

# Tibenham Tidings

News from the Parish Council and the Community Hall Committee

**Newsletter – Spring 2021**

**Welcome** to the March edition of this joint newsletter brought to you by the Parish Council and Tibenham Community Hall. This newsletter was introduced to keep you informed of what is going on in the village, what is needed, and how you can take part.

Hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter we will be looking forward to a summer with more freedom than last year. If you remember we were released during August and then that was taken away again in September with various stages of freedom until the last total lockdown started on December 26, which is still continuing. It is good to see that with the fantastic roll out of the vaccine there is now a road map prepared by the Government to move us forward to getting back to normal. What exactly this new normal will be is yet to be finalised, but certainly much better than the current situation.

Here in Tibenham, although there were a small number of cases of Covid, thankfully, as far as we are aware, there were no deaths reported. We are lucky in this instance to be remote and able to get out and enjoy the countryside as part of our exercise and well-being. Dog walking has become a large part of our social contact, with social distancing of course.

What has shone out was the level of community spirit that emerged when there were serious problems with the rainfall on Christmas Eve, people offering assistance, equipment and support to those affected. With a look to the future, we would like to build on this spirit and get more people involved in Tibenham, either supporting the work of the Parish Council, volunteering at the Community Hall, helping maintain the Churchyard and the Church, or getting involved and supporting activities that are held in the village.

There have been a significant number of comings and goings in the property market during the last year, and we have said a sad goodbye to people and friends who have lived here, and seen many people on social media who are excited by the prospect of coming to live in Tibenham. We would like to welcome everyone who has moved into Tibenham, we hope you will enjoy living here as much as we do and hope to see you all in the not too distant future.

Included in this issue:

**Questionnaire ✦ New Defibrillator ✦ Boardwalk ✦  
Parish Council Tax ✦ Annual Parish Meeting ✦ Litter Pick  
Emergency Plan ✦ Community Hall ✦ Flooding**

# **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 – Caroline Knight  
Member – Darren Gipson  
Member – Leah Smith

## **Tibenham Community Hall**

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

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

Joan Woodcock - 01953 860271

## Parish Council Questionnaire

### QUESTIONNAIRE



During the Annual Parish Meeting, which is held every May, we normally ask people what they think about possible projects for the next year or two, and seek approval for the various ways in which we plan to spend your money.

Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, we were not allowed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2020, and at present it looks as if a meeting in May 2021 will also not happen. We would still like to hear your views, but we recognise that not everyone is able to join an online meeting, so we have added a paper questionnaire to this newsletter.

If you would prefer to contact us online, please look out for our announcement on NextDoor, or respond to our posting on Facebook (Tibenham: Connected); alternately you can contact one of the parish councillors or the parish clerk – contact details earlier in this newsletter – or post or drop the completed paper slip into Cedar House, The Street, Tibenham NR16 1QA.

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## An Emergency Plan for Tibenham

The issues arising from the rainfall in December served as a reminder that the village should have a plan for dealing with emergency situations affecting people and properties. These could include snow drifts, flooding, loss of electricity supply, or other serious issues.



Every village should have an emergency plan, emergencies happen. If life is in danger, we rely on the Emergency Services to respond. But during this time you need to know how to help yourself and those around you. By becoming more resilient, you and the community can complement the work of local emergency responders and reduce the impact of an emergency on our community both in the short and long-term.

The whole point of a plan is to identify what can be done under the circumstances, who is affected, what help is needed, and who is available to help. These circumstances are rare, but it would be much better if we are able to respond as a Community and support those affected by whatever means are required.

A volunteer has come forward to look at preparing an Emergency Plan on behalf of the Parish Council and the village, Julie Lipman. You may have seen requests by Julie in this respect on Facebook Tibenham Connected and NextDoor, and she is working on our behalf. Any information received will be managed and maintained in a totally confidential manner and will not be used for any other purpose than an emergency.

Look out for any requests from Julie, and provide her with any information you may feel could help us put a working plan together.

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We recently realised how much time has passed since we started these newsletters, and how many new people have moved into the parish since the first edition, which we published in 2017. Many of the issues which we included in the earlier editions are still of interest today, so we will be reprinting a few of them as a reminder to all of us. Our apologies if this looks as if we are running out of ideas ... though if you do have new ideas for articles for the newsletter, do please get in touch.

Here is an article from August 2017:

### **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.

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## What Did You Do During the Lockdown, Daddy?



