

Tibenhams Tidings

News from the Parish Council and the Community Hall Committee

Newsletter – Autumn 2023

Welcome to the late Autumn 2023 version of our magazine, prepared and produced jointly by the Parish Council and Tibenhams Community Hall. We share the ongoing responsibility of supporting the Community and looking after the Village as a welcoming place to live.

Included in this issue:

**Volunteering ✦ Vacancies for Parish Councillors ✦ The War Memorial ✦
Village Sign ✦ The Broadwalk on Slough Lane ✦ Speeding Traffic ✦
Flooding Issues ✦ Tibenhams Airfield ✦ The Greyhound ✦
Communications in Tibenhams ✦ Pylons Response ✦ Community Hall ✦**

Contact Information

Tibenham Parish Council

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

Email: tibenhamparishclerk@outlook.com

Tel: 01953 431338 (Clerk)

Clerk – Tony Wainwright
Chairman – Gareth Roderick-Jones
Vice-Chairman – David Timson
Member – Gemma Lambert
Member – Leah Smith

Tibenham Community Hall

Website: <http://www.hall.tibenham.org.uk>

Chair: Tracy Lilley: 07825 771551
Email: tracyjnash1964@outlook.com

Hall Bookings: Julie Harris on 07774 308343 or 01379 674427
Email: hall.booking@tibenham.org.uk

General Enquiries: Email: hall.info@tibenham.org.uk

Volunteering

District and County Councils nowadays play less of a part in the day-to-day running of parishes and towns. This has a lot to do with the steady withdrawal of funding from central government. Councils have had to look at their budgets and decide which services are to be considered essential, and which are to be seen as non-essential. With the cost of services soaring, and with increased demands on adult social care caused by an ageing population, for example, councils have had to add more and more to the "non-essential" category. Unfortunately, the effects of this are felt particularly in smaller rural communities like ours, where there is no infrastructure in place to fall back on. The result is that a lot of things which were once done by District and County Councils now are not done - unless we do them ourselves.

If we want verges cut, litter picked, road signs and street nameplates cleaned, footpaths cleared, boardwalks built and maintained, the recycling centre looked after, newsletters distributed, the churchyard kept clear, and the Community Hall managed and events there planned and run, we can no longer look to Norwich to help us out.

Many of these things are being done in Tibenham, and all by volunteers who deserve all of our thanks and appreciation. But there is always more that can be done. If you notice something that needs to be done, please let the Parish Council know by email, or by attending one of our meetings - details are on our website and elsewhere in this newsletter. You can ask the Parish Council for help in getting something done, or you can organise some volunteers to take part to help your community.

Vacancies for Parish Councillors

At the time of writing there are three vacancies for Parish Councillors. We are keen to remain as an independent Parish Council and not, as suggested by the District Council in the past, to become part of another Parish Council. The requirements of villages are quite unique and need to be dealt with locally.

We meet on the second Wednesday of every other month- January, March, May, July, September and November starting at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome to bring issues forward and see whether the Council can provide any help.

The War Memorial.

A complete remedial program of work on the Memorial in the Churchyard has now been completed, with cleaning of the stonework and replacement of the missing letters of the names by a professional company. This will keep the Memorial in good condition for many years.

The work has been organized and paid for by the Parish Council.

Village Sign

The Council is still keen to pursue the creation of a village sign, potentially to be set near the center of the village. Most villages have one already but Tibenham is yet to design and create one to provide some identity to the village. We are looking for ideas for a design for the sign; this could be based on the Tibenham logo designed years ago by the Tibenham Fundraising Team, featuring the silhouette of the Church Tower, the plane and the glider,

as seen on the front of the Community Hall, or it could be something completely new - we welcome your suggestions.

The Boardwalk on Slough Lane

As many people may be aware a boardwalk was installed through a section of the Public Footpath 29 which comes out onto Pristow Green Lane, due to Slough Lane flooding on a regular basis, during the winter in particular. We are now working with the Ramblers to extend the board walk to cover muddy sections of the path at either end of the Boardwalk. The work will be done by volunteers working with supervision of a member of the Ramblers. Please watch out on social media and get in touch if you are able to assist in this.

Speeding Traffic

We have had a number of complaints about speeding traffic through the Village, the main one being Pristow Green Lane where the 30MPH sign is well within the trees. The PC is looking to have a village sign erected by Highways outside the tree line to make drivers more aware of the impending speed limit. All roads outside the 30mph limit are 60mph, the national limit, and some drivers do forget to slow down.

Flooding Issues

The new drainage system in the section of The Street from Hill Road to Church road has been completed and has worked well since completion. The Parish Council is now looking at the outlet from the village known as The Beck which runs down to a tributary of the River Tas through Cargate Common. We are investigating issues of pinch points which may affect water getting away from the village.

