

TILSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
Tilsworth Parish Council
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LEIGHTON BUZZARD
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Date: Thursday 8th June 2023

I hereby give **NOTICE** that an Extra Ordinary meeting of Tilsworth Parish Council will be held on Monday 19th June 2023, commencing **7:30pm** in the meeting room of Stanbridge & Tilsworth Recreation hall, Dunstable Rd, Tilsworth for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Extra Ordinary Meeting AGENDA

1. To Complete the Annual return for the year ending 31st March 2023 and approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) and Statement of Accounts (Section 2). Deferred point from the meeting held on 15th May 2023.
2. To receive questions in respect of The Hyde Field, Dunstable Road, Tilsworth

Agenda item 2 will form the focus of this Extra Ordinary meeting. To ensure the smooth running of the meeting, questions need to be submitted in writing in advance. either to the address shown above or via email at clerk@tilsworth-pc.gov.uk

Previous queries raised by members of the public and which have already been investigated by the parish council will not form part of this meeting. The matter of monetary contributions by tenants of The Hyde has been investigated and findings are noted at Annex A.

Annex A should be read prior to submitting questions.

Queries and matters arising at the meeting will be discussed at the Chairmans discretion.

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Annex A Notes relating to Hyde.

Following previous questions, comments and claims raised with the parish council over the last few months, time has been spent investigating some of the issues raised.

Records and minutes held by Bedfordshire Records Office formed the basis of the investigation and research into the claims made.

Cllr Jardine and the Clerk, Julie Martin, spent time reviewing minutes and records back to 1948. Records that were checked mentioned The Hyde but the records viewed may not be an exhaustive list.

Time restraints imposed by the records office restrict the number of records that could be viewed. See Table 1 for a summary of the records found.

Following the research carried out, it is noted that:

- 1) There is no past reference to tenants contributing to local causes or making any payment to the parish council other than the agreed rent.
- 2) The parish council is satisfied that the claims that tenants of The Hyde are required to contribute to local causes from the profits they make are unfounded. Records do not support this theory.
- 3) The Hyde was used as allotments and it is possible that it was purchased from the district council by means of a loan from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb).
- 4) There have been several suggestions that the field should be sold but each time it was decided to re-let the field.

Table 1

Month	year	Notes from the minutes
March	1949	Accounts show rental received for the allotments of £14.35 for the year. No record of any of tenants making contributions to local causes were noted.
February	1954	Agreed to send a letter to the tenant regarding the unsatisfactory state of the land
January	1957	Agree to convene a meeting to discuss the disposal of the land known as They Hyde
March	1958	Meeting convened to discuss the sale of The Hyde. 6 councillors for and 6 against so Chairman deferred the decision
March	1958	Decided not to sell The Hyde but to increase the rents for the allotments
March	1963	Sale of the allotment field considered again. Decided to invite tenders for the tenancy
May	1963	Reference to writing to the PWLB in respect of the allotment land held by the council
February	1964	Agreed to let the Hyde to the tenant of Green Hill Farm
November	1983	Rent review of the former allotment field. Minutes refer to rental of the former allotment field in Dunstable Rd Tilsworth is raised to £275
September	1984	The tenant of the 7.5 acres of allotment land has left his address and his whereabouts are unknown. Tenancy terminated. Agreed to advertise the land and let it for a 7 year tenancy
September	1984	5 tenders received for The Hyde. 7 year tenancy agreed for Everfarm at £350 per annum

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Conclusions

Considering the research carried out, the parish council concludes that no evidence has been found to show that previous tenants of The Hyde were obliged to contribute or donate to local causes. There is no record of this happening on a mandatory or voluntary basis.

Because of this, the parish council does not expect the current tenant to contribute or donate to local causes. Voluntary contributions or donations are at the discretion of the current tenant.

Profits made by the current tenant are a matter that is confidential to the tenant and his business. Any disclosures made by the tenant will be on a voluntary basis.

The parish council is of the opinion that members of the public are confusing The Hyde with land owned by Tilsworth Charities. Tilsworth Charities was set up many years ago and it was this organisation that contributed to local causes, funding coal for local people and helping the poor of the village etc. It is possible that a further visit to Bedfordshire Records office will be made to look at records held for Tilsworth Charities but this is not considered a priority.

Donations to local causes and organisations

The parish council makes donations and offers grants to local organisations and has contributed £4,800 in the last 8 years. Those benefiting from grants include

All Saints Church

Stanbridge & Tilsworth Community hall

Tilbridge Scout group

Stanbridge & Tilsworth toddler group

Tilsworth carpet bowls club

Donations have also been made to VE day celebrations and the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations.