

# ANNUAL PARISH REPORT – 2019-2020

Well, under normal circumstances we would be holding our Annual Parish Meeting today. This is not an ordinary council meeting, but one where the Parish Council reports on its activities for the year – and the public have the opportunity to ask any questions.

We are normally joined by other village organisations – the Church, Village Hall Committee and Village Fair Committee – who also do an annual report. Obviously in these strange times this cannot happen.

I would like to start by sending best wishes to all Tockenham residents – and hoping that you are all keeping well and safe.

I am pleased to say that the council membership has stayed constant this year – and I would like to thank Geoff Cowling (Vice Chair), Sarah Still, Tracy Madgwick and Anita Lewis for their support throughout the year. However we have had one change of personnel – our old clerk, Danielle Holmes, left us after the September meeting due to other work commitments, and we were joined by Diane Zeitzen. She is an experienced clerk and already works for Compton Bassett and Clyffe Pypard Councils. She is already proving to be an asset to our team.

So – what have we been doing all year?

PLANNING – all planning applications within the parish are passed to the local council for comment – and we look to assess the impact any application may have on the surrounding area. This year we have received the following applications:-

- Binall Stables (ongoing from previous year) – conversion of workshops to residential dwelling. This was officially approved by Wiltshire Council in May 2019.
- The Old Rectory – application to build a new garage and to convert outbuildings to temporary residential accommodation. This was approved with conditions.
- Lillybrook House, Bowds Lane – amendment to original application for rear/side extensions. Approved with conditions.
- Barton Cottage – application for extension to listed building. Withdrawn.
- 12 Tockenham Corner – continuation of application from 2007 for part single/part 2-storey side and rear extensions. Approved with conditions.

HIGHWAYS – This continues to be an area where the P.C. has a major input – constantly reporting potholes, flooding, leeks, fly-tipping etc.

- Our lanes have taken a lot of battering over the last few months- what with the excess traffic from the Lyneham closure, Gigaclear burying their cables in several areas of the parish, Thames Water digging trenches from Tockenham Corner right up

the lane and along Orchard Lane. With support from our Wiltshire Councillor Allison Bucknell, Wiltshire Council have done a sterling job repairing the verges and digging ditches all along the C120. We are expecting Thames Water to do a similar exercise along the C130.

- One major achievement this year was the Substantive Highways Scheme along the A3102– which was supported by our Community Area Transport Group and carried out by Wiltshire Council Highways Department. This involved major improvements in the signage and road markings along this stretch – particularly highlighting the junctions into the village, Trow Lane and Clevely Lane. Unfortunately, despite our very best efforts, W.C. would not agree to reduce the speed limit.
- After concerns expressed by residents, Slow Down signs were purchased for the wheelie bins. Thanks to Anita Lewis and Jane Moore for their work on this. We are currently in liaison with the CATG to get signs warning of pedestrians and of the fact that there are no footways. These will be placed at each end of the main street and in the built-up area of Primrose Hill. Unfortunately, all CATG meetings are currently cancelled – but we will pursue the matter this year.
- All parishes have the services of a Parish Steward who calls one day a month. Over the last 6 months, Geoff Cowling has built up a very good rapport with ours – achieving some good results – e.g. drainage work on C120 as it approaches Preston Lane, positioning of posts on the verge by Shaw Farm. The Parish Steward also continues to clean signs, dig grips to ditches, fill small potholes etc.
- We would just like to remind you that anyone can report an issue to W.C. – whether it be potholes, fly-tipping, flooding etc. – by going on the W.C. website or using the My Wiltshire App. You do not need to be a Councillor to do this.

#### PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET 2020-21

- You will find a copy of the 2020-21 budget attached.
- Noticeable expenditure during the last year has been – Clerk’s salary and PAYE, Community First Insurance, Play Area maintenance, lawn mower service, Slow Down signs for bins, Village flowers, Fair prizes, Noticeboard repairs (under Community-Led Plan projects), Website costs and WALC subscription. We have also placed £1,500 with Bevirs-Law to cover the landowner’s legal costs for the set-up of a lease.
- Expected expenditure for 2020-21 - £3,850 towards the storage unit, final noticeboard repair, preservative for play equipment, £600 as part share of cost for road signs.
- I am pleased to confirm that we have kept the precept for the coming year at £7,000. This includes an amount to boost the current reserve for new play equipment. This will make our reserve holdings as follows –

Play Equipment - £7,885

Community-Led Plan Projects - £5,303

## PLAY AREA

The play equipment and park continue to be well used – both by residents and outsiders. Many thanks go to Kevin Carter for his professional inspections and maintenance of the play equipment. And thanks also to the grass cutters – Andrew, Gareth, Stuart, Kevin, Phil and Drew for their sterling work throughout the season. Also to Edd who keeps the junction of Orchard Lane mown.

Thanks also to Martin Marmoy for continuing to keep the old mower going! We are aware that this will need replacing eventually – hopefully with a sit-on mower once we have a storage unit in which to keep it.

The usual application of preservative to the play equipment did not happen this year – but we will be picking this up as a priority after Covid-19.

We will also then start legally required, daily inspections of the equipment.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We are slowly getting through all of the necessary stages to get the Tockenham Neighbourhood Plan passed. This year we have held the Regulation 14 Consultation (run by our Steering Group) and the Regulation 16 Consultation (run by W.C.). The draft Plan has also been examined by an External Examiner. All recommended amendments, mostly due to legalities, terminology and necessary conformity to Wiltshire Core Strategy, have been completed and the finalised Plan is now back with Wiltshire Council to organise the final Referendum. Unfortunately, this has had to be put on hold until life returns to normal. Full details on how to vote will be widely advertised at the appropriate time.

Our grateful thanks to Stuart Richardson who has done an amazing job on getting the Plan through to this stage.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Communication** – we regularly receive notifications from W.C. and other organisations about a variety of subjects – e.g. road closures, surveys etc. These will always appear on the minutes in the parish mag. But where an item has significant importance to our residents, it will also be circulated via the village email system, with hard copies put up on noticeboards. Also please be aware that you can also consult the P C website – [www.tockenparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.tockenparishcouncil.gov.uk) – where all information concerning the parish council can be found. This includes minutes, agendas, councillor details and Neighbourhood Plan updates.
- **Area Board Meetings** – these provide information gathering and networking opportunities. We try to ensure that Tockenham is always represented at these meetings.

- **MOD Lyneham** – the last commandant held 6 monthly update sessions for all local parish councils to keep us posted on the latest activities on the site. We always ensure that Tockenham has a presence on these occasions and significant information is reported back to the residents. We are hoping that the new commandant will continue with this process.
- **Flowers** – the parish council continue to pay for the village flowers and the prizes for the Fair Flower Basket competitions. Our grateful thanks to Julie Marshall for all of her hard work in keeping the village looking pretty – and to the others who help with the watering. The village really does appreciate it.
- **Village Storage Unit** – we continue to pursue the acquisition of a lease for a piece of land behind the Play Area on which to build a storage unit. Some progress is now being made and our grateful thanks go to Sonyia Woolnough of Bevirs-Law for her perseverance in this matter.

If you should have any questions concerning any Parish Council matters, please do email me at [dkirby@tockenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:dkirby@tockenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk)