

MINUTES of the Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Annual Assembly held in the Village Hall on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

**Present:** Parish Councillors  
Cllr J Smith (Chair)  
Cllr W Middleton  
Cllr V Reeve

John Barber – Tolleshunt D'Arcy Village Larder  
Steve Howard - Parish Working Group (PWG)  
Michelle Curtis - Clerk to Parish Council  
18 members of the public

**1. Introduction**

The Chairman explained that, while this was a meeting of the parishioners, by convention, the Parish Council Chair chairs the meeting and facilitates discussion, while the Parish Clerk takes the minutes.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Assembly 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

**3. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman advised that apologies had been received from District Councillor Thompson and Cllrs Denney, Ewing, Henderson and Munson.

The Chairman reported that, during the year, Richard Evans had resigned from the Parish Council after moving outside the village. The Chairman expressed thanks to Richard for his hard work and commitment whilst serving on the Parish Council.

The Chairman advised that Vanessa Reeve had recently been co-opted onto the Parish Council.

The Chairman presented the assembly with a PowerPoint Presentation (Appendix A), providing an overview of the Parish Council's work over the past year.

**4. Questions**

Questions from residents:

A resident stated that they live on Kelvedon Road and are concerned that speeding is an issue, which is not helped by the poor signage. The resident has reported the signage issues to Essex County Council (ECC), which has advised that the issues are not serious enough to warrant changing the signage.

**Action:** Resident to forward the ECC references for the reports to the Clerk, who will forward them to the County Councillor Clarke to ask him to raise this with ECC on our behalf.

A resident stated that, given all the planning applications in Tollesbury, if any one of the three applications were approved by Maldon District Council (MDC), it would have a detrimental effect on the village's traffic.

The Chair advised that the Parish Council has opposed the planning applications in Tollesbury and has raised the village's concerns.

A resident stated that the nameplates on the Beckingham Road signpost have not been replaced.

The Chair stated that this was an ECC issue.

The resident stated that they did not feel they were receiving the service for the council tax they pay.

A resident raised a concern about the area outside the school. There is a dead tree, and the area is overgrown, posing a fire hazard.

The Chair advised that this has been raised with the ECC.

**Action:** Clerk to forward the correspondence between the Parish Council and Ex-Councillor Durham to the new County Councillor, asking them to look into it on behalf of the Parish Council.

A resident asked whether the Parish Council would pay for the area to be cleared from the Parish Council funds.

The Chairman advised that the area in question is not Parish Council land and has no authority over the land. We need to be mindful that if the Parish Council decides to take on one area, several other areas across the parish may also need attention, and the Parish Council may not be able to afford to manage them all.

Steve Howards, Parish Working Group, advised that they have been trying to address the issue for years. Approximately two years ago, residents raised funds and cleared the area. Two years later, the area is in very poor condition. ECC has not officially cleared the area for several years. Ultimately, we have to do it ourselves. We can't wait for ECC to do it because they won't. The Parish Council is making a final push to ECC to get the work done, but if that fails, we will have to do it ourselves. It will take a working party to get the job done.

The Chair advised that Parish Councillors would be happy to join any working party to help clear the area.

**Action:** Clerk to invite Cllr Clarke to a Parish Council meeting, enabling residents to raise their concerns.

A resident suggested that other residents write to Priti Patel MP to raise their concerns.

A resident reported that there were many stinging nettles around the play area.

**Action:** Clerk to raise with the Grounds Maintenance Contractor.

A resident asked whether there was an update on the planning application for Beckingham Road.

The Chairman advised that no decision has yet been made. Cllr Thompson has been asked to provide us with an update on when the application will be considered.

## **5. Tolleshunt D'Arcy Village Larder**

John Barber gave a PowerPoint Presentation (Appendix B) to the assembly.

The Assembly expressed its thanks to Tolleshunt D'Arcy Village Larder.

Questions for the Village Larder:

Q. It was noted in the report that the Village Larder had provided financial assistance to a resident; why did the resident not ask the Henry Smith Trust (HST) for financial assistance, as that is the remit of that charity?

A. The resident did not feel comfortable approaching the HST. As the resident was in need, the Village Larder decided to offer assistance.

Q. It was noted that Tollesbury Larder is now only providing assistance to residents in Tollesbury and Salcott due to lower food supplies and people travelling from as far as Kelvedon to get supplies. Is Tolleshunt D'Arcy limiting its area?

A. The Village Larder provides assistance only to residents in a CM9 postcode. Approximately 40-50 residents per week receive food assistance.

Q. Are those who attend the weekly coffee morning here for the coffee morning, food supplies, or both?

A. It is a mixture; some just come for the coffee morning.

Q. The accounts noted that the HST had given a grant of £100 in the last year. In the previous year, they had given £200. Is there a reason this has decreased?

A. £200 was received but banked after the year end.

Q. Following a recent meeting in Tollesbury, it was reported that times are getting harder and that the shelves were not being restocked as quickly as before. Is that the case for the Tolleshunt D'Arcy Village Larder?

A. The number of donations has decreased. For example, earlier that day, a crate of food donations had been collected from Morrisons. A few years ago, there would have been 20-25 crates.

A resident thanked the Village Larder Committee Members for supporting such a worthwhile cause and helping the people of the village.

## **6. Parish Working Group (PWG)**

Steve reported that the PWG serves as a liaison between the village and the Parish Council. Residents can contact the PWG via Facebook or email.

Vanessa Reeve, who is both a Parish Councillor and a member of the PWG, presented the slide (Appendix C) and raised the following points:

- The Speedwatch group has been operating for nearly 3 years.
- Speeding numbers have increased over the last three years, with Tollesbury Road identified as the problematic site. It is hoped that the Speed Indicator Device (SID) will help reduce speeding on Tollesbury Road. SID statistics are not yet available, but we hope to report back on them next year.
- Tollesbury now has a Community Speedwatch set up.
- The group is hoping to push through some more sites in Tolleshunt D'Arcy, but it is very hard, as there are certain restrictions in place, i.e. where operators can stand.
- Currently, there are 13 volunteers, but more are always needed. The more volunteers, the more patrols can take place.

The Chairman, on behalf of the parish, thanked the Village Larder, Tolleshunt D'Arcy First Responders, the PWG, and all the village volunteers for their hard work.

## **7. Henry Smith Trust**

The Chairman presented the slides (Appendix D) on behalf of the Henry Smith Trust.

The Trustees had advised that should anyone wish to see a set of accounts, they should contact the Trustees directly.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Tolleshunt D'Arcy Annual Assembly.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the assembly at 8.05pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....

**TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY  
PARISH ANNUAL  
ASSEMBLY  
29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026**



# TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

## **Domestic Arrangements**

- ❖ **There is no fire drill scheduled so if the alarm sounds please leave via the emergency exits and meet in the car park.**
- ❖ **We aim to finish by 8pm but are happy to continue beyond then if required.**
- ❖ **Remember this is your Assembly.**

**Following the Annual Assembly:**

**Village Hall AGM**

# TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

## **Agenda**

- ❖ **Apologies**
- ❖ **Minutes of the Last Assembly**
- ❖ **Chairman's Report**
- ❖ **Questions**
- ❖ **Tolleshunt D'Arcy Village Larder**
- ❖ **Parish Work Group, including Community Speedwatch**
- ❖ **Henry Smith Trust**

# **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

## **Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Council**

John Smith – Chair

Wayne Middleton – Vice-Chair

James Denney

Vanessa Reeve

Maggie Henderson

Ian Ewing

Gerry Munson

County Councillor – Stuart Clarke

District Councillor – Maddie Thompson

District Councillor – Clive Morley

## **Finance**

The 2024/25 returns were submitted and returned with no adverse comments.

The 2025/26 Internal Audit has been completed. The Annual Return will now be submitted to the External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn, for further review.

Income and expenditure for 2025/26:

- Income - £39,852 (includes £25,730 precept)
- Expenditure - £41,411
- Earmarked Reserves - £13,245
- Closing balance as of 31st March 2026 - £36,609

# TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

## Pavilion

In February 2026, Blackwater Gymnastics gave notice to end the lease agreement to hire the Pavilion. Following the success of the club, they needed to move to a bigger premises.

We are pleased to report that Sensoryflex has taken over the hire of the Pavilion and has entered into a three-year lease agreement.

For further information on Sensory Flex CIC, visit:

[www.sensoryflex.co.uk](http://www.sensoryflex.co.uk)



## Traffic/Speeding Issues

The Parish Council is pleased to report that the new Speed Indicator Device has been installed on Tollesbury Road.



## **TruCam Patrols**

The Parish Council has continued the agreement with the MDC Community Engagement Team (CET) to carry out TruCam (Speeding) Patrols in the village.

|                 |                        |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| TruCam Patrols: | April 2024-March 2025  | April 2025 – March 26  |
|                 | 208 – Captures         | 114 - Captures         |
|                 | 167 on Tollesbury Road | 101 on Tollesbury Road |
|                 | 28 on Kelvedon Road    | 13 on Kelvedon Road    |
|                 | 13 on Church Street    |                        |

In 2024 – Due to the CET no longer being able to use the Church car park, patrols on Church Street ceased.

