

Tilston Parish Council Annual Report 2020-2021

Chairman's Report 2020-21 Mike Hearn

This year hasn't been like any other in living memory. Lock-down, social distancing, furlough, closure of non essential business cancellation of so many things we took for granted, this pandemic affected us all in many different ways.

For the Parish Council zoom became the new normal method of meeting with CW&C Councillor Paul Roberts and occasional residents we battled on, overcoming a few technical difficulties! With the easing of restrictions we hope to meet in person quite soon.

Throughout this difficult time the Village shop remained open, the Carden Arms, when it was allowed, provided take away meals and our church services went on Zoom

As restrictions were eased more people used the facilities at the playing field and the number of residents walking the footpaths and in the village has increased. Responsible dog owners are using the bins provided in the village keeping our pavements clean but there are still a few miscreants!

Highways implemented the new speed restrictions and the interactive signs do work, although some drivers choose to ignore the limit. We received complaints regarding parking on the pavements and the inconvenience this causes for pedestrians. As such we ask residents and their visitors to **be courteous when parking in the village and keep pavement access clear.**

I attended a CW&C planning meeting to speak on behalf of the Council in support of the development of glamping pods at Old Hall Farm in just the allotted 3 minutes.



Former Cllr Sue Willett

It is good to see the Carden Arms busy once again, albeit outside only, giving a sense of normality and life in the village centre.

We must however remain cautious as the vaccine programme continues to roll out and we accept a new normal.

The Council was sorry to receive Sue Willett's resignation from the Council, Sue along with other councillors has worked hard in the village over the years and she will be sorely missed.

Take care stay safe!
Cllr Mike Hearn



Cllr Hearn speaking at CW&C Planning Committee



Summary of Accounts 2020-2021

Opening Balance April 2020	6,578.00	Payments	
Receipts		Salaries	2964.00
Precept	10,086.00	Admin & Training	649.00
Repayment Reporter Grant	500.00	Insurance	298.00
Grant—CW&C Members Budget	500.00	Hill Field - Maint. & Survey	2025.00
Covid Support		Covid Support Grants	562.00
Interest	3.00	Gritter	125.00
Vat Rebate	861.00	Grants inc. British Legion	1700.00
Miscellaneous refunds	20.00	Website Re-development	950.00
Total	£11,970	Replacement defib. Pads	63.00
		VAT	306.00
		Total	£9,642
		Opening Balance 2021-2022	£8,906

The Council's full accounts can be found at <http://www.tilstonparishcouncil.co.uk/finances>

Precept

This year the Council undertook its precept consultation online and received 10 responses from residents, although the Council notes this is a disappointing return it is the highest response we have received to date.

For the second year in a row the tax based which is used to calculate the council tax had reduced which meant that if we had frozen the precept at the same level as last year (£10,086) this would have resulted in Band D properties paying an extra £1 per year.

That the Council agreed a precept of **£9,911** a 1% increase per Band D which equates to an increase of 36p for the year.

Look out for our Precept consultation later this year before we set the Precept for 2022-2021— it is usually published between November and January!

Grants

Meeting Dates 2021-2022

COVID SUPPORT GRANTS	
St Mary's Church - Automatic Hand sanitiser dispenser & hand sanitiser.	£109.00
Tilston Village Stores—Automatic Hand sanitiser dispenser, hand sanitiser & Paint.	£353.00
Malpas Community Minibus—to fund trips for Covid Vaccinations for those without transport.	£100.00
TOTAL	£562.00

Thurs 1st July 2021
 Thurs 2nd September 2021
 Thurs 4th November 2021
 Thurs 6th January 2022
 Thurs 3rd March 2022
 Thurs 5th May 2022 —Annual or First Meeting
 Parish Meeting TBC
All meetings start at 7pm.
Tilston War Memorial Hall

To keep up to date with what the Parish Council is doing join our distribution list, just forward your address or e-mail to the Clerk

Or Follow us on FACEBOOK

Planning

After a really quiet year last year in 2019-202 when we only received 6 planning applications, we have had an increase in planning applications in 2020-2021 with 14 being considered, three of which related to various tree works in the village.

The Council has considered 2 barn conversions, one to create a dwelling with detached garage and a second to create a holiday let.

At the start of the Council year we received an application to create 10 glamping pods, erection of a café, farm shop, coffee roaster, pasteuriser and campsite amenity facilities, plus landscaping, access, parking and ancillary works. The Council resolved to support this application and subsequently the Chairman spoke in support of the application at the CW&C Planning Committee meeting, the application was approved 6 votes to 5.

The Council has considered two applications for The Stables off Duckington lane, the first to convert the existing stables into 2 dwellings and the second demolish the stables and erect 2 dwellings, the Parish Council objected to both applications on the grounds of building in the open countryside and the impact this would have, both applications have been refused by CW&C, we wait to see if the second application goes to appeal.



All planning applications can be viewed on our website by visiting www.tilstonparishcouncil.co.uk and clicking on planning tab at the top of the page. We also post application details on our Facebook page.

Meetings & Attendance

Nobody could have foreseen the year we would have when we published our Annual Report for 2019-2020 this time last year, and we had just held our first couple of virtual meetings.

Throughout the year we have continued to hold all the Parish Council meetings virtually via Zoom. This has allowed those who were shielding to attend meetings along with members of the public both via the internet and by telephone.

In addition to our 6 scheduled meetings in May, July, September, November, January and March we have held 4 extraordinary meetings the majority of which have dealt with planning applications.

Six of the meetings were attended by all 8 Councillors, the other 4 meetings were attended by 7 Councillors. We have had an average attendance of 2 members of the public at each meeting, with 6 members of the public attending our extraordinary meeting in June.

CW&C Cllr Paul Roberts has also attended the majority of our meetings.

All our meetings include public participation and are open to the public and we would love to see more of you at our meetings in the future.

At the time of writing it is not clear if the ability for Parish Councils to meet virtually will continue as the legislation introduced in 2020 to allow this ends on the 7th May.



Councillors following the 4th June Extraordinary Meeting



TILSTON WAR MEMORIAL HALL

As it has for all of us, the past year has been a challenging time for Tilston War Memorial Hall, with the hall being closed for over 10 months. Our Village Hall, normally so lively with a whole range of age groups, classes and interest clubs has been standing silent.

However, the TWMH Management Committee have been busy planning and have used this time to make some improvements to the hall, as much as funds will

allow. As well as decorating and new radiators, our biggest project was the refurbishment of the main hall floor. The hall floor is the original maple wood sprung floor from the Tilston Institute, opened in 1921, which was installed in the current village hall when construction began in 1976. It had been a project that we had planned prior to the pandemic, but at a cost of £4,000 it was one that needed careful consideration. The hall has not had any income from rentals during the pandemic, but the Committee felt it was the ideal time to undertake this major project while the hall was not in use, so the work went ahead and we are delighted with the results.



Our next major expense will be to make the roof water-tight. Unfortunately, the roof has sprung a few leaks over the last year and rainwater leaking through the ceiling means we have to have some strategically placed buckets around to catch the water!

For the Hall Committee, all of who are volunteers, the last year has meant we have had the opportunity to learn new skills, expanding our knowledge and involvement in health & safety, risk assessments and cleaning protocols. As a registered charity, TWMH operates on a limited budget, but the committee do their very best to ensure the hall is a welcoming environment and maintained to a good standard. It is difficult to predict what the coming year will mean for our Village Hall, with the amount of bookings and income unlikely to return to the level we had before the pandemic hit.

We would like to thank all those who give their time and support the hall in so many ways and to thank the hirers who have worked with us diligently during the pandemic to ensure the hall is as safe as possible for all users.

The Committee would also like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support of the hall and for the contribution towards our annual insurance premium which is very much appreciated.

There is usually a positive to be found in most situations and the last year has shown what a great and supportive community we have here in Tilston. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to our village hall when we are allowed to safely and fully re-open.

TWMH Management Committee

April 2021

<http://tilstonvillagehall.co.uk>

Tilston Playing Field Association Annual report 2020/21.

2020/21 must be the strangest but possibly intermittently busiest year in the history of Tilston Playing Field. We have had long completely lockdown, semi-lockdown or open with safe distancing spells. Throughout the year



TPFA have maintained the field to a safe standard, adapting to government rules as required. Thanks go to the volunteer trustees for their continuing efforts. The present trustees are Gail Graham, Harry Downs, Penny Honeyborne, David Swift, Paul Montgomery, Mary Richardson, Simon Gerrard, Fiona Pountney and Harry Jarvis. Due to her commitment to running the Tilston Stores, Lynsey Jackson retired from committee and we thank her for her years of support. Richard Foden has recently joined the TPFA and we welcome his knowledge of equipment and cycling. Anyone in the community with comments to make on the running of the field, or who wish to get involved, can approach any of the aforementioned.

Obviously due to the pandemic we have been unable to fundraise and had to cancel the sports week. We are very grateful to Tilston Parish Council for their support in contributing £1000 towards our annual insurance. Paul Roberts allocated £750 out of his CWAC member's budget to enable us to replace the spring and locking mechanism on the zip wire which had been condemned in our last ROSPA inspection. We have just been allocated £2000 out of the Fox and Hounds S106 money which will allow us to complete the groundwork below the zip wire. Being able to afford to do this is in part thanks to Matthew Honeyborne who is donating his time to complete the work and to Tony Dromgoole for providing the materials at

trade price.



Two other pieces of equipment will have to be removed and the tyre swings, wooden spider and swings refurbished. Matthew will also help the trustees with this work. All this comes at a cost, and as the TPFA have no regular external funding, we look forward to being able to fundraise again to meet our annual expenses for field maintenance.

Alan and David Willett continue to mow the field and cut the hedges for us and allow us to use their adjacent field for event parking. Thank you to them and to Phil Evans, who gives his time freely to keep our mole problem under control. S P Mowers have taken over the contract for keeping the equipment areas of the field mown and tidy and are doing an excellent job, thank you.



Due to the pandemic our plans to refurbish the pavilion have stalled, but alongside Simon Kettle (SAK Designs,) the trustees are looking to make progress as soon as we are allowed. Thanks go to Cameron Dodd who donated and planted three silver birch trees on our field and did so on a very chilly morning!



Tilston Playing Field Association cont'd

Our pump track has proved very popular over the year. It is regularly used by riders of all ages on all manner of bikes, scooters and boards from the community and further afield. We encourage safe use of the track and riders to wear helmets and to ride within their own limits.

The field is generally treated with respect by users. It is sad however, to see some young people climbing on the pavilion roof, which is clearly marked as being 'unsafe,' and vandalising some of our table/bench sets. David and Harry work hard to maintain them, but actually shouldn't have to, if people used them correctly. We continue to have a 'No Dogs' policy on the field (excepting guide dogs,) but still have dog owners walking their dogs on the field, or worse, letting

them off the lead. As this is a children's play area, dogs present a health risk and should not be brought on to the field.

Provided Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed, we hope to host the Tilston 10K on Sunday 27th June and hold our sports week from 2nd – 6th August. Our AGM is to be held on 11th May.

Thank you to all trustees, their partners, and anyone in the community that helps the playing field association in any way. New members are always welcome, please contact Gail on g.c.graham@btinternet.com.

Check out our website:

www.info@tilstonplay.org

St. Mary's Church, Parish Council Report, 2020-2021

2020 should have been an exciting year for St. Mary's Church, following the arrival of a new Rector in January and an induction service, led by Bishop Keith, the Bishop of Birkenhead, in early February. Members of local community groups were present, to welcome myself as the new Rector, and my wife, Norma, as the new Associate Minister.

Sadly, we had only been in post six weeks when the first covid 19 lockdown started in late March. What followed was a prolonged period when church services were held entirely online via Zoom. Although interaction, and a degree of fellowship, is possible via Zoom, this is a poor substitute for face-to-face contact. In fact, much of the pastoral work that we were able to engage with in 2020 was made via the telephone. Although it was good to chat, as newcomers, not being able to put a face to a voice is rather frustrating!

