



MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting of Twyning Parish HELD ON MONDAY 15TH APRIL 2024 AT 6.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL, FLEET ROAD GL20 6DG

Present: Cllr Keith Davies (Chair) Cllrs. Simon Clayson, Paul Ellis, Paul Holden, 32 members of the public, County Councillor Cate Cody, Borough Councillor Mike Sztymiak, Clerk/RFO

1. Welcome from the Council – Cllr Keith Davies welcomed everyone in attendance.

I am pleased to welcome you to the Annual Parish meeting of Twyning.

I commenced my role as councillor on the 20th February 2023, it was something I had been thinking about for quite some time, a way of putting something back into the village I have lived in and loved for the past twenty four years. When I saw notices on the boards asking for new members to build up the numbers I decided it was time to take the plunge.

I have not regretted this move, my fellow councillors are a great bunch, and have been very supportive of a new member. I have really enjoyed having a greater understanding of what the PC does and what is happening in and around the village and playing my own small part in helping shape our village.

I would like to extend my thanks to our Clerk/RFO, Gill Jennings, for her efforts in keeping us in line and to our Bulletin Editor Sarah Don-Bramah for keeping us informed about Twyning activities and organisations.

Most of all I would like to thank our outgoing Chairman, Dave Lockett.

Dave has been a very significant figure in village life for as long as I can remember, and has served the village in several roles over the years.

We all wish him well in the future, and hope he will always be available when we need to tap in to his encyclopaedic knowledge of Twyning.

Village life is about the people who contribute to it and there would be no sense of community without volunteers to run the Council, Village Hall, TRAC, Church etc. A Council can be pro-active and do great works for a community if it has the councillors bringing forward ideas and inspiration. We need more councillors and new energy to make our village the best place to live.

Please make yourself known to a member of the Council if you are interested in joining us.

We can talk through what is involved informally, no pressure, promise!!

As well as more routine, ongoing things such as mowing The Green and verges and arranging care for trees on our land the major events of the year have been:

During this financial year The Council gave a Grant of £75 to Guide Dogs for the Blind for dog training, and £1000 to TRAC for maintenance of the play equipment.

With the help of funding from Tewkesbury Councillor Cate Cody we planted an oak tree on the Green in memory of our late Queen, and resurfaced part of a very muddy footpath from the end of Kilmore Lane.

You may also have noticed some Hedgehog warning signs around the village, designed by Twynning School.

We played our part in successfully fighting off the proposed housing development at Nut Orchard.

After many years of effort (mostly by Dave Lockett) Severn Trent are at last undertaking some major renovation works on our sewers. Some sections have been relined, others will be shortly.

Renovating most of the benches on The Green and elsewhere around the village.

The Council negotiated the transfer of the carpark and easement over associated land at the top of Kilmore field to be used for parking in conjunction with sport on the field. The Council carried out maintenance of trees and land around the parish and installed new litter bins where necessary.

The Council is trialling the use of large white rock parking barriers along the verges which may have to be extended to the Village Green. The tables and seating on the Village Green are due to be removed to the rear of the Village Inn very shortly. Their use of The Green was a temporary measure in response to Covid restrictions.

The parking area in front of the Village Inn belongs to the Village Green and is for the enjoyment of the Village Green.

The Council's Budget remains very tight with very small increase year on year due to rising costs:

2022/23 £38420

2023/24 £39450

2024/25 £41440

During 2024/25 the Council will be carrying out work on various trees, finding a satisfactory solution to the potential danger of falling branches from the large Plane tree on the Village Green is currently occupying a lot of our effort, and securing Showborough Common for public access and recreation.

On the subject of Common land we are pleased to welcome two landowners Lesa James and Tom Williams who will explain how they have enhanced and improved the common land that they own.

We are also pleased to be joined by Becky Titchard of the Severn Rivers Trust to talk about the work of the Trust and volunteers.

Twynning Cubs have already been busy considering the welfare of birdlife

We would also like to listen to your ideas about improving biodiversity and any other subject you may wish to raise.

Cllr Keith Davies

2. Twynning Cubs are invited to speak about their Bird Box project

There were no representatives from Cubs in attendance. The Twynning Explorer Scouts were present to explain their latest quest. Competing against other groups they raced across London finding Monopoly clues and came 2nd place in the competition. They are an active group supported by two volunteers (one person travels from Bishops Cleeve to help out) and are often out on the river enjoying boat craft.

