



TARVIN TIMES

TARVIN TIMES - The Newsletter of Tarvin Parish Council *Spring 2023* *Newsletter No.29*

NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

The PC welcomes Tarvin resident Mr. Peter Buckley as a new parish councillor

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2023

On Thursday 4th May 2023, local elections for Tarvin Parish Council (the 'PC') and Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) will take place. The pre-election period will commence on Thursday 16th March when notices announcing the election will be placed on TPC's noticeboards and website.

Candidates that are interested in becoming a Councillor will need to register their application with CWaC by 4pm on Tuesday 4th April. All the necessary paperwork will be available from either CWaC or the Parish Clerk respectively. If there are more than 11 applications for PC, there will be a contested election. If there are 11 or few applications, those that have applied will automatically be appointed as Councillors.

If you are interested in becoming a Tarvin Parish Councillor at the next election, please contact the Parish Clerk for further information about the role and the upcoming election. Alternatively join a short webinar led by Jackie Weaver (see tarvinpc.tarvinonline.org for details) which will provide more information on becoming a parish councillor.

VOTER PHOTO ID

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station. The new requirement will apply for the first time in England at local, town and parish elections in May 2023. You will need to produce an accepted form of photo ID in order to vote in May's election.

Many residents will already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. Any of the following can be used: passport, driving licence (including provisional), blue badge, certain concessionary travel cards, identity card with the PASS mark, biometric immigration document, defence identity card and certain national identity cards. For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted please visit www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID or call 0800 328 0280.

If you do not already have an acceptable form of photo ID you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate through www.voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk. Alternatively, a paper application form can be obtained through CWaC's Democratic Services team.

This is a very important and significant change to voting in England. There will be several national and local campaigns to highlight the need to take photo ID to polling stations. All parish residents should also receive further information from CWaC through the post from mid-March.

2023-24 PARISH PRECEPT

Each year, the PC makes a request, known as the Parish Precept, to CWaC in order to support its activities for the next twelve months. In 2022-23, the precept for the parish amounted to £46,600. This equates to £35.15 per annum for a property assessed at Council Tax Band D (most Tarvin properties are at Band D or below). The overall CWaC Council Tax for a Band D property in the parish is £2,064.28 for 2022-23.

The precept is used to deliver the PC's mission to support the local community and to provide those extra facilities which make the parish such an attractive place to live. These include supporting local community and charitable organisations, installing and maintaining play and exercise equipment on the playing field, tree maintenance and hedge and grass cutting, street lighting and decorating the village with Christmas trees each year.

The PC's policy over the last few years has been to keep any increase as low as practical in order to support residents, indeed it has frozen the precept on four occasions in the last seven years with no increase in the others above £1.50. However, the current year has been difficult for the PC as regards funding. At the time of the last request in early January 2022, the most recent available figure for inflation (CPI) was running at 4.6% pa. and the PC submitted a precept increase of 2.4% (or just 82p for a Band D property). Since then, the PC has experienced a huge increase in electricity costs for the 24 street lights for which it is responsible together with a higher-than-expected local authority pay settlement (including the 1.25% increase in Employers National Insurance for eight months) and maintenance and repair charges for the play equipment. The impact of these unanticipated costs is that the PC will need to utilise almost of its 'general reserves' to cover the precept shortfall in 2022-23.

The PC are now looking to set a precept for 2023-24 and have acknowledged that they will need to substantially increase the level in order to order to accommodate these unavoidable cost increases and maintain their support for local parish activities, such as those mentioned above. The PC therefore propose to increase the precept for a Band D property by £6.56 to £41.71 per annum. This is a significant increase in percentage terms but the PC believe that the actual monetary increase is justifiable and necessary in order to maintain the level of service provided to and expected by residents.

TRAVELLERS' SITE

Residents will be aware that an unauthorised travellers' site was set up on Tarpoley Road over two years ago. The original retrospective planning application in relation to the site's use was refused in September 2021 and was immediately followed by a second very slightly amended application.

