

# Tibenhams Tidings

News from the Parish Council and the Community Hall Committee

**Newsletter – Spring 2020**

**Welcome** to the Spring 2020 Tibenhams Tidings, brought to you as a joint venture between Tibenhams Parish Council and Tibenhams Community Hall.

We hope that you are finding these newsletters informative, but if you feel that there is anything missing from these pages, please do get in touch, and we'll see if we can put that right for the next edition, which should be in about six months' time. It's always good for us to get feedback, even if it's negative - it's sometimes reassuring to know we're all still breathing. And sometimes it's pleasant to get positive feedback too, so don't be shy. Ideas for articles for the next edition would be particularly welcome.

A good opportunity to give feedback to the Parish Council will present itself in May at the Annual Parish Meeting, details of which you will find later in this issue. It says "everyone welcome" and we really mean it, so do please come along. In a similar vein, if you would like to know more about how the Community Hall runs, or would like to give feedback, their Annual General Meeting is to be held in April (details below).

Elsewhere in these pages you will find a note of various activities of the Parish Council and of the Community Hall, including details of the fourth annual conference to be organised at the Hall around the theme of Rural Wellbeing, and the main events planned for 2020.

A recurring theme in our newsletters is the need for volunteers. Ours is a small community, and this means that we are always short of people to help to run events, carry out repair work and to help with planning what we hope is a busy and interesting calendar. At the moment, for the first time in quite a while, we have our full complement of parish councillors, thanks to two more volunteers who have joined the Parish Council since our last newsletter was published. However, several members of the Community Hall have stepped down recently, and the volunteers who currently run events need your support. Please step forward - there are a number of roles to be filled, and not all of them mean having to sit in a meeting room!

Included in this issue:

**Annual Parish Meeting ✦ What3Words ✦ Rural Crimes**

**Dog Bins ✦ Litter Pick ✦ Playground**

**Volunteers ✦ What's On ✦ Wellbeing**

# **Contact Information**

## **Tibenham Parish Council**

Website: <http://tibenhampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>

Email: [tibenhamparishclerk@outlook.com](mailto:tibenhamparishclerk@outlook.com)

Tel: 07796 174255 (Clerk)

Clerk – Marianne Purdy

Chairman – Gareth Roderick-Jones

Vice-Chairman – David Timson

Member – Gemma Lambert

Member – Auriel Mephram

Member – Alan Harris

Member – Caroline Knight

Member – Darren Gipson

## **Tibenham Community Hall**

Website: <http://www.tibenhamcommunityhall.org/>

David Timson: 01379 677674 - [timson25@btinternet.com](mailto:timson25@btinternet.com)

Joan Woodcock - 01953 860271

## **Annual Parish Meeting Everyone Welcome!**

**7.00pm on 13 May 2020 at Tibenham Community Hall**

Every May, the Chair of the Parish Council invites members of the community to come along to the Annual Parish Meeting. This is not a Parish Council meeting, though you can expect to see your parish councillors there, along with some of your neighbours.

It is a great opportunity for members of public to exchange ideas with members of the parish council, to find out what we are currently working on, and to make suggestions as to how we spend your money and how we can make life better for people living in and around our village. There is no obligation to speak, but you will be welcome to do so if you so wish. Members of organisations with a presence in Tibenham may wish to give short reports on their activities in 2019-20, and their plans for 2020-21.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be followed by the May meeting of the Parish Council, and members of the public can stay for this if they wish, or can make a timely escape before it starts.

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### **What3words: Lifesaving app**



There is a free app available to download onto your smartphone or other mobile device which enables you to pinpoint your exact location - to within 3 metres - anywhere on the planet, and using software such as Google Maps or Apple Maps, can guide you to another person's precise location. This app has been recommended for everyone by the emergency services.

The idea is simple enough: the entire surface of the planet has been divided into 3-metre squares, and each square has been assigned a unique three-word address. To tell people where you are, use the app to tell you your three-word address.

