

Minutes of Ludgershall Annual Town meeting held in the Scout Hall, Chapel Lane, Ludgershall on Tuesday 30th April 2019 at 7-00pm.

Present:	Town Council Chairman Cllr M Giles in the Chair
	13 members of the public
Speakers:	Cllr M Giles – Ludgershall Town Council, Cllr C Williams – Wiltshire Council and Area Board, Mr AKJ Pickernell – Tidworth Community Area Partnership & Ludgershall Youth Club, Capt. Adams – 26 Engrs, Lt Col Nick Turner – Garrison Co-Ordinator, Mrs R Pelz – Link, Mr P Unwin – Ludgershall Great War Commemorative Group and Scout Hall, Mr B Dance – Ludgershall Memorial Hall Management Committee, Mr J Jester – Ludgershall Youth Club, Mrs C Giles – Memory Café, Mr M Betteridge – Royal British Legion, Mr D Harland – Sunset Club, Rev T Laundon – St James’ Church, Mr K McGowan – Wiltshire Walking for Health Group, Mr B Sprigg – Friday Club (Ludgershall Community Centre), Mrs J Walker – Stepping Stones and Children’s Church, Mr J Hollis – Men’s Shed, Mr J Sparrow – Castledown FM, Mrs C Williams – Castle Practice

Agenda Item

1. Minutes of meeting held April 2018 – were agreed.

2. Ludgershall Town Council Report – Cllr M Giles thanked all LTC’s Cllrs, the Clerk, Admin Assistant and volunteers that have helped at LTC’s many events; it has been a good year. Cllrs represent the Town Council on a regular basis to the Tidworth Area Board, Tidworth Community Area Partnership, Community Area Transport Group, Health & Wellbeing TCAP group, Memorial Hall, Scout Hall, Neighbourhood Tasking Group & Market Town Forums. As Mayor he was invited to many events these are but a few; the presentation of awards at the Garden Club Annual Event, the induction of Ludgershall’s new vicar – Reverend Tim Laundon and the Rule of Law Service at Malmesbury Cathedral in March 2019. Community Events over 2018/19 – a very well attended Summer Fete on a lovely day in June, then in July front gardens were spruced up for Ludgershall in Bloom. There have been 4 litter picks (to help keep Ludgershall tidy) over the year, thank you to all those that help at these events (especially the young students from Castle Primary). Last year Santa visited the children of Perham Down and Ludgershall on his sleigh over two nights and then welcomed Ludgershall families at the Christmas Fayre and lights Switch On, again another very well attended event. Freedom of the Town was presented to Maurice Betteridge, a highly respected resident of Ludgershall. Just a couple of weeks ago LTC provided a free Easter Disco for the children of Ludgershall, with more attending than ever before. Ludgershall’s Remembrance Day service and parade was extra poignant last year with the celebrations marking the end of WW1, part of which was the newly refurbished Centenary Garden which was dedicated and opened officially during the service. Projects completed; **i)** New hand wash units in the men’s and ladies toilets costing £4K **ii)** New play equipment in the play park on the Rec and refurbishment of many items and surfaces costing around £17K **iii)** Providing the lectern and bin in the Centenary Gardens **iv)** New bench on the corner of Andover Road and Central Street **v)** New bollards in front of the Cemetery gates to deter people from parking there **vi)** At the start of this year SSE made a bit of a mess in Bell Street allotments, however, that is now all done and we have a new stretch of driveway. Projects ongoing- **i)** Refurb of Play area at Pretoria Road **ii)** Refurbishment of the vehicle entrance area and gates to the Rec to encourage more use e.g. Circus, Funfair etc **iii)** Extending the skatepark **iv)** New goal posts **v)** CCTV in Car Park, which starts on 20th May **vi)** 2 new bus stops on Andover Road. The Precept for 2019/2020 is £161964.00p which means that Band D payment is £104.65 an increase of £3.68 or 3.64% which is an equivalent of 7p per week. Future dates in 2019 for your diaries – 7th June Quarterly Litter Pick - 8th June Summer Fete – 7th September Freedom Parade - 10th Nov Remembrance Sunday Service - 30th Nov Christmas Fayre and Lights and week commencing 2nd December Santa & his sleigh visits.

