

TOVIL PARISH COUNCIL

YMCA Community Centre, Barfreton Close, Tovil, Maidstone,
Kent, ME15 6FG



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Tovil Parish Council Environmental
Enhancement Committee meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2024, at
7pm in The Barn, Hayle Park Nature Reserve**

***Present: Cllrs Tony Hemsted, Abigail Hogg, Susan Hogg, Eileen Lewis,
Alan Smith, Paul Wilby***

EE 24/167 Cllr Smith was appointed note-taker by unanimous vote

EE 24/168

- a) Cllr Abigail Hogg intended to record the meeting
- b) Apologies were received from non-committee members Alison Chew and Paul Thomas
- c) Cllr Wilby wished it noted that he had updated his register of interests to include his role at Hayle Park Nature Reserve Ltd.
- d) There were no declarations of interest related to any items on the agenda.
- e) There were no requests for dispensation

EE 24/169 Eileen Lewis was confirmed as vice-chairman of the EE committee by unanimous vote

EE 24/170 – Current projects

- a) **Tommy:** It had previously been decided to purchase a (female) Tommy silhouette to stand by the Farleigh Hill planters. **Still to be ordered**

- b) Benches:** The benches had arrived. It had previously been agreed that the clerk purchase fixing brackets for their installation. **Still to be ordered**
- c) Landscaping by Tovil Village Sign:** It has previously been agreed that the field maple trees needed a crown lift, and the London Plane tree needed pollarding. Although quotes had been obtained before, it was felt that **new quotes now needed to be obtained**
- d) Fingerpost and charabanc signs:** Cllr Hemsted had been unable to pin the contractor down to a date to install these signs, although they were allegedly ready. **The clerk is to be asked to write on headed notepaper to Marc Slegg of Fingerprint Signs, Reigate, requesting a date.**
- e) Interpretation boards:** Cllr Hemsted explained that there was a difficulty in obtaining copyright consent from the artist Graham Clarke to include his illustrations, because of Mr Clarke's illness. There are six designs for boards to go at St Stephen's Church, Burial Ground Lane, by the Tovil village sign, at Tovil footbridge, at the car park and at Hayle Mill. A budget had previously been agreed (£3,500). **Cllr Hemsted to persist in attempts to contact Mr Clarke, or else to redesign the relevant board.**
- f) Planters:** Cllr Susan Hogg had a list of plants to purchase to refresh the planters - a mix of pansies, dwarf daffodils and dwarf tulips, coming to a total of £139.95. In addition, she was asked to purchase three bags of compost (as yet uncosted). Cllr Lewis will help her with the actual planting at the end of October. **In hand**
- g) Burial Ground:** The council had previously agreed to repair the front wall brickwork and railings. **The clerk to be asked to obtain quotes**

- h) Hanging baskets:** It was decided to drop the idea of hanging baskets, **but perhaps pursue planting troughs attached to railings**

EE24/171

a) Report on Parish Council Environmental Network (South) meeting at Hunton

This had been attended by Cllrs Susan Hogg and Eileen Lewis. They felt that the new MBC environment officer, Angela Sinclair, would be useful for help with a number of forthcoming projects.

b) Report from the inaugural Carbon Literacy Group meeting on September 30.

Minutes from the meeting had been circulated and are included as an appendix to these minutes.

A number of ideas for action had been generated with the key one being a **Tovil Repair Café**, possibly at the Tovil Scout Hut.

It was also agreed to re-establish a Tovil In Bloom competition, **with Cllr Susan Hogg as the lead.**

It was felt that a renewed effort should be made to progress a **Tovil Neighbourhood Plan**. Cllr Hemsted had made initial contact with new consultants.

Cllr Wilby proposed, Cllr Smith seconded, that **Cllr Hemsted be authorized** to proceed with the plan preparations, using the existing budget from this year. The motion was passed by five votes to zero, with one abstention

A budget for the Neighbourhood Plan in the next financial year would need to be discussed by the full council.

In a discussion about **Speedwatch**, the committee was reminded that the council had previously decided to investigate installing a **SID** (Speed Indicator Device) camera on Farleigh Hill. **The clerk to be asked to investigate this.**

It was decided that the best way to drive the aims of Carbon Literacy forward was to form a sub-committee (working group), which would enable non-councillors to fully participate. The intention would be to seek a lead person to oversee each project. Cllr Lewis suggested a name for the group – Carbon Action Tovil (CAT).

Membership would be open to all councillors and to members of the public by invitation. Any funding requests would have to be brought to the EE Committee (or the full council as appropriate).

A motion was proposed by Cllr Wilby, seconded by Cllr Smith, to establish a sub-committee called Carbon Action Tovil. Agreed unanimously.

It was suggested that Cllr Lewis be the chairman, **to be ratified at the first meeting of the sub-committee**

EE 24/172 The first meeting of the CAT sub-committee would be on October 28, at 7.30pm at Tovil Workingmen's Club, subject to the room being available. **Cllr Lewis to book room**

EE 24/173 **It was recommended that the following environmental enhancement items be included in the council budget for the financial year 2025/26:**

Agreed by affirmation:

Two sets of planting - £500

Equipment for volunteer work parties - £500 *(Example hi-vis jackets, gloves, pickers hoops, signs)*

Highways improvements - £3,000 (*principally for pursuing 20mph zones*)

Reeds Cut-through landscaping - £750 (*to obtain a professional landscaping plan for the cut-through*)

Purchase of new Remembrance Poppies for November 2025 - £100

PROW improvements - £300 (*example on Dead Cat Alley and on the footpath from Burial Ground Lane to Dean Street*)

Carbon Action Tovil - £2,000 (*to fund projects developed by the sub-committee*)

Total £7,150

EE 24/174 Review of PROW

In addition to the Dead Cat Alley and Burial Ground Lane PROW mentioned above, the committee will investigate establishing two new footpaths

- a) across the MBC land to the rear of Woodbridge Drive so as to provide a safe passage for pedestrians around the junction of Cave Hill with Straw Mill Hill.
- b) To run parallel with Bockingford Lane across the field that is currently owned by Firmins.

EE 24/175 Poppies for this coming Remembrance Day will be installed by councillors on October 28, at 4pm, meeting by the Tovil Village Sign

The meeting closed at 8.48pm