Tilston Parish Council Annual Report 2021-2022

Chairman's Report 2021-22 Mike Hearn

The past year has seen us move away from the restrictions of lockdown with face to face meetings resumed. We have had a number of councillors step down because of work and/or family commitments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gill Putnam for her contributions to the council. Sadly, we have also had to say goodbye to Nicola Prince and Mark Bickley who have both worked tirelessly for Tilston Parish Council over many years. After an uncontested election Ben Hatton has joined the Parish Council.

At the time of writing we are advertising for a new Parish Clerk due to the resignation of Ann Wright. Ann has been Parish Clerk for 15 years, her wealth of knowledge, diligence and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

We continue to have the same concerns brought to us by members of our community, parking and speeding often top of the list. The interactive speed signs are due to be relocated to positions with better visibility, where they can create more impact. The community and its visitors need to be more considerate when parking, refraining from blocking pavements and driveways. Church Road creates problems at the beginning and end of the school day, however we were told by highways when we met them on site that this is a problem in many rural school locations developing the land adjacent to the playing field for housing are no longer going to pursue this plan. The Parish Council however, have commissioned a housing needs survey which will be delivered to every house. The results from the survey will be a helpful tool to assess the future housing needs of community.

The provision of a new car park at the memorial hall has progressed. In principle Jones Homes have agreed to support the proposed new plans for a carpark. The fenced area is greater than the proposed car park to facilitate construction without disturbance to the rest of the field.

Poppies, Christmas lights and planters have continued to add seasonal interest to the village and an ever-changing scene can be viewed in the old phone box.

Small grants from the Parish Council have once again supported community groups and organisation in this jubilee year. I hope the community will work together to continue to strengthen Tilston as a thriving village. The Parish Council has vacant seats and the post of clerk yet to be filled. The notice boards at the shop and memorial hall have information about these posts. Facebook and the website continue to be a vital way to disseminate information about the village and the Parish Councils work.

The company who expressed an interest in

M Hearn. Chairman

Are you looking for a job where you get to make a difference? <u>Tilston Parish Council Clerk and RFO Vacancy</u>

Tilston Parish Council is looking for an enthusiastic and motived person to be employed as the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for this very active Parish Council. The post will provide the right candidate with an interesting, challenging and rewarding position allowing them to make a real difference in the community.

To be successful you will need to be:

A good communicator who can build and develop positive working relationships. Be able and confident with administrative tasks, keeping minutes and preparing accounts.

The role is for 6 hours per week and will be paid according to national pay scales, taking account of qualifications and experience. The Clerk will be required to attend Parish Council meetings which take place at least 6 times per year and any extraordinary meetings called.

The Clerk will be responsible for the following duties:

Management and advertising of Council meetings including preparation of agendas, minutes etc.

Researching and providing advice to Councillors.

Implementation of Council decisions.

Responding to queries from the public.

Posting regular information on Facebook and maintaining the Council's website.

For more information or to apply for the position please email <u>clerk@tilstonparishcouncil.co.uk</u>





Summary of Accounts 2021-2022

Opening Balance April 2021	8,907	Payments	
Receipts		Salaries	2961.00
		S106 Funding—TPFA	2000.00
Precept	9911.00	Grant—TPFA	1000.00
S106 Open Space Funding	5350.00	Admin inc Xmas & Grit	805.00
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	672.00	Hill Field	480.00
		Grant—TWLG	334.00
VAT Rebate	306.00	Insurance	300.00
Hill Field Donations	91.00	Grant—St Mary's Messy Church	200.00
Well-Being Guide Adverts	25.00	Grant—Tilston School	200.00
Interest	2.00	VAT	171.00
Total	16,357	Room Hire	167.00
		RBL—Wreath & Poppies	160.00
The Council's full accounts can be found at http://www.tilstonparishcouncil.co.uk/finances		Total	£8778.00
		Opening Balance 2022-2023	£16,486

Precept

The Parish Council agreed a Precept of £10,307 for the 2022-2023 financial year, £36.77 per Band D Property, which is a 0% increase on the 2021-2022 financial year. The precept charge will show on the CW&C council tax bills which you will have already received.

Planning

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

As such Tilston Parish Council does not decide planning applications but is consulted by CW&C and makes comment.

During the Council year 2021-2022 the Parish Council was notified of 10 applications, 3 related to works on trees in the conservation area and 1 to removal of a hedgerow.

We were notified of 3 applications for extensions to existing dwellings, 1 application to convert an agricultural building to a holiday let, 1 application for widening of a driveway and construction of boundary walls and entrance gates, an application to vary a condition for a previously approved planning application and 1 application to construct a replacement agricultural building.

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. We also post the details of planning applications

when received on our Facebook page @tilstonparishcouncil. You can find out more about planning including what matters are taken into account by the Planning Officers as well as signing up for notifications of planning applications on the Cheshire West & Chester website.

Digital Connectivity - Get Involved!

Tilston Parish Council has for some years had concerns regarding the availability of decent broadband and mobile services in the village. However as we enter an age where we increasingly rely on our broadband or internet for more and more aspects of our daily lives including work, communication, education and leisure it is increasingly important that our residents all have access to decent broadband speeds and reliability.

As such the Council is embarking on a project with Mike Dugine, CW&C Digital Sector Specialist to bring superfast broadband to Tilston by using



government vouchers and CW&C funding to roll out fibre connections to homes and properties who cannot connect to the existing scheme rolled out by Airband.

We want to hear from you if you do not have reliable broadband and /or would be interested in taking part in a project to bring fibre broadband to your property— please contact one of the Councillors or the Clerk by email clerk@tilstonparishcouncil.co.uk.

Route to School—Would you use it?

Tilston Parish Council is considering a project working with a local landowner to improve the public right of way or footpath which runs from Inveresk Road to by the school on Church Road.

The idea would be to lay a suitable surface possibly crushed stone (not tarmac) along the path to create a walkable surface for people walking to school, the playing field or the Village Stores without having to walk along or cross Malpas Road.

The Parish Council would like to see a pavement along Malpas Road and as has asked CW&C Highways to draw up and cost a scheme but is aware this is likely to be very costly and may take some years to deliver.

As such improvements to the surface of the footpath would offer an alternative solution which may be more easily implemented. We would like to know if you would use this path (highlighted in red below) if it was created, please email clerk@tilstonparishcouncil with your views.



MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

2023 will see an all out election for Tilston Parish Council meaning all councillors will stand down and those wishing to continue will need to stand for election.

Tilston Parish Council has 8 councillors therefore if 8 or less people stand they will be classed as elected but no voting will take place.

However if 9 or more people stand there will be voting.

Tilston Parish Council although small has always had big aspirations and believes it is important that residents get to vote on who makes up the Parish Council and was pleased to have had an election in 2019 when the last all out elections took place.

To make this happened again in 2023 we need people who are interested in becoming councillors to throw their hats in the ring!

So why not come along to the Council meetings and find out what it is like to be a councillor and get ready for May 2023!

Your Parish Councillors....

Meeting Dates 2022-2023

Thurs 7th July 2022 Thurs 1st September 2022 Thurs 3rd November 2022 Thurs 5th January 2023 Thurs 2nd March 2023 TBC May 2023 —Annual or First Meeting

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 our noticeboards at Tilston War

Memorial Hall or Tilston Village Stores.

All meetings start at 7pm. Tilston War Memorial Hall



01948 861 035 E mail: clerk@tilsonparishcouncil.co.uk or visit www.tilstonparishcouncil.co.uk