

21/5//2024

## Chairs report

I have now completed a full year as Chair and have enjoyed the role immensely.

I take great pride in the work the Parish Council has achieved over the last 12 months by adopting our “can do approach” with many tasks undertaken by Councillors very time consuming. The last 12 months on the council have been productive even with the financial & political constraints Parish Councils face from time to time as we seek to find innovative ways to improve the parish for the benefit of all that live in the Parish.

- During the last 12 months we have co-opted 3 new Councillors to the Parish who have kindly agreed to give up their personal time for the benefit of the parishioners and they are Graham Lofthouse, Brian East, & Sharron Bates.
- We have adopted new social media policies, in particular policies relating to Facebook, but covers all aspects of social media.
- Tower View Recreational Park together with Tudor Park continues to dominate most of our attention and this year.
  - A. We managed to obtain a grant for a new slide and repair of the roundabout in the Tower View play area.
  - B. We have also purchased a new bench for Tudor Park.
  - C. We have also bought and installed new nets for the goal post at Tower View.

Continued improvements are planned at both parks for the forth coming year.

- We have agreed another defibrillator for Harracott which we are in the process of obtaining and a local electrician has agreed to install the defibrillator in the telephone box for a nominal sum. Once installed this will be two defibrillators that we have installed in the parish.
- We are in the process of drafting a new Parish survey with the aim of seeking parishioners’ views on the sorts of improvements they would like to see in Tawstock Parish. We would hope the survey would then give us some structure to come up with a 5-year plan that would then link into the Parish precept to ensure enough funding was achievable to implement those improvements.
- A large part of the last 12 months have been taken up by the Parks & Open spaces Committee (who are a small body of Councillors) on the Parish Council who have spent time taking apart the Parish Councils grounds maintenance contract that was coming to an end with the contractor at the end of March this year & put it back together again in a way that we believe achieves value for money for our parishioners. A new tender for a 3-year contract was advertised and was awarded to a local Grounds Maintenance contractor who is passionate about the local parish & its surroundings.
- The Parish Council’s website which was newly created by a local business website designer, together with councillors to bring a fresh new look to our council went live in June of last year. Myself & the Parish Clerk have now

undertaken our training to update the website monthly with the agenda & minutes along with other important information.

- In our quest to keep Parishioners up to date the implementation of QR codes are now used to aid communication where possible.
- Once again, the annual precept was kept to a conservative figure to aid Parishioner's with the cost of living for a second year running. Tawstocks precept is one of the lowest council precepts in the area.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Parish Councillors and the Clerk for their hard work this year and I am sure we will achieve much more in the coming 12 months.

Thank you

Joy Bowden  
Chair