



Tibby Times

Tibberton Parish Council Newsletter

Autumn 2023

Contact Tibberton Parish Council:

We meet at the Parish Hall, Plough Road, Tibberton each month.

Email: clerk@tibbertonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.tibbertonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please see the Chair's welcome on the next page.

Who are your Parish Councillors?

Following the elections in May the councillors now in post are:

Robbie Hazlehurst (Chair)

Sarah Harfield (Vice Chair)

Trevor Knight

Liz Morton

Margaret Rowley

Helen Savage

June Woodland

The acting clerk Gill Lungley has been with the PC since November. She has worked hard to get the Council where it needed to be, updating policies and procedures as well as the website. Thank you Gill on behalf of the Village for the work you have done. A new clerk, Rachel Hinton-Jones has now been appointed and commenced work at the beginning of August. We are pleased to welcome Rachel to Tibberton Parish Council and look forward to working with her over the coming months.

The new Council would like to thank the previous Councillors for their time and commitment to the village over many years.

For more information go to the Parish Councillor's tab on the website.

Plough Meadow

As you are no doubt aware there is an application to build 100 houses on Plough Meadow, behind Speed the Plough public house. The appeal hearing took place on 8th August and the final decision by the Planning Inspector is expected towards the middle of September.

Progress update: the new village hall

The Tibberton Community Land Trust (TCLT) is the charitable trust that oversees the allotments; the Vardroe Way development and they will also manage the running of the new Village Hall.

The PC have worked closely with the TCLT to resolve the issues with the new Village Hall Lease and are pleased to report that we anticipate it being signed shortly. Working with the TCLT we have identified a new Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee, Helen Savage. Helen is committed to pulling together a group of local individuals to form a new management committee to drive forward the opening of the Hall as soon as possible. If you are interested in assisting in anyway either as a potential committee member, as a volunteer, or you want to book the Hall, please contact Helen: Tel: 07943 813973 or email: helen2a@btinternet.com.

Chair's Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Parish Council's newsletter which will be one of the key methods of how we will communicate with village residents in the future. The Parish Council's Communication and PR Committee is currently charged with producing a new Communications Strategy which will map out how we will communicate with you all going forward across a range of different media, therefore if you have a preference of how we should communicate with you please let Sarah Harfield know.

The first four months of the new Parish Council, which contains six Councillors with little or no experience of working as a Councillor has been both exciting and challenging. Despite our inexperience since May we have:

- Co-ordinated the Village's response to the appeal submitted by the developers of Plough Meadow working with numerous villagers to develop a robust challenge to the development which was admirably led on behalf of the PC by Trevor Knight.
- Worked closely with the Tibberton Community Land Trust (TCLT) to resolve the issues with the new Village Hall Lease and I am pleased to report that we anticipate it being signed shortly.
- Worked positively and proactively with all the organisations who contribute to Village life including: Speed Watch; Neighbourhood Watch; Wychavon District and Worcestershire County Councils; Canal and River Trust; West Mercia Police and Taylor Wimpey and Platform Housing Group, to ensure that the Village receives the level and quality of service it requires.
- Appointed a new Lengthsman who commenced work at the beginning of August and will be working in the village 2 days a month.
- Appointed a new Clerk, Rachel Hinton-Jones email: clerk@tibbertonparishcouncil.gov.uk who commenced on 1 August taking over from our Acting Clerk Gill Lungley who I would like to thank for all the work and effort she has put into improving and updating our processes and procedures as well as providing advice and guidance to the new members of the PC.

Looking ahead I look forward to the opening of the new Village Hall which will be a tremendous asset for the village, and I believe well used by all. The opening of the Village Hall then provides us with a tremendous and exciting opportunity to work with the Parish Hall Management Committee to develop a Village Hub and shop, something I am aware is high on the list of priorities for the village.

We are all awaiting with some trepidation the decision of the Planning Inspector in respect of the Plough Meadow planning application which could have a dramatic impact on the Village. Once we know the decision, we as a Parish Council will consider the outcome and respond as necessary.

We are totally committed as soon as possible to developing and completing the Neighbourhood Plan for the Village and will work with Crowle and other Parish Councils who are more advanced in the process to learn from their experiences so we may if at all possible, accelerate the production of our plan. Work on this important document will commence in September with regular updates being provided to the Parish Council.

In conclusion I would like to thank you all for your support over the past four months and my colleagues and I look forward to your continued support over the coming months as we continue to tackle the issues that matter most to the village.

Please feel free to contact me or any of your Parish Councillors regarding any concerns you may have or if you have any ideas on how we can improve our village.

Robbie Hazlehurst
Chair Tibberton Parish Council

In the meantime, the hall is being prepared for opening. The landscapers have completed their work on the outside spaces and lists have been prepared for the furniture and equipment that needs to be ordered to enable the hall to open in the Autumn.

Plans for the Parish Hall

Once the lease has been signed for the new village hall the Parish Hall Management Committee can formally approach the Charity Commission to request a 'change of objectives' which would allow the Parish Hall to be used as a Community Hub. This would be a place for residents to meet socially; provide an information point to promote local activities and to provide essential supplies on a not-for-profit basis, for the benefit of Tibberton residents. Tibberton received a £95,000 Community Legacy Grant from Wychavon District Council to fund the necessary conversion work.

Tibberton Bridge

As you may have noticed there is a temporary weight restriction of 3 ½ tonnes on the canal bridge. This historic bridge has suffered in recent years as vehicles that are too heavy and too long have tried to cross it, damaging the brickwork. This, compounded by a water pipe leaking within the structure has further weakened the bridge. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways have committed to carry out a full consultation exercise to enable them to permanently reduce the weight limit. Whilst the bridge awaits further maintenance this temporary weight limit will remain in place.

Traffic through the village

Villagers are increasingly concerned about the volume and speed of traffic coming through the village. The dedicated Speed Watch group are regularly seen actively surveying the traffic numbers through the village and identifying drivers who exceed the 30mph limit. The data provides valuable evidence to support the fact there is an increase in traffic and speed within the village. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Margaret Rowley Tel: 07899 053700.

The newly installed white gates give motorists increased awareness that they are entering a restricted speed zone and we are extremely pleased to finally see the village get this new addition.



A new solar powered VAS (vehicle activated sign) has recently been installed on Plough Road near Speed the Plough. There are ongoing discussions with WCC Highways to replace the VAS unit at the Worcester end of the village and to provide another solar post so that the signs can be moved around the village.

The PC is investigating, with WCC Highways, what other alternative traffic calming measures could be considered, although many cannot be used in an unlit village, like Tibberton.

There are also ongoing discussions with WCC Highways to extend the 30mph limit at both ends of the village. On Plough Lane vehicles approaching Tibberton pass four driveways before reaching the 30mph zone.

Village roads targeted



As you drive along Plough Road and Plough Lane be extra vigilant as someone seems to be deliberately targeting our roads with sabotage devices, like the one pictured. These are designed to puncture tyres with nails set at different angles for maximum effect. Several of these devices have been found over the last few months, with the most recent ones being disguised in dog poo bags and wet wipes. The police have been notified. If you do see any more of these, please report it to Rich Minor, Neighbourhood Watch, or to one of your Parish Councillors.

Keeping the village tidy

The PC is getting more reports of overgrown verges and hedgerows through the village. Whilst any maintenance now places an emphasis on supporting wildlife diversity, some of these overgrown areas are proving hazardous for drivers and pedestrians. The PC has been active in alerting the Canal and River Trust to problems posed to drivers with reeds blocking visibility over the canal bridge; contacting WCC Highways who seemed to have forgotten to cut the verge in front of Hillside this year and chasing up the maintenance of the hedgerow along Plough Road between Hawthorn Rise and the school.

All residents are politely asked to keep their hedgerows and verges cut back from the road and pavement so as not to restrict access to pedestrians and parents with prams or buggies or cause traffic to move into the centre of the road.

Pathway from Plough Road to Hawthorn Rise

This pathway had been neglected over recent years and had narrowed to half its size until the Tibberton Action Group cleared it, one Sunday morning earlier this year. It was unclear who was responsible for its maintenance, until recently. It has now been established that the responsibility rests with Taylor Wimpey. At a recent meeting with Taylor Wimpey, they agreed that in the Autumn they will arrange for a thorough tidy up and cutting back of the vegetation and trees on both sides of the footpath, noting that the local residents do not wish the main trees to be removed or cut back too severely. They have also committed to providing an annual plan of the maintenance that will be carried out in this area going forward.

Litter Bins

The PC are currently looking at the positioning and amount of litter bins and dog poo bins in the village. If you think that more are required, then do get in touch and let us know where you think they should be sited.



Telephone box



Tibberton's iconic red phone box was recently renovated by willing volunteers. It has now been repurposed to use as an information sharing space and currently holds books and other items that villagers are happy to donate and swap. If you haven't stopped and had a look then take a walk and pop in.

There is also a plant sharing table outside the old village hall. If you have any spare cuttings or if your borders need thinning out, why not pot up some spare plants and donate them. It helps if all donations are labelled with the plant name along with any other information you can provide.

Neighbourhood Watch

Did you know that there is an active neighbourhood watch group in Tibberton? As a member you will receive useful safety information about crimes and scams in the local area. The more people who sign up the more support the village gets from the police and the Neighbourhood Watch central office. You can join by signing up using this link:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/joinNW>

There is also a Tibberton Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp group. If you would like to be added to this, please email one of your Parish Councillors with your mobile number and they will make sure that you get an invitation to join this group.

