

Tilston Parish Council Annual Report 2019-2020

Chairman's Report 2019-2020 Sue Willett

What an interesting year this has turned out to be. Who would have expected that we would be self isolating and social distancing? This has made things far more difficult for lots of people in various ways. But what community spirit we have!

VE Day celebrations were limited – although it was wonderful to see that so many found an alternative way to have a street party and celebrate. Where there's a will, there's a way!

As a council we have had to adapt and have changed our meetings for the moment into the virtual world. At the moment we do not know when the restrictions will be lifted but if you would like to join our next meeting please contact Ann Wright our Clerk. Some of our actions have been put on hold – speed assessment, Hill field car park enquiries, speed gun training – although some of our councillors are already trained. They will be rescheduled once we know how things will progress.

Looking back over the last 12 months we started off very busy in the village with the Garden Trail, the Pump track and Tilston Wakes. There were so many visitors to the village. There were comments saying 'what a lovely place to live' 'you should be proud of your achievements'. WE ARE! We once again won our category in the best kept village competition. This unfortunately is the last time it will ever be held due to a lack of sponsorship.

Our last years hanging baskets were a brilliant display. It is a heart felt 'THANKS' to all our volunteers who fill the baskets and water them. Look out now for this years baskets which will be going up very soon.

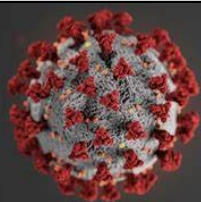
We have a new Ward Councillor – Paul Roberts. I am sure that lots of you have already met him as he is a regular visitor in and around the

village. If you feel that you need his help, support or advice please do not hesitate to contact him.

We have a campaign in which we would like you all to join us - Ten Minutes for Tilston. We are asking for 10 minutes of your time to maybe pick up litter as you are out and about around the village, report any highways/ household waste issues direct to Cheshire West and Chester Council, keep the hedges and verges tidy. It's your village get involved.



Councillors Prince, Willett & Ritchie at the Best Kept Village awards evening in November 2019.



COVID-19 Information

If you or someone you know is struggling as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic there is help available.

You can contact any of the following for help & assistance:

Tilston Covid Support Group email tilstoncsg@gmail.com

Clerk to Tilston Parish Council 01948 861 035 or email clerk@tilstonparishcouncil.co.uk

Rev. Tim and Rev. Norma (pastoral support and foodbank) 01829 250989

Summary of Accounts 2019-2020

Opening Balance April 2019	9,677.00	Payments	
Receipts		Salaries	2481.00
Precept	10,000.00	Admin, Room Hire & Training	1075.00
Council Tax Support Grant	120.00	Insurance	297.00
Grant—CW&C Members Budget for Primary School	2000.00	Hill Field - Maint. & Survey	925.00
Interest	7.00	Warning signs for School	214.00
Vat Rebate	457.00	Rookery Road Verges	2225.00
Miscellaneous refunds	399.00	Grants inc. British Legion	7150.00
Total	£12,983	Noticeboard for Hall	247.00
		Miscellaneous	606.00
		VAT	861.00
		Total	£16,081
		Opening Balance 2020-2021	£6,579.00

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

Precept

The Council undertook its usual precept consultation at the end of 2019 and the Council would like to thank everyone who responded and gave their views. The Council set the Precept for 2020-2021 at the January meeting at £10,086 which equates to £35.92 per Band D property for the year, less that 70p per week, a 1.5% increase on last year. This has allowed the Council to earmark funding for Hill Field £2000, Grants £3000 and the VE Day celebrations £300 in addition to the Council's running costs.

While the Council is looking to do more in the community it is having to balance a limited budget with increasing costs, the budget for 2020-2021 will be reviewed throughout the year and adjusted as required particularly given the change in circumstances resulting from the covid-19 pandemic.

Grants 2018-2019

Meeting Dates 2019-2020

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

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.

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

During the Council year from May 2019 to end of April 2020 the Council was notified of only 6 planning applications compared to 13 the previous year.

Two of the applications were for extensions to existing dwellings one was for various tree works and another for the installation of solar panels on a roof.

A further application was for the demolition and replacement of a dwelling on Lowcross Lane this application was subsequently approved.

The Council also received an application to remove a condition on an existing dwelling which restricted those who could live in the property to one family. This condition had been imposed when the dwelling had been granted permission approximately 20 years ago due to the specific needs of that family, without which the application would not have been approved as it represented building in the open countryside. This condition prevented the property being inhabited once it became vacant. The Parish Council supported the removal of the condition, and the application was approved by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

After a long time of waiting the Primary School finally got approval for its new entrance, exit, new car parking and drop off zone.

At the time of writing it looks like 2020-2021 may be a busier year planning wise as we have already been notified of 3 planning applications, combined applying for a total of 3 new dwellings, glamping pods, farm shop and café, all of which have yet to be decided.

All new applications as they are received by the Parish Council are posted on the Council's Facebook page and website.



