

## Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting for Ludgershall

Held in the Scout Hall, Chapel Lane, Ludgershall

On 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 6.30pm

Present: Town Council Chairman Cllr Owen White in the chair, 11 members of the public, Mrs Janet White (Town Clerk), Mrs Fiona Musker (Town Clerk Assistant)

Speakers: Ms Abrilli Phillip - Wellington Academy, Sgt Andrea Faircloth - Tidworth Police, Cllr Chris Williams - Wiltshire Council, Col Steve Lawton - Commander HQ TidBul Garrison

Press: Jo Steele and Joe Fareta - Andover Advertiser

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Downie, Cllr Dixon
2. **Minutes from the previous meeting** – Cllr White read through the minutes. Question from the floor regarding the progress of encouraging tourism. Cllr White confirmed that they had worked with Visit Wiltshire to raise Ludgershall's profile, and that the Visit Wiltshire website had recorded over 13,000 hits for Ludgershall. Cllr White proposed that the minutes were accepted and signed as a true copy, Cllr Giles seconded, carried.
3. **Police Report** – Sgt Faircloth confirmed that changes are being made to how policing is delivered - the team will become a Community Policing team with Amesbury Police, and that the Tidworth Police station will remain open. The team will have access to community support officers, Crime Investigators and PCs, and will be able to provide 24/7 policing and more patrols within the area. Although crime is low, the information provided by the public is critical. Non-urgent contact with the police is either through dialling 101, Crime Stoppers, or anonymously by emailing through the Police website. The Clerk asked if the crime figures could be passed to her.
4. **Wiltshire Council Report** – Cllr Williams read extracts from Baroness Scott's Annual Parish Council Report for Wiltshire Council, confirming that the Council had come in on budget despite a challenging financial year, and confirming that the focus of the council future spending will be on services to the vulnerable, boosting the economy, and supporting communities to become as self-reliant as possible. Area boards had been set up to liaise with communities and had made good progress, particularly in assuming responsibility for Youth and other local projects, and he acknowledged that this wasn't possible without the support of the Town and Parish Councils. Locally, the biggest issue was with regard to the future of Corunna Bks. Questions from the public: Q) What is being provided for the Youth in Ludgershall? A) Trying to form a new trust for the Youth Hall with TCAP funding. Q) Having planned to build houses on half of Corunna Bks, it was fairly obvious that the other half would also be developed. What extra services and facilities were going to be provided as extra housing caused greater pressure on existing facilities? A) MOD feel that the existing medical services can cope with the additional families, and a new primary school will be built.
5. **Wellington Academy** – Ms Phillip announced that the Boarding Inspection that had recently taken place had been graded by Ofsted as being outstanding. Although

some of the current pupils are from overseas countries, the intention was to return to accepting boarding pupils who had a local connection, i.e. from military families. Ofsted had also just carried out an inspection on the rest of the school, and the Academy were waiting for the results to be formally issued.

Question from the public. Cllr Giles extended an invitation for some of the more senior pupils to become involved with the Civic Events Committee so that their ideas could be heard. Q) Were the proposed redundancies amongst teaching staff linked to the falling rolls? A) Wiltshire as a whole is affected by falling rolls and Wellington Academy is affected. It affects their funding too. Some teachers have therefore had to be made redundant, but every effort has been made to keep the curriculum balanced, and to keep good pupil-teacher ratios.

