

Tilston Parish Council Annual Report 2018-2019

Chairman's Report 2018-2019 Nicola Prince

2018 has yet again been a busy year for Tilston Parish Council.

Firstly we are now the owners of the field behind The War Memorial Hall known as Hill Field. The Council is looking at how a car park can be provided on the field for use by the Hall.

Once again Tilston won our category in the Community Pride Competition **WELL DONE and THANKYOU** to everyone who has helped to achieve this and long may it continue.

The street planters yet again looked fabulous, thank you to the volunteers who helped to fill and water them through the season and thanks to Sue for the displays in the phone box too!

Highways discussions are still ongoing regarding traffic calming on Malpas Road and how we can make it safer for children and adults to cross the road.

Dog fouling is still a problem in the village which is really disappointing. The Parish Council have installed a new bin by the ford on Malpas Road as this was becoming a problem area with people throwing filled bags into the hedges and neighbouring fields, **it's not difficult PLEASE BAG IT THEN BIN IT !**

The WW1 centenary was remembered by having the benches by the Stocks refurbished and discussions are still ongoing regarding a wooden sculpture outside the War Memorial Hall that has been kindly funded by a village residentThank you.

It was with great sadness that we lost a valuable member of the Parish Council,

Ron Hints sadly passed away in November.

Councillor

John Thompson decided to step down this year

Thank you John for your input over the years it

has been really appreciated.

For the first time in many years there was an

election in Tilston, giving residents the opportunity to vote for the Parish Council.

Council.

May I take this

opportunity to thank the

retiring Council for their hard work and support over the last four years and special thanks to the clerk Mrs Ann Wright for always going above and beyond in her services to Tilston Parish Council.

Councillor Nicola Prince.



2018-2019 Chairman Nicola Prince, Vice Chairman Sue Willett and Dean Horseley from Cheshire Oak Structures who undertook the work to refurbish the benches for free.

Summary of Accounts 2018-2019

Opening Balance 2017-2018	11,615.15	Payments	
Receipts		Salaries	2886.00
Precept	6621.00	Admin, Room Hire & Training	940.00
Council Tax Support Grant	239.00	Insurance	295.00
Grant-CW&C Members Budget	457.00	Hill Field - Legal Costs	490.00
Interest	7.00	Hill Field - Maint. & Survey	779.00
Vat Rebate	331.00	Bench Refurbishment	600.00
Miscellaneous refunds	42.00	Rookery Road Verge Markers	127.00
Total	£7697.00	Film Night Licences	166.00
		Grants inc. British Legion	2395.00
		Refund Op. Shield Grant	500.00
		VAT	456.00
		Total	£9634.00
		Opening Balance 2019-2020	£9677.00

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

Precept

At the January 2019 meeting of the Parish Council the Council made the very difficult decision to increase the precept.

The precept is the charge made by the Parish Council which appears on your Council Tax bill each year and funds the Parish Council.

For 2018-2019 Precept was £6621, for 2019-2020 the precept has been increased to £10,000, an increase of £3379 which will show as a 49.1% increase. The charge per Band D property will be £35.39 for the year, 68p per week.

This additional funding has allowed the Parish Council allow funding for a number of projects moving forward including the following:

- To allocate donations for Tilston Playing Field Association and Tilston War Memorial Hall (£2000).
- To allocate funding to give out as grants to groups and organisations in Tilston (£2000)
- To allocate funding for highways or speed limit changes (£3000)
- To allocate funding for maintenance and seeking planning permission for a car park on Hill Field (£2000)

The Council is also aware that if permission is granted for a car park on Hill Field this will require a significant amount of funding.

The Council will continue to seek 'best value' when carrying out projects and when possible will apply for grants and other funding however the Council was increasingly aware that it is becoming harder to obtain grants and alternative funding.

(Article first published in March Reporter)



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

Grants 2018-2019

Tilston Parish Council advertises for grant applications following its January meeting each year with applications being considered at the March meeting.

All grants must be applied for using the grant application form which can be found at <http://www.tilstonparishcouncil.co.uk/documents>

GRANTS AWARDED	
1st Tilston Brownies	£165.00
1st Tilston Guides	£165.00
Tilston Primary School	£250.00
Evergreens	£180.00
Tilston Project Group	£250.00
Tilston Landscape & Wildlife Group	£250.00
TOTAL	£1260.00

Meeting Dates 2019-2020

Thurs 4th July 2019
 Thurs 5th September 2019
 Thurs 7th November 2019
 Thurs 9th January 2020
 Thurs 5th March 2020
 Thurs 7th May 2020—Annual or First Meeting
 Parish Meeting 9th April 2020
All meetings start at 7pm and are held in the Tilston War Memorial Hall unless advertised.

