Tibenham Tidings

News from the Parish Council and the Community Hall Committee

Newsletter – Autumn 2020

Welcome to the 2020 Autumn edition of Tibenham Tidings, in what has been a very different year for us all.

In the spring we were expecting this virus to be under control by the autumn and things would be getting back to "normal". It has become somewhat difficult to think of what was normal. We are now much further down the line and for the majority of us in this rural village we have established a new normal, not actually very much different from before the virus started to affect the country.

Tibenham has been a great place to be: during the warm summer people were out sorting out their gardens, much conversation was held as people were walking, cycling, and dog walking - just enjoying peace and quiet. Of course, we missed the pub, socialising, meeting friends and the things we all took for granted in life. August came along and some new freedoms with it; we could meet others, the pub re-opened and so more socialising went on, all at a safe distance, of course, the hall reopened to some extent, and things were looking up.

To be fair, other than changing shopping habits, making more use of local sources of food, farm shops, village supermarkets in surrounding villages, and the greater use of delivery online, we settled into our regular life.

The big issue is the hidden loneliness in the village and around, and the need for more people to get involved in the community so that we can do more should the need arise in the future. Why not try and get a bit more involved in the community? There is always the need for volunteers, why not give it a go.

Included in this issue:

New Playground ★ Village Signs ★ Hare Coursing
Wellbeing ★ Community Hall ★ Flooding
Book Exchange ★ CIL Money ★ Litter Pick

Contact Information

Tibenham Parish Council

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

Email: tibenhamparishclerk@outlook.com

Tel: 07796 174255 (Clerk)

Clerk – Marianne Purdy
Chairman – Gareth Roderick-Jones
Vice-Chairman – David Timson
Member – Gemma Lambert
Member – Auriel Mepham
Member – Caroline Knight
Member – Darren Gipson
Member – Leah Smith

Tibenham Community Hall

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

David Timson: 01379 677674 - timson25@btinternet.com

Joan Woodcock - 01953 860271

Defibrillator - what to do if someone has heart failure

Stay with patient Call 999 Follow instructions

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.

Phone Box Book Exchange

The old telephone box at the bottom of Hill Road (which, incidentally, is a listed building) has been operating as a book exchange and information centre for a number of years, maintained and run by volunteers. Please use this as often as you like - the greater the turnover of books, the better chance there is of coming across something new and worth reading. The telephone box also has some signs and notices, but for up to date information we recommend that you check the parish council website and the two community notices at the Black Barn next to the post box in The Street, and outside The Greyhound.

Since the start of the lockdown, the book exchange has been well used by residents, and there have been a number of good quality hardbacks and paperbacks donated. Unfortunately, some people have been less considerate and have taken to dumping mouldering boxes and bags of old paperbacks that nobody would want to touch, let alone read. The already cramped kiosk has been swamped with unwanted stuff. Our telephone box is not intended to make fly tipping more convenient, so we would like to ask people to treat it strictly as a book exchange - so if you want to leave three books there, please take three books away with you. That way, we can keep the stock under control so that everyone can enjoy this free facility. And incidentally, there is a request for more children's books for people to choose from.

This is run by volunteers, so we would very much like to thank everyone who has put time and effort into this community facility.

New Parish Councillor

Since the last newsletter you received, Alan Harris decided to step down from the Parish Council. Alan made a very real contribution to the community, and we were disappointed that we would no longer have the benefit of his experience.

However, we are now delighted to announce that Leah Smith has become our latest Parish Councillor. Because of Covid-19, Leah has not yet been able to attend a proper Parish Council meeting, though she has been able to join the last couple of Zoom meetings. With Leah, we are now back up to the full complement of seven councillors

The New Playground



Firstly, we would like to say a big thank to everyone for all their positive comments regarding the new playground equipment. It really has made all the hard work and effort worthwhile. It has been so exciting to see our plan come alive and it is heartwarming to see children and families using the space.

The playground was installed on August 11th and six weeks on, the impact is already visible.

Many have commented on the age range of the equipment and how all siblings can play together, regardless of age. There is something for everyone to play on and be together.

Families are travelling from the surrounding area, especially Gt. Moulton, Aslacton and Long Stratton because of the quality and safe play space. Others have mentioned the positioning of the equipment in the shade and set back safely from the road. There have been positive comments of the style and construction, many liking the natural and 'chunky' rustic style – the quality of the finished product and how it suits Tibenham.