If you have an emergency, or if you simply need to tell someone where you are, giving a postcode can be problematic. Postcodes can be very imprecise, as we all know from seeing delivery drivers having to ask for directions to an exact address. Many places, even in an area like this, simply don't have postcodes - fields and parks, for example. And if you are at, say, the Royal Norfolk Showground in a crowd, it can be tricky trying to meet up with your friends or family. A three-word address which pinpoints your exact location can be invaluable, and is much less likely to get confused than a traditional numerical grid reference.

For the more adventurous, it can be the difference between life and death if you are stranded in a desert, in trouble at sea, or injured on a mountainside. But for most people it can be the difference between getting your delivery delivered to the right address, getting a taxi at night, finding your tent at a festival or meeting up with a friend for coffee.

Emergency services who use this app include the East of England Ambulance Service, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex Fire and Rescue Services, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex Police, the UK Coastguard, and their equivalents across the globe.

Search for "What3words" and download - it's quick, free and easy, and there are tutorials online, though it's easy enough to use. Got children with their own smartphones? To get them used to using it, make up a game of hide and seek using What3words.

Sent from *burglars.sized.beefed*

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## Rural Crimes

We have had a reminder from our local contact at Norfolk Constabulary that rural crime is being taken seriously by the police in this area. The main season for hare coursing may now be over, but there are other criminal activities taking place in rural areas throughout the year.

They ask everyone in the community to be vigilant, and to report any suspicious activity you have witnessed to them on **101**, or if something is in progress or you think is about to happen, on **999**. Even scraps of information about vehicles, dogs, number of people, partial descriptions, clothing or anything else you notice can be of use. Members of the public, though, are advised not to approach anyone who is behaving suspiciously.

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## Dog bins



From time to time we are asked why we only have two dog bins in the village. We agree that it would be handy to have another bin, for example, on Pristow Green Lane at the start of Slough Lane, and on Cargate Common. However, a good quality bin costs around £150-250, and we then have to have them emptied by South Norfolk District Council at a cost of £120 per year, per bin. These amounts would have a serious effect on our annual budget, as our annual turnover is small compared to larger communities. We have avoided increasing the Parish portion of your Council Tax this year by being careful how we spend your money. If you have views, please

come and see us at the Annual Parish Meeting on 13 May 2020 (see article in this newsletter).

Meanwhile, we once more have to remind the small number of dog owners who continue to allow their animals to foul our footpaths and public places that this is against the law, is unsightly and potentially hazardous to health. It is very arrogant and selfish behaviour, without excuse. If you are not near a dog bin, bag it and put it in your black bin at home.

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## **Council Tax 2020-2021**

The Parish Council have decided that there will be no increase in the Parish portion of your Council Tax bill for the coming financial year. Shame about all the other portions, over which we have no control.

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## **Reporting Problems**

By way of a reminder to everyone, if you see something that needs fixing, get out your phone and report it by email, online or by telephone. Contact details for reporting all sorts of problems are on the back cover of this newsletter. We suggest that you remove this and put it up on your fridge or noticeboard for instant reference.

If two people report a problem, the authority (usually District or County Council) are twice as likely to take notice as if only one person reports it. If you think it's important, get other people to report it as well as you. The more reports, the more action.

By all means let the parish council know as well as making your own report, so we can follow up if necessary.

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## **Tibenham Litter Pick 2020**

By the time you read this, we will have completed the fifth annual litter pick around the village. The Parish Council now own litter pickers and hi-vis vests, and we have a supply of litter and recycling bags, so any individuals or groups who would like to use the equipment are free to do so. We don't have to confine ourselves to one litter pick a year. Contact Gareth (contact information at the beginning of this newsletter).



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## **Defibrillator - what to do if someone has heart failure**

<p><b>Stay with patient</b> <b>Call 999</b> <b>Follow instructions</b></p>
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Do not go to the defib location before calling 999. There may be no signal there. Call from home (or wherever the patient is).

The operator will tell you if you need a defib or not, will tell you where to go to find the nearest defib, and will tell you the code to open the cabinet.

The machine is designed to be easy for anyone to use, even without training. It will give you step-by-step instructions. You cannot harm anyone by using a defib.

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## **Parish Councillors**

Two new parish councillors have joined the Parish Council in recent months - Caroline Knight and Darren Gipson, both of whom reside in Tibenham with their families.

