

# Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Parish Council

## Chairman's Annual Report 2021-2022

This has been my first year as Chairman of the Parish Council after Covid deferred my appointment from the previous year. With the regulations surrounding Covid at the time, we undertook the meeting online over Zoom, much like many of our meetings since the start of the pandemic. I took over the reins from Cllr. Ray Mould, who moved on to the role Vice-Chairman. I would like to thank Ray for his support over this time as well as our clerk, Carol Spencer. They have both been vital to helping me in my new role, and I really do appreciate their support and hard work. I would also like to thank my fellow councillors for all their hard work in dealing with the issues of our Parish.

Within the last year there has been a lot of change regarding COVID-19, with the majority of the population now vaccinated. With this result we moved to in person meetings, held in Tiverton Village Hall, with the help of open windows and doors (coats and scarves optional for the winter meetings!). Even so, both myself and the Vice-Chairman Cllr. Mould had to isolate when our January meeting was to take place, so it was chaired by Cllr. Ibbotson in our absence. We had to hold the meeting as it was the only way to ratify our financial Precept for the forthcoming year so it could be submitted in time.

We have had two new councillors join the ranks this past year, which means we now have a full quorum of councillors. Charlene Penhorwood joined in May 2021, and our newest member, Scarlett Richardson joined in March 2022. Long may they both serve and contribute to the Council in any way they can.

We continue to inspect every planning application that comes along and make a point to comment on each one. Our Planning sub-committee are here to highlight planning rule and to affect the local position on planning matters, highlighted by our Neighbourhood Plan. We do strive to make our voice heard but it has sometimes seemed that our planning opinion has been ignored or not heeded to in the past, so we organised a meeting with the head of the planning department at CW&C. They agreed that whilst every effort is made to inform us of any changes to plans or how a decision is made, they could be more inclusive in the future. If we have any contentious planning applications, we are to highlight our concerns and speak directly with them. We will have to wait and see if this will change over the next year. Our planning comments are always summarised at our meetings and are available on the CW&C planning portal.

Our highways are always on our agenda, whether its dealing with items such as potholes or speeding for example. After our efforts to modify the Four Lane Ends junction, a new speed van location on the A49 has been established to enforce the 30mph zone down to the canal. Efforts to possibly manage speed along Huxley Lane are now underway. Currently we do not meet the criteria to reduce the limit to 20mph so are moving towards traffic speed management in other ways. We are weighing up the cost and benefits of various options such as village gates to highlight the speed limit and whether they would be appropriate or even feasible for our village. After speaking to the Highways department, it seems that whatever option we decide upon will be a major investment for the Council. We are considering all matters and opinions of our Parishioners regarding our options with regards to keeping the rural nature of our surroundings whilst also keeping our roads safe for all.

Whilst we don't have a huge problem with criminal activity in the area, we do have regular updates on crime locally from Cheshire Constabulary. It has been a shame that our local PCSO for various reasons has unfortunately not been able to attend any of our meetings this past year. We are keen to keep the dialogue open with them so hope that this will change over the next year and look forward to seeing them shortly.

Since the unfortunate demise of the large Horse Chestnut Tree on Smithy Green, we have decided to move on with plans to make the space a more useful amenity site for our residents. It will be a simple area with some benches and trees that we hope will be used and appreciated by all our residents.

I would like to thank Cllr. Heather Lightfoot and her Husband in carrying out repairs to the Tilstone Fearnall noticeboard to postpone the need to replace it at great cost.

An exciting development on our borders regarding the Beeston Railway Station has been gaining traction. As the Beeston & Tarporley Railway Station Steering Group had a shortfall in funding due to local council issues, we donated £350 to them to help in the feasibility study, in which we were glad to contribute, seeing as we would greatly benefit if it were to reopen

We also donated £230 to St' Jude's Church Hall to help fund a new hot water boiler, with the hope that it will help in the renovations for the kitchen.

I would like to thank Steve Armitage in his continued mastery of the website and keeping any problems at bay. The site has been seen to need some small changes to make it follow 'accessibility protocols' which we are slowly working out how to manage. Some aspects are quite minor but unfortunately there are some aspects which are not so we may have to overhaul the website to make it fully comply in the near future. We update our website regularly with all the relevant meeting documents and latest Parish news we feel may be of interest so please have a look at [www.tiverton-cheshire.org.uk](http://www.tiverton-cheshire.org.uk). We also put out a regular newsletter to keep you updated on current events.

We look forward to helping our Parishioners during 2022-2023 with the help of our new councillors. If you would like to contact us for any issues you may come across, please email the clerk at [parishclerk@tiverton-cheshire.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@tiverton-cheshire.org.uk).

Asheesh Sharma

Chairman

Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Council