In the late Summer, early Autumn, as lockdown eased, it was, however, possible to hold a series of small garden parties. A 'What's App' support group was also established to offer practical support to the most vulnerable, who had to shield during the pandemic crisis. On the plus side, this resulted in a sense of community solidarity and awareness of the needs of others.

It was also possible to hold the annual Rushbearing and Harvest services outside the church in the churchyard. The prohibition of singing, and the imposition of masks and social distancing during worship has, however, given worship an unfamiliar feel. Many worshippers, especially those who understandably feel vulnerable, have continued with Zoom worship.

The start of 2021, and the second major lockdown, saw a return to Zoom services and no church worship until late March. It is hoped that, as vaccinations increase, and covid 19 infection rates drop, the church will be able to return to 'normal' worship, with other church activities being re-establishing by the summer.

We are looking forward to welcoming people to the Rectory or visiting them. Please don't hesitate if you would like to meet us face-to-face.

God bless,

Revd Dr Tim Robinson and Revd Norma Robinson





TILSTON LANDSCAPE AND WILDLIFE GROUP

When you know what is in your parish, and where it is, there is less likelihood that it will be mislaid

To join or receive our information, contact: Juliet (01829 250412) or Tom (01829 250249)

Annual Report
April 2021

THE REAL VALUE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

Despite suspension of the TLWG's activities, and so many individual difficulties, the natural world gave us much joy and comfort this year



MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO GO ON WALKS



Brimstone

MORE SIGHTINGS OF INTERESTING CREATURES



Green Woodpecker



Red Kite



Slow-worm



MORE WILDFLOWERS IN GARDENS AND VERGES



Let's keep on looking after the wonderful landscape and wildlife we're lucky to have around us



Your CW&C Ward Councillor Paul Roberts—Report

Inevitably the past year has been overshadowed everywhere by the Covid crisis. I don't have any data for individual villages, but Farndon Ward residents have suffered fewer infections than the average for Cheshire West, but of course there are still a lot of people who have been badly affected by Covid locally.

Whilst there are always things which could have been done differently or better, my impression is that the various agencies in Cheshire West have handled the crisis reasonably well. Certainly the vaccine roll out seems to have gone particularly well locally.

Flooding is a different story: CWaC have a poor record of maintaining highway drainage. Where blocked drains are reported, they are usually eventually jetted, but often without checking for the underlying cause of the blockage, which means that problems keep recurring. If you notice that a drain is blocked, please report it via CWaC's web site (Highway faults). If it keeps being blocked, let me know.

Several planning issues have been important in Tilston over the past year – I was very pleased to work with the Parish Council and others in support of the Old Hall Farm "Glamping" application, which was opposed by the Planners on what I felt were very narrow interpretations of the policies. The online meeting was quite tense, and it was a great relief when the Committee decided by a single vote to allow the application, which I'm sure will benefit local businesses.

There are many organisations in Tilston doing great work for the community, but I would particularly like to congratulate Tilston Playing Fields Association for their work in taking the facilities from strength to strength – the Pump track in particular is the subject of envy from many other villages. I was pleased to be able to support the Association in a small way through my Member's Budget.

The Parish Council of course continues to operate very effectively – I'm always pleased to work with them.

Your Parish Councillors....

<p>Mark Bickley 01829 250 457</p> 	<p>Mike Hearn 07540 618 920 Michaelhearn1 @hotmail.com</p> 	<p>Penny Honeyborne Pennyhoneyborne @hotmail.com</p> 	<p>Ian Munro 01829 250 316 ian.munro2013 @gmail.com</p> 
<p>Nicola Prince 01829 250 457</p> 	<p>Gill Putnam 01829 250 228 gill@putnam.org.uk</p> 	<p>Neil Ritchie 01829 250 223 neil.n.ritchie @hotmail.co.uk</p> 	<p>Vacancy</p> 

For more information contact the Clerk:
Ann Wright, 62 Well Street, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8QH
01948 861 035

E mail: clerk@tilstonparishcouncil.co.uk or visit www.tilstonparishcouncil.co.uk