Parish councillors give up their time voluntarily, not only making time in their busy lives to attend Parish Council meetings, but also working from home on occasions, considering local planning applications and other local issues as required, and also being prepared to attend briefings or training sessions outside the parish. It is often thankless, so people who volunteer to help their community in this way deserve praise.

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## **The Street: Flooding**

Having the wettest ever February has not helped, but the flooding on The Street has been an issue for several years, and it is getting worse. As I write, the water is right across the road in at least three places. There seem to be several factors, some of which are beyond our control. There's not much we can do about the fact that in places the fields are higher than the road and in extreme weather conditions the ditches are likely to be overwhelmed, however well maintained they are.

However, the main problem at the moment could be prevented: the ditches are not being sufficiently maintained, pipework running under verges and driveways are not being cleaned out, and roots from overgrown trees and hedges are obstructing the flow of water.

The County Council have promised to carry out some work to mitigate the effects of these problems once conditions become a bit drier, and also some work is to be carried out privately to remove some rubble which is blocking one of the channels, also when conditions improve. However, the county Highways Engineer has repeated Norfolk County Council's earlier assertions that the ditches and the pipework are the responsibility of individual landowners. If you have a ditch running alongside your property, or pipework running underground beneath your verge or driveway, it is your legal responsibility to keep it maintained so that it is fit for purpose (and arguably you also have a moral obligation to your neighbours of course).

Please check outside your property to make sure ditches, drains and pipes are running freely, particularly in the centre of the village, and that you are not causing any obstruction or contributing in any way to the build-up of excess water on the public roads.

On a happier note, it is worth noting that the recent visit by the Highways Engineer and the promise of remedial work are mainly down to the perseverance of one of our residents, who has been pointing out the flooding issues along The Street for the last two years or so. He finally contacted our County Councillor, and we very much hope that by the time you read this, measures will have been taken to improve the situation for everyone in the future. It is worth complaining, and persevering, even if you are "only" a private individual. Someone will listen, eventually.

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## **Hyperfast full-fibre update from County Broadband**

Following a fantastic uptake of our new Hyperfast full-fibre broadband service in the village, we are now formally announcing our intentions to start building the future-ready network in Tibenham. This is part of a major project being funded by a private £46 million investment which will aim to offer full-fibre broadband to 20,000 homes by the end of 2020.

County Broadband engineers will shortly be in the village conducting surveys and design work, ahead of a construction project which will enable homes to receive a connection. It is estimated that designing, planning and building the network and connecting customers will take about nine months and we will aim to provide communications updates as we progress with our project.

As we build our new network in the village, we will aim to connect all homes and businesses who have pre-ordered a connection. Because this is a community project, we will offer facilities, like village halls, a free 300mbps full-fibre broadband service and installation, free of charge, to benefit the village and its residents.

Whilst we are undertaking our planning, design and build works, we will continue to offer a free standard connection opportunity worth £225\* to everyone living in the village, in case you decide you'd like to get connected to future-ready broadband. This opportunity will close once we have finished building the network. After this point, when you need to access Hyperfast fibre broadband in the future, you'll need to pay a connection fee.

If you haven't yet placed a pre-order please visit [www.countybroadbandfibre.co.uk/futureready](http://www.countybroadbandfibre.co.uk/futureready) and enter your postcode, alternatively give us a call on 01376 562002 and place your order over the phone.

\*Terms and conditions apply to the free connection offer, please visit [www.countybroadbandfibre.co.uk/legal](http://www.countybroadbandfibre.co.uk/legal) for more details.

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## **MAKING TIBENHAM A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE**

### **Wellbeing**

Here at Tibenham Community Hall we are all about making Tibenham a more enjoyable and sustainable place to live. In 2016 I wrote an article which was published in the Parish Magazine about the changing role of the Community Hall to become more than just a place for events but to become the centre through which we can make life more sustainable for the village and for all things that make life more connected for living in this rural village.

As a result of that article we held an event in 2017 in conjunction with people from the NHS, and the voluntary sector to develop our network in order to and find out more about accessing services.