One local family decided to roll their sleeves up and do something for the community. During the lockdown they had done more walking around the village than normal, and on their walks they noticed a build-up of litter on Pristow Green Lane, so they approached the Parish Council, borrowed some litter pickers and hi-vis vests, and held their own Litter pick.

They then thought the area around our mini recycling centre was looking a bit scruffy, so they set about trimming the hedge and tidying up the area around the bottle banks which had started to pile up with dead leaves and general debris. The whole area is now smart, clean and inviting, and the trimmed hedge promises to grow back healthier and better than ever. Another example of things getting done around the parish when people spot a need and just get on with it.

So, hats off to the Gipson family - mum Maria and Elli, Isabel and Clay.

We've just heard that the Bartram family (mum Kizzie, with Bonnie, Joscelin and Archie) have also been out litter picking - well done to them, too!

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## Spring Litterpick

We normally arrange a community litter pick sometime in March each year; at the time of writing, we are not sure when will be the best time to hold it because of Covid restrictions. Please keep an eye on Tibenham Connect and NextDoor and we will try to let everyone know the arrangements. As usual we will be providing litter pickers and hi-vis vests and rubbish bags.

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## Communications in Tibenham

Social media has developed in the village and there are a number of channels that you can access to let you know what is going on in Tibenham and the surrounding area.

NextDoor – A national website, but you can use it on a local basis only, used across the area to keep in touch, pass on information, for sale and free items, and also used



by local businesses to advertise their wares and services.

<http://nextdoor.co.uk>

Tibenham Connected – A Facebook page exclusively for Tibenham, with all the above on NextDoor, but with the Facebook connections. Go to Facebook and search Tibenham Connected.

The Parish Magazine – A printed magazine, £5.00 a year currently for a monthly edition posted through your letterbox that is circulated in Bunwell, Carleton Rode and Tibenham, originally and still a Church Magazine, but it is a very useful magazine with a wide variety of articles from organisations, individuals and advertising local businesses.

Written contributions and enquiries to [alan.newsletter@btinternet.com](mailto:alan.newsletter@btinternet.com)

Tibenham Parish Council website: <http://tibenhampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>

Footpath maps [www.norfolkdwl.org.uk](http://www.norfolkdwl.org.uk)

Tibenham Community Hall website <http://www.tibenhamcommunityhall.org>

Bookings contact Joan Woodcock on 01953 860271

Tibenham Tidings – a twice yearly newsletter exclusively for Tibenham from The Parish Council and the Community Hall.

All Saints Church: Contact Keith Worsley 01953 861411

The Greyhound Public House visit them on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Greyhound-170545236335888>

High Speed Broadband should be with everybody later in 2021 through County Broadband, a private company. If you are new to the village, contact them for information. Currently broadband speeds in Tibenham vary widely, from 1Mb to 70Mb depending on where you live in the village. E-mail [service@countybroadband.co.uk](mailto:service@countybroadband.co.uk) website: [www.countybroadband.co.uk](http://www.countybroadband.co.uk)

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## **Tibenham Boardwalk (Slough Lane)**

Many people around the parish will have noticed that the boardwalk which we installed recently was badly affected by the flash-flooding which happened on 23 December. While the whole area was under water, and then snow, and then water again, it was not possible for us to do anything about carrying out repairs to make the structure more robust to deal with future weather events.

At the time of writing, Norfolk Ramblers have not yet resumed activities, and have not yet been given a date for the lifting of restrictions. However, we hope that repairs will have begun or perhaps been completed by the time you read this. Once again we will be relying on the expertise of Norfolk Ramblers; our District Councillor James Easter has also kindly made part funding available for us to fix the current boardwalk, and we also hope at the same time to be able to extend the structure a few extra metres at the eastern end to take walkers to higher and drier land.

Our thanks to all the people who have volunteered to help with the work.

A final note, for now, on the boardwalk - it is unlikely that the person or people riding horses on the boardwalk have helped with its stability. This is part of a footpath, which the law specifies can only be used by pedestrians, so once again we ask horse owners not to use this or any other footpaths in the parish.

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## **Parish Council Portion of Council Tax 2021-2022**

For many people, the last 12-plus months have been very trying, and for some have led to financial hardship. We, the Parish Council, have done our best to ensure that there will be no increase to the Parish Council portion of your council tax, and we will do what we can to make sure that we maintain essential services within our budget throughout the financial year.

This is the second consecutive year that we have managed to avoid increasing this portion of your council tax.

