

Tarporley Parish Council Annual Report 2015-2016

Chairman's Report 2015-2016 Ken Parker

The Parish Council started the year with a full complement of 12 councillors, six being new councillors and a new parish clerk. I continued as chairman and Gill Clough as vice chair.

We have had an extremely busy year dealing with the needs, requirements, aspirations and development of the village, not only for the residents and businesses located here, but also for the many visitors.

Individual councillors became members of various specific working groups which included Infrastructure, Streetscene, Finance, Cemetery Committee and the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors also represented the Parish Council on various local matters, and were directly involved with the Community Centre, the High School, and the Primary School. We also continued to employ contractors and subcontractors, to deal with the day to day cleaning, maintenance and improvement of Tarporley. Their tasks included litter picking, street cleaning, footpath maintenance, grass cutting, weed spraying and also salt gritting to footpaths and public areas, during icy conditions. We also carried out regular inspections of the children's play area, to ensure that this and the facilities were maintained to a good and safe standard. We have also recently renewed the contract for the shopping bus service for the elderly and disabled members of our community.

We have ensured that improvements to the village have continued to be made, and these include forming flower and shrub beds, and planting additional fruit trees in the grass areas situated around the village, and are still working on the design and landscaping proposals for the Village Square, which will be located at the entrance to St Helens Church on High Street. This will be discussed at a public consultation soon. We have awarded grants towards the costs of upgrading the community centre car park, the provision of the new public footpath around the playing field, and the general maintenance of both churchyards. We have completed a full survey, and are now carrying out maintenance and improvements to the public footpaths around the village. We are also in discussion with CWaC with the intention of taking over control of the maintenance and grass cutting of all public grassed areas located around the village, and the provision of the hanging flower baskets along High Street, but this will be on the understanding that they will reimburse us for the costs of carrying out this work on a regular basis.

The sports and recreation field off Brook Road, has recently been transferred to the Parish Council, and we will now tidy up the area, and install the very necessary land drainage, before work on site can commence, to create this new and very welcome asset to the village. We will be appointing a project manager to control and oversee this work.

The development of the Neighbourhood Plan, which is based on the wishes of local people, is now complete, and we have accepted and incorporated the comments from the Examiners Report. Subject to the results of the Referendum, this will form the basis for making decisions on all future developments and improvements to the village. In the Plan, three areas off High Street have been specifically identified as existing green spaces to be retained for the visual benefit of the village. These are the Daffodil Field, the RBL site and land to the rear of the Manor House. All three are being seriously considered for development by developers, but in the case of the Daffodil Field, which has been approved on appeal by the Planning Inspector, for housing development, CWaC have asked for a judicial review to take place, on the inspector's decision. We need the strength of the Neighbourhood Plan to give the residents more control over this type of controversial issue, and also future development in our own village.

Planning applications for large housing schemes located outside the village development boundary, are still a problem. A number of planning refusals have gone to appeal, others have been temporarily withdrawn, but the implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan should give the village more control over its future.

The major problems associated with car parking generally, and also traffic congestion on High Street, has increased over the past year, and because of this, our shops and other businesses are experiencing a sharp fall in trade. This has resulted in an increasing number of empty shop premises, and we are aware that a number of businesses are also now for sale. We have managed to increase the number of parking spaces in the car parks, but cars parked all day on High Street are a major problem for shoppers and visitors, and this has caused some to go elsewhere. To improve this situation, we are considering the introduction of limited time parking on High Street. Questionnaires have been delivered to local residents and shoppers, for their comments and views on this, and a decision will be made following receipt of these comments and recommendations.

As in past years, we have entered Tarporley for this year's Best Kept Village Awards, but we do need the assistance of all residents, shop keepers and local businesses to keep the village clean, litter free, neat and tidy, and to provide additional colourful floral displays on their buildings and in their gardens. Last year we didn't achieve the usual high award, but we are hoping that this year, with your help, we will be awarded a much better result. Judging has already commenced, and covers the total area within the Tarporley parish boundaries, not just High Street.

In conclusion I take this opportunity to thank all of the councillors and our parish clerk, for their enthusiasm, time, dedication and professionalism in carrying out their duties for the council. Each year has seen an increase in the amount of work necessary, due to government initiatives and legislation, and also to deal with the needs and aspirations of this vibrant village of Tarporley. We look forward to serving you and the village of Tarporley over the coming year, and if you have any views or concerns about village matters, I invite you to visit us on our stand at the Tarporley Village Carnival in July, or come to one of our parish council meetings held in the community centre on the second Monday of each month. We look forward to meeting you.

Summary of Accounts 2015-2016

Balance Carried forward (from 2014-2015)	97,730	Payments Made	
		Salaries	18,392
Receipts (Money Received)		Administration inc. subscriptions	13,024
Precept	59,053	Room Hire	807
Grants inc Local Tax Support Grant	3697	Insurance	1,195
Grant—New Homes Bonus	20,178	Community Bus	2,089
Interest & VAT Rebate	33398	Neighbourhood Plan	5,128
Cemetery	6450	Village Maintenance inc. Bowser	21,807
Community Bus	886	Cemetery	1,280
Miscellaneous inc Brook Road Fund- ing from CW&C	4205	TCC Field & Brook Road Sports Field Development	5,109
Total Receipts	£97,807	Donation to TCC Path & Kerb	12,270
		Donation to TCC Field	2,000
		Donations to Groups inc Guides, PTA	2,650
		Miscellaneous items	1,563
		VAT	4,055
		Total	£91,369
		Balance 2016-2017	£104,168

Parish Council SURGERIES

Prior to every meeting between 6.30 and 7.00pm, the Parish Council holds a drop-in surgery where members of the public can talk to one to one with individual councillors on an informal basis.