Due to reorganisations in both the NHS and voluntary sectors and Norfolk County Council with the sources of funding also changing we had to start again. Two more of these mini conferences were held in 2018 and 2019 about Health and The Five Ways to Well Being, and Loneliness and Rural Isolation. All of these events were well supported by the NHS and Voluntary Sector, Norfolk County Council and members of the public not only from Tibenham but from and a number of surrounding villages.

As a result of feedback from these events, a number of events and changes have been developed to help. We now have an information hub in the Hall about the availability of services and there are more daytime activities taking place at the Hall to encourage people to come and make friends and reduce their isolation.

A "Light Exercise Class" was set up with a grant from South Norfolk Council which runs every Tuesday morning 10.00am – 11.00am at a cost of £2.50. This class is run by a professional trainer and is designed to develop strength and



improve mobility. This has been running for two years and is regularly attended by 12-15 people every week. There is always room for more people to come and improve their health. Just turn up and try it. Everyone does as much or little as they are comfortable with.



The Well Being Drop-in Thursday Coffee Morning has become a regular feature on the calendar and is regularly attended by around 15 people. You can come along and seek advice if you have an issue or problem, have a chat over tea and biscuits, meet people and perhaps learn about The Five Ways to Wellbeing and see what else you can do to help yourself feel better.

As a result of one discussion at the Café about being lonely at Sunday lunch time when living alone, a number of people have set up a “Sunday Lunch” group held every few weeks at various locations.

One of the major issues that has arisen, especially with the potential widespread Broadband service coming in 2020 is the increasing requirement use of electronic devices for contacting services those of a certain age, or who previously had little interest in these. Essentially the NHS has already indicated that it wants to deliver more services on-line. A new “Digital Buddies” group has been set up to get people together and to help them to understand how to use their Smartphones, tablets etc. and appreciate the subsequent benefits. This will initially meet at The Greyhound on Tuesday afternoons at 5.00pm in March. This has also been grant funded by South Norfolk Council. We do need more support in training and would welcome volunteers with skills in teaching IT.

The next mini-conference “**Tibenham Tackles Rural Loneliness and Isolation**” is on Thursday March 26 10.00am – 2.00pm. You are welcome to come along and join in the discussion, hear from the Professionals and Voluntary Sector about how services are being developed, and who to contact if you have a serious issue. We need your views on what can be done to improve life here in the village to advise how we continue this journey and where we go from here. Refreshments supplied.

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## The New Playground

We are also part way through the fundraising for a new playground at the Hall. A total of £10,000 pounds has been raised by way of a private donation and a grant from Simpsons Malt. Two further grant bids have been submitted and we are waiting for responses. The grant bids have been prepared by two volunteers from Tibenham who have worked hard to develop this project. We are very grateful for all their hard work, commitment and determination in developing this project for children.



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## Running the Hall

At the Hall we are always looking for new people who would like to join the Committee or just to help out at events. Having had three members of the Committee step down at the end of 2019, we do need more help to spread the workload. We all find working at the Hall very enjoyable, so if you have some time to spare or a skill that you think would be useful why not come along to the AGM at the Hall on Tuesday 14 April at 7.00pm to see what we do and how you could get involved?

All fundraising is for the maintenance of the Hall and to support some of our regular events. The August coffee morning is for an outside charity. The Hall itself is a Registered Charity.

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### Programme of events at the Community Hall for 2020

26 <sup>th</sup> March	10am-2pm	Mini Conference "Tibenham Tackles Rural Loneliness and Isolation"	
4 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30pm	Barn Dance with "The Bacon Butty Band"	Adults £8 U12s £3
14 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm	Annual General Meeting of the Hall. All welcome.	
17 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30pm	Prize Bingo	
18 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30pm	Race Night – including light supper	£5 inc light supper
1 <sup>st</sup> May	7.30pm	Village Quiz and Supper	£6 inc supper
6 <sup>th</sup> June	2pm-4pm	Family Fun Day	FREE ENTRY
14 <sup>th</sup> June	2pm-6pm	Tea Dance - A bit of Nostalgia with afternoon tea	£6
15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10am-1pm	Charity Coffee Morning	
5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10am-4pm 7.30pm	Produce Show Harvest Festival	
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	7.30pm	An evening of music with Danny Fisher – details to follow	
TBC Nov		Quiz night and supper	
21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	10am-2pm	Christmas Craft Fayre	
4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.30pm	Christmas Prize Bingo	
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.30pm	Christmas Music Event	

The Tibenham Café is normally held on the last Saturday of the month (except August) 11.00am - 2.00pm, Light Lunches, Stalls, Book sale, 100 Club Draw

The Well Being Drop-in Coffee Morning is held every two weeks on a Thursday - see website for dates.