Attendance

Tilston Parish Council meets every other month following its first meeting in May, a total of 6 meetings per year, the Council can also call Extraordinary meetings to discuss urgent matters.

During the 2018-2019 Council year the Council has met 6 times with an average of 6 out of a possible 8 councilors attending each meeting with apologies being received from Councillors due to work commitments, family commitments or ill health.

Members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings and also to speak in public participation, during the last council year we have regularly had 3 or four members of the public attending meetings, in May 2018 16 members of the public attended to raise planning issues on Low Cross Hill and a proposed agricultural building on Grange Lane. 10 members of the public attended our January 2019 meeting when the Council set the Precept and also had a speaker on Stretton Water Mill.

2019 Election Year

May 2019 saw all out elections for all the Town and Parish Councils in the CW&C area, of the 97 Councils in the area only 15 had contested elections one of which was Tilston where 10 candidates applied for the council's eight seats.

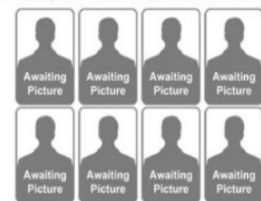
The turnout for the Parish Council election was 46.1% which was higher than for the CW&C Farndon Ward as a whole at 44.7% and also significantly higher than the CW&C Borough elections average of 34.7%

Thank you to everyone who took the effort and applied to join the Parish Council and also everyone who turned out and voted.

Our next scheduled Parish Council election will be in 2023.

Tilston Parish Council

Could you fill one of these seats?



Tilston Parish Council is up for election in May 2019.... Could you be one of our Councillors?

- Could you **meet** a minimum of six times a year (first Thursday of every other month)
- Could you **Speak up** for the residents of Tilston
 - Get involved in community activities
 - Comment of planning applications

Planning

Tilston Parish Council were notified of 13 planning applications during the Council year 2018-2019, and submitted comments on all the applications.

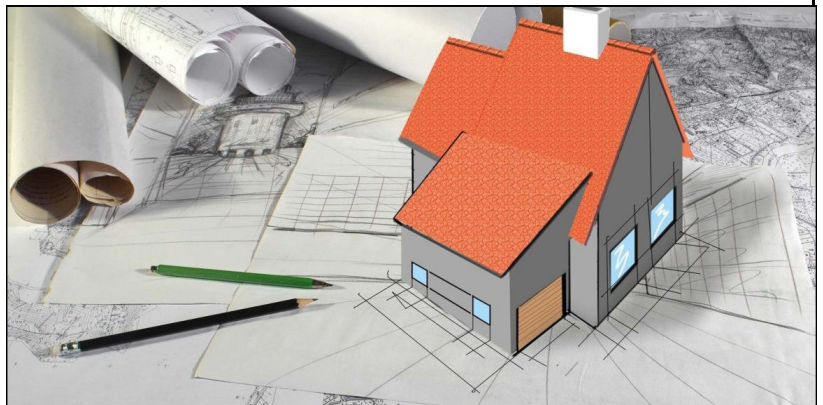
Of the 13 applications 2 were for extensions to existing dwellings, and 4 related to tree works where trees were subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or were in the Conservation Area. 2 applications related to the creation of new dwellings, 1 application was for solar panels.

The Council was also notified of a planning application for the creation of a new entrance and exit, a new car park and drop off zone at Tilston Primary School which the Council supported which at the time of writing has not yet been decided by CW&C.

The Council also commented on (AGR) applications relating to the construction of an agricultural building in the neighbouring Parish of No Mans Heath & District Parish Council the first application for which was withdrawn however the subsequent application was confirmed as permitted development.

All planning applications which the Council is notified of are posted on our FACEBOOK page and also listed on our website at <http://www.tilstonparishcouncil.co.uk/planning>.

It should be noted that the parish council does not have the authority to decide planning applications but can seek to influence planning decision by submitting comments, something individuals also have the right to do.



Tilston Brownies

We'd just like to thank everyone involved for your generous grant towards the running of Tilston Brownies.

