

Tibenham Tidings

News from the Parish Council and the Community Hall Committee

Newsletter – Spring 2023

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter. This newsletter is produced jointly by the Parish Council and the Tibenham Community Hall. We aim to produce this twice a year, although we missed the second edition in 2022. The newsletter is hand delivered to every household in the Parish by a band of volunteers, whom we would like to thank for their contribution to the community. More volunteers would be welcome to spread the workload.

There appears to be an ever-growing number of new people in the village and we welcome them and hope they will become part of our community. The letter is intended to keep everyone up to date with what is going on, both with the Parish Council and the Community Hall, and anything else that may be happening.

Can we also recommend that you contact Alan Harris who currently is the editor of the Church and Parish Newsletter, which has been around for many years. The newsletter contains a wealth of information with advertising from local companies and services. Contact Alan at alan.newsletter@btinternet.com or on 01379 674427. The Parish Newsletter is published eleven times a year and costs only £5 for the year.

We still wish to get your feedback - tell us what you would like to be included, or send in articles which can be included in this magazine. Your input could add to the value of this newsletter.

Defibrillator: The defibrillator has been relocated to the front of the Community Hall in Pristow Green Lane whilst work proceeds at the Greyhound. No decision has been made to return it to the Greyhound in the future.

If you think someone is suffering a cardiac arrest, stay with the patient, dial 999, get someone to get the defib and just follow the instructions. The machine tells you what to do, just follow the instructions.

Included in this issue:

Parish Council Meetings ✦ Progress at the Greyhound ✦ Drainage Works in The Street ✦ Highways Issues ✦ National Grid Pylons Update ✦ Litterpick ✦ Footpaths ✦ Council Tax ✦ New Bench ✦ Footpath 7 Steps ✦ Local Elections ✦ Annual Parish Meeting ✦ South Norfolk Council Move from Long Stratton ✦ Tibenham Community Hall ✦

Contact Information

Tibenham Parish Council

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Member – Gemma Lambert

Member – Caroline Knight

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Tibenham Community Hall

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Hall Bookings: Julie Harris on 07774 308343 or 01379 674427

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About Parish Council Meetings

Tibenham Parish Council meets on the second Wednesday of every other month – January, March, May, July, September and November. Meetings are held at Tibenham Community Hall and start at 7.30pm.

Members of the public are always welcome to attend Parish Council meetings. You can come along simply to observe, or you can participate in the public discussion, which starts in the first few minutes of each meeting. Members of the public are welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting or can leave after the public discussion.

If you do decide to come to a meeting, you do not need to give your name and address (unless Covid precautions are in place).

Once a year there is also an Annual Parish Meeting. It is normally held in May, immediately before the May Parish Council Meeting. This is an opportunity for residents to air their views on any subject relevant to the people of Tibenham, and to find out what other people think.

Details and agendas of Parish Council meetings and the Annual Parish Meeting can be found on the PC's website, at tibenhampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk. For more information, please contact the Parish Clerk or any of the Councillors – contact details are at the beginning of this newsletter and are also on the website.

Progress at The Greyhound

As many of you will have noticed, since Christmas there has been a hive of activity on the site. Planning issues still arise as Conditions that were imposed at the original approval have been submitted for approval. There was a significant representation of people affected at the Parish Council on 8 March, and the Parish Council will submit their comments including many of the issues arising at the meeting.

The activity has been all over the site, with building of the extensions to the Pub itself, and the barn opposite the main entrance. Much work has been done inside the pub building to enable the re-creation of the interior, which will be much more open, and to the first-floor residential space. The whole building has required much work to bring it up to modern standards, after all it was built in the 1780s. As most will have noticed, the front hedge to the field has gone, as part of the original approval for the new entrance to enable visibility spays for vehicles exiting the site, and now the site is much more open. It is hoped that new planting will provide more screening for the development.

Let's hope we will all be able to get together in the summer over a pint, with the return of the pub, a place for all the family. With all new facilities, a restaurant and outdoor space it will be a welcoming venue. We all need to support the Greyhound as a meeting place for the village.