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.

To remind you below is a full explanation of rights and responsibilities of riparian owners:

What are your rights as a riparian owner?

If your land boundary is next to a watercourse, it is assumed you own the land up to the centre of the watercourse, unless it is owned by someone else. If a watercourse runs alongside your garden wall or hedge you should check your property deeds to see if your wall or hedge marks the boundary. If the watercourse marks the boundary, it is assumed you own the land up to the centre of the watercourse. If you own land with a watercourse running through or underneath it, it is assumed you own the stretch of watercourse that runs through your land. Occasionally a watercourse, especially an artificial one, will be the responsibility of a third party. This should be noted in your deeds. Water should flow onto or under your land in its natural quantity and quality. This means that water should not be taken out of a watercourse if it could lead to a lack of water for those downstream. It also means that a person cannot carry out activities that could cause pollution to a watercourse. You have the right to protect your property from flooding, and your land from erosion. However, you must get your plans agreed by the relevant Risk Management Authority (RMA) before you start work.

Please remember these rights are affected by your duty to other riparian landowners, the community and the environment.

Commented [1]:
"even if the current owners have inherited the problem from previous owners"

What are your responsibilities as a riparian owner?

You must let water flow through your land without any obstruction, pollution or diversion which affects the rights of others. Others also have the right to receive water in its natural quantity and quality. Riparian owners all have the same rights and responsibilities. You must accept flood flows through your land, even if these are caused by inadequate capacity downstream. A landowner has no duty in common law to improve the drainage capacity of a watercourse they own.

You should keep the banks clear of anything that could cause an obstruction and increase flood risk, either on your land or downstream if it is washed away. You are responsible for maintaining the bed and banks of the watercourse and the trees and shrubs growing on the banks. You should also clear any litter, debris or animal carcasses from the channel and banks, even if it did not originate from your land. You should always leave a development-free edge on the banks next to the watercourse. This allows easy access to the watercourse in case any maintenance or inspection is required.

Please help us protect water quality. Do not use riverbanks to dispose of garden or other waste where it could be washed into the river. This includes grass clippings, which pollute watercourses.

Your property may include a watercourse that runs through a culvert. You have the same responsibilities for the upkeep of a culvert as if it was an open watercourse.

What happens if I do not undertake my riparian responsibilities?

If you do not carry out your riparian responsibilities, we can request you to maintain the watercourse and you could face legal action under The Public Health Act 1936, The Land Drainage Acts 1991 and 1994, the Water Resources Act 1991 and the Environment Agency Land Drainage Bylaws 1981.

Tibenham Airfield

As many of you may know there have been a number of complaints about noise from cars at Tibenham Airfield. We were saddened recently to hear that there had been a fatal accident at one of the events, which took the life of one of the participants, and we pass on our condolences to the family and friends. As we understand the company involved have now stopped trading due to the accident and that results in fewer of the activities at the Airfield. The income from the motorsport activities do help the Gliding Club to maintain the airfield, and the other company will continue the programmes.

The Greyhound

Progress has been made in the rebuilding and refurbishment of The Greyhound and the preparation for the new road across the site. There have been a number of rumours about the site being sold, but recent contact with the owners has suggested that they hope to have the pub opened for Christmas and are not selling the site. There are still outstanding issues with Planning and Highways but hopefully these will be resolved soon.

Communications in Tibenham

Social media is well 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. Next Door – A national web site, but you can use it on a local basis only, used across the area to keep in touch, pass on information, to offer 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 Next Door, 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, Carlton Rode and Tibenham, originally and still a Church Magazine, but it is a very useful magazine with a wide variety of articles from organisations and individuals and advertising local businesses.

Written contributions and enquiries to alan.newsletter@btinternet.com

Tibenham Parish Council website : www.tibenhampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Footpath maps www.norfolkdwl.org.uk

Tibenham Community Hall: Web site <http://www.hall.tibenham.org.uk> Bookings contact Julie Harris on 07774 308343 or 01379 674427.

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

Pylons Response.

The Parish Council sent a detailed letter to the Secretary of State regarding issues and objections regarding the proposed Pylons to be erected by National Grid. It received the following response:

Thank you for your email of 4 October, to the Secretary of State, on energy infrastructure in East Anglia. The Secretary of State is grateful to you for having taken the time to write. I have been asked to respond on her behalf.

The Government expects annual electricity demand to increase from current levels by over 35% in 2035 and by over 70% in 2050. Offshore wind will play a key part in delivering this increase and supporting our transition to net zero. Without the development of necessary networks, both on and offshore, this ambition cannot be achieved, threatening energy security and increasing costs and carbon emissions.

