

Chairman's Report 2022-2023

This has been my second year as Chairman for our Parish Council, and I would like to start by saying thank you to all the other Councillors for their hard work and diligence throughout this last year. I would also like to personally thank Carol, our ever-hard-working clerk, for all the expertise and effort she has input into our Council. The clerk's role is rather all encompassing regarding the work of our Council, and we are indebted to Carol's efforts in keeping us all in check!

We appointed a new Vice Chairman last year, as Cllr Ray Mould stepped down from the role to allow Cllr Heather Lightfoot to take over. We have put in loose plans to try and have more turnover in the Chairman/Vice-Chair roles to give all the members of the Council the chance to experience the duties of such positions over the course of their time on the Council. I would like to thank Ray for his due diligence and hard work as Chair and Vice-Chair, as well as his enduring help while I took over the reigns over the last few years.

As usual, we at the Parish Council inspect all the planning applications that are submitted within our Parish to check if they follow our Neighbourhood Plan. We have a planning committee who pore over the details of each application and then submit our comments to the rest of the Council for final approval. We then submit our views to the planning officers on the Cheshire West and Chester Council planning portal where they can be seen by the general public. Our views are taken into consideration with the planners in that we have much more local knowledge on the immediate area, and have more 'invested interest' in the community, which we hope will have an impact on their final decisions. Sometimes we highlight issues that are maybe missed or have not been given enough merit in the planning application process. In this respect we are a body that represents all our parishioners and hopefully a voice that is duly considered in the process. We look at all applications ranging from porch extensions up to multi-dwelling developer led projects. You can view our responses on the website or come to our meetings.

There has been quite a lot of change within the Royal Family this last year, with the Village Society holding a Jubilee event last summer which was well attended, and another smaller gathering for the coronation of our new King!

The Remembrance Day Service ran smoothly with a good attendance from the village(s). Refreshments were provided by Cllr Lightfoot and socialising was the order of the day in Tiverton Village Hall afterwards attended by many.

The Vyrnwy Aqueduct works by United Utilities are in full swing and we are in regular contact with the team on the progress of the upgrades and maintenance of the aqueduct. They came along at the start to discuss their plans as we are a good focal point for the community to receive information. In this vein, the Tarporley War Memorial Hospital also sent a representative last summer to a meeting to discuss their future in the community and their plans to team up with the Countess of Chester to provide a new service to the area.

We have been receiving regular updates over the last year for the possible Beeston Station Re-opening, but Government changes have slowed progress for now. We hope that some final decisions will be forthcoming soon from the Department of Transport and we will update you when we know.

We have been planning to spruce up the area around Smithy Green next to the A49 and have some trees that need planting this summer, along with an area for benches for people to socialise. We have some funds to do this and hopefully a plan will come to fruition over this coming year. We have also bought a new bench to be placed next to the bus stop located there.

Speeding in our Parish is a major issue that we see brought up by our Parishioners, which we are looking to address. We have had meetings with Cheshire West and Chester to consider ways to manage and monitor speeds along our highways, particularly along the A49, Brassey Green and Huxley Lane through Tiverton Village itself. We have discussed options varying from speed cameras, village gates and extra road markings for example, and will endeavour to come up with some manageable solutions in the near future. One of the major stumbling blocks we are facing are the financial aspects of many of these options as we would be liable to 50% of any costs, which can range upwards to around £5000 depending on the choice taken. Our budget is extremely limited so we must consider what would be the best and most effective way to limit speeding along our highways. The condition of the roads is also something we monitor and we are also in discussion with CWAC about the road surface in The Dale, as well as other stretches along Huxley Lane for example. Unfortunately, the Dale resurfacing issue is not in the Councils budget this year, but we hope to push for it to be a priority in the future.

The hall at St'Jude's has recently had a new kitchen installed and has now been in use. We had previously held our meetings exclusively at Tiverton Village Hall but it was decided to now use St'Jude's as well, so we had our first meeting there in November 2022. We now alternate our meetings between the two halls.

We have been unfortunate in the fact that over the last few years the PCSO contact has been absent from our meetings, though we have had some recent attendance which we hope will continue as we feel it is important to keep some community contact with the Police. They aim to attend more meetings but mentioned their resources are extremely stretched.

The Parish Council website has been running very smoothly over the last year, in no small part to Steve Armitage who has been overseeing it's use and maintenance. We have had to update it to follow GDPR rules over the last year or so regarding accessibility. To do this we need more control over its administration so we need to change our supplier which we aim to do this coming year.

We update our website regularly with all the relevant meeting documents and latest Parish news we feel may be of interest to you, so please have a look at www.tiverton-cheshire.org.uk. If you would like to contact us for any issues you may come across, please email the clerk at parishclerk@tiverton-cheshire.org.uk.

Unfortunately for various reasons we have seen 4 councillors not renew their position at the last elections in May. I would like to thank them all for their support and hard work during their tenure-ship here. Cllr Gordon Ibbotson and Cllr Ray Mould have been longstanding members, taking up the Chairman and Vice-Chairman position, as well as Planning committee chair etc throughout their service. They have both been instrumental in the issuing of the newsletter, with Gordon recently stepping down as editor. They have both been great fonts of knowledge and all our councillors have worked hard to keep our Parish involved with planning issues and making sure the rules are followed.

With that I would like to say thank-you to all the councillors and the clerk for all their efforts this last year, and we hope to have some new councillors join us soon.

Asheesh Sharma – Chairman, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Parish Council.