There have been numerous comments at Aslacton Primary School and children are already using the space to exercise, play and combat 'Lockdown' loneliness. It has been a focal point for the community and the timing of the play area has been more important than ever.

People come and they stay for longer periods of time, people chat and

children expand their imaginations. Families bringing picnics, safely socialising, talking to each other and meeting new village residents. Many young children have made new friends and carers have too! New accessible picnic benches, which are on the way, will make it easier for all to sit, talk and watch their children have fun.

We would like to say a massive thank you to John and his hard-working team at NGF Play who pushed the limits with the timescale, heatwave and global pandemic! Thank you to Gavin Moore and Rob at the Greyhound for the help with the telehandler, David Timson and the Village Hall Committee for laying the groundwork and foundations for the project and Jane Roderick-Jones for the beautiful photographic record of the build.

We look forward to seeing the future development of our village play area – watch this space!

Caroline Knight and Tracy Allin-Baker

The Greyhound Public House



During these trying times good news is always appreciated. Congratulations are in order to Rob Smith and the Greyhound Public House for being runner up in the South Norfolk Business Community Champion awards.

Rob supported the community during lockdown by providing, amongst other community support, cooked meals for those who needed them. When things got tough, he stepped up to find new ways to support our community. Well done Rob and well deserved.

Re-opening the Community Hall



Recently after the Government set out the rules for re-opening, we needed to work out what we had to do to open the hall and operate safely. We understood that there are a lot of people who have been locked down for such a long period that going out was going to be difficult and so we had to think about making things feel safe and give them confidence to get out and socialise again.

We carried out the necessary Risk Assessments, bought all the protective equipment and sanitiser, carried out the deep clean of the Hall, put up sanitising stations, and many posters to remind people of what to do and their responsibilities and where to go. We have set in place new procedures and are prepared to remind people where necessary what they should do.

We were lucky enough to be awarded a Business Grant from South Norfolk Council who wrote and told us we were eligible. This has enabled us to maintain and manage this year, but with so little income at the moment and into the foreseeable future finance is getting to be a worrying problem. We have to find ways of raising money to keep the Hall going.

We started with a simple Café providing drinks and biscuits ensuring that everyone used the sanitiser provided and signed in giving their contact details for track and trace purposes and ensuring social distancing. It went well with 10 attending. We decided to run this weekly, and by our third cafe the numbers have grown and there is an air of more confidence in attending. It was so good just to see people catching up and chatting away. However, with the current rules we are restricted to 15, and that is only if you are a support group. We had some communication with the Police and bearing in mind we were working with a number of people with mental health issues due to various situations we could carry on. Attending the café does require pre-booking with Lorna Pyke, the coordinator.

For other things Badminton, short mat bowls, and other sessions started in September, Pilates, the Light Exercise class on Tuesday mornings. There are enquiries ongoing for other classes to start and existing groups are slowly getting back, although only where there are six or less at the moment.

We are taking it steadily and ensure that we are up to date on Government guidance. There will be no large events this year, and we will have to wait and see what happens next year. We are living in a new normal, but with common sense and sticking to the rules we can feel safe and get on with things.

The big issue that arose during lockdown was that the age profile of the Committee was such that most were unable to help others as they themselves were shielding or seen as vulnerable. Some of us could help out, but this restricted what we could do for others.

We desperately need younger volunteers, either on the committee, or just helping at the hall to run things. The current Committee is the smallest it has ever been with only 7 members, and we are finding the work hard with so few people dealing with the maintenance, finance, etc.

If you have some time to spare then contact me on timson25@btinternet.com so we can discuss how you can help. It is very worthwhile volunteering to help the community.

Abandoned Greyhounds



On the last Saturday of September, we had a knock on the door at about 7.30am. A friend had just picked up a sad looking greyhound near our house while he was driving to work, and had brought it to us because my wife knows just about all the dogs around here (if not always their owners), but this one was not familiar. It was thin, even for a

greyhound, and it had numerous knocks and bruises, and his feet were in a very poor state.

We contacted the Dog Warden Service. These days this service has been privatised, and we discovered that South Norfolk do not pay them to come out on a weekend. Don't find a stray on a Saturday or Sunday. In the end we took the dog to our vets, and because it had some injuries, they agreed to give him a thorough checkup and treatment, and to put him up over the weekend until the wardens could collect him the following Monday. They would keep him for the statutory period and then hand him over for rehoming.

