

Tibenham Parish

Chair of Tibenham Parish Council's Report 2021 - 2022

2021- 2022 has been an unusually busy time for the parish councillors, and I would like to thank all of them for sticking with it through thick and thin. Perhaps this is a good time to dispel a rumour I heard recently in the village - parish councillors are not paid, and are not often thanked.

- Having said that, we would like to fill two vacancies on the parish council, as having a full complement of councillors helps us to share responsibility for getting things done. The work of a parish councillor is not normally too difficult or too time-consuming, and it doesn't require any special technical skills, though we will be looking at some training now that we (seem to be) post-Covid. Please speak to any of our councillors or our clerk who will be happy to describe what is involved.
- Your parish council has managed, for the third year in a row, to avoid any increase to your Parish portion of this year's Council Tax. We are all aware of how difficult it is for many people to cope with the effects of the pandemic and now the sharp increase in the cost of living, and we are trying help where we can.
- The Greyhound PH is undergoing renovations and when I spoke to the owners recently they expressed the hope that the pub will be able to be reopened this summer. Meanwhile they have agreed to make sure there is public access to the defibrillator, and the mains supply remains on, as this maintains the condition of the batteries.
- We recently held a very well-attended public meeting regarding motorsport activities at the Gliding Club. We were able to hear arguments from both sides, in favour of the activities and against them. The parish council will discuss this further.
- National Grid plans to build a series of massive pylons through the centre of the parish as part of a line running from Norwich to Tilbury to distribute electricity from North Sea windfarms. There is currently a short public consultation but we must note that the official statutory consultation will not take place until next year. Full details are on the National Grid website, and there is an online questionnaire on the website also. I will be writing soon to our MP, Richard Bacon, as the District and County Councils

are not being consulted, though I shall also be writing to them as I know they will be making their views known as well. Anything that people can do to protest will be welcome - online petitions, pressure groups, social media and so on - but please remember to do the same next year. The Parish Council will discuss details of our response before the 16 June deadline.

- The Parish Council is not running any events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next month, though I have successfully applied for a grant to help the Community Hall to run their event. We have also paid towards Jubilee gifts for the pupils of Aslacton School, some of whom live here in Tibenham.
- We often need to ask for volunteers from the village, and we are grateful for the small but loyal band of people who respond. It would be very pleasant to see some new faces to help spread the load a bit. This year volunteers have done a community litterpick, cleaned the road signs so we now know where we are, maintained the recycling area, maintained the book exchange in the telephone kiosk ... and by the way, we are now looking for a volunteer or volunteers to prep and paint the telephone kiosk the right shade of red (because, believe it or not, it is a listed building) and later on when conditions are right we hope to complete the repair and extension of the boardwalk on Slough Lane. When the call comes, please step forward.
- We have responded to requests from residents, some of which emerged in our last Annual Parish Meeting. We have installed a new dog bin at the end of Slough Lane on Pristow Green Road to try to deal with complaints of excessive dog fouling in the area. We have installed two grit bins, one on the junction of Mill Road and Diss Road, and one on Church Road. I think we're pretty safe at the moment but we are at least ready for next winter. We are in the process of ordering a reflective road sign for Pristow Green Lane just before the start of the 30mph limit - the hold-up has been trying to get the go-ahead for this from Norfolk Highways.