

Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Parish Council

Chairmans report May 2026

Good evening all and welcome to the annual parish council meeting.

It has been my first year as chairman after several years as vice chairman and councillor previously. Firstly, I would like to thank Councillor Ash Sharma for his years as chairman and vice chairman. Ash has worked tirelessly for the parish and particularly looking after the website and submitting comments on planning applications. Councillor Sharma will be standing down as vice Chairman this year and we aim to have a 2-year rolling change of position of chairman and vice chairman to give everyone the opportunity of engaging in this role. Therefore, this will be my last year as Chairman.

Secondly, I would like to thank our council clerk Mrs Carol Spencer for her dedication and knowledge and support, we really would struggle without her expertise.

My thanks go to all the Parish Councillors who give their valuable time and also to our ward Councillor Mr Mike Jones who continues to give his support.

This year we have continued to do several parish projects. We have sourced a contractor who has maintained the area around the notice board on Smithy Green and Stocks Bank. Later in the year we planted spring bulbs around Smithy Green. We have purchased 2 more benches which will go on Smithy Green shortly. We have taken over the ownership of the BT phone box and are currently looking at ideas for its use.

Speeding has remained an issue and we are grateful to a team of residents who have formed a community speed watch group and have been trained by the police to use the speed gun. The speed indicator device is on loan from the police and is regularly in use on the A49 thanks to Mr Ken Morris for doing this. It has been reported to myself and the parish clerk that incidents of verbal abuse have occurred to volunteers using the speed gun, this is unacceptable and if further incidents occur, they will be reported to the police.

We are hoping to purchase another speed indicator device to be used on Huxley Lane.

We are going through the process of registering the land on Smithy Green and Stocks Bank with the Land Registry as we have found out they weren't registered. Thanks to Councillor Amanda Wilson for assisting with this.

Councillor Paula Moore has contacted our MP Aphra Brandreth regarding connectivity in the area particularly in the Tilstone Fearnall area and progress is being made.

We have had 4 quotes to clean the war memorial varying in price and specification and we are waiting to hear back from the conservation officer to get clarification on the best option but hope to get it done before Remembrance Day if possible.

Earlier this year we held a public meeting to get residents views on peak cluster programme, 27 residents attended and their views and that of the Parish Council were submitted, it was rejected by all.

We have changed our web provider to Parish Online and each Councillor will have a dedicated email address to conform to regulations.

Lodge Lane in Tilstone Fearnall is finally open after 18 months of closed due to burst pipe during the Lake Vyrnwy pipe replacement.

We continue to engage with CWAC to try and get a resolution to the car park surfacing at The Dale and Townfield Lane. It has been very frustrating with lack of adequate response from CWAC.

Finally, I'd like to thank residents from both villages in engaging with the Parish Council.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Heather Lightfoot

Chairman Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall.