the village. Advice was given to consult with Cath Dunnett, who has experience with borehole installation, before proceeding with further work.

- **Jonathon Gordon – Bowls Club** – Chris Flack is in France so can't attend. Formed in 1977 – increased membership to 45, age demographic has reduced. Managed to be relegated from Tues and Thurs leagues. Participate in cup competitions and ad-hoc matches. Finals day in Sept. Financially stable but has large, fixed costs for maintenance of bowling green. Can't be funded just through membership, so thanks to sponsor and the race night. Don't have reserves for capital expenditure. Just completed the purchase of a new battery powered lawn mower. Donations from grants and PC – thanks to them. Thanks to dedicated members for their sport. Open to all, always on lookout for new members, if anyone interested, please contact Chris Flack.

150525/2.5. Public Forum

Comments/questions from residents:

- Old Bakery, thankful for the speed watch being there (MOVE to other notes).
- Comments on will local Police attend the meeting – have asked them to attend but no response.
- There was discussion about the lack of visible police presence in the village and the loss of a PCSO. It was suggested that all incidents be reported to the Parish Council so they can be collated and forwarded to the police.
- The Clerk had previously reported that an intruder was recently in her back garden and then jumped into a neighbour's garden, highlighting ongoing concerns about local crime.
- Several residents shared recent incidents of theft, vandalism, and near-misses with traffic, indicating a pattern of local crime and safety concerns.
- A suggestion was made to use the village newsletter ('Umbrella') to encourage residents to report incidents or concerns directly to the Parish Council
Action: Add to Parish Council article for the June Umbrella
- Someone was walking to the bus stop and a lorry passed and lorry's wheels were on the curb. Near miss. Number of places in village where pavements are narrow. 30mph coming through the village is fast for bigger vehicles.

6. Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting

- Thursday 21st May 2026 set for next meeting.

Meeting closed 19:41

Minutes prepared by: Cllr James Phillips

Signature-

Date:

Minutes approved by: Chair

Appointment Chairman Tuddenham Parish Council -