Since then, the PC has pushed CWaC for a decision on this second application, not least because it failed to address any of the grounds on which the original was rejected. CWaC are dealing with a number of similar applications across the borough

and paused decisions on each until a final planning appeal on a site in Winsford was determined by the Planning Inspector. This application has now been refused so the PC now fully expects an imminent decision on the Tarporley Road site.

TARPORLEY ROAD FOOTWAYS

CWac's contractors have been out and about in recent months 'siding' a number of footways, clearing back grass and other vegetation to allow the full footway width to be used. Work will continue into the spring to extend this work along Tarporley Road towards Okell's Garden Centre (see picture from 2022). The project is being part financed as a PC 'special project' as well as funding made available from CWac's Neighbourhood Pride Scheme and our two Borough Councillors' discretionary budgets.



THE SHEAF CONSERVATION AREA

A resident of the area known as 'The Sheaf' on Broomheath Lane requested that the PC add an article on the Sheaf Conservation Area to the PC website. This has been done and can be found on the parish website (see tarvinpc.tarvinonline.org) under 'Your Parish' and 'Conservation'.

PROPOSED SPEED WARNING SIGNS ON TARPORLEY ROAD AND THE THREE ROADS LEADING INTO OSCROFT

The PC have now received a response from CWac regarding proposals for speed warning signs for these four locations. Speed assessments were carried out at each of the proposed sites and all except for Cross Lanes met the national criteria for a speed warning sign.



The PC had proposed to purchase permanent speed warning signs at each location. However, following a review of the budgetary position of the PC going into the next financial year, realistically there are only funds available to fund the purchase of two such signs. The PC have therefore decided to look to place these on Tarporley Road in Tarvin and Shay Lane in Oscroft, being the two sites where the speeding assessments found excess speeds were most prevalent.



The PC has however also decided to look at the feasibility of purchasing a mobile speed warning sign, as these are considerably cheaper, which can be rotated in a variety of sites around the Parish.

The PC are currently finalising the costs of the signs and, subject to final budgetary agreement, will then proceed with their installation.

USE YOUR LOCAL SHOPS AND BUSINESSES

Tarvin is very fortunate that it has a full range of shops and businesses which continue to grow in number. Communities that do not have a Post Office, chemist, supermarkets, petrol filling station can only look with envy at what we are fortunate to have.

Nevertheless, our vibrant local economy will only continue to flourish if we, who live in the community, use what we have as much as we can. Of course we all want, and have, a choice where we shop and that is how it should be. However, in these difficult economic times when you need something please think ask yourself “Can I get what I need in Tarvin?”.

Please support Tarvin business and therefore your community.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Our next full Council Meetings will be held on Mondays 27th February, 27th March, and 24th April. All will commence at 7.15pm and will be held in the Edna Rose room at the Community Centre.

Everyone is welcome to attend Council meetings – there is an open forum at the beginning of every meeting, for you to have your say on any subject relevant to the Parish.

You don't have to stay for the whole meeting. Feel free to come/go as is convenient to you.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

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| Cllr. David Cotgreave (740231) | Cllr. Rob Ford (740371) | Cllr. Mark Butler (309129) |
| Cllr. Matthew Pochin (741136) | Cllr. Pet Twigg (740509) | Cllr. Ted Lush (741468) |
| Cllr. Peter Ryan (740576) | Cllr. Steve Parker (741464) | Cllr. Peter Buckley (07771 967 664) |
| Cllr. Sarah Dutton (07722 853120) | Cllr. Duncan Howorth (07974 438758) | |

To Contact Us via the Clerk:

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Your Cheshire West Councillors:

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| Cllr Harry Tonge (01829 752090) | harry.tonge@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk |
| Cllr John Leather (01829 752558) | john.leather@cheshirewestandcheshire.gov.uk |