For further details visit our Website [www.tibenhamcommunityhall.org](http://www.tibenhamcommunityhall.org)

# HOW TO CONTACT US

## LONG STRATTON Safer Neighbourhood Team



**A/Insp. Laura SYMONDS**  
Local Policing Commander

The Local Policing Commander is responsible for a group of Safer Neighbourhoods teams. The Inspector also works with our partners and communities to reduce crime in your neighbourhood and focus efforts on the priorities that matter to you.



101 Ext: 2766



[Laura.Symonds@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Laura.Symonds@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)



**PC Andy HUDSON**  
Engagement Officer

Your Engagement Officer is here to provide communications and updates regarding your neighbourhood as well as co-ordinate volunteers, specials, community speedwatch and / or cadets.

Contact them for local enquiries that affect your neighbourhood.



101 Ext: 2377



[Andrew.Hudson@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:Andrew.Hudson@norfolk.police.uk)



**PC Andy BARKWAY**  
Beat Manager

Your Beat Manager PC is here to engage with the local communities and work to solve local issues and priorities within your neighbourhood.

The Beat Manager's aim is to keep your neighbourhood as a safe place to live, work and visit.



101 Ext: 3885



[SNLongStratton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:SNLongStratton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)



[SNLongStratton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:SNLongStratton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)



[/SouthNorfolkPolice](https://www.facebook.com/SouthNorfolkPolice)



[@SouthNorfPolice](https://twitter.com/SouthNorfPolice)



**NORFOLK**  
CONSTABULARY

*Our Priority is You*

## Report A Problem

A lot of common problems can be reported direct to the right people by members of the public either online or by telephone. You are also welcome to inform the Parish Council that you have reported a problem in case the problem needs to be followed up in the future.

**Fly Tipping and Littering** [www.south-norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk) enter “fly tipping” in the search box and choose “fly tipping” or “littering” and enter the details online or call **01508 533701**

**Potholes and Road Surfaces** [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk) enter “pothole” in the search box and select either “potholes” or “report a problem” for other issues, and enter the details online or call **0344 800 8020** (working hours only) or email [information@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:information@norfolk.gov.uk) with name, address, telephone number and postcode

**Obstructed Verges, Overgrown Hedges & Trees** [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk) enter “verges” and select “Trees, Hedges and Verges” – at the bottom of the page select “report a problem” and enter details online or call **0344 800 8020** or email [information@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:information@norfolk.gov.uk) with name, address, telephone number and postcode

**Hare Coursing** If you suspect hare coursing is happening now, call **999**  
If you suspect hare coursing has happened recently, call **101**

**Police Emergency** call **999**

**Police Non-Emergency** call **101** (including reporting traffic infringements)

**Power Cut** call **105**

**Flooding** [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk) enter “flood” in the search box and select “Report a Flood” or call **0344 800 8020** (working hours only) or email [information@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:information@norfolk.gov.uk) with name, address, telephone number and postcode

**Stray Dog or Lost Dog** [www.south-norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk) enter “stray” in the search box and select “stray and lost dogs” or call **01508 533701**

**Footpath Problems** (Overgrown/Bridge Damaged or Missing/Sign Missing etc) [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk) enter “public rights of way” and then select “about public rights of way” or scroll down to the map and click on the map to report a problem or call **0344 800 8020** (working hours only) or email [information@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:information@norfolk.gov.uk) with name, address, telephone number and postcode

**Damaged Road Signs** [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk) enter “road signs” in the search box or call **0344 800 8020** (working hours only) or email with name, address, telephone number and postcode to email: [information@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:information@norfolk.gov.uk)

**Damaged or Missing Street Nameplates** [www.south-norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk) enter “street nameplate” in the search box, choose “Street Naming and House Numbering” and find “report a problem to us” or call **01508 533701**