

## **Tiffield Parish Council**

### **Chairman's Annual Report 2018-2019**

This is the sixteenth report which I have had the pleasure to write as Chairman.

The Parish Council continues to monitor developments in the planning of the proposed rail-freight interchange at Blisworth and Milton Malsor. Several meetings have been attended by parish councillors during the year. This project may now go hand-in-hand with a similar major development at Grange Park. We will also follow the progress of the proposed developments by Brickyard Farm on the A43 and by Bells Plantation on the A5.

The Parish Council continue to provide and look after the playground facilities at Claydon's Field. We are looking at improving the facilities over the coming year and possibly renewing the soft surfacing.

We continue to pay the rent for the Pocket Park and support the Pocket Park volunteers in maintaining it. Parish councillors have continued to provide general maintenance throughout the year to keep the pathways clear so that villagers can continue to enjoy this village asset.

The Parish Council is supporting the forthcoming Village Festival set for the 29<sup>th</sup> June. This year it also coincides with the 40th anniversary of the purchase of Claydon's Field. There will be stalls run by village organisations, refreshment venues, entertainment, and live music. A large marquee and furniture have been ordered, as have a stage, lighting, sound system and several bands have been booked to use them. There will also be Punch & Judy shows. Profits from the festival and from any successful grant applications will go into upgrading and enhancing the play equipment and support local charities.

The Parish Council has funded major repairs to the winding mechanism of the village clock in the church tower and has installed a defibrillator in the old telephone box by the Reading Room. Under the auspices of the Parish Council many village residents have been trained in its use. We are now applying for permission to install signage for the box.

We have found that the vehicle-activated speed sign can be fitted by NCC at other sites in the village. We will progress this soon. The new LED streetlights purchased by the Parish Council have, as hoped, made a significant reduction in both the maintenance call-outs and annual running costs.

The Bonfire Night fireworks display, organised by the Parish Council, was once again a great success. The money taken will help fund the display this year. Every member of the Parish Council was involved, either in preparation, or by helping on the day. Special thanks should go to Andy Tennet and Peter Thomas for setting off the fireworks and to Simon Loake's son, Adam, who set up the sound and lights.

Gordon Bradley continues to look after Claydon's Field. His efforts are much appreciated and well exceed the small payment we give him for his help and expenses. The Parish Council appreciate the work of the volunteer drivers from the parish who keep the Tiffield and Gayton Minibus scheme running and especially Rae Spencer who leads the scheme. We also want to thank Phil and Mary Leggett who edit and produce the Tiffield Thunderbolt, which the Parish Council funds.

There was a good turn-out for the annual village litter-pick organised by the Parish Council in March. Thanks to all volunteers for helping keep our village tidy. The call for suggestions for signs for the four entrances to our village and a sign for the village green opposite the school has, so far, gone

unanswered. We are looking for designs that reflect the history of the village and look forward to ideas from parishioners.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Parish Council to record our appreciation to Simon Loake who resigned as Clerk last year for health reasons. Simon served as Clerk since April 2013 and gave great support to the Parish Council, and hence to the village. He was replaced in December by Andy Tennet. His contact details are on our website at <https://www.tiffieldparishcouncil.org.uk/>. The new Clerk is working to get this up-to date. Contributions to the website from village organisations would be very welcome. We also gained a new Parish Councillor, Rob Powell of 6 Meadow Rise. He has many practical skills and numerous contacts which could be of use to the PC in the future. His appointment takes us up to our full complement of nine councillors

The Parish Council gets its funding from a precept which can be seen on Council Tax demands. This last went up in 2012. Since then we have kept the precept steady at £12,500 which pays for street lighting, grass cutting, play equipment, the Pocket Park lease etc. etc. Although inflation has been low in this time, it has had a cumulative effect. Also, due to NCC cutbacks, we now find ourselves having to pay for road grit with the prospect of more responsibilities being devolved to Parish Councils in the future. To be prepared for this, and to ensure that we have sufficient reserves to meet our statutory and other commitments, we decided to raise the precept by 5% for the financial year 2019/20.

I would like to thank all the members of our community not already mentioned above who help run the many organisations and groups we have in Tiffield. When they give of their time and energies to do this, they help make Tiffield a special place to live. I hope that more parishioners support village events, the village pub and school, organisations like the Pocket Park volunteers and the many clubs and societies we have.

Meetings of the Parish Council take place in the Reading Room on the second Monday of every month except August and December. Any parishioner is welcome to attend. Our Parish Councillors are John Beasley (Chairman), Paula Chaplin, Mark Godwin, Steve Jowers, Sarah Pady, Rob Powell, Phyllis Power, Jim Tyrell and Eric Welch. Without them and our new Clerk, Andy Tennet, much of the good work which has been included in this report would not have happened.

John Beasley.

Chairman, Tiffield Parish Council.