3. How can we monitor and clean up our rivers?

Becky Titchard, River Engagement Officer, Severn Rivers Trust will talk about the Trust and volunteering programmes. The Trust was established in 2008 with 1 volunteer and is one of 60 Rivers Trusts in the UK. It works to restore healthy rivers – lots of small actions for landscape scale change and is proactive and hands on with volunteers helping to create fish passes and dams and carry out litter picks and water testing. Collects data and shares this information with water companies, the Environment Agency, landowners. Also publishes these findings. The Trust provides free workshops for schools.

4. Two local landowners talk about how they have improved commonland under their ownership in Twynning – One landowner produced slides and gave an informative talk about steps taken to improve commonland, clearing debris and years of neglect, with the resultant restoration of wildflowers and wildlife.

5. How can we improve biodiversity – a look at the Parish Council Action Plan Members of the public were asked to contribute their ideas which were:

- Produce a map of commonland and public owned land
- Encourage use of (fund) water butts
- Fund projects to create bird/bug/hedgehog habitat
- Maintain list of wildlife sightings
- Access to open land most important

- Fill hedgerow gaps
- More fruit trees
- Encourage bee friendly plants
- Plant bulbs
- Ponds, rain gardens
- Wild areas

There was some dispute over whether flood lighting outside properties should be discouraged (wildlife) or encouraged (personal safety)

The refreshment break was provided by the late Jeremy Horsfall. Former Chairman Dave Lockett said a few words in his memory.

6. Parishioner Questions and suggestions

Cllrs present mentioned work of Friends of the Earth on the River Avon and thought this would benefit of join up with the Severn Rivers Trust.

Explorer Scouts keen to get involved in project monitoring commonland.

Parishioners commented that leylandii trees were not native species and not relevant to the common

7. Reports from Community Organisations and other Local Authorities

Tennis Club Update – Annual Parish Council Meeting

The tennis club has had a busy 12 months and continues to go from strength to strength, with membership growing once again this year, up by 3%, now with overall numbers being in excess of 140 members.

The club has been very fortunate to see a large rise in membership, which is bucking the national trend for a lot of sport and social clubs. The large jump came in 2020 off of the back of Covid and people wanting to get back out and get active again. In combination with that, we have a great coaching programme delivered by Sarah Dorkings and Luke Beckley, which has seen the introduction of regular cardio sessions three times a week, team drills sessions, a full children's program on Wednesdays, a graduates programme, and the introduction of children's social sessions on a Friday.

Walking tennis has also been introduced with the help of Sarah, Denise Clayson and Claire Ayers who have worked very hard to try and get the word out there, and encourage a new aspect of the game to start at Twyning.

I would like to mention our club Coach Sarah, who strives constantly to make sure we are inclusive to all areas of the community and this in turn enables the club to thrive. Sarah has been awarded the very prestigious "Club Development Coach of the Year" for the Gloucestershire region, and as a club we are extremely pleased that her efforts have been recognized.

The club has once again entered a record number of teams in the LTA Gloucestershire winter and summer leagues, now having 4 mixed teams in the winter league, as well as 3

men's and 4 ladies teams in the summer league. On top of those, we also have a ladies over 60's team competing in the winter league too.

On a practical note, the club has given the Pavilion a spruce up with new paint everywhere, and cleaned the pathways around the area. Court 3 has been fully cleaned and repainted, and is used by both the tennis club and non-members from the village who would just like a hit now and again. It's great to see so many parents coming down with their children for a little hit on court 3.

The two club courts have been recently cleaned to remove moss, and we are looking to get them re-painted this summer to make sure that the surface stays intact and good for longer. Currently we are busy getting quotes for repairing some of the court fencing.

At committee level, we have a plenty of enthusiasm and positivity going forward, with some new members coming forward. Denise has steered the ship for the last 4 years and has recently stepped down from the chairperson's role. Myself and the club would like to extend our huge thanks to Denise for all her efforts, as well as the other people who have generously donated their time for the club and served on the committee.

The club is currently thriving and long may that continue, we welcome any new members or helpers with open arms. If anyone has any thoughts, ideas or questions, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Ben Nottage, Chair

Twynning Parish Church.

