**TIVERTON & TILSTONE FEARNALL**

**PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on Tuesday 14th May 2023 at 7.00 pm in Tiverton Village Hall

In attendance Councillor Ash Sharma (in the Chair)

Councillors: R Cheshire, H Lightfoot, P Moore, L Randles.

9 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr Khan, Cllr Wilson and Ward Cllr M Jones

**2. Discussion with PC / PCSO re Local Issues**

No officers from Cheshire Constabulary were in attendance. PCSO McKevitt had sent apologies

**3 Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman read his Annual Report for year 2023-2024

A copy will be forwarded to the Clerk.

**4. Presentation by Mr Chris Willcocks of Beeston & Tarporley Station Reopening Group**

Mr Willcocks gave some background information as to how the project started pointing out that the line between Crewe and Chester is one of the longest without another station on it. He then explained progress to date, how initially the project had received some Department of Transport funding which had to be match funded. Sadly, the two local authorities declined to help but several local Parish Council’s had provide funding which had been very much appreciated. This had enabled the group to develop a Business Case and Feasibility Study which had gone through a scrutiny process at Department for Transport and at the end of last year the group had been given the go ahead to proceed to the next stage. There was now a lot of discussion taking place with local stakeholders to move the project forward and to raise the funding required to build the station. Meetings with these have been supportive but no funding has come forward as yet. There is funding out there but it is being able to unlock it. The group believes that it has a good business case as apart from stopping the train at Beeston no other amendments to the route will be required.

The new station will be on the Reclamation site side of the road on land owned by Network Rail, it will have two platforms which will be long enough to accommodate 4 carriage trains. The final number of parking spaces is yet to be decided as it will be determined by whether the bus co decides to use the site as a transport hub in which case there would be a bus turning circle. There will also be cycle racks and either a lift or ramp to access the platforms.

Local support for the project is very good with only a few dissenting voices

Mr Willcocks was thanked for his comprehensive and informative presentation

**Open Forum**

The following matters were raised during Open Forum:

i) A resident thanked the Parish Council for planting the trees on Smithy Green. The Chairman responded that in recent years the Precept has been raised to include some amenity projects and so that there could be a maintenance schedule for the Parish Councils assets.

The resident also raised the issue of the standard of grass cutting around the Parish and that some of the “elephant fencing” had been broken when it was being done and he also raised the state of the pavements and that no “siding” had been done recently. The Chairman explained that these matters were both CW&C’s Streetscene teams responsibility.

ii) Several complaints were raised about blocked gullys causing flooding around the Parish especially on the A51 and Huxley Lane. Residents said that they had reported them many times but nothing appeared to be done. The Chairman assured residents that the PC also reported blocked drains regularly and followed up on the status of any repairs.

iii) A resident reported that in recent months there had been thefts of heating oil from properties in Tiverton. He asked if a note could be put on the website or in a forthcoming newsletter.

iv) The Chairman of Tiverton Village Hall again expressed concerns at the lack of volunteers there were to run the hall. The current committee is ageing and if they all stand down at the AGM in November then sadly the hall will close. A minimum of three persons is required but 5 would be better

v) A new resident introduced himself and asked about the vacancies on the parish Council as he has previously been a member of Peckforton Parish meeting. He was asked to provide a formal application to be considered at a future meeting.

**5. Date of Annual Parish Meeting 2025**

The Annual Parish Meeting 2025 will take place on Tuesday 13h May at 7.00pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.25 pm.

**Signed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**