Drainage in the Street, from Church Road to the Old Post Office

The Street between Church Road and past the junction of Hill Road has suffered for many years due to the highway drainage network not working correctly, leading to much water laying on the road. A request was made to Norfolk Highways to investigate the system to identify the problems with the drainage.

The investigation of the drainage in 2021 identified that there was significant damage to the pipe that served the gullies on the highways to the outfall to The Beck. Further investigation found that some of the Victorian pipes had collapsed and other lengths had been damaged by service connections for other services. Highways then set about seeking funding to renew the drainage. A scheme was costed and a bid was made for Capital Funding for the scheme in 2021.

Some of you will have noticed blue and red markings recently appeared along this stretch of road, and more recently it was closed to allow for trial pits along the road to check out what services are laid under the road. This was all in preparation for the new drainage scheme. We anticipated this being implemented sometime in 2023. The work will take place from Church Road to beyond the Hill Road junction. This new scheme will have the pipes under the road and will ensure that damage does not occur to the pipes.

The works are now programmed to start on 11 April, so by the time you receive this magazine it will have started and should take approximately 19 weeks to complete. The works will cause considerable access problems while the highway is dug up for the new pipework. The recent temporary closure caused some delays, and the longer-term closure will cause a lot of inconvenience to anyone living on this road or regular users of this road. To clarify the position of residents, you will always have access to your own property, but there may be issues around parking.

Highways

As most people are aware, there are issues with the roads following the spate of bad weather. We have informed County Highways about these issues but are yet to see any response. If you see any potholes or other highway defects, please contact the address on the "Report A Problem" page, as the more reports there are, the more likely we are to get a response.

Update on the Pylons Proposals

In the summer 2022 edition we introduced the issue of new pylons and National Grid's proposal to build a 180 Km route of 50m high pylons through Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, and through part of Tibenham. Following the Public Meeting held at Tibenham Community Hall on 9 June 2022, which drew over 90 people to make their views known, there has been much political pressure from Rosie Pearson and her colleagues, who spoke at the meeting, to get our MPs together and to clarify the costings put forward by National Grid to justify the Pylon route. This whole issue is arising because the North Sea and the area especially off the Norfolk Coast is generating so much wind power, and they want to bring it ashore through the Norfolk Coast and run cross-country to Tilbury, as the power is destined for London, NOT Norfolk or Suffolk.

Rosie has kept many in touch as figures are clarified for the offshore grid, which is the preferred route for those living in the three counties. The figures indicate that the offshore route would save consumers about £2 billion.

In February, there was an item on the scheme and the protests on BBC's Countryfile program. On the program, National Grid claimed that the seabed route would be much more expensive than the onshore option. These figures have now been disputed, and National Grid's CEO has now admitted that the true figures show that the cheaper option would be the offshore route. This now casts doubt on the planned statutory consultation which should have taken place this spring.

There are still grave concerns as to the eventual outcome, but it does look as if National Grid's attempts to label their plans as a done deal are running out of momentum.

If you want to be kept up to date, the working group Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk Pylons can be contacted at www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk or pylons@mail.com where you can subscribe to their newsletters.

Village Litter Pick

The Parish Council arranged the annual village litter pick for Sunday 5 March, setting off from the Community Hall where refreshments were kindly provided by the Hall afterwards. It was good to talk to everyone over tea and cake.

Fewer people came than normal, although some did their routes on Saturday as well as the group on Sunday. As a result of their work, over 18 bags of rubbish were collected and returned to the Hall where it was collected by the Council. A big thank you to all those who helped, including some newcomers to the village, it is important to clear as much litter as possible before verge cutting takes place, which simply cuts the litter up.

Our litter picks are very sociable, family friendly and oddly enjoyable. Special mention is due to the four youngsters taking part and helping their community: Florence, Samantha, Jasmin and Harrison.

Footpaths



Tibenham has a large footpath network and keeping it safe and accessible is an ongoing issue. If you find a footpath finger post down, or bridges over ditches defective, please report these to Norfolk County Council at the address on the "Report a Problem" page at the back of the magazine. Work on repairing and extending the boardwalk on FP 29, Slough Lane, off Pristow Green Lane is still outstanding, but when the weather improves, we hope to get this work underway with Peter from Norfolk Ramblers and volunteers.