Short report for the Parish Council Annual Meeting April 2024.

The largest change in Twynning church was the move of Rev'd Canon Paul Williams to Norfolk. In September we welcomed the new vicar of Tewkesbury Abbey, and of Twynning, Rev'd Canon Nick Davies. Then at the end of December Ven. Ron Hesketh retired.

Service patterns have had to be changed and we are settling into a new series. Once a month Rev'd Canon Nick Davies presides; another Sunday of the month Ven. Ron Hesketh takes over and on a third Sunday Mrs. Angela Cole, Reader, leads the service. Other Sundays are covered by retired clergy attached to the Abbey. This is working well so far!

New administrative duties have appeared. All requests for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms are now directed to the Abbey Office. Then we collectively sort out who takes what, when and where!

The past year has seen ups and downs. Services continue each week on Sunday at 9:30am. The numbers have crept back up with an average of 30 people and some children. We recorded 50 people for Easter Sunday and seven children. The Easter Egg hunt was well attended, lots of children came over the week. We have also had several baptisms over the year and a few funerals.

The **church is open** for private prayer every day and we thank the volunteers who unlock the Church each morning and lock up every evening. Other volunteer groups are the flower arrangers and the bellringers. We also have the benefit of our experienced volunteer organist and a teenage Organ Scholar.

Since Ron retired the writing of the monthly **Newsletter** has been **temporarily** taken over by Mrs. Angela Cole. It is very successful indeed. Most people receive it by email. Some extra printed copies are in church.

In early March we held a very successful **Churchyard** Working party. We thank all the kind volunteers for their time and expertise in keeping the Churchyard in good condition for the benefit of visitors and as a credit to our Twynning Parish.

As you know, our Church has to be self-sufficient year on year. Many Parishioners contribute regularly through a Parish Giving Scheme.

In addition, donations have been given to the Children's Society, from our Christingle Service; Acorns Children's Hospice, from our monthly stall; Tewkesbury Food Bank and Scoo-B-Doo neonatal hospital unit, from the Carol Singers.

Chris Cole ~ Churchwarden & Hon. Secretary.

Twynning Parochial Church Council

The Friendship Group Twynning:

Meet alternate Fridays at 10.30am.

The friendship Group was started by Jim East almost 9 years ago, and I promised him when he was very ill to continue it.

This started by meeting in the VI for coffee on every other Friday morning, but due to the interest the numbers increased, and we transferred to the Chapel where we hold the meetings now. We now have 28 members regularly coming to the meetings.

The groups main aim is to help people who have been bereaved to get friendships and have contact with other in the same situation. However, we are not at all morbid, and rarely speak of death but just enjoy chatting about what we have done during the previous weeks.

I make sure that if anyone has doctors or other appointment that we ensure they have a lift, or get prescriptions or shopping for them if they are struggling.

Age UK are very supportive and come to the meeting a few times a year to update us of the activities available. They are a very useful group to keep in touch with as we are all elderly folk.

We arrange to go for coffee mornings or lunch and occasionally visit places we are interested in. We enjoyed our Christmas Lunch again in Browns restaurant. Excellent food and fun time, well looked after by their very attentive staff.

Anyone who is widowed and would like to join us please advise them of my contact details.

Hilary Caudle

07770 571755.

Twynning footpath team report April 2024

We started the new season with assisting the village with "The big help out" in April 2023 with many of the volunteers joining in with other residents in clearing various areas around the parish. We visited the Nut orchard site on two occasions in June to clear the public rights of way and secure the stiles, on one of these times we had to abandon our actives because of a thunderstorm. The volunteers have met on over a dozen occasions and have worked in all parts of the parish from Brockridge common to Showborough and Shuthonger. I have liaised with Gloucestershire county Council rights of way team on several occasions regarding various aspects of the footpaths in the parish. The two outstanding items I have with them is the missing fingerpost on Strensham Lane indicating footpath ATW13 to Showborough and the repair or replacement of the footbridge at The Fleet Inn. Since November we have had great difficulty in arranging a day to get together because of the constant rain causing many of the footpaths to become water logged. We have tried this month to meet but had to cancel due to the weather.

I would like to thank all the team for volunteering their time and giving me support during the last twelve months.