It was a great shame to see a dog which had obviously been neglected or worse, and subsequently abandoned. He was such a gentle, trusting animal who just wanted some affection and plenty of food. Anyway, we had done what we could, and felt that whatever happened, the poor creature would be better off than he had been before, so we went off to walk our own dogs.

Driving back at around 11.30 ... we saw another greyhound. Again, he was in a sorry state, but he came to us willingly enough. He was having trouble getting into the car, and we were reluctant to manhandle him in case of any injuries, so my wife walked him home while I drove home and called the vets, who kindly agreed to take him in with the first one until the Monday.

We later heard that a third dog had been found the previous evening in Bunwell.

It seems that these dogs are abandoned if they are not making a profit. Some might be too slow, or too weak through neglect or injury, or might just not have the killer instinct for people to bet on them and win. Large amounts change hands. This is not a sport but a big business, and the people running this business are single-minded in their pursuit of profit.

We hope that by the time you read this, these dogs will have found decent homes where they will be spoiled rotten for the rest of their days.

If you suspect anything to do with these activities, please call it in.

Hare Coursing

This is one of the times of year when we are most likely to be hit by hare coursing in this area, and so far this season there has been a lot of illegal activity. That's the bad news - the good news is that the police have also been very active and have had some success in catching the perpetrators and seizing their vehicles and dogs.

At the time of writing this, officers working on Operation Galileo have just caught two perpetrators and seized their vehicle in Tibenham. The police have been successful in large part through the cooperation of members of the public, calling them in at the first sign of illicit activity.

Here is a reminder of what to do if you even suspect that something dodgy is going on (and nobody will blame you if it turns out to be a false alarm):

- call 999 if it is ongoing, and do so straight away;
- call **101** if it is over;
- make a note of any details of the people, the vehicles or the dogs, however vague;
- do **NOT** approach them.

The last point is important. These are not nice people.

Village Signs

Today's village signs had their origins in the mediaeval village cross, which served as a landmark to help travellers to see where they were, and also as a talisman against evil spirits. Colourful signs more like the signs we see today started to emerge in the nineteenth century.

The modern village sign is normally credited to King Edward VII, who thought it would be a good idea if all the villages on the Sandringham Estate had village signs, which would help motorists to navigate, and which would enhance the individual identity of different communities. And of course, if the king thought they were a good idea, everyone suddenly fell in love with them. They soon started to spread to other parts of Norfolk and then further afield, but were still seen as mainly an East Anglian feature.

Edward's grandson George VI addressed the Royal Academy in 1920 and told them that he thought they were an excellent idea, and after that the Daily Mail ran a country-wide competition to find the ten best designs. As a result, today village signs can be seen in most parts of the UK, though there is still a concentration in our part of the world.

Today's signs typically show one or more particular feature of the community, which can include local landmarks, local activities, or events from local history or folklore. A few of them are in the form of a sculpture, or hand-carved wood, though the most common types are flat or 3D panels made of aluminium or wood. Depending on the position and the budget, the signs may be single- or double-sided. The manufacturers help with the design of the sign, but in most cases the ideas for the type of sign and its design are down to the community to decide.

Tibenham doesn't have a sign, which a lot of people think is a shame: it's not easy to find another parish in this area that doesn't have one. One of the reasons is that there is not a clearly suitable location. Many villages have a recognisable centre, usually with a green, and that is the obvious place to install a sign, but we don't have a central space or a village green that can be used for this. Some of the places we could use may be too far from where most people live.

So, what do you think? Would you like to see a village sign in Tibenham, and where would you like to see it installed? Please tell Marianne, the Parish Clerk, or any of the parish councillors (contact details earlier in this newsletter), and if enough people are interested, then we'll start talking about how we can incorporate the ideas of residents or their children into the design.

What is CIL Money?

CIL stands for Community Infrastructure Levy, and it's a charge made on certain developments to balance the effects that new developments can have on the

resources in that area. New or enlarged houses often lead to more vehicles on the roads, more pedestrians needing footways, more demand for local school places, more pressure on GP surgeries and hospitals, and so on.

The Levy was introduced under the Planning Act of 2008, so it's a relatively new feature. It's applied to new dwellings and also to extensions with an internal area of over 100 square metres. Some developments are exempt from CIL, including social housing and self-building (which doesn't mean you have to lay the bricks yourself, this refers to building a house for your own occupation, whether you do the actual building or employ a builder).

