

Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall

Parish Council Newsletter

February 2021



What's On

Parish Council Meeting - 7:30pm on 9th March 2021 (by Zoom)

Annual Parish Meeting & Parish Council AGM - 7:30pm on 11th May 2021

Chairman's Notes

In the last Newsletter I welcomed a new Parish Councillor. Sadly, in this Newsletter I have to announce that because of work commitments Cllr Vimalachandran has had to resign from the Parish Council. We would like to thank Cllr Vimalachandran for her contributions, in particular her efforts to improve the junction at Four Lane Ends and also as a voice for residents on the A51 and Tilstone Fearnall.

Warning - there are plenty Covid-19 vaccination scams around so please be careful. Do not click on links in unsolicited emails and never provide personal information online or over the phone. Remember there is no charge for this vaccination so there would never be a need to provide banking information.

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

Our Village Hall

With the recent announcement that the Methodist Chapel is closing in April, our village hall becomes the last communal building in the village. Forty years ago, Tiverton had a village shop, post office, nearby primary school and pub - all closed and now 'developed' as private housing. The Covid lockdowns have been particularly hard on recreational facilities, as the first to close and last to re-open. User groups were already closing down their activities before the first lock-down last March, and despite making the hall Covid-secure for the July relaxation, we were only able to attract one group back.

With almost no income the hall still has to meet ongoing expenses such as water, electricity and maintenance, as well as the mandated safety inspections. We have obviously reduced our outgoings as far as possible by cutting off the cleaning contract, with committee members stepping in to clean the hall as required and keep a check on the gardening. Fortunately, the government and CWaC have recognised the importance of village halls and have made generous grants available, so the hall is not facing the financial hardships that are affecting so many small enterprises.

However, a village hall is so much more than just a building. It's a resource which can be used to combat loneliness and isolation, and which gives children a place to learn and play and adults a place to socialise. It's there for celebration and commemoration, for gathering and culture. It is a particularly important space for elderly people and young families who may be less able to travel, and who may otherwise be isolated or unable to take part in community life. A local resource such as a village hall also helps with the longer-term issues of climate change and sustainability by providing facilities within walking distance for many of its users. Involvement in village hall activities can increase social cohesion and integration in rural communities, making the community a nicer place to live and improving the quality of life for many.

Our village hall is currently in good shape, both in its fabric and finances. We are eager to re-open and welcome back users whenever this pandemic abates, but like most community resources it needs managing; volunteers are always welcome especially as our committee is not getting any younger. If you would like to help keep this last communal facility thriving, please e-mail villagehall@tiverton-cheshire.org.uk. As our village community moves into happier times, we need fresh ideas and energy.

Steve Armitage, Chair, Tiverton Village Hall Management Committee

Tiverton Village Society

The Christmas Garden decoration competition was won by Trudy and family at 1, Post Office Row. We thought it deserved to win, especially for the children of the village, as it was magical with Father Christmas singing at the window

We also would like to highly commend Rose Cottage for their wonderful, understated display of Candy Canes. Thanks to everyone who decorated their gardens to bring a little cheer to us all. Hopefully when the government informs us of the road map out of lockdown we may be able to plan a village event in the summer. Please also remember that the COVID village support is still active so do call me on 730739 if you need anything. Best wishes to you all.

Jean Toyn, Chair, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Village Society

2021 Census (March 21st)

Every 10 years, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) carries out a census to find out more about the people who live in England and Wales and about the make-up of local neighbourhoods. The next census will take place on Sunday 21st March 2021. ***You must complete the census by law***: if you do not, or if you supply false information, you could be fined up to £1,000. Some questions are clearly labelled as voluntary so it is not an offence if you do not answer these.

The Parish Council has been asked to help publicise the census, explain its purpose and generally support this important national survey. If anyone were inclined, for various reasons, not to participate, we would strongly encourage them to make the effort, complete the census and avoid a fine.

The census is important because it allows central and local government, health authorities, charities and other organisations to respond to the changing make-up of the population. It enables them to develop appropriate longer-term strategies and target their resources more effectively; to plan housing, schools, health and transport services for years to come, both nationally and locally.

Census 2021 is a digital-first census, which means that you are required to respond online. Everyone will get an access code to the secure website from the ONS. You will be able to complete the census using any device, including your mobile phone or tablet. If you need help, it will be available via an online help area on the official website and also by phone, webchat, email, social media or text message. The ONS is also encouraging people to get help from friends and family to complete their census, if they need it. If it is safe and within Covid guidelines, there will also be Census Support Centres to help people fill in their

online questionnaires. The ONS be in contact nearer the time to let you know exactly what you need to do.

After Census Day, in late-March, early-April, census field officers will visit households which have not completed a census questionnaire. They will encourage people to complete the census and help them access further help if needed. The field officers will wear PPE and will not need to enter your house.

We need YOU!

By Cllr. Louise Law

Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall are looking for a new Parish Councillor. I've been a parish councillor for just over 18 months now and, I can assure you, there is not as much drama as in the recent Zoom events in Handforth. Can you believe that a Zoom parish council meeting went viral, unfortunately for all the wrong reasons? Although the meeting descended into chaos, it did show that everywhere in England there are small groups of appointed people all working to look after our villages and communities. All around us are small examples of the many decisions the parish council have to make – from reviewing all planning applications and improving local road safety, through to deciding the best way to cut down a dead tree and helping the village hall clock to get new batteries. Quite often, changes in roads systems or new speed limit signs are a result of the efforts by the parish council to improve road safety.

Parish councils are the first level of local government – groups of volunteers working through the sometimes confusing and lengthy, but important, processes of civil laws and regulations. Being a counsellor doesn't take up a huge amount of time – there is one very well-organized and friendly meeting every second month. Throughout the year there are various documents to read, review and occasionally vote on. Plus, there are occasional Cheshire-wide meetings whose aim is to consult, inform of train local councillors. There is a budget to approve and to manage: this determines the small parish element of Council Tax. Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Parish Council is made up of a very smart and friendly group of people and, whether in-person or virtual, everyone is heard and treated with great respect. Why not come and join us and help shape your community? For more information or to apply contact Carol Weaver, the Parish Clerk or talk to me or any councillor.

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