

Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall

Parish Council Newsletter

June 2020



What's On – Not much!

Virtual Parish Council Meeting (via Zoom): 7:30pm on 14th July 2020

Chairman's Notes

Before I get into my normal update on what has been happening in the Parish over the last 3 months, I need to acknowledge the somewhat unbelievable situation we have all found ourselves in since the last Newsletter. Gordon made reference to Coronavirus at the end of the last Newsletter, but I don't think any of us were prepared for what happened only days after the Newsletter was published. Of course, all the "What's On" activities had to be postponed including the St Jude's Coffee morning and the Tiverton History Afternoon Tea, which I am sure will get rescheduled when it is safe to do so.

A small number of people in the parish tested positive for Covid-19 and a few more who have experienced Coronavirus symptoms, but I am pleased to report that, although some have struggled through the disease, no-one has been admitted to hospital and we have had no fatalities.

I have been delighted in the way our residents have come together to support the community. A small group of residents deserve special mention: Jean Toyn, Heather Lightfoot, Claire Wesson, Lesley Gilbert, Louise Law and Steve Armitage put together the Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Covid-19 Support Group with the aim of providing support to anyone in the Parish who needed it. Everyone in the parish should have received a leaflet providing phone numbers to contact if they needed help during the lockdown – we didn't want anyone feeling that they were stuck at home with no-one to turn to. As this was a totally new situation, we really had no idea what the demand would be or what would be asked of the volunteers. Not surprisingly, across the parish people kept an eye on their neighbours and helped each other out, but the support group was important in providing assistance when options were limited. It was pleasing that people felt able to ring the volunteers and ask for help and I know the volunteers were only too happy to oblige.

And now to the other things that have happened over the last 3 months.

Parish Council Meetings

Unfortunately, we had to cancel all our meetings in May, including the Annual Parish Meeting where I would normally present the Chairman's Annual report. We will not be re-scheduling this specific meeting, but the Annual Report has been written and will be presented at the July Parish Council Meeting that we intend to hold virtually, using Zoom.

The May Parish Council Meeting would also normally include the nomination of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. As this didn't happen, I will continue as Chairman and Ash Sharma as Vice-Chairman until it is felt appropriate to revisit the nomination process, probably once we are able to hold physical rather than virtual meetings.

So, as I have already mentioned it is planned to hold the July meeting virtually, using Zoom. This, as always, will be open to residents to participate, but you will need to e-mail the Parish Clerk in advance so that she can send you an invite to join the meeting.

Huxley Lane Water Update

At the beginning of June the main contractor for United Utilities made good and re-seeded Smithy Green and the grass verges down Huxley Lane. I note that they timed it fairly well; doing this after the long dry spell and just before the rain! Hopefully the grass seed will grow well and the awful damage done during the work will be a distant memory.

I have had some comments from residents that, since the work was completed, they feel that their water pressure is lower. If you feel that this is the case could you let me or the Parish Clerk know. I intend to follow this up with United Utilities.

Broadband Update

Much of the Openreach FTTP project is now complete and Ultra-Fast Broadband is now available for most of the parish (and soon even for Brassey Green). You can check whether you are “ready to go” by visiting the Openreach website. This website will also tell you which Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are able to offer you Ultra-Fast Broadband, and it is through these organisations that the physical connection to the fibre network will be completed. Openreach connect from the “telegraph pole” to the outside of your house and then your chosen ISP completes the connection in the house. Gordon confirms that, if you do have a long drive, Openreach will connect your house via overhead or underground line at no cost to you. Ultimately though, because Openreach have to do the infrastructure work, the restrictions on their workforce during the Covid-19 pandemic have meant that to these connections have not been possible to date. However, I have now heard that one resident has recently contracted to BT, and Openreach will make the connection to their house in the next few weeks. So, if your address is listed by Openreach as having FTTP available and you want Ultra-Fast Broadband, you can now go ahead and arrange for this to happen.

Keeping Connected

One of the frustrations during the lock-down was the inability to quickly make people aware of what help was available and when things were changing e.g. the Green bin collection and waste disposal site availability being suspended (and then being restarted). We had to rely on leafleting and the grapevine. So, I have started to ask people whether they would like to have their e-mail addresses kept on a register that the Parish Council would use to send out urgent or informative e-mails from time to time. This would only be used occasionally, no more than monthly and probably less than that, but it would be a useful mechanism for providing information. So far about 20 households have joined this scheme. Emails will be sent out as a blind copy so no one else will see your e-mail address and you have my absolute assurance that I will not be doing anything else with your e-mail addresses. If you want to be added to this list please email me at: mould.ray@gmail.com

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

Bunbury Parochial Charity

The Trustees of Bunbury Parochial Charities offer a number of grants to residents and organisations in nearby areas, including Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall. The grants are particularly aimed at supporting children, the elderly, disabled, or disadvantaged people. Grants are awarded annually in December and applications need to be submitted before 11th November. Full details of this can be found on the Tiverton and St. Jude's noticeboards and also on the Parish Council Website. Alternatively, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Edward Timpson MP

Edward Timpson sent a message to the Newsletter. Here are some of his main points; *“Having spent a few weeks back in Westminster following the conclusion of the 'virtual Parliament' experiment, it strikes me that the word virtual doesn't really describe the last few months in my job as your local MP. Never before have MPs been called upon to assist so many individuals struggling with holding their daily lives together. Many of these problems have arisen because the things that we could no longer take for granted—an income from a steady job, a carer to help us in our homes, a supermarket that can deliver, customers for our small business”.*

Edward recently and successfully campaigned to re-open the outdoor areas of Chester Zoo and the Shire Horse Centre at Cotebrook. He also worked with the NFU President and the Secretary of State for agriculture for a fund to support dairy farmers who have lost 25% of their income. The dairy industry is the UK's largest farming sector, and is very evident throughout Cheshire, but the coronavirus outbreak brought challenges of surplus milk, falling prices, and reduced demand from the hospitality sector. The finance will ensure they can remain operational, sustain production and maintain animal welfare. In addition, the Government has backed a £1 million campaign—Milk Your Moments—to boost milk consumption and use up surplus stock.

Edward has also informed us you that he will be sponsoring a bid to the “Restoring Your Railways Ideas Fund” to assist in funding the scoping costs of reopening the Beeston Castle & Tarporley Railway Station.

Parish Council Website: www.tiverton-cheshire.org.uk

Parish Clerk: Carol Weaver tel. 07730 405913 e-mail parishclerk@tiverton-cheshire.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Gordon Ibbotson (730 221), e-mail ibbot43@gmail.com