6. **Col Steve Lawton, Garrison Commander, HQ TidBul Garrison** – Col Lawton is the new Head of Establishment. His major concern at present is Army Basing and the movement of troops, the majority of whom will be arriving in 2019. He did recognise that the work taking place at Corunna did cause a degree of inconvenience for everyone.
7. **Ludgershall Town Council Report** – Cllr White thanked all the councillors who had volunteered to serve their community. He also thanked the Clerk and her assistant for their hard work. The council had been represented on a regular basis to various outside committees including Tidworth Community Area Board, Tidworth Community Area Partnership (TCAP), and the Memorial Hall and Scout Hall management committees. The Chairman had also received invites to represent Ludgershall Town Council at many events within the County, including the Rule of Law service at Salisbury Cathedral and the popular band concerts held by TCAP at the Tidworth Garrison Theatre. The council had also achieved:
  - The giving of the Freedom of the Town to 26 Engineer Regiment from Perham Down
  - Remembrance Sunday parade, including a march by 26 Eng Regt and the church service broadcast by Castledown Radio both live and on their website, which attracted comments from as far away as Cardiff and Brighton
  - Accommodating the NHS Chemotherapy Mobile Unit in the Car Park
  - A new security light in Dewey's Lane recreation ground which has helped to reduce vandalism
  - New play equipment and adult gym equipment at Dewey's Lane recreation ground
  - Having regular representation from 26 Eng Regt at Town Council meetings
  - Signing up to Safe Places and working with local businesses

Various successful community events had been held: Fete on the Rec, Ludgershall in Bloom, the Christmas Fayre, Clean for the Queen litter-picking, the planting of bulbs by Castle Primary School in Castle Street, and the Easter Questionnaire and Easter Bonnet Parade. Future projects included the proposed new Community Facility at Corunna Bks, the renewal of 2 of the notice boards and working with English Heritage to hold guided tours of Ludgershall.

8. **Tidworth Community Area Partnership (TCAP) Report** – TCAP covers Tidworth, Ludgershall, the Collingbournes, Everleigh, and the Chutes. It has been responsible for community events such as the Proms and Band concerts, the Area Awards and

the Blue Light Day, which involves all the emergency services and which last year reached over 1,000 children in the area. It also tries to become involved with and represent the community at various meetings such as Plain Action, the Police Stop and Search Committee, and the Tidworth District Chamber of Commerce as well as various health and economic initiatives.

9. **Precept 2016/2017** – The Council Tax bill from Wiltshire Council consists of 5 elements, one of which is Ludgershall Town Council. In previous years, Ludgershall has received a grant from Wiltshire Council in addition to the money it receives, but due to funding cuts, this has been seriously reduced and will disappear completely by April 2017. In 2015/2016, the grant given was £7,171.20p, in 2016/2017, it is £1290.82, and in 2017/2018, it will be £0. As a result the precept charged by the Town Council has had to increase just to maintain services at their current levels – and the costs of these have also been rising. Although the precept has gone up from £85.74 to £98.08 or 9.73% for a Band D property, in actual terms, it has gone up by £8.34p a year, or the equivalent of 16p a week. At present, the Town Council precept isn't capped in the same way as Wiltshire Council is taxed, but this could change in the future. However, the population of Ludgershall is increasing, with both military and private housing being developed.
10. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Although having a Neighbourhood Plan would mean that Ludgershall would get more money under the Community Infrastructure Levy charged to housing developers, the process of obtaining such a plan is time-consuming and expensive, running into thousands of pounds. In view of the fact that Ludgershall had very little scope for expansion and would still receive some CIL and monies under S106, the council had decided to leave the matter in abeyance for the time being.
11. **Any Other Business** – The question of speeding, particularly along Butt Street, was raised. Cllr Williams confirmed that several metro counts had taken place in the past few years, but had not revealed any problems apart from a stretch through Faberstown. It is possible for Ludgershall to have its own volunteer Community Speedwatch team – there is training and equipment available. Also, once the Link Road at Tidworth is open, there should be a weight restriction on vehicles using the road by Butt Street. Cllr Pickernell also advised that Butt Street had been nominated as a suitable area to carry out a survey of heavy goods vehicles. The other problem area with speeding is the limits set outside Wellington Academy which is currently 40 mph. The Academy would like to see this reduced. Cllr Williams confirmed that there is a traffic control crossing planned for outside the school, and also offered to lobby with the school's assistance for a speed limit reduction.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed.....Date.....