

Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report 2020 - 2021

This was my fourth year and probably my last year of being Chairman of Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Parish Council. It has been an extraordinarily unusual year for everyone, a year like no other for any of us. The Covid crisis meant that the government brought in regulations that allowed Parish Council Meetings to be held virtually, but these were not brought in until after the date for our scheduled May 2020 meetings. This meant that the Annual Parish Meeting along with the Parish Council AGM were effectively postponed and the normal Parish Council Meeting for May 2020 cancelled. To add further complication to the proceedings, the regulations allowing for virtual meetings expire on 7th May 2021, so after this date meetings need to be physical not virtual. Because of this the Parish Council has brought forward the May 2021 meetings by one week to Tuesday 4th May to enable these meetings to take place virtually. It is hoped that this will be the last virtual meeting and further meetings will be once again held in Tiverton Village Hall, or possibly St Jude's Church Hall in Tilstone Fearnall.

This year, largely because of work and domestic commitments, we had two resignations from the Parish Council: Leanne Vimalachandran and Janine Revill. I would like to thank Leanne and Janine for their contributions to the Parish Council. On a positive note, Lesley Randles put herself forward and was accepted onto the Parish Council in November, so welcome Lesley. Another resident has also shown interest and all being well will become our latest Parish Councillor in the May meeting. After this we will still have one vacancy, so please put yourself forward if you feel able.

After much lobbying of CW&C Highways by the Parish Council and also by residents, there does appear now to be some progress regarding the implementation of the speed limit reduction at and around Four Lane Ends. New illuminated speed limit signs have been put in place, but they remain covered up. It would appear that the final stage of removing some old signs and uncovering the new ones is all that is required. Sadly, I don't have a date for this, but hopefully not too long.

In the summer of 2020, United Utilities following the completion of their water main project, fulfilled their commitment to reseeded Smithy Green as well as a number of verges down Huxley Lane. The Parish Council also received a cheque for £1,000 from United Utilities for them being given permission to use Smithy Green as a base during their work. This money was deposited in the Parish Council bank account and will be used for future projects yet to be authorised by the Parish Council.

Following the water main replacement down Huxley Lane there were complaints from residents that the water pressure at their properties was very low. We discussed this problem with United Utilities and they carried out water pressure measurements over a 7 day period and determined that the water pressure was between 2 to 2.5 bar which is significantly higher than the legal minimum of 0.7 bar. To this end there is nothing more that the Parish Council could do and the advice given to residents is that if they have individual water pressure issues they should raise this with United Utilities directly, and they will look at the issue on an individual basis.

The Parish Council continues to review every planning application within the parish, and where appropriate comments on them. Our comments are available for viewing on the CW&C Planning Portal, which can either be accessed directly or via the Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Parish Council Website. In addition, a Parish Council Planning Committee Report is produced and presented at the Parish Council Meeting and this can also be found on the Parish council Website.

Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report 2020 - 2021

Please contact the Parish Clerk if you have any issues that you would like the Council to follow up on. Full details of Parish Council meetings as well as local village activities can be found on the Parish Council website.

Ray Mould

Chairman

4th May 2021