The calculation of the amount of CIL payable various over time, as the cost of maintaining infrastructure or providing new facilities fluctuates. The money becomes due when the development starts, and is paid to the planning authority, which is our case is South Norfolk District Council. A proportion of the whole - normally 15% - is then sent back to the parish council to help to take care of local facilities.

The parish council have to spend the money within five years of receiving it, or it has to be returned to the planning authority.

What can CIL money be spent on? It has to be applied to local infrastructure projects, which can or will benefit the whole community. That means that road safety and pedestrian safety measures can be considered, along with improvements to leisure facilities, noticeboards and other public information, community defibrillators, village signs ... and deciding which of many possible projects should be given the go-ahead is one reason that we welcome input from residents. Come along to meetings (or, as I write this, join us on Zoom), email, telephone: how you contact us doesn't matter, but do let us know how you think we should be spending your money.

About Planning Applications

The Planning Authority where we live is South Norfolk District Council (SNDC), apart from a few specialised applications like schools, for example, which are decided by the County Council. Your parish council do not make decisions on planning, but we are consultees, which means that when a planning application is received by SNDC, they ask us whether we object to the application, support the development, or have no comment to make either way. Sometimes the parish council support an application, but with certain conditions attached, for example regarding concerns about drainage issues in the area, or the type of materials proposed for the outside of the building.

SNDC are not obliged to follow the opinions of the parish council, but they do take these opinions into consideration before making a decision on the planning application, so the support or opposition of the parish council can make a real difference to the outcome of planning matters in the parish.

Parish council decisions do not have to be unanimous, though in most cases there is no disagreement within the council as to what is appropriate for the community and what is not. Councillors are free to have their own opinions, however, so if opinion is divided, a vote is held and the majority prevails. A Councillor can ask to have his or her opposition to the majority vote recorded, though this rarely happens.

The minutes of parish council meetings record the decisions made by the council on planning issues, and the minutes are published on the parish council website and are displayed on noticeboards. However, the discussions leading to those decisions are not recorded in detail, in a who-said-what-and-why way; the 1972 Local Government Act does not allow parish clerks to write up the minutes that way. The minutes have to record the decisions only, as briefly as possible. If you are interested in finding out about how the council arrive at decisions on planning matters, or any other parish council business for that matter, please come along to our regular meetings (see website for dates and agendas). At present, the parish council holds online meetings on Zoom, but members of the public are still welcome to join us - again, see the agendas on our website for details.

Members of the public who want to either support or oppose a particular planning application can do so by contacting the parish council, or by contacting South Norfolk District Council direct. The easiest way to do this is online via the SNDC website, which will explain how to do it. If you are not sure how to do something, please contact the parish clerk or one of the councillors, and we should be able to point you in the right direction.

Wellbeing

We opened the hall with the Thursday Wellbeing Coffee Mornings in August as a way of providing an opportunity for people to meet in a Covid safe environment. The Hall is large and well ventilated, being built as a sports hall and so provides plenty of space in which to meet.

Numbers started small but word quickly spread and gradually some of our village regulars returned. Word soon spread further and with nearby village halls not reopening, people from further afield started to appear. We could easily manage the 30 allowed at that time.

But as the regulations began to change, we sought advice from the police as to whether we could continue and were advised that as some of those we were supporting have complex problems, are carers and very vulnerable we are exempt from some of the restrictions and should continue.

We do have some experienced volunteers well versed in stress management and the Five Ways to Wellbeing who are willing to be supportive and guide people towards the many sources of help still available. Since the Government's reduction in numbers permitted to meet, we have to focus our efforts on those who appear to be the most vulnerable. Being able to meet face-to-face and talk things through with someone willing to listen seems to be making a significant difference. Knowing you have several people nearby to turn to for help, advice or information can be a great relief. It is always interesting to pick up tips and learn how others are managing during these extraordinary times. We are pleased that the network remains intact.

The good news is that currently we can meet in small groups so we are continuing to strengthen bonds to see us safely through the winter.

A new playground for Tibenham

You may have been aware that over the last 4 years at the Community Hall we have been planning to renew the play equipment at the Hall, carrying out surveys, collating information and research on types of equipment. Following our safety inspection report in 2019 the existing equipment was removed in December last year.

