

Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall

Parish Council Newsletter

September 2020



What's On

Parish Council Meeting - 7:30pm on 10th November 2020

(Location to be confirmed)

Chairman's Notes

As I write these notes, the government has just announced restrictions on gatherings of more than 6 people, a clear indication that although the impact of

Coronavirus has diminished, the challenge of operating in the “new normal” has not gone away.

Since the beginning of the pandemic all our Parish Council Meetings have been virtual meetings (using Zoom) and, although we would like to revert to physical meetings as soon as is practical, we need to make sure that it is a safe and sensible thing to do. On a personal note I have been surprised at how well these Zoom meetings have gone and it has been good to see some members of the public reaching out to the Parish Clerk in order to join in these meetings. Towards the end of October we intend to review how we will hold the November meeting and I will post details of our decision on the Parish Council website.

One decision we did make in the September meeting was for the current Chair and Vice-Chair to remain in post until May 2021, at which point nominations for these posts will take place at the Parish Council AGM. The AGM will definitely be held in May 2021 along with the Annual Parish Meeting, hopefully in Tiverton Village Hall, but failing that virtually using Zoom.

Huxley Lane Water Pressure

Following the last newsletter a number of residents on Huxley Lane contacted us to voice their concerns about the water pressure following the installation of the new water main. I have talked to United Utilities about this and for a period of about a week they measured the water pressure at a hydrant on Huxley Lane close to the A49. This showed that the water pressure at this point fluctuated between 2.0 and 2.2 bar.

The difficulty we have is that the minimum water pressure that UU need to offer is 0.7 bar, so a pressure of 2 bar is significantly higher than this. I asked why, given that the pipeline and connections from the pipeline are new, the pressure can't be increased to say 3 bar. Their response was that they consider the current pressure to be optimised and that “higher pressure can cause leaks, bursts and increased usage, and has an effect on the life of pipework.”

The next stage is that individual residents who are concerned about their water pressure and, more specifically, if you are having difficulties with household appliances (e.g. showers, washing machines, boilers), to contact United Utilities on 0345 6723 723 where you will be asked a number of questions, after which an appointment will be made for an engineer to visit your property and to investigate your specific issue.

The Powers of a Parish Council

A question was raised a few months ago which made me realise that perhaps there is still a misunderstanding in the community about the role of a Parish Council and how far our powers go. Cllr Ibbotson and County Cllr Jones gave a good overview in the December Newsletter and plenty more information is available online if you want to explore further. However one area where we have no powers is that of law enforcement. Should a resident have an issue with regard to antisocial behaviour or, for that matter, any criminal activity it should be reported directly to the police on 101, or 999 in an emergency. It can be useful to make the Parish Council aware of recurring problems so that we can consider what actions we can take, but this does not remove the need for the police to be the primary point of contact and the enforcer of the law.

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

Tiverton Village Society

After our disappointment in having to cancel out first Tiverton Festival “TivFest”, which we had planned for late June, we decide to run our very first Scarecrow Competition and what a success it was! We had 18 fabulous scarecrows around the village. Everyone who entered had made such an effort especially in the use of the recycled materials, and some of the thoughts behind the scarecrow were very insightful, which made the judging very difficult. Mould has produced the montage that heads up this newsletter and, if you didn’t get chance to see them in person, please visit the Village Society page on the Parish Council website where pictures of all the scarecrows are available to view in colour.

Here are the winners of Tiverton Village Scarecrow Competition 2020:

The Most Impact Category

Joint winners; Holly Bank Farm, *The Jumping Horse and Jockey*
Fountainhead Cottage, *The Daily Briefing*

Best Recycling Category The Old Post Office, *Hans Solo*

3rd Prize Tirrins, *Tiverton Tinkerbelle*

Young Persons Inspired The Dale, *Sir Tim Erton*

Village Society Chair Award Castle View, *Uncle D – Hedge Surfer*

Jean Toyn, Chair, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Village Society

what3words

I think we have all experienced the frustrations when delivery services, using house names, road names and post codes just cannot find us! So, imagine trying to tell the ambulance service exactly where you are should you be stranded on the Sandstone Ridge with a sprained ankle, or informing the AA where you are on an unfamiliar road in mid-Wales at night with a broken-down car. There is now a simple solution to all such problems. Using what3words in an emergency;

1. Find the 3-word address for your current location on the free what3words app for iOS and Android.
2. Share your 3-word address over the phone to the call handler.
3. The emergency service can then coordinate a response directly to the exact location where help is needed.

“what3words” is a system that provides the simplest, unambiguous way to define precise locations. The whole world has been divided into 3-metre squares and each square has been allocated a unique combination of three words, which is permanently fixed. Imagine just how many 3-metre locations there are along Huxley Lane, each one precisely identified by its own what3words address. The system is now being used by 80% of UK emergency services as well as the AA, many delivery companies and other public service organisations. The lives of many walkers and climbers have already been saved using the app.

As well as for emergencies and ensuring that you receive your Covid food deliveries on time you could use it to report the exact location of a pothole or a broken stile to the relevant authorities or identify exactly where to meet up with friends (maximum 6 people!). For example, the what3words address for the side entrance to the Methodist Chapel is “*bronze.yawned.including*” while my current location is “*tadpoles.eggs.tested*”. You can either find the address for your front gate, any current location when you are out and about, or zoom in on the grid map to identify a known location. The easy-to-use app has its own instructions and Google will tell you lots more about what3words.

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