

TILSTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



Chairman's Report 2022-2023 Mike Hearn

We started the Council year 2022/23 with the resignation of our clerk, Mrs Ann Wright. As a token of our appreciation for her many years of service we presented Ann with a hand-crafted glass vase and then waited for a number of months for a new clerk to be found. Mrs. Marian Hagan took on the role in September and has worked tirelessly to learn the role and support the councillors.

The car park at the rear of the village hall has been an on-going Parish Council agenda item and continues to be so though it is hoped that this project will commence in the not too distant future. The aim is to situate the car park comprising of some 12 -14 spaces on the fenced, low, mown area behind the hall and include some planting to form a natural screen.

As Chair of the Parish Council, I attended a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner in Winsford and raised three points I knew to be of importance to Tilston residents – Police presence in Tilston, vandalism mostly in the evenings and traffic through and within the village including speeding and parking issues. The third issue was a matter of concern raised by most of the Parish Councils represented and it was heartening to know that we were slightly ahead of the game with our two speed activated signs.

Christmas saw our village decorated in keeping with the season and I would like to say a big thank you to the small group of volunteers who assist in erecting tree lights, and bunting, producing the phone box displays and for the planting up and the watering of our beautiful street lamp planters that make the village look so welcoming during the summer.

My term as chairman has come to an end with King Charles' Coronation celebration. Well done to the Coronation Committee on organising and providing a wonderful afternoon tea party in the village hall. It was great to see all the village groups including TWMH committee, the Tilston Wakes, Playing Field Association, St. Mary's Church and the Parish Council coming together to plan, donate funding towards and run the event which I know was thoroughly enjoyed by all, young and old. On behalf of the whole community I would like to thank all those who worked so hard to make this the hugely successful and memorable occasion it was.

Finally, a personal thanks to councillors past and present for your support and encouragement during my time as councillor and Chairman. It has been an privilege to serve on the Parish Council.

Farewell To Our Three Long-Serving Parish Councillors

On May 9th three of Tilston's longest serving councillor's will step down from their roles and hopefully begin their "proper" retirement.

Councillor Penny Honeybourne is the longest serving of the three having taken up the post some 37 years ago. Since 1986 Penny has held the Chairman's seat on a number of occasions and has witnessed countless changes in priorities and personnel in the village including at least four parish clerks and the demise of the post of "Street Orderly." Councillor Neil Ritchie has served Tilston with short breaks to undertake the duties of Ward Councillor, since 1995. At that time there were concerns about traffic congestion in Church Road due to traffic to and from the school – thankfully he has played a leading role in helping to tackle the problem with the new school car park and future drop off scheme as well as the safer footpath to the school. And last but by no means least, a fond farewell to Councillor Mike Hearn. A councillor of many years standing and latterly Chair of the Council. Mike has been a vital contributor to the environment of Tilston over the years and like his colleagues Penny and Neil, he will be greatly missed.

Councillor Ian Munro



Sadly, we learned of the death of long-serving Parish Councillor, Ian Munro, in late September 2022. Ian was strongly committed to the Parish Council and was a most conscientious attender of both the formal meetings and the many ad hoc meetings that took place during his time in office. His contributions were invaluable, always sound, concise and to the point. During Covid Ian was determined to master the technology and maintain his important input into Parish Council work. Ian had great judgement and led discussions on numerous

issues. His strong grasp and understanding of what was in the best interests of the village led to the production of The Parish Plan which is still applicable today.

Ian is greatly missed by all.

Councillor Vacancies

2023 saw an “all out” election for Tilston Parish Council meaning all the councillors stood down and those wishing to continue submitted a nomination pack for election. These included Ben Hatton, Bill Joyce and Chris Kenny. Tilston Parish Council has 8 councillors and as less than this number stood councillors Hatton, Joyce and Kenny are automatically elected with no voting needing to take place.

This does leave the Parish Council with 5 vacancies, however, and it is essential that we recruit enthusiastic and motivated people to help drive forward and implement the things residents want to see happening in Tilston. If you think you could commit some time and energy to this role please contact the Clerk, Marian Hagan by email at clerk@tilstonparishcouncil.co.uk or by phone on 01829 250303 for more information or come along to the Council Meetings and find out what it is like to be a councillor.

Meeting Dates 2023-24

Thursday May 18th 2023 – Annual or First Meeting

Thursday July 6th 2023

Thursday September 7th 2023

Thursday November 2nd 2023

Thursday January 11th 2024

Thursday March 7th 2024

Extraordinary meetings will be called as required. All agendas are published 3 clear working days before the meeting and can be found at:

www.tilstonparishcouncil.co.uk or on the Tilston Parish Council noticeboards at Tilston War Memorial Hall and Tilston Village Stores.

All meetings start at 7pm. and are held in Tilston War Memorial Hall.

Summary of Accounts 2022 -2023

Opening Balance April 2022	16,484
<u>Receipts</u>	
Precept	10,303.00
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	562.00
VAT Rebate	190.00
Warm Spaces Grant	500.00
Footpath to School Grant	648.00
Interest	30.00
Total	12,233
<u>Payments</u>	
Salaries	4,202.00
Room Hire	222.00
Admin inc. new laptop & subscriptions	2,091.00
Grants – TPFA	1,000.00
Plants, Poppy Wreath & Signs	357.00
Housing Needs Report	1,899.00
Footpath to School	978.00
Hill Field	2,671.00
VAT	741.00
Total	14,161
Opening Balance 2023 -2024	£14,557

The Council's full accounts can be found at

<http://www.tilstonparishcouncil.co.uk/finances>

Precept

The Parish Council agreed a Precept of £11,430 for the 2023-2024 financial year, £39.91 per Band D property. This is a 10% increase on 2022-2023 and equates to £3.63 Band D increase over the year. The Precept charge will show on the Council Tax bills which have already gone out.

Planning

Parish Councils have the statutory power to be notified of all planning applications in their area. In most cases they are also seen as consultees by the planning authority and this is the case with our local planning authority, Cheshire West and Chester Council.

As such, Tilston Parish Council does not decide planning applications but is consulted by CW&C and submits a comment on all applications received.

During 2022-2023 the Parish Council was notified of 15 applications 7 of which related to works on trees in the conservation area.

We were notified of 2 applications for extensions to existing dwellings, 1 application to convert an equestrian building into 2 dwellings, 1 application for the erection of an agricultural building, an application relating to the formation of a new car park at Tilston School, 1 application for the installation of ground mounted solar PV array, 1 application for widening a driveway and construction of boundary walls and entrance gates and 1 application to replace existing windows and doors.

The Parish Council retains a planning register which is approved at each scheduled meeting and has a list of planning applications which can be found on our website at www.tilstonparishcouncil.co.uk by clicking on planning. You can also find out more about the planning process, what matters are taken into account by the Planning Officers and sign up for notifications of planning applications on the CW&C Council website.

New Route To Tilston School



By the time this publication reaches you we hope that the new Footpath to Tilston School will have been formally opened and in good use by families and residents as an alternative to Malpas Road which can be very busy at times and the muddy route formerly taken along the field at the back of Inveresk Road. This project was first discussed in early 2022 but really took off when Councillors Neil Ritchie and Bill Joyce secured 75% of the costs of installing a properly constructed footpath from CW&C and launched the Crowdfunding initiative which with the help of local residents, grants and Parish Council donations not only reached the initial target but enabled the council to ensure the footpath was wide enough for wheelchair users and prams/buggies and to install 2 new accessible gates at each end of the path. A big thank you to all involved in this village development and to those whose donations have made it possible.

Housing Needs Survey and Report

Of the 360 Tilston addresses contacted by Cheshire Community Action on behalf of Tilston Parish council, some 85 responded to the 2022 survey which at 27% is higher than usual for a survey response and indicates that the data collected is robust. The main finding was that there is no significant eligible demand for additional housing in Tilston. The biggest gap is in affordable housing based on differentials between income and house price.

Warm Welcoming Spaces

Despite regular promotion of Tilston's "Warm Space" at the Carden Arms which offered free soup and roll and tea/coffee and biscuits each weekday from 12.00 to 5pm. no-one took up the offer and the grant will be returned within the next few weeks. Not deterred, councillors are keen to promote this again next winter if the project is still running, so do look out for our posters and make use of the facilities to keep warm if you need to over the winter months.

Our Village Environment

Tilston parish Council strives to provide an attractive and safe environment for our community. We have again launched the "Planters Appeal" whereby councillors and local residents adopt one of the 16 lamp post planters, plant them up and undertake to water the plants and flowers throughout the summer.

Our lamp post Remembrance Poppies, Christmas Wreaths and the current Coronation Signs have all added to the ambience in the village and are always positively remarked upon.

Whilst traffic speeds through the village regularly feature at Parish Council meetings, all the surveys and monitoring undertaken by CW&C and the Highways Agency indicate average speeds below the speed limit. As yet there is not the evidence to introduce any traffic calming measures, though the relocation of the flashing Speed Signs is helping to detect speeding and the council is always open to consider ways to make the village as safe as possible.