# QUESTIONS





# **TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY VILLAGE LARDER**

The tolleshunt d'arcy village larder (TDVL) is a non-registered constituted charitable trust and is run by 7 trustees volunteers

This is our report since last year's village AGM



## **WHAT DOES THE VILLAGE LARDER DO**

We distribute donated food from Local & National Retailers, along with donations from the local community, to those who need additional assistance within the Village.

We do not discriminate against those who need assistance or question them.



## **WHAT DOES THE VILLAGE LARDER DO**

Alongside the Larder, we host a free coffee morning every Wednesday at the Village Hall — a warm and welcoming space for residents and neighbours to come together, catch up, and enjoy good company.

Arrange regular help sessions with Maldon CVS, Citizens Advice, and the Community Nurse to provide legal advice, health support, and other services.



## **ARE WE HELPING**

Over the past year, we have distributed nearly £ 5,500 worth of food and other goods and provided one cash grant.

During the past year, our expenditure on additional food resources has increased nearly 2000 per cent above last year



## **NEWS**

During the past year, one new trustee has joined the team.

With a capital grant from the John Laing Charitable Fund, administered by the Essex Community Foundation, we have purchased new tables and chairs for the Larder Coffee Morning.

TDVL Bingo also contributed an additional grant to help replace all the chairs used by the Village Hall.



**CURRENT ACCOUNTS**



## **FUNDING.**

We have received grants from the following:

Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Council.

Henry Smith (Tolleshunt D'Arcy) Trust.

Blue Stripes Group.

John Laing Charitable Fund through the Essex Community Foundation (Capital Grant).

Tolleshunt D'Arcy Village Bingo (Capital Grant).

Along with cash donations from the Village Larder Coffee Morning.



| INCOME                                              |  | 2025              | 2026               |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS YEAR                     |  |                   |                    |
| BANK ACCOUNT                                        |  | £ 1,249.48        | £ 1,491.31         |
| PETTY CASH                                          |  | £ 236.07          | £ 48.56            |
| GRANTS RECEIVED                                     |  |                   |                    |
| TOLLESHUNT DARCY PARISH COUNCIL                     |  | £ -               | £ 250.00           |
| HENRY SMITH TRUST                                   |  | £ 200.00          | £ 100.00           |
| BLUE STRIPES                                        |  | £ -               | £ 510.00           |
| ESSEX COMMUNITY FUND (CAPITAL GRANT)                |  | £ -               | £ 5,000.00         |
| TOLLESHUNT DARCY VILLAGE HALL BINGO (CAPITAL GRANT) |  | £ -               | £ 2,000.00         |
| CASH DONATIONS                                      |  |                   |                    |
| CASH COLLECTION BOX                                 |  | £ 1,799.22        | £ 2,589.40         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME AND HOLDINGS</b>                    |  | <b>£ 3,484.77</b> | <b>£ 11,989.27</b> |



| EXPENDITURE                                               | 2025              | 2026              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                           |                   |                   |
| TOLLESHUNT D'ARCYVILLAGE HALL (HIRE CHARGES)              | £ 400.00          | £ 500.00          |
| CASH GRANTS                                               | £ -               | £ 100.00          |
| FOOD AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS (PETTY CASH PURCHASES)           | £ 54.73           | £ 1,011.96        |
| FOOD AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS (BANK ACCOUNT PURCHASES)         | £ 1,370.06        | £ 1280.056        |
| GENERAL RUNNING COSTS (BANK CHARGES, SUNDRIES & PRINTING) | £ 120.11          | £ 182.28          |
| NEW FURNITURE (ECF GRANT AND TDVH BINGO)                  | £ -               | £ 5,502.60        |
|                                                           |                   |                   |
| <b>TOTAL EXPEDITURE YEAR END</b>                          | <b>£ 1,944.90</b> | <b>£ 8,576.89</b> |



| BALANCING                                         | 2025              | 2026               |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|                                                   |                   |                    |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME AND HOLDINGS</b>                  | <b>£ 3,484.77</b> | <b>£ 11,989.27</b> |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE YEAR END</b>                 | <b>£ 1,944.90</b> | <b>£ 8,576.86</b>  |
| <b>INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE</b>                    | <b>£ 1,539.87</b> | <b>£ 3,412.38</b>  |
|                                                   |                   |                    |
| <b>TOTAL MONIES HELD IN BANK &amp; PETTY CASH</b> |                   |                    |
| CURRENT ACCOUNT HOLDINGS                          | <b>£ 1,491.31</b> | <b>£ 1,631.37</b>  |
| DEPOSIT ACCOUNT HOLDINGS                          | <b>£ -</b>        | <b>£ 1,503.01</b>  |
| PETTY CASH HOLDINGS                               | <b>£ 236.07</b>   | <b>£ 278.00</b>    |
|                                                   |                   |                    |
| <b>TOTAL MONIES HELD IN BANK &amp; PETTY CASH</b> | <b>£ 1,539.87</b> | <b>£ 3,412.38</b>  |