A new bench has been installed at the top of Slough Lane opposite the pub - turn right at the top and the bench is in the entrance to the footpath after you cross the bridge.

There has been extensive work carried out to the ditches alongside the Footpath opposite the Greyhound which has resulted in much of the vegetation being removed. This work was essential and hopefully in time it will be reinstated as the bushes etc grow back.

New Bench

A new bench has been installed at the upper (eastern) end of Tibenham Footpath 29, aka Slough Lane. We are grateful to Rex Middleton, who has provided all the materials, labour and installation free of charge.

Repairs to Footpath 7 Steps

The steps leading to the bridge across the Tib on Footpath 7, which leads from The Street eastwards behind The Black Barn, have been repaired, though other steps now need attention. Please keep reporting any issues to Norfolk County Council!

Planning and the Parish Council

It's not always easy to unravel the different layers of local government to see who is responsible for what, so it's worth trying to clarify one or two of the most common misconceptions.

The Parish Council is not a Planning Authority. The Planning Authority in our part of the world, for residential planning, is South Norfolk District Council. Planning applications are made to South Norfolk, are administered by them, and ultimately are approved or rejected by them. As part of this process, the Parish Council are given details of the application and have the opportunity to make recommendations to South Norfolk. However, this is just as Consultees, so South Norfolk are not obliged to follow any recommendations made by the Parish Council. We like to believe, however, that we can make a difference, so we do our best to represent the views of residents when we do make recommendations.

The Parish Council look at the details of a planning application on the South Norfolk website and reach a consensus. Because there are deadlines to meet, this discussion is sometimes held by email, or in a full Council Meeting if the deadline allows.

The "Decision" document on the South Norfolk website (usually the last document to be added to an application) explains the reasons for a refusal of planning permission or spells out any conditions attached to a granting of permission.

Council Tax 2023/24

For the past three years, the Parish Council have managed to avoid increasing the local portion of residents' Council Tax. This year we have gone one step further and have applied for a reduced amount, around 15% below the last three years. Every little helps! We are also pleased to confirm that South Norfolk have decided to avoid increasing the District Council portion of the Council Tax.

Elections May 2023

There are elections on Thursday 4 May to elect/re-elect your District Councillor. The Polling station as usual will be at Tibenham Community Hall on Pristow Green Lane. There is some debate as to whether officials will demand ID before you can cast your vote - if in doubt, make sure you have some sort of photo ID (eg driving license or passport) with you. Voters who do not have photo ID should apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. When you register to vote, you should be asked if you have photo ID or if you want to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate. There's more information on the government's website ([gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)) or you can call South Norfolk for information on 01508 533701. The deadline for applying for the certificate is 25 April.

Some parishes also have elections for Parish Councillors. This only happens if there are more candidates than there are places available. This is unlikely to happen in Tibenham, as at present we have two vacancies, which have not been filled for some time. If you think this might suit you, speak to any of the current councillors or the clerk, or just come along to one of our meetings to see what we get up to.

Annual Parish Meeting - you are invited!

Every May, parishes across the country hold their Annual Parish Meeting. This is hosted by the Chair of the Parish Council, though it isn't officially a Parish Council event. The Tibenham Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 May 2023, starting at 7.00pm at Tibenham Community Hall. In Tibenham we use the occasion to allow residents to exchange views on issues affecting the community, and to report on what they or their organisation have been doing for the past twelve months. All residents are welcome to attend this meeting.

After the Annual Parish Meeting, the Parish Council hold their Annual Meeting. This is a normal Parish Council meeting, but with the addition of the election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parish Council for the next twelve months. Members of the public can choose to remain for both meetings or they can opt out after the Annual Parish Meeting.

South Norfolk Council Move from Long Stratton

South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils have joined their various administrative departments to reduce admin costs. They are sharing office accommodation and have moved out of South Norfolk House in Long Stratton. Recognising that residents of our part of the district might be unable or unwilling to travel as far as Norwich, they have now taken over The Octagon, formerly the Tourism Office in Mere Street Diss. You can see someone face to face and can arrange to meet the right person to deal with your query there.

