



Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Parish Council Newsletter July 2019

What's On

Parish Council Meetings; 9th July, 10th September, 12th November 2019.

Chairman's Notes

Beeston Bronze Age Roundhouse

At the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 14th May, a small but engaged group of villagers heard Carolyn Hicks of English Heritage give a very interesting presentation about the Bronze Age Roundhouse project at Beeston Castle. If you haven't actually been to Beeston Castle to see it for yourself I would highly recommend a visit. This project was featured recently on BBC Regional News and eagle-eyed viewers might have spotted Gordon Ibbotson (a parish councillor and editor of this newsletter) hard at work as a volunteer builder, balancing somewhat precariously on top of the roundhouse. Health & Safety guidelines I am sure were being properly adhered to (*GI note – I had a climbing harness on!*).

Red Fox Junction

I am pleased, as I am sure you all are, to see the completion of the roadworks at the Red Fox junction. Whilst not perfect it is much better than it was for vehicles and pedestrians alike. We are still waiting for Cheshire West & Chester to implement the agreed speed limit change (from 60mph to 50mph). It is currently going through a legal process to be formally approved but once complete will be implemented as soon as manpower allows.

Whilst the work at the Red Fox was being carried out there was considerable disruption for people living down Huxley Lane, Pudding Lane and Birch Heath Road as traffic was diverted down these roads. This caused a certain amount of damage, especially to the fencing and road sign near to the Huxley Lane – A49 junction. This has been reported to CW&C Highways and is scheduled for repair. I also reported a number of potholes on this section of road as well as damage to grass verges. Some of these potholes have been repaired, some are scheduled for repair and some are deemed not deep enough to warrant repair (they must be 10cm deep or more). I am afraid there is nothing that Highways are prepared to do about the grass verges.

Parish Council Vacancies

Two of our longstanding councillors: Cllrs Mike Turner and John Hocknell sadly decided not to put themselves up for re-election in May and as a result we have vacancies for two new parish councillors. We have been working hard over the last few years to improve the balance of the council. We currently have 3 female and 4 male councillors with a reasonably good geographic spread across the parish and, much to many people's surprise, only 3 of the councillors are fully retired. So, the job of a councillor is not just for retired folk!

In order to maintain momentum however we would like to appoint two new councillors as soon as possible. The Parish Council meets on a Tuesday evening six times a year and beyond this you can be involved as much or as a little as you wish, so it is not a huge call on your time. Most of the people who join Parish Councils have little or no experience. You will be guided through the processes and excellent training is available.

So, if you want to know more about what is going on in your community and to influence decisions being made that may affect you then please get in touch with me or the Parish Clerk and arrange for an informal chat about what it means to be a parish councillor. **Please take time to consider this, we need people to take up these roles and provide a voice for the community.**

Taking advantage of United Utilities

United Utilities have a plan to replace the water main down Huxley Lane in 2020. This will involve digging a new trench and laying a new water main from the A49 down to somewhere between Pudding Lane and Crib Lane. We have been looking at taking advantage of this and looking at the feasibility of getting mains gas pipeline and fibre optic broadband installed down the trench. I have recently canvassed for support of Huxley Lane residents for fibre optic

broadband and have now submitted a request to Openreach and await their response. I am currently in discussions with Cadent about the feasibility of laying the gas pipeline, but initial indications are that it will be cost prohibitive, even if everyone on or near Huxley Lane signed up. More to follow on this.

Old Village Photographs

Do you have any old photos of Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall? I have been given a collection of (mainly) black and white photos of the parish which I intend to put onto our website in the next month or so. If you have any photos that you would like to share then please send them to me and I will be happy to add them to the collection. If you only have the actual printed photograph I would be happy to scan then for you and add them to our collection. For those of you that don't recognise it, the picture on the front of this newsletter is the big Gardenhurst House in 1906 – now no longer with us.

Oil Baron – South Cheshire Oil Buying Syndicate

Some of you will be familiar with this service but we thought it might be worth making more people aware of the opportunity to buy heating oil as part of a syndicate and as a result buy oil for a lower price than would normally be available to an individual. It is a reliable and trustworthy service and is used by a number of Parish Councillors.

With over 700 members Oil Baron places bulk quantities with D.A. Roberts of Whitchurch on a monthly basis and hence purchases the oil at a very attractive price. They in turn benefit from a predetermined “milk run”, more efficient use of their fleet and thus lower cost of operation to him. An annual service charge of £12 is currently payable. If you are interested in knowing more about this service please contact Oil Baron directly: kevin@oilbaron.co.uk

Ray Mould – Chairman, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Parish Council.

Tiverton Village Day

We had a fantastic afternoon on the Hockey Club field and the weather could not have been better. The children played nicely on the bouncy castle while the adults sat around chatting and sipping Pimms in the sunshine (other drinks were available from the Hockey Club bar). Special thanks to the Hockey Club for letting us use their facilities and ensuring the grounds were in pristine condition, and especially to Howard from the hockey club who manned the bar until the early evening. We had face painting for the children but a lot of us ladies joined in and ended up with sparkly faces thanks to Lesley. The dog show, as

always, was fun and a great success. Laura from the Lock Gate Café came and judged the cake competition - all the cakes entered were great but the winners were Phyllis and Katie, who both won a prize, and young Gracie received a commendation for her lovely fairy cakes. Ray and Pauline manned the BBQ initially before Pete took over, where the burgers and sausage from Rose Farm shop went down a treat! Finally, in the evening, we rounded off a super day in the bar, where Tom took over from Howard as barman.

So many helpers to thank: in addition to those on the committee, without whom we would have no events, - a big thank you to Ray, Pete, Dave, Tom and Jo for helping setting up and taking down. Jean Toyn.

Meeting with Voneus CEO - Superfast Broadband.

Today (4th July) I had a long meeting with Steve Leighton, Chief Executive Officer of Voneus. This followed my warnings about the company to Mr Anthony Jones, who is championing Voneus superfast broadband for Ashton Hayes, remote Mouldsworth, Manley and Kelsall (website www.barmm.co.uk). I told him of our total loss of confidence in Voneus because of their failure to deliver on promises and failure to communicate, despite all my efforts. He has up-to-date information on Voneus' plans, including Tiverton going live - which was all news to me!

I have to say that I am greatly re-assured after our meeting, but I stressed to Mr Leighton that the only proof now is delivery on Voneus promises. Firstly, he apologised profusely for the failure to deliver and for not keeping us informed. I was highly critical of their website and PR generally – they do have successful installations and satisfied customers, apparently, but this is not on line. Briefly, they spent much of the last year raising much-needed funds, so all projects were put on hold, but £30 million has now been secured from a reputable finance house. Network build will now start without delay (we have heard that before, of course!). The network plan has been agreed, with a feed from St Boniface Church in Bunbury to Peckforton Castle, then to individual properties. Properties in the “line of sight shadow” of Beeston Castle (from Crib Lane to Hand Green) and in The Beeston Brook dip, will be fed from booster sites yet to be determined. I am not holding my breath but I will keep you informed.

Cllr. Gordon Ibbotson

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