The Government does not make planning applications or choose precise routes for energy transmission infrastructure but does set the rules for a robust and independent planning process. As such it is not the role of Government to undertake any assessment of alternatives to the locations chosen by the National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO) or transmission operators and developers. Individual developers must demonstrate how their proposal meets nationally set criteria and has fairly considered alternatives.

As new infrastructure is proposed, developers must consider the impacts of offshore infrastructure in terms of its cost, environmental and marine user impact in the same manner as they consider onshore infrastructure. The lifetime cost for offshore cabling, as well as high maintenance costs, means that the presumption for new energy transmission infrastructure projects remains onshore. This cost is borne by electricity bill payers and must be considered when designing network infrastructure, as well as environmental and community impacts.

Where onshore transmission infrastructure is required, efforts continue to be made to reduce its impacts and ensure communities are treated fairly. For example, in sensitive areas such as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Parks the presumption remains that any transmission cables which cannot avoid these areas is undergrounded. All projects are required to progress through the robust planning process which includes statutory consultations and proposals are independently reviewed. As ever, planning decisions can be challenged in court with sufficient grounds.

You will also be aware of the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme, a £100m grant scheme which was designed to support more developed offshore wind projects fund greater coordination. Through this scheme, the results of which will be announced this autumn, and our pathfinder project engagement in the East Anglia region we are actively supporting the development of new coordinated approaches to support industry in finding solutions to coordinated deployment in practice with the aim of reducing development impacts.

Given the role of the Secretary of State in determining Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project applications for development consent, the Department cannot comment on specific concerns regarding a proposed infrastructure project to avoid prejudicing any ultimate planning decision.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I hope you will find this reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,
A Ali Abiodun Ali DESNZ CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

Tibenham Community Hall



We have once again had a busy few months, with lots of events and some building works taking place at the Hall.

The Social Evenings at the Hall continue to be a great success, usually held twice a month on a Friday evening (dates for November in the Diary section below). We provide a space for everyone to meet up for a catch-up over a drink, play a few games if they want to, all in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Over the Summer we were able to 'spill' out onto the grass and it was lovely to see so many families come down to have fun in the sunshine. We are planning a Christmas get together on Friday 22nd December and we hope you can join us? Please keep a look out for further details nearer the time.

Events

We have hosted a diverse range of events over the Summer, and these continue to attract many new faces to the Hall, which is great to see.

We enjoyed a wonderful day celebrating the King's Coronation back in May, with the service being shown on the large screen.

In June we hosted 'A Night of Music from Hollywood & Broadway', over two nights and we welcomed over 120 visitors to the Hall to enjoy a wonderful night of entertainment.

This year's Family Fun Day was combined with our 20th Anniversary celebrations and great fun was had by both adults and children alike.

September saw our Annual Produce and Handicraft Show, which again this year produced a wide range of entries in all the classes. We are always looking for more people to take part and are hoping that next year we can run some small workshops linked to the proposed classes, to offer people a chance to get involved and challenge our reigning champions for their trophies!

Activities

We continue to operate our usual calendar of activities which are run by volunteers - the Management Committee would very much like to thank them for all their support in ensuring that these activities continue. They are always looking for new members to join them so please do not hesitate to give them a call to find out more.

Light Exercise:

This group meets regularly on a Tuesday morning from 10am to 11am. The Hall purchased some new equipment last year to enhance the range of exercises they offer. The group provides a warm welcome to those wanting to increase their mobility with a programme of gentle light exercises. Please speak to Georgina 01379 677674 to find out more.

Short Mat Bowls:

The group meets regularly on a Tuesday afternoon 2 - 4pm. If you have never tried this before, please come along and give it a try, or ring David on 01379 677674 to find out more. Beginners are welcome and it is your chance to learn a new skill whilst having fun.

Badminton

Thursday nights 5.30 -7.30pm. Please speak to David on 01379 677674 for more details or just pop along. The group are a friendly bunch and are always looking for new people to join them, so if you haven't played for a while and want to pick up your racquet again, or have never played before but fancy giving it a go, just give David a call to find out more.

Craft and Chat Club/Games Club

Our Craft and Chat Club now meets four times a month: on the 1st and 3rd Mondays from 10am to 1pm and on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 2 to 4pm.

We have recently added a Games Club to the afternoon sessions - so if you like playing games but perhaps have no-one to play with, just bring your games or jigsaws along and meet up with friends for some light-hearted chat and competition. The sessions are also a chance to meet up with like-minded crafters, whatever your passion there will always be somebody to share it with, or to help get you started on something new. Just pop along for a cup of tea/coffee and a chat. For more info on either of these sessions please call Julie on 01379 674427.

Improvements to the Hall Footpath

As you have probably seen, the new footpath and lighting has been completed and was officially opened on 7th September by Phylliss Hunt and Lyn Carey.