# COMMENT

A COPY OF OUR ACCOUNTS IS AVAILABLE ON THE  
VILLAGE LARDER NOTICEBOARD IN THE VILLAGE HALL



**PLEASE CONTINUE TO  
HELP SUPPORT THE  
LARDER THROUGH THE  
COMING YEAR.**

# **PARISH WORKING GROUP**

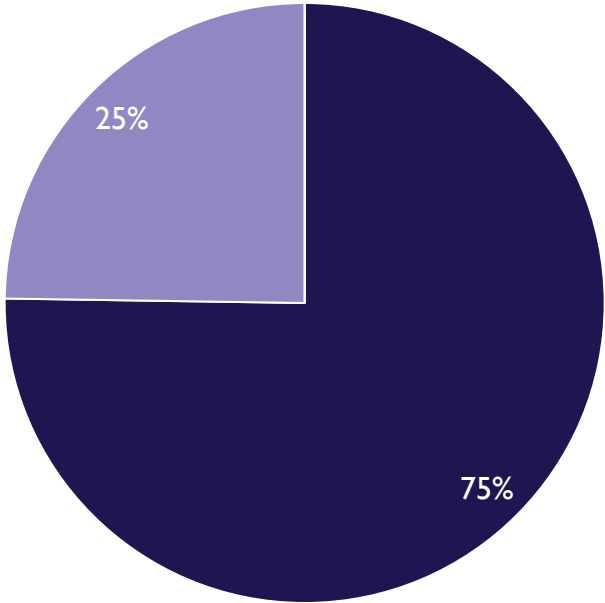
Speed watch incidents

In the last 12 months there have been ~210 speeding incidents captured – up from the historic average of ~170 per year, however no incidents have been recorded on North St.

Last 12 months (May-25 thru Apr-26)

Number of incidents = 210

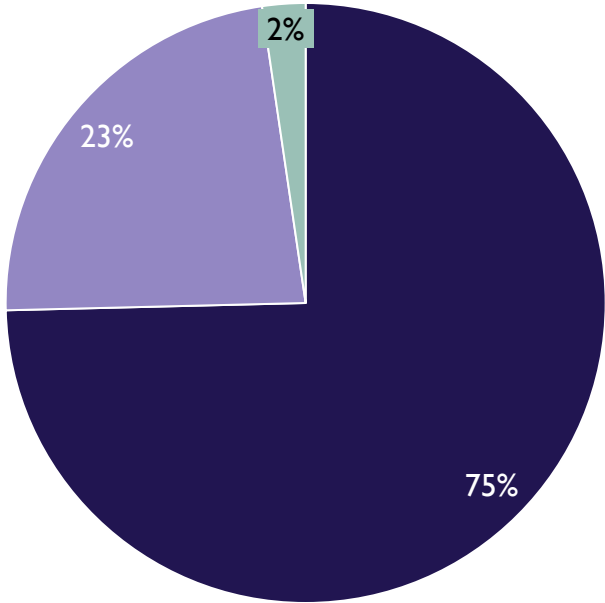
Tollesbury Road Church St North St



Last 3 years (May-23 thru Apr-26)

Number of incidents = 516

Tollesbury Road Church St North St



# **HENRY SMITH FUND**

# HENRY SMITH FUND ACCOUNTS

## Statement of Account for Henry Smith Trust Fund

|                                          |            |
|------------------------------------------|------------|
| Bank Balance as at September 2025        | £2,816.27  |
| Total Paid in from Henry Smith Trustees  | £3,300.00  |
| Less bank charges                        | -£38.25    |
| The Village Larder Grant                 | - £200.00  |
| Payments to parishioners (November 2025) | -£2,900.00 |
| Payments to parishioners (April 2026)    | -£2,575.00 |

## Accounts

|                                                      |                |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Cash in hand                                         | £248.00        |
| Balance held in bank as at 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 | £492.48        |
| <b>Balance held in bank plus cash in hand</b>        | <b>£740.48</b> |

**A full set of accounts can be obtained directly from the Henry Smith Trustees.**

# HENRY SMITH FUND ACCOUNTS

Any questions can be answered by phone on:

01621 860553

07889 613100

or email [glmep@hotmail.com](mailto:glmep@hotmail.com)

If we can help any villagers who live in the parish, please contact the above.

**TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY  
VILLAGE HALL  
AGM**