Bob Beetham Twyning Parish footpath coordinator

Village Hall Report for the Annual Parish Meeting

15 April 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is pleasing to be able to report that the Village Hall is prospering and that there is now a full complement of elected trustees since two public spirited persons have put themselves forward to join our Management Committee.

The Hallmaster automated booking system that is administered by Mrs Delta Ferguson (thank you Delta) works well. Mrs Hilary Caudle has taken on the role of Treasurer since the start of the new financial year on 1st January (thank you Hilary). The Village Hall Lottery continues to make us an income and so we are able to keep hire prices down. In fact, they are still at the same rate that that we have charged since the refurbishment in 2010. I doubt that there are many organizations that can say they have not increased their charges for 14 years!

Maggie Ball

Chairman

5 Apr 2024.

Freecycle Saturday

Lesley Rogers spoke to encourage people to join the Freecycle next taking place on the 1st June from the Parish Church

Borough Councillor Report to Twyning Annual Parish Meeting 15th April 2024

In May last year Philip and I were re-elected as Borough Councillors for Twyning and Tewkesbury North. We are very grateful to those that supported us and will continue to serve all residents of the parish in providing help, advice and support in matters related to the council. The council itself is no longer run by the Conservatives and is in 'no overall control' by any single group although the Lib Dems are the largest party by quite a margin and the leader and deputy leader of the council are from that group.

The last 12 months started well with the refusal on appeal of the housing application for 55 houses on the woodland Nut Orchard. Subsequently the applicant also withdrew their appeal against the land being registered as an asset of community value. Should the land come up for sale in the future the community would be notified and would have an option to bid for it.

In terms of planning, following three appeal decisions going against the council by the planning inspectorate, the Borough Council had to concede that they could not demonstrate a 5 year land housing supply (despite being the largest house growth area in the south west). The consequence of this is that planning applications will be assessed with a 'tilted balance' in their favour. Applications can still be refused if the harms out weight the benefits, but this has to be evidenced and well supported.

The Borough Council has also launched a strategy planning approach called the Joint Strategic and Local Plan (SLP) with Cheltenham and Gloucester City Councils which will determine where large developments take place in the next few years and covers the principles that underpin those developments such as approach to climate change, nature, town centres, jobs, economic growth, etc. Philip and I voted against the joint approach as the last Joint Core Strategy led to Tewkesbury Borough allocating land for Cheltenham and Gloucester housing numbers in the Borough to enable them to go towards meeting their housing needs and leaving Tewkesbury Borough to find additional land. Hence, the Borough is one of the fastest growing Boroughs but has less than a 5 year housing supply.

In addition Tewkesbury Borough Council has decided to continue with the Garden Town project at Ashchurch with the potential for up to 10,000 homes over the next 20 years or so. They have adopted a Charter covering some of the principles of development.

There have also been a number of improvements for Tewkesbury Borough residents with the introduction of an online planning application tracker, a new website and search facility, and in-cab technology for Ubico to report missed bins. They have committed to making the Borough carbon neutral by 2030 and include the impact of climate change on ecology. In support of this they installed solar panelled roof on the car park and air source heat pumps for heating the council offices in order to reduce their carbon emissions.

Finally, Philip has served as Deputy Borough Mayor for the last year and looks forward to being made Tewkesbury Borough Mayor in May.

Councillor Mike Sztymiak and Philip Workman 15th April 2024

Cate Cody, Gloucestershire County Councillor Annual Report – April 2024

This is my third year as your elected Gloucestershire County Councillor and the last 12 months have absolutely flown by. I really enjoyed last summer's fete and was able to help out on the tombola which was pretty much full on from the start until all the prizes were claimed. Unfortunately, Bow Farm Gravel Extraction, initially refused at Gloucestershire County Council's planning committee was taken to appeal and despite heroic efforts from residents and a gruelling day at the inquiry, the appeal was lost. On a more positive note, lots of conversations have led to funding for extra bus services being marked for Twyning and I am very much hoping that the village will start to benefit from an on-demand 'Robin' bus in late spring/summer. I am also pleased that keeping pressure on GCC and the police finally meant that cars are now being given tickets for illegal parking on King John's Bridge (the way into Tewkesbury from Twyning, by the Black Bear).