SmartWater

At the Parish Council meeting on 20th July, Nick Hall, the 'We Don't Buy Crime' co-ordinator from West Mercia Police, gave a presentation about Smart Water. SmartWater is a water-based solution which contains a unique forensic code that is invisible to the naked eye but will glow under UV light. It is easy to apply and marked equipment will be traceable back to its owner. SmartWater is responsible for convicting hundreds of criminals and has reduced burglary by 85%. The PC will be working with the Neighbourhood Watch Group to roll this project

out to everyone in the village and more detail will follow soon. If 80% of the village sign up and 70% register their SmartWater then deterrent street signage, will be erected at key locations within the village.



Lengthsman

The village Lengthsman has many roles, such as: proactively managing issues that may lead to drainage problems; making sure that vegetation does not obscure signs or junctions and maintaining the VAS sign. The PC has recently appointed Jeremy Moore to this post who will be working 2 days per month in the village.

Tibberton Committees and Working Groups

In addition to the monthly parish council meetings, the council now have several committees and working groups that meet and report back.

The **Strategy and Finance Committee** consists of four Council members and their remit is to: review the current year's budget and develop the budget for the next three years; develop an action plan in response to the 2022/23 internal audit report; review the Council's policies; the appointment of any new staff; review the assets of the Council and village and finalise the lease agreement with the TCLT for the new village hall.

The **Communication and PR Committee** consists of four council members plus three non-council members. Its remit is the development of a communications strategy for the PC and to oversee responsibility for the content and upkeep of the website and other communication channels. The aim is to develop, maintain and support good working

relationships with all organisations and groups working for the benefit of the village. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please email:

sarahharfield@tibbertonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The **Neighbourhood Plan Working Party** consists of a minimum of three council members plus non-council members. Its remit is to work towards the development and completion of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. This working party will be responsible for ensuring that once completed the plan is kept up to date. The working party is answerable to the PC and subject to local council procedures to include clear decision-making procedures and transparency. If you would be interested in serving on this working party, please email:

clerk@tibbertonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The **Strategic Planning Working Group** consists of a minimum of three council members plus non council members. Its remit is to review planning applications in respect of the village and to prepare comments and objections as necessary. The Clerk is delegated to respond, as and when necessary to planning consultations, following the working party's recommendations. If you would be interested in serving on this working group, please email:

lizmorton@tibbertonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The **Tibberton Events Group** is a group of volunteers who have organised several events over the last few years. These include the Jubilee celebrations in 2022 comprising a beacon bonfire, village fete, bell boating; cake decorating and a street party; the Coronation event of 2023 where villagers again enjoyed a street party, party in the park, bell boating; children's treasure hunt and people volunteered for the Big Help. Once the new village hall is open, we hope that this group will continue to organise events that bring people together. If you would like to be part of this group, please email your mobile number to sarahharfield@tibbertonparishcouncil.gov.uk The events group will be supported by the PC and several Councillors are already involved with the work that this group has done.

The **Big Help** was part of the Coronation celebrations this year and it was well supported by willing villagers who were prepared to get stuck in and get on with jobs that would make a difference to our community. Unfortunately, the weather had other ideas on this day, and most of the projects planned were not able to go ahead. The PC are therefore looking for a volunteer to set up and organise volunteer helpers from the village, to tackle projects at a time convenient to them. The volunteer co-ordinator would also be a member of the Communications and PR Committee and would receive help and support from the PC. If you are interested in this role, or able to offer some time as a volunteer, please email:

sarahharfield@tibbertonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tibberton Community Orchard

The Canal and River Trust (CRT) obtained funding in 2021 from the Green Recovery Challenge for a range of projects including developing a community orchard in a field owned by the Trust near Tibberton. Trees were planted in February 2022 by regular CRT volunteers and villagers. They also helped to water the trees during a dry spell in July 2022 and a few needed replacing. The trees are now growing well – as is the surrounding vegetation.

CRT staff and volunteers have strimmed pathways through the orchard and mulched the fruit trees. A bench is to be installed along with some bat hotels. More tree planting is planned for this winter. An orchard celebration day for local residents is planned for late September.



When the date is fixed, the details will be shared on the Tibberton Social WhatsApp and on the village notice board.

Work has already started with wood carvings made from the pine trees that were cut down.

Report from the footpath officer

The footpaths in Worcestershire are managed by the Worcestershire County Council Public Rights of Way team and Rob Grimer is the

volunteer Parish footpath officer – responsible for minor jobs such as waymarking, clearing brambles etc. Repairing broken stiles and maintaining rights of way is the duty of the landowner but more major works are carried out by the County Council.

