TOLLESHUNT KNIGHTS PARISH COUNCIL

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Report of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19.1.2026

Vacancies on the Council. Two vacancies exist due to the passing of Councillor June Dennis and the resignation of Councillor Robert Long who has moved from the village. Both Councillors served for many years and the work that they carried out on behalf of residents was very much appreciated. They will be greatly missed.

The vacancies have now been advertised, and if Maldon District Council does not receive any requests for an election within the required time the Parish Council will co-opt. Any residents who are interested in joining the Council should contact the clerk as above to find out the procedure for applying.

Planning

There were no decisions from Maldon District Council.

New application: The Node 6 Barnhall Road. Alterations to existing garage and carport to create habitable rooms with roof lights and part pitched , part flat roof. Single storey side extension with pitched roof over to match existing. Alterations to fenestration, including relocation of the entrance door. The Parish Council supports this application.

The Council has submitted its response to the Preferred Options Colchester Local Plan (setting out the way forward until 2041). The points made were that there should be a clear and distinct boundary between Tolleshunt Knights and Tiptree in order that the two settlements should not merge, and that appropriate infrastructure should be put in place before any further development in Tiptree.

Highways

The latest Trucam report for December showed a total of 10 captures over 2 hours in two locations – Brook Road and Tolleshunt D'Arcy Road. The highest recorded speed was 40mph in a 30 mph speed limit. This is the lowest number of captures recorded for several years.

Cutting back of vegetation on the splay lines at the junction of Hawthorns with Brook Road. This was previously reported to Highways who considered that no immediate action was required. The Parish Council then made a further report to state that for those drivers turning right out of Hawthorns the visibility is 80% blind even with no vegetation growing at the present time. Again the response from Highways was that this is not an immediate priority.

The large pothole outside Hillcrest House in Barnhall Road has again been reported to Highways as it is now larger and deeper.

Road Safety and Footpaths. Councillor Mr Cook has been appointed as the new Footpaths Officer and Councillor Mr Porter will take over as Highways Officer.

Playing field/Village Hall

Work on obtaining replacement Deeds for the playing field is completed but the Council's solicitor has advised that they will not be available until July 2027.

Tree work. Tree works are currently being carried out in the playing field and the Essex Wildlife Trust Rangers will shortly be working in the lower woodland to reduce vegetation and remove some small dead trees. The Council by a majority verdict agreed that a second contractor will now carry out a trees inspection report to comply with the Council's new Tree Management policy.

The driveway and car park will also be swept this week.

The Council will obtain quotes for the relining of the car park and driveway. Consideration will then be given to carry out this work in the coming financial year.

Play area

The Council is now very close to submitting a grant application to the National Lottery for the refurbishment of the play area

Insurance claim regarding the felling of the oaks. There is nothing further to report.

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Monday 16th February 2026** at 7.30 pm. The public are invited to attend and the agenda will be posted on the Parish Council website and the notice board in the Village Hall car park in due course.