3. Police Report – The Police were unable to attend, but the report is attached as Appendix A.

4. Wiltshire Council Report – Cllr C Williams presented the Annual Town & Parish Councils Report

2018, which is attached as Appendix B, for information only. He also advised that Pewsey has just re-opened their swimming pool and leisure facilities.

5. Tidworth Area Board Report – was handed out and is attached as Appendix C. Local decisions that have been discussed include traffic lights outside the Academy and the railway line (the Army Re-Basing programme have said no to removing the track). Mr P Unwin asked about the poor state of Andover Road. Cllr C Williams advised that this matter has been raised at CATG (Community Area Transport Group) and it is due to be surface dressed in 2019/2020. The pedestrian crossing outside the Co-Operative store on Andover Road had incorrect timings – it defaulted to the factory setting of 60 seconds. It is due to be re-programmed to 30 seconds wait time by Tuesday. Somme Road – this is MOD land so Wiltshire Council cannot deal. It was also asked if the speed limit can be increased to 40mph? Cllr C Williams advised he would like to get the speed limit on Tidworth Road reduced to 30mph (from 40mph). He does not want to encourage any kind of increase in speed limit. Mrs J Walker asked about the local pavements, which are in a dreadful state. Cllr C Williams advised that Wiltshire Council have received funding through StreetScene and all safety problems/issues should be report on the My Wiltshire App. Drummond Park update – (former DMed) demolition is still taking place and access through both sides is prohibited until Summer 2019 for security reasons. Housebuilding – 450 houses are proposed on the site which will not be happening this year. S106 monies – this is where a developer has to pay to fund certain things in the community – such as highways, schools, Youth Clubs, Sports Clubs etc. The money to come into the Community was signed off on 1/4/2019. All the rest is planning at the outline stage and it has not been agreed yet when it will be announced for full planning permission. This is the opportunity for people to voice their opinions.

6. Tidworth Community Area Partnership– Mr Pickernell advised that this covers the same area as the Tidworth Area Board. He is the Co-Ordinator and reports back to the Board and the Community. He covers Ludgershall, Tidworth and the Garrison. CATG received money from Wiltshire Council. **i) Link Scheme** – Mrs R Pelz, secretary of the Link Scheme addressed the meeting. During 2018 they had 796 requests for assistance of which 616 were health related. They are requested to take people to hospital in Salisbury, Andover, Swindon, Basingstoke and Bournemouth. There have been cutbacks in NHS Transport funding and the total mileage for the period amounts to 16753. 1177 hours of time has been given by volunteers and 120 hours for other tasks such as visits to GP, shopping, Opticians appts etc. They have had to decline requests for help due to a lack of drivers/volunteers. Each driver is re-imbursed their mileage as they are a Registered Charity. Service users are given envelopes for donations and both the Queen’s Head and Castledown Radio kindly made donations. Rev T Laundon was astonished that the figure had gone up by 6000 miles from the previous year. Mrs C Williams from the Castle Practice suggested lobbying Claire Perry (the local MP). Suggestions for raising funds were requested as the NHS reorganisation of their car service has meant that people who live the furthest away suffer the most. They asked for help from anyone is able to spare any time at all. **ii) Ludgershall Youth Club** – Mr J Jester advised that this facility was recently re-opened and they have 2 rooms available and gardens that they share with Men’s Shed. The current work going on: 3 x youth groups with a total of around 60 children per week in attendance. They are still finding their feet but there is a group for younger children on Thursdays, older children on Tuesdays and a Circus night on Wednesdays. There are currently 5 or 6 volunteers, but they need 5 or 6 more. The Circus Club are taking part in the Fete on 8th June 2019. In September they are expanding and want to include Friday night events and the occasional disco on a Saturday night. Storage is a problem as they have basketball hoops, keyboards, drums etc. The Community are very welcome to come and have a look. **iii) Memory Café** – Mrs C Giles advised that this event is run in the Church Hall for all local people suffering with Alzheimer’s and Dementia. It is run by herself, Mrs J Langley and Lesley. They do crafts, painting, glass work and singing and it keeps people occupied for a few hours and gives carers a little respite. They like to work with the clients and talk to them. The café is held 10.30am – 12ish on the first Monday of every month. Volunteers will need a DBS check. Recently the café was visited by local schoolchildren and everyone said it was a wonderful experience.

7. 26 Engineers Regiment Community Report – Captain Chris Adams – Operations Officer from 26 Engineer Regiment advised that there are a number of Senior soldiers leaving the Army. In the Community they are involved with the Wellington Academy Cadet Force and are mentoring Instructors there. They also assisted with the construction of the Centenary Garden and attended the Fete and Freedom Parade bringing along their families and friends. The unit has had a successful time in sport – 2 soldiers are due to go the Tokyo Olympics in 2020. Spr Ebony Jones has succeeded in boxing and Spr Dean Maher in Clay Pidgeon shooting. Adventure training has seen the unit alpine skiing and mountain bike training among other things. There are currently 200 soldiers abroad – some in Estonia doing work for NATO, 40-50 in Canada for training and 70 in Cyprus doing construction at Akrotiri. Lt Col Nick Turner gave a Garrison update – the re-basing programme involves 14000 troops and 30000 service dependants in total – which is a huge increase. There are 917 new properties with 242 being built at the former Corunna barracks site in Ludgershall. A total of 1083 properties have been offered and 964 accepted, with 119 still in negotiations. The majority of the moves are due to take place between June and the end of September 2019 with 60 families per day moving in during July and August. Some of the first houses have already been occupied. 1200 skilled local tradesmen are in the area covering 5 sites during the period of the build. There is lots going on here and abroad and nearly all exercises are on coalition. Lt Col Turner offered congratulations to LTC for their link with the local military community and how LTC support 26 Engineers in particular. He also extended thanks to Mr AKJ Pickernell for his help and support as TCAP Co-Ordinator. There was a question re: local tradesmen – DIO and Lovell do sub-contract and Aspire won't be responsible for maintaining/updating the new houses. Mr J Dickie a local resident asked how Ludgershall can help to welcome the new residents – the Town Council and Wiltshire Council are working together to produce a Welcome Pack/Leaflet in conjunction with Lovell and 26 Engr Regt. 26 Engr have their own Unit Welfare Officer who runs monthly meetings for spouses/families etc. They have an Induction pack that they issue that contains local information.

8. Update from local groups –

- i. **Ludgershall Great War Commemorative Group** – Mr P Unwin Chair of LGWCG addressed the meeting. The group has now been wound up. 100 tonnes of material was removed from site and 150 tonnes went back in. Lovell helped hugely – around £50-£60K at a guess. The group received £10500 in donations collected via collection pots, raffles and book sales. They spent £12680.18 and had a surplus of £2069.83 of which £500 was donated to RBL and the remainder was split between the Link Scheme, the Youth Club and towards the new stained-glass window for St James' Church. Prior to 11/11 a sleeping Tommy was purchased and he will come out every year. The Spring planting is lovely, and the Garden is a great success and commemoration to the fallen heroes and has enhanced the Town. The for Sale/To Let signs are a nuisance and they will be taken down for parades etc (the wall behind belongs to the flats).
- ii. **Scout Hall** - Mr P Unwin Chair of the Scout Hall Committee advised that they are trying to improve the entrance and facilities. They have purchased new tables and new projects include the decoration of the back room. The toilets need refurbishing and a new fence is needed and clearance of the yard to the rear. They have lost revenue from Kennet Friends as no-one could take over the group, so it has ceased to be. There is a lack of volunteers in general however the hall's usage remains fairly buoyant.
- iii. **Memorial Hall** – Mr B Dance Chairman of the Memorial Hall Management Committee addressed the meeting. He thanked the Committee for preparing the report and advised that the new LTC representative is Nick Allingham. Maurice Betteridge has now stepped down from the committee and Carl Allan is now the Vice-Chair of the Committee. LTC were thanked for their contribution to the grounds. Bookings remain steady and there is an Antiques Fair being held on 1st May 2019 from 9.30am – 2.30pm if anyone is interested. S106 monies were received in July for the new roof, but the Contractor had an accident and it was eventually replaced in October 2018. They have had new fascia's, gutters and downpipes. The garden has been cleared and the new fence was donated by local

builders. Perry's Cottage has been re-rendered and will be sealed and repainted once fully dry.