We are now a very small pack and every penny counts but we still like to give the girls lots of opportunities to do different things. This year we've used the grant to help take the girls on a PGL Adventure.

Whilst there the girls took part in Absailing, Zip Wire, Orienteering, Giant Swing, Aeroball & Archery. They loved it. Thank you so much for your support



1st Tilston Guides

Tilston Guides would like to say a huge THANK YOU to Tilston Parish Council for awarding us a grant – we really appreciate it!!

We are going to put the money towards our train journey to Clitheroe, where we are attending a Guide Festival called Wellies & Wristbands in August, which we are all very excited about!!!!

We realise how hard everyone has had to work to raise the money to start with so again thank you all very kindly!!!!



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 just receive our information, contact:

Sue Wolfsohn on 01829 250449 or

Tom Stephenson on 01829 250249

The TLWG has a varied programme to further its aim of recording, informing about and improving Tilston's environment. You are welcome at our quarterly planning meetings. But anyone can join in our activities as and when they take your fancy.

We map our landscape's features and conserve habitats for wild

plants and creatures



We go on walks led by experts on local wildlife, and are producing 'Tilston Trails' leaflets, helped by a grant from the Parish Council.



We learn skills such as grafting and help children and residents to understand their environment



Our 2019 programme includes 'Beating the Bounds' (with damson gin), a Nature Trail and wildflower sale at the Tilston Garden Trail, nature walks and our annual Apple Day (where you can get your apples pressed). See the Reporter and posters for details.

Did you know that you can access a large amount of information about planning at <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/planning-and-building-control.aspx>?

You can find out about pre-application advice, planning policy, report dangerous structures as well as see planning applications and submit comments, you can also set up a profile so that you are notified of applications.

Tilston Playing Field Association

Thank you to Tilston Parish Council for again contributing £1000 towards our public liability insurance. We were also honoured to be presented with their Best Community Organisation Award at the Annual Parish meeting and presented the TPFPA award to Dave & Val Roberts for 10 years of hard work and inspiration.

TILSTON PUMP TRACK

We spent all last year applying for match funding to the S106 £15,000 for play and open spaces, allocated to the TPFPA from the Jones Homes Estate, to allow us to construct a 'pump track.' We were beginning to despair of achieving success when a very generous anonymous donor came forward with the deficit. We can't thank them enough and know that the pump track is going to be an amazing asset to the community, already described as 'the best thing that has ever happened in Tilston' by a youngster on Instagram to our developer. We also thank our construction team from JB Extreme Landscapes, who have been friendly to



visitors to the site and caused as little disruption to residents as possible. They have designed for us and gone the extra mile to lay down a truly wonderful track. The track can be used by BMX & any other style of bike, skateboards & wheelchairs but nothing motorised, as they can harm the surface. Joe Baddeley & Kayley Ashley are top BMX riders themselves and have already enthused many of our local riders, (look them up on You Tube). They completed the work in two weeks and hosted a 'Get to know your pump track' day on 6th April. The track will be officially opened on 25th May when the grass will have greened the sides and it will be lined. There will be a BBQ, refreshments & a bar to help us celebrate. We hope field users will

also appreciate the path they put in for us from the bottom gate to the pavilion. All we can ask now from the community is that whatever age you are from 3 - ? you enjoy



and help us look after the track so that people can use it for years to come. Thank you!

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FUNDRAISING

Our summer BBQ in July was well attended by families and we raised £400 for playing field funds. Thank you to Matt for providing the music and Daz for the BBQ. We opened the Basket Swing, with Alistair from the Carden Arms cutting the ribbon. The basket swing has been a popular addition to our equipment. Thank you to the Tilston 10K and Howard Greenwood for match funding the £2000 that came out of TPFPA fundraising.



Our main event was 'The Big Night Out', timed to commemorate moving forward from WW1 to happier times. The band Tailor Made took us through the ages from the 20's forwards, the mood enhanced by the new lighting in the War Memorial Hall. There were great 20's & 40's outfits on show and we raised £800. Thank you to everyone who supported us in any way.

The TPFPA also added our own tribute to the WW1 commemorations by erecting silhouettes of children playing, designed & made by Harry Downs, on top of our tyre swing, to remember those left behind in the war.

OTHER EVENTS

Our Activity Week was again a resounding success, thank you to The Carden Arms, Wingett's Estate Agents & Sally & Wayne Monslow for their sponsorship. Each day, on average, 48 youngsters enjoyed a variety of sports led by an enthusiastic group of young leaders. The last day was exclusively dedicated to cycling, led by Alex Foden. This year (5 -9th August) we aim to have groups using the pump track every day.

Tilston Playing Field Association cont'd

The Tilston 10K in September again proved itself to be the friendliest 10K around and about 90 runners pounded the roads. In 2019 it will be held earlier, on Sunday 30th June, check out <https://10K.tilston.org> to enter.

Our field has been kept tidy by Alan & David Willett and Henry J Davies, thank you to them.

We continue to be a keen enthusiastic group of trustees that look after the Playing Field for the community. Please help us by looking after it too, clearing up litter and helping our youngsters use the field with respect. We don't need rules if people treat the field, as they would their own garden. Thank you!

Finally, we are holding an Auction of promises on 1st June and all profits will go towards refurbishing our pavilion to make it more user friendly. This will be next year's big project. Please support us if you can.

'Come and Play'

Tilson Project Group - A Brief History

Tilston Project Group started as an idea 28 years ago of Margaret Shone who ran the Village Shop in Tilston at the time. She had an idea to light up the village at Christmas and started a campaign to raise the necessary funds to make it happen.

Margaret had the drive, ambition and the foresight to ensure that the young people in the village were involved and therefore over 18 months, regular disco's for these young people were held and at each it was made very clear that the purpose was to put lights on the tree in the village, and that the lights were very much the property and responsibility of those attending.

At the time, the only option for such lights were the outdoor, heavy duty glass filament lights that were plugged onto what is traditionally known as "festoon" cables, the cables were attached to the branches and then the bulbs carried up individually to create the effect. There was a fear at the time that bulbs would be a target for air rifles, catapults and sticks, but because of the connection made at the time to the young people within the village there were no incidents of vandalism at all, just the normal loss due to weather and the exposed position.

We were extremely lucky to have the festoon cables donated by Stretton Hall who had used them for a party and no longer required them, another benefit of running the local shop which was then and still is a centre of information within the village.

The "turning on" of the lights became quite an event, hosted by the Carden Arms where Mark Parry was the landlord. Mark was a great supporter of making Christmas special and a few years later he asked if the lights could be extended to the pub, there were a few spare festoon strings and he installed power in the eaves of the pub that these could be plugged into that extended the lights from the pub to the sign at the front.

Technology affects everything and 12 years ago, fund raising was again started to replace the traditional lights with lower powered "Rice" lights, Margaret sadly was no longer with us to see the progress and difference that this made but I am sure she would have been delighted to see that her idea was still moving forwards.

We have now moved to a full LED lighting system with over 10,000 LED's on the tree, we did try a different colour trunk a few years ago, but this was not widely thought to be a good move and therefore we have committed to keeping the tree "white".

We have recently added the "Garlands" to the fence at the bottom of the tree to provide a bit more pizzazz to the display (we are not currently thinking of adding a Star or Fairy to the top though !)

Although LED Lights are very hardy, we still have to raise money through donations and fund raisers of differing types to replace strings that rarely last much over 4 years, but the positive comments that we get every year in the Christmas season make it worth all the effort of those who install, update, adjust and make sure that the tree looks at its best as a focal point for the Tilston Festive Season.

Tilston War Memorial Hall

Tilston War Memorial Hall continues to provide a focal point for many village activities and is well used by people of all ages. Unfortunately, with the loss of playgroup and other regular bookings the village hall is facing a difficult future.

The committee continuously strives to maintain and improve the facilities, this year we have installed new lighting and a new commercial cooker. Charges are kept at a very reasonable level, but we also have to fundraise to meet the cost of maintaining the building; we hold regular film nights (supported by the Parish Council) and are planning other events. We now also have our own website www.tilstonvillagehall.co.uk all our rates and booking info can be found there, alternatively please ring **01829 250471**.



Meet Your CW&C Ward Councillor

Cllr. Paul Roberts

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paulrobertsfarndon@gmail.com



Meet Your Parish Councillors....

Mark Bickley
01829 250 457



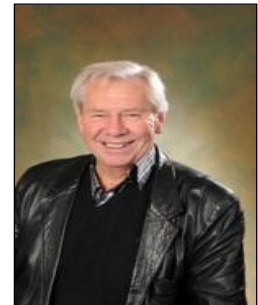
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