The project has been ongoing since 2015 and in 2019 we were lucky enough to get two volunteers, Caroline Knight and Tracy Allin-Baker who took on the role of obtaining grant funding for the new equipment with a view to try and get some new equipment in place in 2020. Sufficient funding was obtained from various sources to enable seeking quotes for a range of new equipment for age range 3-12 years.

We have to say a huge thank you to a significant anonymous donation, grant funding from Simpsons Malt, Norfolk Community Action Fund, and from the Hall management Committee.

It has been interesting to see how many families visited each day to look at progress and check on when it would be completed. A number of families came on Thursday evening to try out the equipment and it was great to see the children's response to having a playground at last.

This is not the end of the project and we hope that other people will see what has been achieved, and will volunteer to help look at other equipment to widen the age range. We will not have a "Grand Opening" at the moment but we will look to celebrate this at a future date.

Flooding in Tibenham

As many people are aware The Street along the stretch between the Church and The Greyhound was subject to flooding during last winter, fortunately not affecting properties, but causing inconvenience to traffic and pedestrians. Initial inspection identified some problems to culverts and ditches along The Street that were not allowing water to get away to the watercourse.

The ditch that was blocked was dug out by the person responsible when weather conditions allowed, and this has helped, but a blocked culvert further along still prevents water getting away. Two members of the Parish Council met with the Highways engineer responsible for this area and a detailed inspection of all the issues followed, and a number of issues were identified.

It was agreed that initially the culvert under The Street linking to the Beck at the rear of the houses would be jetted from the Beck to its end, a ditch between the culvert and the culvert under the road would be cleared to allow Highways to rebuild the headwall, which had collapsed, and then the culvert under the road would be jetted. The ditch along this section of the Street and along the Street from The Greyhound to the junction with Black Barn Road would both be flailed to allow for a more detailed inspection. The culvert under the road near The Greyhound may need jetting, but a closer inspection after the flailing will be carried out.

This all looks promising in dealing with this flooding, but there is an issue relating to private ownership of ditches i.e. Riparian Ownership. I will clarify these right and responsibilities from an article written by a Solicitor.

Riparian rights are that if a landowner has land that adjoins a watercourse or ditch or it has one of these within it, then they have responsibility of looking after these. These rights automatically pass on to any new owner of the land.

There are responsibilities of the landowner that comes with the rights granted, which can be enforced by a third party and ultimately the courts. Many people with ditches or culverts adjacent are not aware of these responsibilities. Culverts in this case include pipes under road access to the property These responsibilities include:

If an obstruction is caused within the boundaries of their land affecting the watercourse of flow within it, the landowner will be obliged to remove the obstruction, potentially at their own cost.

If you live adjacent to a water course you may be a Riparian Landowner and you should look at your title deeds or seek legal advice on your rights and responsibilities.

Tibenham's Autumn Litter Pick



We normally do one litter pick a year, in the spring, and we did a very successful litter pick in March this year. This was a matter of days before the lockdown, and a lot of parishes missed out because of the restrictions that came into force. As a result, South Norfolk decided to run a short additional campaign this autumn, and we in turn decided to take advantage of this.

We have our own litter pickers and hi-vis vests, so we don't need to borrow those from South Norfolk, but it's useful to know that whatever we pick up will be taken away by the district council.

Because this was arranged at short notice, we were not able to advertise it around the community as thoroughly as we normally do, so apologies to anyone we missed when we advertised it on social media. However, we still had a good turnout, and it was especially heartening to see a number of young people who turned out with their families to do their bit.

HOW TO CONTACT US

LONG STRATTON Safer Neighbourhood Team





A/Insp. Laura SYMONDS
Local Policing Commander







(2)

PC Andy BARKWAY
Beat Manager

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

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

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



 ${\bf SNTLongStratton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk}$



SNTLongStratton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk



/SouthNorfolkPolice



@SouthNorfPolice



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 <u>www.south-norfolk.gov.uk</u> 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 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 with name, address, telephone number and postcode

Obstructed Verges, Overgrown Hedges & Trees 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** 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 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** with name, address, telephone number and postcode

Stray Dog or Lost Dog <u>www.south-norfolk.gov.uk</u> 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 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** with name, address, telephone number and postcode

Damaged Road Signs 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**

Damaged or Missing Street Nameplates 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**