Tibenham Community Hall



We have had a busy few months, with many of our events continuing to increase the footfall at the Hall - our regular Quiz night, Bingo, Jubilee Event, Christmas Cabaret, Produce Show and Harvest Supper to name but a few. We would like to thank everyone who has attended and supported us over the past few months. We are very grateful for all your positive feedback and look forward to seeing you at all at some of the events we have programmed over the Summer and Autumn.

Future of the Hall – Volunteering

We are lucky to have a strong, vibrant Committee at the moment, who are enthusiastic about trying to provide events and activities that appeal to everyone in Tibenham and our surrounding communities. We thank them and our volunteers for all their hard work, week in, week out without fail, we could not do what we do without their support.

If you have any ideas of what you would like to see at the Hall, please get in touch - we cannot promise we can always deliver but we will try our best. At the end of the day the Hall is for this Community and we want to provide events/activities that you want to attend. We are always looking for new people to join our team, whether that is for a couple of hours a month or on a more regular basis. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved - you will be welcomed with open arms.

We are constantly looking to the future and recognise the importance of attracting new younger blood to volunteer. Not only does this bring in fresh ideas but will also safeguard the Hall for future generations of the village.

Infrastructure Works

As you may know, we have been crying out for additional storage at the Hall for some time. We have implemented temporary measures to allow for the chairs to be stored at the back of the main hall, as the process of having to take them off and on the stage before and after each event was becoming a concern, especially as many of our users have limited mobility.

We are pleased that we have now received planning permission for a new storage extension at the rear of the Hall and we are now in the process of seeking additional funding by the way of grants to make this a reality. We have allocated £10K from our existing reserves and we are now actively fundraising to progress the build as soon as possible. We have received acknowledgement that our grant application to the Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund has passed the Stage 1 criteria and we can now progress to Stage 2, so fingers crossed this will be successful.

We have also identified the need for a footpath from the recycling area across the grass (adjacent to the gravel car park), to allow easier and safer access for visitors who use walking frames, wheelchairs and buggies. We also intend to install lighting bollards to the pathway, to make it safe to use at night. After initially being told we needed planning permission for this, we have now received notification that this will not be needed, so we hope to start soon. We have had many local donations of help with labour and materials for both these projects, for which we are very grateful. We would also like to thank the Parish Council, who have pledged £500 towards the footpath project.

We have been able to enhance the audio and lighting systems at the Hall with the help of Mark Ribbands, who has given his time and expertise free of charge, for which we are most grateful. So far, we have been able to secure a range of audio and lighting to enable us to support some of the many events that we have planned, and we will continue to fundraise to allow us to purchase additional equipment we may feel necessary to further enhance the current set-up we have.

We now have a SIM based Wi-Fi internet service at the Hall, which allows us to have access for operating our card machine and for media/music to be played at our events. This also assists our Digital Buddies group on a Thursday (more information about that below). We are hopeful that a full fibre option will be available later in the year with B4RN. This is a not-for-profit community-led project which aims to get hyperfast (1,000 Mbps) broadband to every property in our rural community, and they are keen to get Tibenham connected as soon as possible. It just needs residents of the village to register their interest with them to make this a reality.

Regular Activities

We continue to have great support for the regular activities we hold ie:

Badminton (Thursdays 5.30 - 7.30pm)

Light Exercise (Tuesdays 10.00 - 11.00am)

Short Mat Bowls (Tuesdays 2.00 - 4.00pm)

We are very grateful for the support we receive from our volunteers to enable these activities to continue.

We have recently purchased new exercise equipment for the Light Exercise class and a new Short Mat bowls mat.

If you would like more information on any of these activities, please give either Georgina or David a call on 01379 677674, they are always looking for new members to join them.

Regular Social Events

Social Nights

One of the perhaps surprising new events we have trialled this year is our Friday Night Social evenings. When the Greyhound Pub closed last year, we felt that there would no longer be a social space in the village where people could have the chance to meet up with their friends for a quick drink and a catch-up. What started as a twice a month event has now grown to be a regular Friday night get-together. We frequently have 15-25 people attending, some bringing their children to meet up in a safe, welcoming environment. With the Summer fast approaching, this space will be further enhanced by our being able to use the outdoor space and the playground. We will have the table tennis table out and may even strike up the BBQ!