Planning

Tarporeley as a key service centre in the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (part1) has continued to attract a large amount of interest from developers who are looking to build in the village, and in July 2015 the Council established a 'Planning Protocol' on how to deal with developers wishing to met with Councillors. The Council has met with different developers throughout the last Council year and the minutes of these meetings can be found on our website at <http://www.tarporeley.org.uk/tarporeley-parish-council/meetings/>

Since May 2015 the Council has been notified of approximately 48 planning applications, the majority (18) were for extensions, 6 related to removing trees or hedges, 6 related to changing or replacing windows, 6 were to create single dwellings, either conversions or new builds, 2 were change of use of buildings. Only one application was for a large development, application 16/00719/FUL for 48 dwellings in land adjacent to 2A High Street, the decision on this in not known at the time of writing.

During the year refused applications for Arderne House Farm (45 dwellings) and Daffodil Field when to appeal, the Daffodil Field appeal was approved but the decision has been taken to judicial review by CW&C, the Arderne House Farm appeal has been withdrawn.

Attendance

The Council has twelve seats, eleven of which were filled at the May 2015 elections as a result there was an uncontested election (no voting), James Kennedy was co-opted by the Council at their June meeting.

The Council has held 11 scheduled meetings during the Council year which runs from May to May and two extraordinary meetings, the average attendance of Councillors at the meetings is 10, while the average public attendance is 6 per meeting. Meetings have also been regularly attended by CW&C Ward Councillor Eveleigh Moore Dutton and PC Wayne Thomas.

All Council's meetings are open to the public and include Public Participation where members of the public can raise any matter of concern.

Neighbourhood Plan

Council Meeting Dates 2016-2017

The Council meets on the second Monday of the month (except August).

Monday 9th May 2016
Monday 13th June 2016
Monday 11th July 2016
Monday 12th September 2016
Monday 10th October 2016
Monday 14th November 2016
Monday 12th December 2016
Monday 9th January 2017
Monday 13th February 2017
Monday 13th March 2017

All meetings start at 7pm and are held in the Committee Room, Tarporley Community Centre unless advertised differently.

Footpaths Report, David Press Parish Footpath Officer

Most of our footpaths are in good order and are now well signed except for some improvement needed on paths now in the Parish because of the expanded boundary.

The routes from Heath Green to Heatherways and Heathfields and on to Utkinton Road and Forest Road are now accessible without having to climb stiles. However, there is one gate on the route which is on top of a steep bank and we hope to build a gentler ramp here. The surface on the route toward Forest Road has also been improved and has been far more useable this winter. We hope to replace stiles with gates on several more routes in the coming year.

We hope that when the Nantwich Road housing development nears completion that the landowner will be persuaded to allow a route through the A51/49 underpass.

It has come to light that the definitive rights of way map shows the route from behind Birch Heath finishing short of the road. This was probably an error when the map was originally drawn. We hope to be able to gather evidence to be able to get it included on the map.

(picture Footpath 10, towards Heath Green)



Tarporley Parish Councillors

Chairman 2015-2016: Councillor Ken Parker

Vice-Chair 2015-2016: Councillor Gill Clough

Elaine Chapman	733972	Julie Hall	734078
Gill Clough	733545	John Millington	730921
James Kennedy	07900 276 217	Gordon Pearson	733813
Jeremy Mills	730898	Richard Statham	732940
Ken Parker	732188	Peter Tavernor	732165
Andrew Wallace	732467	Nigel Taylor	732538

Tarporley Community First Responders (CFRs)

Tarporley Community First Responders (CFR's) serve the residents of Tarporley and surrounding areas and are part of a wider group including Bunbury, Tattenhall and Malpas. They provide a rapid response within the local area. Responders are called out at the same time an ambulance is alerted following a 999 call.

Trained responders are called to a range of life threatening situations including, Cardiac and Respiratory Arrest, Breathing problems, Chest Pain, Diabetic Emergencies, Strokes and Bleeding among others.

In the first three months of this year there have been about a dozen call-outs where Responders have been involved, however call-outs are increasing.

In an emergency as described above, time is of the essence. Rapid intervention before the paramedics arrive can have a significant influence on survival rates.

Tarporley at present has one Responder and one person who is in the early stages of becoming a fully trained member. If anyone would be interested in learning more about becoming a CFR, please contact the Parish Council.

To keep up to date with what the Parish Council is doing join our distribution list, just forward your address or e-mail to the Clerk at clerk@tarporley.org.uk



Cheshire Police Community Contacts for Tarporley

PC 3722 Wayne Thomas is your police local beat manager and is contactable via 101 or E-mail wayne.thomas@cheshire.pnn.police.uk



PSCO 21148 Kenneth Williamson is your local police community support officer (PCSO) and is contactable via 101 or E-mail kenneth.williamson@cheshire.pnn.police.uk



PS 3468 Haddock is the police sergeant responsible for the Winsford, Tarporley and surrounding areas and is contactable via 101 or E-mail daniel.haddock@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

For more information contact the Clerk:
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