



TUTBURY PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR 2023 – 2024

MAY – Following the Parish Council elections in May the new council sat for the first time with myself as the new chairman and Dave Morris as vice chair. Policies were agreed and committees formed, including two new committees which are Road Safety and Village Vision.

JUNE - Myself and the Clerk had an induction meeting with the first time new Councillors, Dave Bull, Tina Adams, Alex Hall and Lydia Crossley. Myself and Chris Dodds met with tree surgeon companies to inspect the trees in the churchyard and the triangle on Castle Street.

JULY – With our attention turned to the stone walls in the churchyard I met with Chris to inspect them and take photos as we went. I contacted a structural engineer and passed on all of the information that we had gathered, he agreed to inspect the walls and compile a report. A heavy downpour caused flooding in Tutbury with many low lying properties being damaged. Councillors Lydia Crossley and Alex Hall visited door to door in these areas to show support and gather information. The following weekend I did the same and encouraged those affected to attend our next meeting, where the subject would be on the agenda. Our decision at that meeting was that we would gather together all of the information that we had and pass it up the report chain to, the County Councillor, Chief Executive, Director of Environmental Services, Severn Trent and our local MP. The County Council began their drain investigations as part of the flooding review to follow. The Road Safety Committee met and formed a list of aspirations on road traffic measures and area hot spots.

AUGUST – The structural engineer came back to me with his report, which cost £500 on the churchyard walls with recommendations. The Open Spaces

committee agreed the quote for the churchyard and triangle tree works. Myself and Chris met with the Environment Agency at the mill site. We walked the watercourse to the weir and discussed improvement ideas.

SEPTEMBER – The Road Safety committee reported back to full council with a 5 point plan proposal which was agreed. The bus shelter repairs were carried out by a local contractor with an additional quote for the roof replacement on the Burton Road shelter. The Parish Council was given a power point presentation by John Bridges of the patients forum regarding defibrillators in the village. He was proposing that the Parish Council adopt them going forward. We adopted some new policies regarding use of own devices for council business and approved the use of new council emails in future.



OCTOBER – The bus shelter repairs have been completed and the new bench in the Burton Road shelter fitted. Trent and Dove offered us a metal bench if we could find a suitable location. The Road Safety committee met with County Councillor Philip White and highways officer Richard Rayson to discuss traffic calming plus a new bus shelter location. The Parish Council was given a talk by representative of the CPRE covering housebuilding and hedgerow replacements. We agreed to adopt the defibrillators following training from John Bridges. We also looked at forming a bid with the civic society from the regeneration fund at the ESBC.

NOVEMBER – Myself and Dave Morris have been investigating the new position of the bench offered to be placed outside the chemists on high street. The owners have been contacted and the position agreed. The Parish Council agreed to purchase a plaque in memory of William Crossley which is to be placed on the changing room building at Cornmill Lane. We agreed on a Parish

Council logo and the Village vision group reported back with the first draft of the Village vision document. The Parish Council Christmas tree was erected and decorated on the triangle.

DECEMBER – We agreed to carry out maintenance works on the changing room roof at Cornmill Lane and the memorial plaque was ordered. The Village Vision group met again regarding the village plan and a joint ward enhancement grant bid with the civic society.

JANUARY – Vandalism and litter had become a problem on Ferrers Avenue playing field. We decided to remove all of the debris and leaflet drop the residents living nearby. Vehicle damage on Redhill Lane and Castle Hayes Road were becoming an issue due to pot holes. I reported the concerns to our County Councillor Philip White who indicated that repairs are in the pipeline to be done soon and resurfacing later in the year. We decided to raise the precept by its largest ever amount due to budgetary requirements. A community engagement policy was adopted and will work in conjunction with the Village plan. The Open Spaces committee agreed to obtain quotes for a disabled access on Cornmill Lane.



FEBRUARY – Speed watch training began for the volunteer group, with equipment paid for by the Parish Council. John Bridges met with the volunteer councilors to be directed on how to record and inspect the defibrilators. Myself and the Clerk attended a Social media course. The Parish Council

resolved to hold quarterly surgeries on Saturday mornings at the church and to have a stall on Aprils Sunday market, to launch the village vision. We resolved the questionnaire content and to have parish plan leaflets printed. A quote was agreed for the disabled access at Cornmill Lane, and the Clerk has applied for a lottery grant. We resolved to review the Clerks employment contract and a new street cleaning contractor was approved.

MARCH – We met with the County Councillor and highways officer again to discuss road safety issues. The idea of Speed reduction along Fauld Straight was mentioned. It will cost £15,000 to implement with the Parish Council being asked to meet half of that cost next year. The Village vision group finalized the document and questionnaire to go to print. I attended a Business Engagement meeting in the village on behalf of the Parish Council. The speakers were from the Borough and County Councils who informed those present about grants that could be applied for. They were mainly aimed at small businesses and shop owners and encouraging greener ways of working. I spoke to Mark Wright from ESBC regarding the Ward Enhancement grant scheme, he indicated that he would be prepared to attend one of our meetings and discuss the issues. Myself and Chris Dodds met with a representative of Tutbury Tigers who we are working closely with, to discuss the user agreement for Cornmill Lane playing fields. The Parish Council held a special public meeting with Staffordshire Crime Commissioner Ben Adams to discuss policing and crime issues. Finally in March the Parish Council Facebook page has been launched.

APRIL – We sent out messages to two landowners regarding land drainage being required to combat water lying on the roads at Redhill Lane and Cornmill Lane. The County Council will follow these with letters from highways if it persists. Grants that we agreed to award were to Tutbury Allotments, Christmas festival and the Pre-school group for IT equipment. The Parish Council stall on the Sunday market gave us a response of 48 questionnaires being filled out on the day. I agreed to attend a meeting at Fauld, British Gypsum on behalf of the Parish Council on 29th April.

Francis Crossley – Chair, Tutbury Parish Council.