So why not come along and join us. The Bar opens 6.00pm most Fridays, unless we have another event on that night or the following day. Look out on social media for confirmed dates.

Saturday café

The Café, serving light lunches, cakes and refreshments is always held on the last Saturday of the month from 11.00am to 2.00pm (except August and December) and continues to be popular. We have been lucky this year to recruit some new members to the catering team, enabling us to offer a wide range of meals and snacks. We are always looking for offers of help and if you would like to bake a cake or come and help out in any way, please do let us know.

Thursday Drop in Coffee Morning

Held every Thursday from 10.30am until 12.30pm and run by the Well-being group. The numbers attending have continued to increase steadily over the past few months, with the coffee mornings being a place for people from both Tibenham and many surrounding villages to get together over a cuppa and discuss all that is going on in their lives. This has highlighted a wide range of issues that many of us are experiencing at the moment, many of which are exacerbated by our rural location.

Well Being

The Rural Loneliness and Isolation Event held on 23 March was a chance to bring together a group of professionals from a range of providers, to come and listen to people's concerns and also to try and offer solutions or provide access to information that that could help. The day was attended by over 50 people and evaluation of the event is now being carried out, but it proved to be a great day and certainly got our message heard.

One of the most worrying concerns raised recently by many people has been the increasing need for reliance on the use of technology to access many of our services. With this in mind, the Well-being group have relaunched their 'Digital Buddies' group, which aims to be a hub for people to access and gain knowledge and understanding of how they can use their computers, laptops, mobile phones etc in what is fast becoming a 'online' world. If you would like any more information on how you can join us, or if you could help others get to grips with technology, please give Lorna a call on 01379 67779.

Craft and Chat

A chance to get together with like-minded friends. Whatever your passion, be it knitting, embroidery, crochet, papercraft - the list is endless but everyone is welcome to join this friendly group for a chat and a cup of tea. Meetings are held on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Please phone Julie for more info on 01379 674427.

Dates for your Calendar

Friday 21 April – Quiz Night with Alan Leach. Teams maximum of 6 people. £5 per person. Bar opens 6.00pm.

Tuesday 25 April – Annual General Meeting – 7.00pm. A chance to celebrate what has been achieved over the last 12 months.

Friday 28 April – Guest Speaker. Colin Sutton speaks about his time leading Millie Dowler and Night Stalker cases. Tickets £5. Bar opens 6.00pm for 7.00pm start.

Saturday 20 May – Back by popular demand, live music with Danny Fisher. Time to get out your dancing shoes again. 50's and 60's Rock 'n' roll. Tickets £10. Bar opens 6.30pm. Music starts 7.30pm.

Friday 23 and Saturday 24 June – Musical Movies Summer Show – more details to follow shortly.

Special Events

Saturday 6 May – King Charles III Coronation Celebrations

We will be showing the Coronation ceremony live on the big screen at the Hall and providing a cream tea style lunch. Please come and join us for this momentous occasion and celebrate. We are hoping to provide a souvenir of the day to any children who attend. We will be providing further details nearer the time when we have had more details regarding the TV broadcast schedule. In the meantime, we would be grateful if you could please let us know if you are thinking of coming, so we have an idea of how many to cater for on the day. Please email Tibenham.arts@gmail.com.

Saturday 8 July - Family Fun Day and Anniversary Celebration

This summer it will be 20 years since the Hall was opened. We will be therefore combining our annual Family Fun Day with a celebration of this anniversary. Plans are still in the early stages but if you have any ideas or memories you would like to include in the celebrations, please let us know. It promises to be a truly memorable day – let's hope for some sunshine this year.

Event Ticket Booking

We recommend you reserve your tickets before each event to make sure you are not disappointed, although payment can be made on the door if seats are available. Please call Julie on 07392 960118 or email Tibenham.arts@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Hall very soon!

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 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 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 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**.