- iv. **Royal British Legion** - Mr M Betteridge addressed the meeting on behalf of the local RBL. They now have their Standard and are a small part of a large organisation. They help injured veterans and families of ex-service personnel. They need more people to join the Committee the RBL branch meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at the Sports & Social Club.
- v. **Sunset Club** – Mr D Harland addressed the committee – He was born and bred in Ludgershall and was one of the founders of the Over 60's Club, the Sunset Club, in 1950. Meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 2-4pm at the Memorial Hall, they have tea/coffee, refreshments and entertainment such as guest speakers and music. There are around 70 current members and the club likes to help people get out and about. During 2018 they went to Oakham, Bristol, Bognor Regis, Cheltenham, Wells and for a Mystery Tour. They fund raise during the year to cover these trips. The fee is £8 per year.
- vi. **Stepping Stones/Children's Church** – Mrs Julie Walker advised that Children's Church is interactive storytelling and they follow the season's i.e Easter, Harvest, Christmas etc. It is held at 10am at the Church Hall and lasts for 30 minutes (would previously have been called Sunday School). This means that the children miss the Sermon – it is held at the end of every month and the children then join the congregation for the remainder of the service i.e worship and singing (it is a long service). There is also a pop-up Church in the school holidays during August on Thursdays from 9.30am – 11.30am. This involves interactive storytelling in Church and a snack/drink in the Church Hall. Stepping Stones is the playgroup held twice a week – there is one leader and it is not linked to the Church. It covers ages from birth to school age. It is held from 9.30am – 11.30am and children can play/read stories/do craft activities and have snacks etc. St James's Church provides the hall free of charge and matters such as Health and Safety and Safeguarding come under the remit of the Church. On Tuesday there were 11 children and 5/6 adults – there is a maximum of 20 per session allowed.
- vii. **St James's Church** – Rev T Laundon addressed the meeting. He has enjoyed getting involved with LTC and the local Area Board and has appreciated the warm welcome he has been extended. St James's Church and Holy Trinity are a team. Church numbers are growing, which is against the national trend. They are reaching out to young families and friends and Tim accepted the role because the churches are outward facing. Many members of the Church are key members in voluntary roles and he wants there to remain a deep rooting in building the community and forging links with the Pre-School, Castle Primary and the Curate. The Church are keen to provide volunteers to help hear children read and involve the Headteacher for guidance re: who needs the support most. The finances are on a stable footing and there is no cause for concern. However, he pointed out that they receive no funding at all from the Government. The Church is funded by the Salisbury Diocese subsidy programme and from the receipt of donations and funds from richer parishes. Rev T Laundon would like to move towards not needing any subsidies however Holy Trinity is a poor Church. There is a free hog roast being 16th June 2019 to celebrate the 728th birthday of Holy Trinity with a Church Service at 11am and afterwards the hog roast and cake. It is a good opportunity to further encourage military and civilian friendships and everyone is welcome to attend.
- viii. **Wiltshire Walking for Health Group** – Mr Kevin McGowan spoke on behalf of the group who are part of the Get Wiltshire Walking group organised by Wiltshire County Council. It is designed to give access to free organised walks in 18 locations with 73 free walks available. There are 160 trained leaders and the starter walks last up to half an hour and the stroller walks up to 1.5 hours. Challenge walks can take up to 6 hours – the last one was held in October 2018 when 120 walkers attended and were surprised by how pretty the local area is. The local group were formed in 2013 and they meet in the LTC Public Car Park on Tuesdays at 9.30am. There are 8 trained leaders – they walk around 3 miles

(approximately 1-hour walk) and then go the Queen's Head for coffee and biscuits. There are 40 members registered in Ludgershall and around 20-25 attend each week. Walkers are required to be generally mobile and no dogs are allowed. There are currently no plans to hold an evening walk, but this could change in future.