My councillor division Build Back Better Funding for Twyning 2023/24 • £1,000 given to TRAC for the children's play area and sports facilities maintenance and repair. • Following an excellent suggestion from a resident, I am funding a 'Share Box' for residents to pass on and reuse books. Currently the site is being decided. • I still have some funding that I have allocated for Twyning School. Please could someone get in touch to discuss this.

For information, I have given an up to date list of all my Councillor roles at the end of the report. I urge residents to read the Borough and County reports as they contain lots of information. Over the year, my monthly reports have contained the following and if anyone would like relevant links again, please let me know: Information and / or advice regarding: Tewkesbury Repair Café

Employment skills and support Ukraine resettlement Adult education services Gloucestershire Libraries: resources, facilities, advice, support and events Care leavers Support for families during school holidays (Holiday Activities and Food programme) Twynning Road Closures Refugee Week Alcohol Awareness campaign Fostering awareness and information Thriving Communities Grant funding 2024 Gloucestershire Archives - Heritage Funding win (included 'Green Gloucestershire – Our Past, Our Future' exhibition) Gloucestershire Social Workers British Firefighter Challenge (wins for Gloucestershire firefighters) Help for those aged 50+ getting back into employment Fix My Street - Reporting Highways issues Interactive road safety event for students Hoarding behaviours support sessions Wingmoor Farm Household Recycling Centre upgrade Fire safety School appeals panel members – volunteer opportunities Trading standards work Plastic-free campaigns Flooding information and guidance

Horse riding traffic incidents / near misses (always report to the police and British Horse Society as stats help to justify safety signs) Gaia exhibition – information and volunteering Gloucestershire Heritage Hub events New Family Hubs Mental health support services Tewkesbury Dementia Action Alliance Secondary school place allocations Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) support services Daytime discos Environment, sustainability and recycling: Tree Planting Network Greener Gloucestershire GCC hospital patients garden sponsorship at Gloucester Royal Hospital Gloucestershire Recycles Tewkesbury Goes Wild! Kemerton SSSI Project update EV charger installation Greener Together Events Free schools carbon calculator County Greens won extra funding for flood protection measures, free bus travel for unemployed veterans, and community libraries at the February 2024 budget. Natural Flood Management projects using natural processes to address flooding risk on roads and residential areas, create additional habitat for nature along with attractive green surroundings for communities will receive £300,000. A further £100,000 originating via a Green motion will fund free bus passes for veterans seeking to return to work and community libraries across the county will receive £2,000 each (a total of £16,000) to bridge the gap until their funding is reviewed later this year. Consultations and Surveys: Pupil Wellbeing Survey Report Highways survey School admissions survey Carers national survey Local Government Boundary Commission consultation National smoking consultation GCC's proposed 2024/25 budget consultation Mistletoe Survey Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Strategy workshops Master Composter applications Twynning Casework: Personal case work for residents A38 road signs cleaned Community Speed Watch

My roles as a Tewkesbury Councillor Tewkesbury Town Councillor – Tewkesbury South Ward λ Full Council λ Severn Ham committee λ Watson Hall and Anglo American Garden Trustee λ Working Groups: Climate Change Action Working group - Chair λ Local notice board upkeep (Town Council / Stonehills Community) λ Running monthly Daytime Discos at the Watson Hall λ Footpath warden (for specific, allocated paths) λ Case work Tewkesbury Borough Councillor – Tewkesbury South Ward λ Full Council λ Executive Committee (and Portfolio holder for Communities) λ Horsford Trust Committee λ Climate Change Action and Ecology Working group - Chair λ Constitution working group - Chair λ Tewkesbury Garden Town Assurance Board member λ Tewkesbury Heritage Action Zone Steering Group member λ Case work λ Group Leader for the Green Party - There are now four Green Borough Councillors so we have a proportional share of the Committees and consequently we are representatives for several of these. Gloucestershire County Council – Tewkesbury Division λ Full Council λ Adult Social Care and Communities Committee λ Safety and Licensing Committee λ Restoring our Rivers Task Group λ Cycling Members Advisory Group λ Tree Warden λ Stakeholder in the School Streets

(Tewkesbury C of E) and volunteer coordinator λ Case work λ Group Leader for the Green Party - There are four Green County Councillors so we have a proportional share of the Scrutiny Committees and consequently we are representatives for several of these. Non Council Groups λ Plastic-free Tewkesbury – project lead λ Tewkesbury Nature Reserve - Management team and Species Monitoring Group λ Roses Theatre - Trustee and board member λ Tewkesbury Friends of the Earth – member and Wingmoor liaison forum representative λ PPNP (Prior’s Park Neighbourhood Project) – Environmental Ambassador and ward member Borough representative λ Stonehills Estate Community Group leader λ Toads on the Roads – Tewkesbury coordinator λ Tewkesbury Dementia Action Alliance – lead I also send out constituent emails, so let me know if you would like to receive these.

