

Tacolneston Annual Parish Meeting Reports

Parish Council Chairperson's Report

Thank you all for coming. Or, if you are reading this, thank you for taking the time to do so.

Barry Duffin

We will already be aware of the many heartfelt tributes to late Barry Duffin for his dedicated service to the community over the years.

But speaking personally and on behalf of the parish council we will miss his cheerful and effective support. He rarely missed a meeting and was always willing to listen to the PC and the public.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank PC members who are standing down for their service to our community. John, Beth and Tim have all generously given their time over the last four years.

But a special thanks to Bob who has served on the council these last three decades or more.

We would like to thank:

- The RCC (the committee that manages the day-to-day business of the village hall and recreation ground)
- Katie Crowson, Beth Taylor, Bethan Gulliver, Bob McClenning & Karen Darrell.
- The Tree warden, Joe Darrell for fruit tree planting at the recreation ground and helping with other tree related matters over the years.
- Stephen Sparrow for managing the SAM2 speed awareness unit.
- Wes Kent for his work as Footpath Warden.

As well as everyone else who have supported the village throughout the year.

We thank you all.

During the last year the Parish Council:

Helped resolve some issues with overgrown trees at McKee Drive that had been causing residents significant problems. Barry was key to the progress that we made there!

We supported a very well-attended Queen's Jubilee Celebration - All members of the RCC are to be thanked for all the work they did in support of that event but Katie Crowson deserves a special mention for all she did to make that event the success it was.

The P.C. Supported a grant for the Woodlands Club CORONATION celebrations. The money was sent over to them last week.

We got funding to support the Tacolneston Warm Room initiative – huge thanks to Dawn and Bev Spratt for all their hard work in relation to this initiative.

This was so successful and well attended we hope to extend it into the warmer months albeit in a slightly different format. And in any event, we hope to repeat it next year.

Made a small donation to support the work of the campaign group; Essex Suffolk & Norfolk Pylons, the Communications working group have been active in following the advice and lobbying the appropriate. We must thank Sarah Langley for all the work she has done on this pressing issue.

We the PC have managed to do all this, and more, without increasing the Precept on the Council Tax!!

I would like to especially thank Karen Darrel & Bethan Guliver for ALL the work they have done as the key people of the communications working group.

I'd also like to thank Dan Wickham, our Parish Clerk, for doing a fabulous job for us. Our work would be much more difficult without him, being as good at his job as he is.

Tacolneston FC

By the time of the Annual Parish Meeting, Tacolneston Football Club will have just one home game left to complete our 2022/2023 Season (the 69th year since our inception).

Following our promotion last year, we are again in a further chase for promotion from Division 4 to Division 3 of the Anglian Combination League (there being 7 Divisions in total).

Also during this season, we have achieved good performances in the two Cup tournaments that we traditionally enter, reaching the Final of one (becoming runners-up) and the Quarter Final of the other.

So far another successful and enjoyable season.

Attention to the playing surface and surrounding areas, including grass cutting, line marking, seeding and vertidrainage, is in the hands of a professional groundsman, local man Chris Brook.....so the future is in safe in his knowledgeable hands.

The football club now gives extensive digital coverage on the Facebook, Twitter and Instagram media platforms

The agreed internal wall remodelling work, within the Pavilion, was completed just prior to Christmas. This work now gives a more suitable Changing Room area, All that is now required to complete this project is the wall & floor painting, which is expected to be completed in the coming "close season"

Chris Springall

Chairman.

Tacolneston Carpet Bowls Club

I am Christopher Brown and reside on Norwich Road in Tacolneston. I have been involved with Tacolneston Carpet Bowls Club for the past 12 yrs. and currently hold the position of Captain, Secretary and general running of the club.

Our club night is on Tuesday evenings for which we have a block booking although some opponent teams play the same day.

Our membership number have dwindled over the past 1-2 yrs with our members being 60+ yrs but have enough to play a team of eight

It has been difficult to recruit new younger members.

We have just completed our winter league finishing fourth and this month will commence our summer league.

Tacolneston did have some success this year winning the South Norfolk S's competition at Wortwell

County Council Report

A sad situation to find myself in having to write an annual report on behalf of my dear friend and colleague Barry Duffin. Out of respect for Barry's family no announcements will be made regarding the by-election until after his funeral. Barry was highly respected and worked hard for his communities and will be missed by many

We have recently had a change of leadership as Andrew Proctor our Leader had to step away from his role due to ill health.

Cllr Kay Mason Bilig has been elected as Leader and there are consequently some changes in those holding senior roles.

After a challenging budget setting process in February focus is moving swiftly on to next years finances.

Adult Social Care continues to be the department with the highest spending which amounts to over £1m per day!

Health and social care integration is progressing but is yet to deliver the big changes that will be required to sustain services in the future.

The ICB (integrated care board) replaced the old CCGs and their recent consultation regarding the Norwich Walk In Centre will be carefully scrutinised by Norfolk Health Scrutiny with a desire expressed by many that it should remain open.

Many practices in South Norfolk refer patients to the centre if there are no GP appointments available so it is essential the service remains open and accessible to all.

It is pleasing that the Long Stratton Bypass has secured planning permission and the project is now moving forward to the shortlisting and eventual awarding of a contract for construction.

The scheme is due to commence in April 2024 and complete by the autumn of 2025.

The Council is still in dialogue with the government on a possible devolving of powers and funds to Norfolk known as a County Deal.

The current proposal would require a directly elected Leader (often referred to as a mayor or DEL) for Norfolk. The results of the recent public consultation are yet to be published.

The Council would be required to make a decision later this year to proceed to the new model of governance (or not) allowing a DEL to be elected in May 2024.

It is hoped that there is still opportunity to improve the current offer to Norfolk and negotiations with government continue.

It is a challenging time for Schools with the current series of Teachers strikes. It is most important that if possible at least those students who are taking exams are still able to attend fully.

Our highways department continues to be very busy.

This is the time of year that resurfacing schemes will be carried out causing potential disruption. Local communities will be notified individually if roads near them are impacted.

I'd like to finish by congratulating those of you who have been elected to serve your communities and to thank you for the invaluable work you do.

Alison (Thomas)