Please report any issues with footpaths either to Rob: rob.grimer@btinternet.com or direct to the Council at:

<https://eservices.worcestershire.gov.uk/online/eporting/FindLocation.aspx?FaultType=8>

There are around 20km of public footpaths in the Parish with many leading directly off Plough Road or Foredraught Lane and there are also lovely walks along the canal towpath in both directions.

One of the best walks is to Dunhamsted along the canal and then up along the edge of Trench wood, with great views across to the Malverns. You can either cut back down to the canal at Oddingley or walk on to Sale Green and take one of several footpaths that lead back to Tibberton.

Coffee morning and meet your Councillors

There will be an opportunity for you to have a chat with your Parish Councillors at the coffee morning on Saturday 23rd September from 10am to 12pm. Come along to ask questions and share your ideas or simply to enjoy coffee and cake with fellow villagers. Everyone welcome!

Logo design competition

The Tibby Times needs a logo. Can you come up with something that represents Tibberton? The winning entry will take pride of place on the front of each publication. Please email your entry to

clerk@tibbertonparishcouncil.gov.uk or hand it to one of your Parish Councillors, by the end of September.

Fish and Chip Event

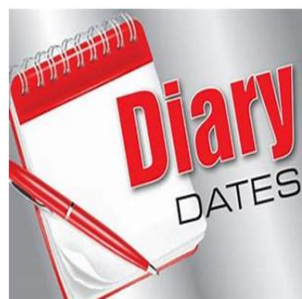
The fish and chip van came to Tibberton on Saturday 5th August and proved to be very popular. It will return to the village on: Saturday 23rd September from 5pm-8pm and Saturday 14th October from 5:15pm to 8pm.



Parish Council Meetings, dates for your diary

The next PC meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday 25th September at 7:30pm in the old village hall. The agenda will be available on the PC website and will be on display on the noticeboard outside the hall.

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2023 are as follows:



Tibberton Parish Council meeting dates:

Mon	25 th September 23
Thurs	19 th October 23
Thurs	16 th November 23
Thurs	14 th December 23

In 2024 meetings will take place on the second Thursday of each month, except for August when there will not be a meeting.

Macmillan coffee morning



This will take place on Friday 29.09.23 at the old Village Hall from 9am to 12pm.

The money raised will support Macmillan's vital work helping them fund the amazing Macmillan nurses, answer calls on the Support Line, give financial support, and more.

If you would like to donate a cake, or for any enquiries, please contact Helen Rose on 07910 885090.

A Just Giving page has been set up if anyone would like to make a donation to this charity. Find it online at:

<http://www.justgiving.com/cm23038717>

Tibby Times, next edition

The Tibby Times (Parish Council newsletter) will be produced quarterly. If you have any ideas for features, or information you would like to see in the next edition, please contact Sarah Harfield.




In the next edition there will be a spotlight on local businesses. If you would like to promote your business to Tibberton residents, please write a short paragraph to introduce yourself and explain you do and maybe include a picture or two. Send this to:

sarahharfield@tibbertonparishcouncil.gov.uk



This route will take you from a start point in Plough Road (Court End Cottage), across the fields to Foredraught Lane where you may wish to stop. However, this walk continues under the motorway to Offerton Top Lock, along the Worcester/Birmingham Canal and back to the starting point.

The total length of the walk is 1.8 miles and 4,324 steps (approx.).

1. Take the public footpath which runs alongside Court End Cottage on Plough Road. Cross over the stile into the pony field – perhaps put your dog on a lead if it's a little unpredictable with livestock. Straight ahead, you will see another stile. This is a little obscured by the blackthorn but a great place to find sloes for making gin! 
2. Carry on up the hill bearing slightly to the right and towards the hedgeline. Again, plenty of sloes to find but stop and look behind you – a terrific view of the surrounding countryside, especially lovely at sunrise. Head over the stile and bear left.
3. Walk past the blackthorn and hawthorn hedge towards Foredraught Lane. You will now be going downhill and in the bottom left of this field – you will find a gate to pass through. 
4. Keep straight on – warning, this part can be a little muddy and the nettles are starting to creep in so perhaps don't wear shorts! Climb over the stile to emerge in Foredraught Lane. At this point, you can turn right and head back into the village.
5. If you want to go a little further, turn left and look for the footpath on the right of Foredraught signed Offerton – take this footpath and hop over the stile.
6. Keeping to the right side of the stubble field, walk in the general direction of the phone mast.
7. You will shortly reach a track – bear right and head under the motorway. Follow your nose and pass through the large metal gate (which is easy to open so please don't climb it). 
8. Look left and you will see the entrance to the Worcester/Birmingham canal. When you reach the canal – bear right and pass Offerton Top Lock. Follow your nose along the canal, under the motorway and you will eventually emerge by Tibberton Bridge.

