

# TETFORD & SALMONBY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 / June 2020

## A CHANGE IN CHAIR

After five years in office as Chairman and over thirteen years on the Parish Council, Councillor Marlene Renshaw is taking a well-earned rest from leading Tetford and Salmonby Parish Council and stepped down as Chairman from May 2020. Her fellow Councillors would like to thank her for all her dedication and efforts, both in leading the Parish Council and supporting the village community generally. Thankfully, all the knowledge and experience Marlene has gained over the last years will not be lost to the PC as she remains a Councillor and still very much contributing to the workings of the Parish Council.

Cllr John-Henry Lonie has been elected to lead the Council as Chairman and Cllr Alex Davison as Vice Chairman. We wish them both much success in their new roles going forward.

**Following feedback from residents the Parish Council have launched quarterly newsletters. The format and regular content are under continued development and can be received electronically**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020

The advantage of this report is that you don't have to listen to me making it. We welcomed several new councillors after last year's election, and they have contributed a great deal to the work that the council has undertaken.

The past year has certainly not been without controversy, the number of planning applications have exceeded the total received in the past twenty and this has divided opinion in the villages, with worries about the infrastructure versus the need to keep the community thriving.

I must mention the sterling work done by our clerk Maddie Hoad, she has embraced the challenge with great enthusiasm and undertaken the training needed to guide and advise us, even taking on the editing and printing of the newsletter which seems to have been much appreciated by the parish. Thank you so much.

We continued to hold the public question time at the beginning of each meeting although this is a little more complicated at the moment with the meetings being held via the internet. If you have any comments during this time and do not feel comfortable using zoom, please contact any of the councillors or the clerk and your comments will be raised at the monthly meeting. Our district councillor Andrews and county councillor, Hugo Marfleet attend when possible, and regular reports are received from our PSO Nigel Wass. The defibrillator installed outside the doctor's surgery is regularly maintained, but fortunately has never been needed.

Transport issues were constantly monitored by members of the community and the call connect service is still available although in these strange times there is a very limited number of passengers allowed per trip. The village bus club that visited places of interest, was going really well but again is now on hold.

The council continues to oversee the grass cutting round the village and we are grateful that the contractors are continuing their good work. We are indeed fortunate that most householders take a pride in their properties and the appearance of the village. Remember that every verge that is privately mown means that the council can precept for less each year and hopefully keep down the local portion of the council tax. The grant that the council used to receive toward grass cutting has been increased slightly as we have taken on more verges, And again we have made an annual donation to the recreation ground.



The beginning week of June was identified as Volunteers Week and you will have seen the above banner on our Tetford & Salmonby Facebook page, recognising and thanking all those who have volunteered their help during the lockdown crises. The Parish Council would like to express thanks to everyone who has pulled together over this testing time both as individuals and businesses to help their community.

The Parish Council hopes to build on the wonderful community spirit shown by residents to continue with a 'Good Neighbour Scheme' to assist those needing help and a social group 'Friends of Tetford & Salmonby' to arrange community events in conjunction with the clubs and societies already active in the village.

We hope this is something you will support in the future but for now its just a **BIG THANK YOU** to all.

## **CHAIRMANS REPORT 2020 CONTINUED**

The volunteer group have again been very busy, clearing verges and hedges, made a super job of the churchyard and removed an awful lot of rubbish. They were not able to take part in the great litter pick this spring, but individual members have kept the local area clean and litter free. Anyone interested in helping in any way, please contact Peter Stark or Councillor Davison for information. The highways continue to cause problems, in particular potholes, your council does continually chase these issues and probably get more results than many other areas.

The undergrounding of the electricity supply in Salmonby was finally completed. The speed of traffic passing through the village, particularly at school times is a continuing worry, and there were plans for traffic calming measures, again this is on the back burner.

The provision of a local emergency plan is ongoing, and during this time of covid19 restrictions has been amended to help the community where possible. The council's plans for a VE Day celebration were unable to take place but our thanks go to the group who organised a 'cake and tea' distribution and a sing song for the nursing home, this was much appreciated.

I hope that you feel that this council has worked hard but fairly on your behalf, Thank you to my fellow councillors, our clerk and the local and county councillors for all their time and input and thank you to those who attend the council meetings, we have taken on board your comments and hope that the council will continue to do their best to solve the issues that are within their remit.

Finally, in these very stressful and strange times may I echo our gracious Queen Elizabeth's message that I look forward to the time when we will meet again. Thank you and stay safe.

Councillor Marlene Renshaw

## **2019 – 2020 Year End Financial Report – Prepared by the Clerk**

The Council ended the 2019-2020 financial year with reserves of £8,782.85. A conscious saving of £500 had been undertaken in the previous 4 years in readiness for the costs of the Parish Council elections held in 2019. These fees were less than expected which has allowed the Parish Council to consider funding for community projects for 2020-2021 and beyond. The Council underspent against its budget for the period 2019-2020, primarily with the reduced level of election costs but also renovation and replacement work to assets such as the noticeboards have not yet taken place. The additional asset of the old BT telephone box was purchased for the sum of £1. A grant of £500 was also received from Anglian Water, which has been earmarked for equipment to support the Speed Watch Campaign, which will be purchased once restrictions are lifted. The Precept, which is the main income for the council, was raised from £6,120 to £6,245 last year to keep in line with projected costs. Due to the increase in tax base from 195 to 199 this resulted in the cost to a band D property remaining unchanged on the previous year. The budget for the year was set at just over £9,800 and up to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, Council have an end of year spend of just £7,078.62. Our annual accounts have been audited and a copy of the bank account details, and budget statements are available on the Parish Web site. Residents may also apply to view the paper-based accounts should they wish, and this would be undertaken under social distancing guidelines.