

TIBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL



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Newsletter – August 2017

Welcome to this Tibenham Parish Council newsletter, which we hope will become a regular event. Following recent changes in your Parish Council, with a new Parish Clerk, new Chair and Vice Chair and a couple of new councillors, we are taking a fresh look at issues in and around the parish.

We want to make the council more relevant and more effective, so we would appreciate ideas and opinions from residents of the parish - feel free to contact us, and remember that Parish Council meetings are open to the public, so do come along.

You can see details of forthcoming meetings on our new noticeboards and on our new website.

Defibrillator

Tibenham Parish Council bought a defibrillator several years ago, and this has recently been updated. It can be found in a yellow metal cabinet attached to the outside wall of the Greyhound public house in The Street. It is for use by anyone who needs it, and it can be used safely even if you have had no training.



Defibrillators save lives. Once a person has suffered cardiac arrest, every second counts. If someone you know has a heart attack, first of all you must call 999 and then you go to get the defibrillator.

The cabinet used to be locked but it is now left unlocked on the advice of the British Heart Foundation and other organisations. The area is well covered by CCTV. Open the cabinet by turning the chrome knob to the left. Take out the defibrillator, and it will give clear voice instructions to you to help you to use it effectively.

Although defibrillators are designed to be used by people without training, the Parish Council are arranging training and familiarisation sessions to give people the confidence to use them effectively. The sessions will be open to everyone. We will post details of the training on the website and on the village noticeboards.

Footpaths

Tibenham has some wonderful countryside which many people would love to be able to see every day. We are fortunate to have a whole network of public rights of way crisscrossing our parish, which means that we can get out and about in our countryside walking dogs, or just walking, giving ourselves and our families some good exercise and good country air.



To enable people to enjoy the countryside we need the cooperation of local landowners to help us to keep our footpaths open and walkable in safety and reasonable comfort. In return, walkers do need to make sure they respect the fact that most of our footpaths are on private farming land, and make sure that they stick to the designated rights of way, keep their dogs on the lead where requested (and always when there is livestock in the vicinity), and always make sure that no litter or dog poo is left behind.

The Parish Council have been working with Norfolk County Council's new Countryside Access Officer to try to make sure that we achieve a good balance between the needs of the people who farm the land, and members of the public who want to benefit from living in such a lovely area. Any problems with footpaths can be reported to Norfolk County Council online (look for "Rights of Way") or by telephone, or to the Parish Clerk. As our website is developed, we will be posting more information about our footpaths.

Website

The Parish Council have also set up a new website (tibenhampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk). This is a new site which is still being developed, but it already contains a great deal of information, and we intend to continue to add to it. Do keep checking the site, and if you have any comments or suggestions please contact the Parish Clerk.

Foothpath Volunteers

Nowadays the County Council has very limited funds to keep our footpaths clear, and most of the work which you may have seen on maintaining our rights of way has been done by volunteers.

We would like to set up a network of volunteers to keep an eye on a couple of footpaths each, not necessarily to carry out work themselves, but to monitor the paths once a month or so and make sure that any problems with them getting overgrown or cropped over, or missing signs, damaged or missing bridges and so on, can be reported and sorted out. This might also lead to seasonal working parties, for which the Parish Council has some equipment and might be able to obtain more from the County Council. Can you help by keeping an eye on a couple of paths? Volunteers who are registered with the Parish Council can be covered by our insurance policy.

If you think you can help, please email Gareth on garethrj2004@yahoo.co.uk so that we can start to get this properly organised.

Beware: Obstructing Verges is Not Allowed

A number of questions have arisen recently about the ownership of the verges outside our houses, and whether or not it is OK to place obstructions - bollards, concrete blocks, flints - on them. The Parish Council have done some research, and according to Norfolk County Council, the answers are very clear cut - in their words, "black and white with no grey areas". You are not allowed to obstruct the verges.

The verge in front of your property belongs to the County Council and is part of the highway. The verges on both sides of a road are intended for occasional use as passing spaces and to make way for oncoming vehicles - therefore they have to be kept clear of all obstructions.

Most people look after their verges, and this does improve the appearance of their property, but it doesn't make the verges part of their property.

The width of the verge should be around 1 metre, but this varies considerably.

If you do place obstructions on the verge you are committing an offence. If a vehicle collides with them, or an accident is caused by a vehicle swerving to avoid them, you can be held liable for injury and damage.

New Councillors Needed



Tibenham Parish Council is looking for one or two volunteers to join the Council. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the community you live or work in, even if you have limited time or feel that you don't have any particular skills to offer. It

doesn't require any special experience, and we would welcome people of all ages and from all walks of life. We normally meet once every two months for about two hours, with meetings held at Tibenham Community Hall during the evening. Between meetings we spend a small amount of time discussing issues like planning applications by email or by phone. If you are a busy person, all that we ask of you is to donate an hour or two a month.

You can see the minutes of previous meetings and information about future meetings on the new website: tibenhampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Please feel free to contact the Chairman, Gareth, on 01953 860430 to discuss and do come along to one of our meetings to see what goes on before committing yourself.

Community Car Scheme

This scheme is for residents of Carleton Rode and Tibenham who require transport for appointments at doctors, dentists, hospitals and other medical needs. The customer pays the driver at a rate of 25p a mile for every mile the driver has had to cover, including their journey to the customer's home and return to their own home. The remainder of the fee is 20p for each mile, and is shared equally between South Norfolk Council and the appropriate Parish Council, that is either Carleton Rode or Tibenham.

If you need transport and would like to partake of this scheme, please contact Peter Francis: **01953 789595**

Noticeboards

The Parish Council have installed two new noticeboards, at The Greyhound PH (on the outside wall to the right of the entrance) - thanks to Rob Smith for his permission, and on the wall of The Black Barn in The Street - thanks to Ian Allen for his permission.

The left-hand side of each noticeboard is intended for Parish Council notices, and the right-hand side of each board is open for public notices. We hope that members of the community will make good use of this facility.