A huge thank you goes to the Contractors, who worked through some very difficult conditions to produce what I hope you will agree is a fantastic new addition to the Hall's facilities. The lighting has made a massive improvement to the Car Park for those accessing the Hall on foot at night and also helps those using the Car park itself. The Committee would like to thank Mick Lilley who kindly made a private donation to the Hall to cover the cost of the lighting works.

Storage

The need for new storage facilities at the Hall is becoming an ever-increasing necessity. We have been trying to provide a wider range of events and activities, which has inevitably increased the amount of equipment etc that we need to store.

As previously reported, we have been actively seeking to raise funds and have been looking at possible grants to allow us to progress with the storage extension.

Unfortunately, the estimated Budget for the new extension is at present in region of £35-40K and realistically we felt that we needed to 'think outside the box' to find ways in which we could solve the storage issue sooner rather than later, but do it within our current resources. Grant funding for this type of project is very limited and it was unlikely that we would have been able to start the proposed extension for some considerable time.

As you may have seen, we have started building a storage unit at the far end of the Hall which will enable us to store all the chairs, tables, table tennis table and some other small equipment behind doors. This will not only look much better than the existing arrangement but will hopefully be safer and easier for our users to access. As part of the construction works, we will be incorporating the sound and audio control equipment above the storage area, which will also enable us to free up space in the entrance Lobby, as this will remove the need for the Front of House Desk which is currently located there. It is also our intention to obtain a steel storage container, which will be located to the rear of the building, to enable storage of much of the equipment we currently have under the stage, and to allow for other miscellaneous 'bits and pieces' from the meeting room to be moved. We hope you will agree that this will make the facilities we have much more user friendly for everyone.

Digital Buddies

Our Drop in Coffee morning sessions have continued to thrive over the Summer and numbers regularly exceed 30 each week. One element of these sessions, with the

assistance of several dedicated volunteers, has been to offer help with our ever-increasing online world via our Digital Buddies group. It is becoming more and more of a necessity to have digital skills to gain access to NHS platforms to order prescriptions or to make appointments, and with many Banks closing their local branches, online banking is also becoming a necessity.

Many of our visitors do not have the necessary knowledge or skills to be able to access these platforms easily and are becoming very concerned about how they are going to be able keep up in this new digital world. We were lucky enough to receive a grant last year which was given specifically to support the well-being of our patrons and we felt that supporting this initiative would be an appropriate use of some of these funds. We have therefore recently purchased some new computer equipment to enable us to offer a digital 'hub' at the Hall where people can drop in and, with support from our volunteers, learn some new skills to enable them to gain confidence in this new digital world. If you feel that this is something you would benefit from, please do come along to our drop-in session on a Thursday morning from 10.30am to 12.30pm. There will always be tea, coffee and biscuits on offer, and we only charge a small fee to attend. If you would like to find out more, please give Lorna a call on 07786 568073.

Volunteering

We would like to thank all our current volunteers who work so very hard all year round, ensuring that the Hall is a safe and welcoming environment for all the events and activities we run.

We are a small team and, as always, we are on the lookout for anyone who would like to get involved with what we do at the Hall. There is no commitment to join the Committee, but we would love to hear from if you would like to get involved in what we do. Perhaps you can bake a cake occasionally for the Café; you might like to help from time to time with the gardening or you could help set up tables and chairs for events; you may have skills or ideas for fundraising, or perhaps you have a hidden talent as a Bingo caller! Whatever your skill or talent, if you feel you can help in any way, we would love to hear from you. Please give me a call on 07825 771551 or email hall.info@tibenham.org.uk

Dates for your Diary – see our website and Facebook page for further details
www.hall.tibenham.org.uk

November Social Nights 3rd and 17th – Bar opens 6.30pm.

Thursday Drop in Coffee Mornings – held every Thursday from 10.30am to 12.30pm.
Tea, coffee and biscuits.

Sunday 5th November – Autumn Clear Up Day – we will be doing a bit of tidying up and sorting out, both inside and out, so why not pop along and give us a hand. We will be there from 10am until 2pm, so if you have some free time that day just come along - we would love to see you. Refreshments will be provided.

Friday 24th November (note change of date) – Quiz Night. Doors open 6.30pm. Quiz starts 7.30pm. Alan, our usual Quizmaster, returns. £5 per person maximum of six per team (no need to book). Bar and Raffle.

Saturday 25th November - Saturday Café – 11am to 2pm. Light lunches and refreshments available. Table Tops £3. Raffle and 100 Club draw. (Note there is no Café in December.)

Saturday 16th December – our regular Christmas Cabaret, showcasing local talent returns to the Hall. Ticket and booking details to be announced shortly.

Friday 22nd December – Christmas Social Night. Further details to follow.

Hoping to see you at the Hall 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**