- ix. **Friday Club (Ludgershall Community Centre)** – Mr Brian Sprigg introduced himself as the Treasurer of what is known as the “Friday Club”. They are open on a Friday morning in the Memorial Hall from 9.30am – 11.30am serving teas, coffees, sausage rolls and cheese toasties etc and it is open to everyone in the Community but is mainly attended by the elderly. Every year they have a Christmas Dinner at the Queen's Head pub which is heavily subsidised by the club. There is also a Bingo Club held on a Wednesday afternoon in the Scout Hall and they take the members on an outing once a year to the seaside or somewhere of interest, which is also heavily subsidised by the Club and this year the event is a trip on a Kennet and Avon canal boat called the Rose of Hungerford with lunch provided. There is also a monthly raffle and they invite members of the local community to come and give talks. Brian also collects used stamps for Motor Neurone disease and asked if they can be dropped off at his house in Ludgershall.
- x. **Men's Shed** – Mr John Hollis spoke on behalf of the Tidworth and Ludgershall Community Men's Shed. The idea started in Australia and came to the UK around 20 years ago. The local branch was set up in 2015 and when it began there were 5 members only, but they had no home until the end of 2017. During this time the members did work in the community such as refurbishing the Tidworth Football Club canteen and storage areas and a built a hive for the Shrewton Christian Society. The Trustees of the Youth Club offered Men's Shed a home in the old garage on their land which the members totally refurbished. They continue to do work in the community and the craft section of the group build toys and offer an odd job service. They are selling some of these items at the upcoming Antiques Fair. The Club meet from Monday – Wednesday from 9am – 1pm and everyone is welcome to come along (women are welcome too!). There are currently around 20 members all retired and many ex-service personnel.
- xi. **Castledown FM** – Mr John Sparrow spoke on behalf of the local radio station which was launched in 2006 on 104.7FM. It has supported Ludgershall Town Council and the Area Board and vice versa. It is run by volunteers and supported by grants and income from local events. They are improving the studio facilities at Wellington Academy. The station runs 24/7 and they are looking for new volunteers to train to go on air, to fulfil backroom jobs and for IT engineers, audio and electrical engineers etc. Local commercial radio stations are being purchased by large national groups – Spire FM has recently been purchased in this way. John asked for local groups to feed into Castledown FM and appeal to listeners. There is an Election Special this Friday from 3-5pm. They also recently held a showing of a film called Secret Spitfires which raised £580 for the Link Scheme and it was supported by LTC who helped to sell tickets. They have applied to Ofcom for more coverage as at present the range is only 5km. They cover all kinds of local events and asked people to use the station to help promote their events as they can also advertise on their Facebook page and website.
- xii. **Castle Practice** – Mrs Chrissie Williams thanked all the local groups for supporting the community and asked how the practice can help them? They have 12K patients registered and normally 2-3% attend per year but last year that rose to 5% and it will increase dramatically; the re-Basing is causing worry in the community. They are currently recruiting clinicians actively and they haven't had an issue, despite the national shortage of GP's. They have increased by 0.75 of a GP and have an extra Healthcare Assistant, Nurse and Admin Support worker. They will take new patients from the Corunna Estate and are trying to create more space by getting conversions done through grant applications etc. They recently held a successful older person's event in conjunction with the Area Board where they discussed “Getting Older” and over 60 people attended. They are hoping to hold the event again in September and are hoping for further support from

local groups again. There are lots of changes in the NHS - as a practice within the Primary Care network they work closely with 5 other practices and receive support from central Government. They have done a lot within the community on diabetes, frailty and heart failure. The local military personnel use a military GP, but their dependants have a choice of a military or civilian GP. They have 10 GP's in total – one is full time, 4 are 0.75 time and some only hold 4 clinics per week. It offers more flexibility to have part -time staff as some are Specialists and some are part of the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group).

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTOR PARTICIPATION –

- Rev T Laundon asked if there has been a survey carried out regarding isolation in the Community and if so, can we identify who would benefit from attending a group?
- Cllr C Williams wanted to record thanks particularly to the Town Council and the Clerk and Admin Assistant for arranging a very productive meeting – the best he has ever attended.
- Cllr C Giles commented that most people present were volunteers whom he thanked for their continuing support of the local community and asked them to continue to do so and to try and get more people involved.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.06pm

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