Attendance

Following the May 2019 elections the Council filled all 8 seats with a 46.1% turnout at the election. The Council has held 7 Parish Council meetings over the last 12 months, including one extraordinary meeting held in December 2019 to consider a planning application.

An average of over 6 Councillors have attended each of the meetings with all Councillors attending the September 2019 meeting.

All our meetings are open to the public and include public participation when members of the public can speak, although some meetings may include a Part 2 section at the end of the meeting, when members of the public may be asked to leave the meeting to allow confidential

matters to be discussed.

At the time of writing we are in unprecedented times and as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic the government introduced emergency legislation which has allowed Parish Councils to meet virtually, this provision lasts until May 2021, Tilston has already held 2 virtual Parish Council meetings, the public can still access these meetings via the internet or by phone by contacting the Clerk for the necessary contact details.



Councillors following the 4th June Extraordinary Meeting

Tilston War Memorial Hall



Firstly, a huge **Thank you** to Tilston Parish Council for generously contributing to our insurance, your continued support is very much appreciated. We have had a challenging year with the loss of playgroup, and as a committee have worked hard to replace the lost revenue, the hall has hosted an increasing number of parties -

from the very young to the more senior members of our community. We have also had some new hirers using the hall for new ventures, a puppy school and The Cheshire Cycle group to name but a few! The committee has also continued to ensure that we are still making improvements: we have tidied and spring-cleaned the hall; you will notice the round tables that used to be stored at the back of the stage have their own cupboard now; we have also installed hand dryers in the toilets and improved our meeting rooms and catering facilities. Sadly, our jumble sale had to be postponed due to the current situation, but we are hoping to reschedule later in the year. We have also repeated our successful film nights and these will remain a feature in the Tilston social calendar! All of these events contribute to the upkeep of the hall and we continue to rely on the support of the wonderful Tilston Community.



- Up to 150 people (dependant on seating arrangements)
- Large Hall
- Separate Meeting Rooms
- Fully Equipped Kitchen
- Full Access for the disabled
- Round or rectangular Tables
- Crockery and Cutlery for 100 people
- LED Mood Lighting
- Licensed for Music Performance (PPL PRS)
- Permanent Stage Area
- Parking Area
- Internet Access



Booking Contact

Tilston War Memorial Hall, Malpas Rd, Tilston SY14 7HH

Call: 01829 250471

bookings@tilstonvillagehall.co.uk

<http://tilstonvillagehall.co.uk>

Please visit the website for our competitive rates.

Tilston Playing Field Assoc. Chairperson's Annual Report 2019–

Weirdly at the time of writing this report the playing field is in lockdown like the rest of us in the country. It is upsetting to have to ask people not to use the equipment, or gather in groups, when we have had the most amazing year, successfully running one of the most popular playing fields in the local area! I am not going to dwell on this difficult period but look back on all the positives of 2019 -2020!

Thanks go to all the Tilston Playing Field Trustees (Harry Downs, David Swift, Penny Honeyborne, Lynsey Jackson, Mary Richardson, Paul Montgomery, Simon Gerrard, Harry



Jarvis and Fiona Pountney) who, as volunteers, work hard to keep the field and equipment a safe place for the community to 'Come and Play.' As a community, rather than council owned and run area, we have no access to regular funding. We are therefore grateful to the Tilston Parish Council for including the £1000+ we pay for Public Liability Insurance in the Tilston precept. Thanks also goes to anyone in the community who supports us in many other ways, from Phil Evans, our mole catcher, to all of you that attend our fundraisers, details of which follow. Thank you also to Alan & David Willett for continuing to fulfil their contract to keep the field so smart and allowing us to use their adjacent field for car parking.

Our first fundraiser on the 25th May, had the dual purpose of opening the Pump track, raising £700 profit and was a fantastic community event. The BBQ was manned by Paul's friend 'Armando' & TPFA trustees, cooking on the BBQ lent to us by A & A Farm Supplies. The bar also did a brisk trade. A charity cake stall organised by Holly Allwood in aid of 'Stand up for Cancer' raised £205. We are grateful to Alex Foden, for supporting the event with his Mobile Bike Mechanics van, Neal Gibson for providing his team gazebo & offering advice and Ozzy Weaver for organising free loo hire from County Loos. Our pump track developers, Joe Baddeley and Kayley Ashley opened the track with a display of BMX riding & stunts and were joined by Alex Foden, Greg Travis and friends. They spent the rest of the afternoon instructing the young riders on how to get the most out of the track safely. Kayley and Neal obtained lots of draw prizes from BMX traders and Tilston Shop donated a Pimm's basket for a separate draw. The pump track continues to draw riders from far and wide. We check the track weekly, (when we do our regular checks of all the equipment), please follow the guidelines of how to ride it safely. We still find people riding without helmets and knee/elbow protection and some riders have injured themselves. Riders do so at their own risk, keep safe!

The field hosted a group of Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award campers for their overnight expedition stay on 22nd June and the Tilston 10K race on the 30th June. The 10K proved more popular being held at this time of year and over a £1000 was raised for community funds.