Please contact me if you have any questions on this report or if I can represent you in some way at the County Council. Email: cate.cody@gloucestershire.gov.uk

TRAC Report – Twyning Parish Council – Annual Village Meeting – 15/04/2024

Prepared by Ian O’Hanlon

TRAC April 2023 to April 2024

Firstly, I’d like to remind everyone that TRAC is one of the volunteer charities in the village with the responsibility for operating and maintaining the TRAC facilities in Kilmore Lane, and as a volunteer group I’d like to extend my thanks and gratitude to the committee members that give their time to ensure the site maintained for the benefit of the village. For a village of our size, it is a wonderful resource to have.

In addition, I’d also like to thank all of the other volunteers, including the Tennis Club, that support the sports groups and teams that use the site and provide opportunities for people of all ages to engage in sports and fitness.

What do we do? The largest part of what we do is contained in the phrase ‘operating and maintaining’ the site.

This includes:

- Insuring and inspecting the site
- Undertaking repairs to the buildings, playground, and outdoor spaces
- Securing the site
- Emptying bins and managing the clothes recycling

All part of keeping the site a safe place to play.

From a sporting perspective we support and encourage all groups wanting to either play privately (five a side team on Tuesday nights) or offer opportunities publicly (Boot Camp on Monday nights).

If anyone themselves or knows others who would like to use the facilities at TRAC I’d encourage you to speak to one of the committee members. In some circumstances we can support groups with equipment to help get sessions started.

Current and Future Challenges Our biggest challenge that TRAC is facing is the age and condition of the major parts of the site, namely the Flood Lighting and the Playground. We are having to continually find new and innovative ways to fix and make good to keep these in a fit and safe condition.

The Tennis Club has led the way with replacing the Flood Lighting on the two main tennis courts and we are exploring potential funding routes to enable the remainder of the lights to be upgraded.

The Playground is a substantially larger issue and one that will require a substantially bigger answer to resolve in the coming few years.

Fund Raising TRAC is funded by Tennis Club, court hire, donations, clothes recycling bin and The Fete.

Along with the Tennis Club, the Fete is the main source of income for TRAC each year and I hope one of the highlights of the year for the village itself. Each year we seem to have just less than enough people to help organise, setup, take down the Fete so it's a considerable effort for those involved. Lorna Herold is arranging an open meeting seeking volunteers to help this year and any time you can give to help will be greatly appreciated.

Something New Some good news I can share is that we are planning a new facility on the TRAC site in the form of a public toilet/changing facility. We have submitted the planning application and hope to hear the outcome by the end of May.

The facility will provide accessible toilet and baby changing facilities for everyone using the site without needing access to the main pavilion.

And finally, As every council and committee in the village knows, volunteers are a highly valuable but sometimes rare commodity, and I would like to therefore encourage anyone who would like to contribute and support TRAC particularly or indeed any of Twyning's various groups to get in touch. If, you are interested in learning more about TRAC we are holding our AGM on 16th April (8pm) at The Fleet.

Thank you.

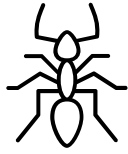
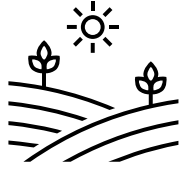
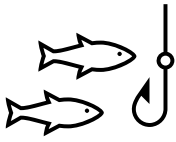
Twyning Emergency Committee

Had no events to report but needs new volunteers!

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Twyning Tigers

This group meets every Saturday morning at Kilmore Field and now has 73 members who have fun and develop skills. The club started following covid with a small friends group and has flourished into an FA affiliated club. Now has a girls team called Tigresses.



This meeting will be followed by an Ordinary meeting of full Council at 8pm