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## **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting is normally held every May, and it is an opportunity for individuals and organisations in the parish to get together to find out what is going on and what is planned for the next twelve months. It is normally chaired by the Chair of the Parish Council, but it is an open public meeting rather than a Parish Council meeting.

Last year, across the country, parishes were not allowed to hold an Annual Parish Meeting. At the time of writing, we do not know what instructions the government are going to hand down, so we don't know whether we will have a Parish Meeting or not, and what form it will take. We will have to let as many people know via NextDoor and Facebook: Tibenham Connected and the Parish Council website and our two noticeboards.

If we do have an annual meeting this year, do please try to come along (or join online if need be). It is important to get your feedback and to hear your ideas on what we should be doing and how we should be doing it.

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## **Tibenham Community Hall**

The Community Hall has remained closed since September and we all miss our regular visitors and the shared activities. With all activities being closed this has knock-on effects on social contact, some businesses using the Hall for their services, mainly exercise classes, but some craft activities, and just being together. Fortunately, we have been receiving the business grants from the Government, through South Norfolk Council, and this has enabled us to remain financially stable, paying the considerable bills for the building, and maintaining everything in the Hall.

We are looking forward to re-opening and welcoming people back in again, hopefully in June for exercise classes and gradually rebuilding the programme of events, and hopefully introducing new activities to provide for a wider audience.

Sometimes when I speak to people about the hall, I am told we are not “hall” people. I am somewhat perplexed by this as I do not know what is a “hall” person. With just a Pub, Church and the Community Hall, we all need to get involved and make Tibenham an even greater place to live.

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## **Defibrillator**

Since the last edition of the newsletter, the Parish Council have purchased a replacement defibrillator, as the original equipment was near the end of its guarantee period, and the consumables (batteries and pads) all needed renewal anyway.

The defibrillator is very easy to use, even if you have not had any training, and they are designed in such a way that it is impossible to do any harm when using them. The instructions are very simple:

If you think someone is having a heart attack:

- **call 999**
- **follow the operator's instructions**



The operators are fully trained experts. They will tell you exactly what to do; if you need a defibrillator, they will tell you which one to go to, how to open the cabinet, and what to do in simple steps until the ambulance arrives.

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## **Building our Community**

Up until lockdowns there were regular activities going on: a dog-walking group, cycling meets, meeting at the pub, the village fete, and the Gentlemen's and Ladies breakfast all held at the Greyhound. Hopefully these will re-emerge in the foreseeable future. The boardwalk built on the footpath emerging in Pristow Green Lane was built by a group of volunteers, was unfortunately damaged by the flood in December.

There are things we would like to develop in the village to bring the Community together, perhaps develop the grounds at the Hall with a tree planting programme or a wildflower meadow area, but we need volunteers to support these ideas.

The Parish Council is looking at where a village sign could be placed, difficult as there is no obvious village centre, but we are looking for your recommendations. We are keen for people to step up and bring their ideas forward for the sign, new events, activities, and even your skills that may add to what is already here.

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## **Flooding Highways and Property - An introduction to the paper being prepared on the problem**

There are two sides to the flooding issue in Tibenham, the long-term highway flooding that has been experienced for many years, and the problem caused by the downpour on 23 December onto the already saturated ground which caused property flooding including some ingress into buildings.

The weather changed severely in November and December and became extremely wet with the ground becoming saturated following this long period of rain. The deluge on the day before Christmas Eve just added insult to injury, severe rainfall of nearly a month's rain in a few hours. A number of properties in the village were badly affected some with some flooding, but most of the village escaped this calamity. As usual the roads were affected with some local flooding mainly in the usual areas, and it was reported on TV that Tibenham had been cut off. In reality these local flood spots are well known and occur more frequently than is ever reported, as they tend to be just a nuisance rather than hazardous. Still at least we saw Tibenham on the

media. As a bonus It was good to see just how many people were offering help to those who were badly affected and how many people were offering help during this difficult time.

Just to remind you if a ditch or water course runs through your property, or forms part of the boundary, you as a riparian owner have a legal responsibility to maintain that ditch or watercourse even if you have inherited the problem from previous owners. We have witnessed people who have been doing work on the ditches, it is just a shame that one or two people do not maintain their own ditches which have contributed to the Highway flooding.

This incident brought us to look seriously at the issues arising and see what needs to be done to improve the situation, including preparing an emergency plan for Tibenham.

## 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** 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** 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** 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** 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**

**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**