



TARVIN TIMES

TARVIN TIMES - The Newsletter of Tarvin Parish Council
Spring 2021 *Newsletter No.21*

COVID-19

Due to the national lockdown being still in place, the newsletter has on this occasion been published in online format only.

As the pandemic continues to dominate residents' lives, residents should remember that support is available locally. If anyone needs shopping, errands, prescriptions picked up or even just a friendly chat to someone, they can call 01829 740354 (St Andrews Vicarage). If there is no one available to answer, please leave a message and someone will return your call as soon as they can.

2021/22 REVENUE BUDGET

At the January Council meeting, the Parish Council (PC) approved a budget for the financial year starting 1st April. The Council's funding primarily comes from the Parish Precept, which is a modest amount included in the Council Tax raised against each household. The good news is that the Precept will remain at last year's level, which for a Band D property is £34.33.

The budgeted income is used to maintain the fabric of the Parish and which is not covered by Cheshire West and Chester Council. This includes management of the King George V Playing Field, maintenance of certain street lights and the Christmas trees and lights erected annually in the village and in Oscroft. The Council also makes grants to local charitable organisations and funds 'special projects' such as speeding assessments and the crossing refuge on the A51 adjacent to the Co-op.

GRANT AID

As mentioned above the PC allocates a small amount of its precept each year to provide grants to voluntary organisations based in the Parish which are in need of financial support. The amount available during the coming year is £3,000.

There are a number of conditions for organisations to meet before applying. For example, grants will only be given where the group's membership or activities are open to all of the Parish. Also grants are not available for purposes which are commonly considered as the work or responsibility of businesses or bodies funded by any Government Department.

Voluntary Organisations within the Parish wishing to be considered for grant aid during the coming year should contact the Clerk requesting further details, including an application form. Completed Application Forms must be received by the Clerk no later than the end of June 2021.

DOG FOULING

One of the well published effects of the Covid pandemic has been the increase in dog ownership, which provides many of us with companionship and exercise opportunities. We are blessed with many footpaths in the Parish as well as the Woodland where dogs and their walkers are well in evidence. However, one negative aspect of this and one of the regular complaints received by the Council concerns dog mess not being picked up and deposited in an appropriate bin. The most recent complaints have highlighted problems in Hockenhull Avenue, Hockenhull Lane and Townfield Lane.

Please if you own a dog, ensure that you dispose of the waste appropriately and help maintain the quality of our local environment.

RIDGEWAY - GAP IN HEDGE

This time last year the PC agreed a proposal to make the informal gap in the hedge, which allows people to get from the Ridgeway to the footway running alongside the A54, a permanent feature. This would require the installation of a gate, laying an all-weather surface and providing a safety barrier between the road and the pavement on the A54. It was considered that creating a proper gateway in the hedge would go some way to compensating for the fact that the access from the new development on the Ridgeway into Forge Way was not being made available to the general public. As the A54 road side of the hedge is the responsibility of Highways and their permission was necessary, it was acknowledged that it would take some time for the project to be completed. The residents of the properties closest to the gap were consulted but soon after that matters were overtaken by COVID-19. During the national lockdowns Cheshire Highways have only been dealing with emergencies and between the lockdowns they only managed one site visit to the Ridgeway, during which they raised a number of concerns about using that particular gap in the hedge. However, they promised to send their Highways Safety Team to consider the proposal in more detail and also look at other options— and so we wait!

STREET LIGHTS

The Parish Council owns and operates 23 street lights, located in places that would not normally be covered by Cheshire West and Chester, for example in Oscroft and on Broomheath Lane on the Waverton side of the A51. In December the PC decided to replace the lamps with LED types as this would reduce energy use and maintenance costs. The first lights were replaced at the beginning of February and the full replacement programme should be completed during the coming weeks.

PLATTS LANE

Platts Lane runs from behind Okells, across Cross Lanes, then across Broomheath Lane and on towards the Roman Bridges. Last year a stretch of Platts Lane was subject to serious flooding. As this route is very popular with walkers and cyclists, the flooding caused a lot of inconvenience. Thankfully remedial work carried out by Mr James Wright of Hockenhull Hall and his team has solved the problem. The Council, on behalf of all users, is very grateful for all their efforts.

NEW NOTICEBOARD

A new noticeboard for the wall outside the Red Lion on the High Street has been made by Mr John Bloomfield. Once the pandemic restrictions allow, the old board will be taken down and the new one fixed in its place. The PC is very grateful to Mr Bloomfield who has only charged for the materials used.

WASTE CONSULTATION

Cheshire West and Chester Council has begun an eight-week consultation on waste collection and recycling. This is a very important consultation as these services affect every household. The PC urges as many residents as possible to respond to the survey, as it wants your voice to be heard.

The on-line survey can be found at

<https://participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/waste-strategy-consultation>

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PARISH COUNCIL?

(by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Ted Lush)

Many of you will have read or seen the recent goings on at Handforth Parish Council. Thankfully Tarvin does not have the same problems. So what makes Tarvin a good parish council and how can you find out if I am telling the truth?

The first point to make is that the council is more representative than many, even so there are only 3 women councillors and 8 men. The age range is good, reflected in the fact that over 50% of the council are still working. The backgrounds of councillors are very diverse, meaning that a broad range of experiences are reflected in our discussions. Some councillors are members of political parties but the council itself is apolitical.

The second point is that the work of the council is assisted by a qualified and experienced clerk. He ensures that the council and councillors always operate within the rules of the council and the law. It is clerk who implements the council decisions although the council can authorise a councillor to take an action if they are competent to do it. Since I joined the council 15 years ago the council has never gone against the advice of the clerk, although there have been some robust discussions.

The final point to make is that the council is very conscious that it is spending your money, it therefore reviews its financial rules regularly, looks at the risks the council faces and takes steps to reduce them. Every payment the council makes is authorised by the whole council, is made public and after payment a councillor checks and confirms in writing that what has been paid agrees with what was authorised. The council's finances are also subject to an annual independent audit.

So how can you find out if what I am saying is true? Simple, come along to our meetings, which currently are being held hosted online using Zoom, so you don't even need to leave your house to see the council in action. Of course, in normal times council meetings are held in the Community Centre once a month. I would not pretend that these meetings are exciting, well not all the time anyway, but there is always something interesting and because we are only discussing our community, they are always relevant. Because you can hear and see your councillors in action there is no better way to judge their performance and if you don't like what you can see you can always stand as a councillor at the next election.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Our next full Council Meetings will be held on Zoom on Mondays 22nd February, 22nd March, and 26th April. All will commence at 7.15pm. Please contact the clerk at Clerk@tarvinparishcouncil.org.uk for the link to the meeting if you wish to attend.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. David Cotgreave (740231)	Cllr. Rob Ford (740371)	Cllr. Helen Flynn (309300)
Cllr. Matthew Pochin (741136)	Cllr. Pet Twigg (740509)	Cllr. Ted Lush (741468)
Cllr. Peter Ryan (740576)	Cllr. Steve Wiley (740737)	Cllr. Ben Dean (07789 278827)
Cllr. Sarah Dutton (07722 853120)	Cllr. James Norrie (309573)	

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Your Cheshire West Councillors:

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