Our Sports Week ran from 5th -9th August and was partly sponsored by Didy Morgan and AEB Furniture Solutions. Alex Foden and Greg Travis ran sessions on the pump track each day. Several other young leaders organised alternative activities for on average 50 children, aged be-

Tilston Playing Field Association cont'd

tween 4 and 11, each day. TPFA trustees planned and supervised the week and provided healthy refreshments. Thank you to all sponsors, leaders and helpers for your enthusiasm. The only disappointment was having to cancel the Friday due to bad weather. The week is planned for 3rd – 7th August this year, Covid-19 permitting!

Over the Wakes weekend Mary Richardson and Cheri-Ann Bones 'stepped' their way up Everest raising £550 for playing field funds. Thank you to them for their amazing effort. The TPFA trustees helped the Wakes committee prepare for the event and would like to thank them for their contribution to our funds out of Wakes profits.



Our next big event was the production of Allo Allo on the 9th November. We were fortunate to secure 1 of Kingsley Player's 2 slots for this performance and it was an incredibly funny and successful evening. The interactive, very professional players had us all relaxed and laughing, bringing back old memories. We provided French wines, beers and fayre of course and raised £830 for playing field funds.

Our final push to raise funds to kick start the refurbishment of the pavilion was an Auction held on the 8th February. We achieved a profit of £3800 and massive thanks go to the generous people who pledged items to auction, came and bid for them, or in some cases did both! Your generosity was amazing and we can't thank you all enough for supporting us. Special thanks go to Steve and Jill Farmer who were our auctioneer and assistant for the night and David Swift for taking charge of our finances.

Overall our profits for the year have amounted to around £5500 and as promised will all go towards refurbishing the pavilion, not towards our annual £4000 running costs. Simon Kettle of Sax Designs has drawn up plans for us and a number of local tradesmen have generously offered time and expertise. If we hadn't been hit by Covid-19 we would probably have started by now! Thank you for the enthusiasm shown by so many of you in the community, rest assured we will get this project underway as soon as possible. The new look pavilion should be a big asset to the community, providing a space to complement the pump track and other facilities.

In conclusion as Chairperson, I would like to thank all playing field trustees, their partners and our wider group of friends for your hard work, enthusiasm and loyalty.

'Come and Play' again as soon as we are open! Please keep safe until then!

Gail Graham, Chairperson TPFA, 07.04.2020

Tilston Brownies

On behalf of Tilston Brownies I'd like to thank you for our grant.

We were hoping to use the money towards taking the girls on a special trip to a theatre performance as it's our 50th year of Brownies in Tilston. Unfortunately this has had to be postponed but we'll now use it to go to a pantomime nearer Christmas which I know the girls will enjoy.





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

Thanks to the Parish Council for grant aiding our leaflets and wildflowers

SOME OF OUR 2019 ACTIVITIES



HELPING THE SCHOOL TO KEEP THINGS TIDY AND GROWING



BEATING THE BOUNDS



THE WOODLAND TRAIL



SPOTTING BUTTERFLIES ON PRES HEATH

Skinner

Silver studded blue



TWO TILSTON TRAIL LEAFLETS



SPOTTING RARE BIRDS ON WHIXALL MOSS

Hobby



WILDFLOWER BANKS



JOINING THE WAKES PARADE IN OUR NEW TABARDS



DISCOVERING AN ANCIENT LANDSCAPE AT THE WETREINS

APPLE DAY



HELP TO RESTORE OUR FORGOTTEN FOOTPATHS

Have you walked or ridden paths which can no longer be accessed? Do you know anyone who's talked about missing paths? Have you pictures, maps or documents which might help?

Send lost footpath information to: Juliet (01829 250412) Sue (250449), Julie (250582), Jo (250191) or Tom (250249)

Tilston Older Peoples Day

Tilston Parish Council had been in the process of arranging an Older People's Day in Tilston which has had to be postponed due to Covid-19, however we are now hoping the event will be run in 2020 at Tilston War Memorial Hall.

It is hoped that the event will showcase a range of groups and organisations which offer help and support in the area as well as clubs and activities which people can get involved with.

If you or a group you are involve with would be interested in taking part in this event please get in touch with the Clerk.

Tilston Home Watch

Tilston's Home Watch scheme is still in operation and will increasingly be circulating information to its members via email and on its Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/Tilstonhomewatch>

If you would like to join the Tilston Home Watch Scheme please contact Cllr Nicola Prince (contact details below)

Your CW&C Ward Councillor

Cllr. Paul Roberts

01829 270013

OR

07971 916064

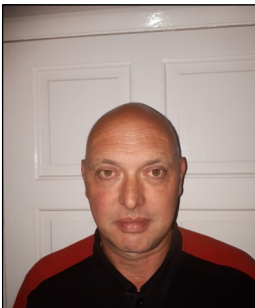
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Penny Honeyborne

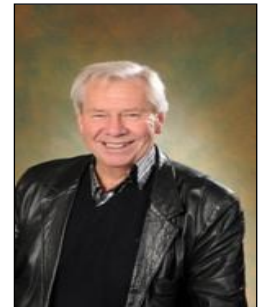
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