

TIBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR'S REPORT 2022-2023

It is a sad duty to have to inform anyone who has not already heard that our County Councillor, Barry Duffin, died suddenly a short while ago, following an accidental fall at home. County Councillor Alison Thomas will support this parish in case of urgent need until a by-election can be held to replace Barry.

The last twelve months have been relatively eventful in Tibenham. We have held two public meetings, one to discuss the National Grid's proposed installation of massive pylons across our countryside, and one to discuss intrusive noise from the non-flying motorsport events held at Norfolk Gliding Club on Tibenham Airfield. Both of these meetings were productive. The former led to a more informed approach to our objections to the proposed pylons, and the latter led to measures being put in place which reduced the nuisance to residents, while still allowing the Gliding Club to reap benefit from the hosting of events.

Work continues on the replacement of the Victorian drainage through the centre of the village. This is inconvenient to some residents, but we consider it to be a lot less inconvenient than the serious flooding suffered by some of our residents in December 2020.

Like many people, we are monitoring the progress at the Greyhound, and looking forward to the community once more having access to a viable village pub.

The telephone box will be repainted in the near future.

A volunteer has produced and installed a new bench at the top end of Public Footpath 29 (known to many people as Slough Lane). We are hoping for some more voluntary help from Norfolk Ramblers to put some finishing touches to the Slough Lane Boardwalk and to replace netting which has worn away.

A voluntary project to install a range of birdboxes to suit different species of birds on Narrow Lane (FP30) is under way.

I have mentioned "volunteer" and "voluntary" several times. A village like Tibenham cannot function without volunteers, and I would like to pay tribute to all the people who keep Tibenham going, in big ways or small. These include people who:

- take part in organised litterpicks
- do litterpicking as a matter of routine
- produce and install street furniture (like the new bench)
- clear and maintain footpaths
- act as Trustees at the Community Hall
- volunteer to support the Hall in other ways
- act as Parish Councillors
- maintain the book exchange in the telephone kiosk
- maintain the recycling area
- make bird boxes

- maintain the churchyard and carpark
- deliver newsletters ...

... and so it goes on. Thank you to all of you.

And finally, I mustn't forget to mention the fact that the Parish Council decided to reduce our portion of your Council Tax by some 15%. This is the fourth year we have resisted any increase – we know that this year, especially, many people are struggling to pay their bills, and we are doing our best to maintain what services we are able to provide, without passing on costs unnecessarily.

Gareth Roderick-Jones
Chair
Tibenham Parish Council

10 May 2023