

Tetsworth Parish Council – 2025/2026 Annual Report

- Good evening and welcome to this year's Annual Meeting of the Parish. Thank-you all for coming along to hear from members of local groups about what has been happening over the last 12 months – please take this opportunity to ask questions after each report. A few people have had to apologise for their absence, but we will be reading out their reports on their behalf. An important note, that this is not a Parish Council meeting, we are merely here to host & facilitate the session.
- I'll start with a quick introduction to the members of the Parish Council. I'm Seb Mossop and I'm the Chair of the Council; Chris Thompson, our Vice-Chair, Sue Rufus, Robyn Hester and Kim Bhagat. Our other councillor, Sean Whitehead, is unfortunately unable to be with us this evening. Last, but not least, Vicki Nuthall, our Clerk & RFO.
- So why do we have a Parish Council & what do we do? In a nutshell, I believe the Parish Council serves as the hub or glue of the village. We hope to act as a link between parishioners & village bodies and also to represent the village at the District, County and Parliamentary levels of Government.
- What does this mean in practical terms? With a relatively modest precept, or annual budget, we have responsibility for maintaining certain areas of the village, as well as providing services to Parishioners. I'll give a brief overview of what we are responsible for & some updates from the last 12 months:
 - The play area inc. skate ramp & adult exercise equipment - regular & annual inspections
 - The PC owns the TSSC building but activities there are managed by its own committee. We also make an annual contribution towards TSSC's maintenance of the green for the village to enjoy
 - Several areas of Common Land around the village
 - Grass cutting
 - Trees – most of you will be aware of a large branch from a willow tree on the green that came down in recent wind. Thanks go to Rich Barber for making the site safe at no cost to the council. We are shortly undertaking our regular tree survey to ensure any further issues are identified before they become a problem.
 - The allotments
 - Forest School – report shortly
 - Dog bins – installing, maintaining & emptying
 - Bus shelter
 - Speed signs
 - A number of benches around the Green and on the Jitty
 - Our War Memorial
 - The Defib here on the Village Hall

- In addition, we are also responsible for, support, or consider:
 - Planning applications & enforcements
 - The most involved situation recently was the unauthorised traveller site which is currently with SODC enforcement following the refusal of the retrospective planning application. Particular thanks to John Gilbert for his work on this and all applications the council considers.
 - Notable ongoing applications are the car boot field, Claridge Barn and enforcement notices at the field on the Stoke Talmage Road
 - The Tetsworth NDP – you will shortly hear from John Gilbert on the current status with the ongoing review
 - Financial or project requests – a number of donations were given to local causes such as Citizen’s Advice
 - Liaison between villagers, village groups & district/county/MP
 - Maintenance of website
 - Emergency plan
 - Warm & cool Spaces
 - Setting of precept – minimise impact on council tax
 - It is important to note that our financial records are reviewed annually by both internal & external auditors
- Other activities
 - We have continued to support the school with their expansion project by liaising with OCC & our local MP to get things moving. More on this in the school report shortly.
 - Arranged the village Xmas tree, kindly donated by David Nixey, & carols
 - The installation of “wicket gates” at the Postcombe end of the village
- Ongoing & future projects
 - We have submitted an expression of interest for a grant to clear the ditch around the village green, including from the pond behind the pub – this is to alleviate future flooding events along properties on the High Street and on the village green
 - New fence & improved access for play area
 - Skate ramp resurfacing

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the passing of two residents who contributed greatly to the village:

- Marjorie Saunders, who passed away in August, was a long-standing stalwart of the village & parish council – her contributions over the years are not to be underestimated!
- And more recently, Brian Dixon, who gave his time tending to the war memorial to make sure it was suitably smart for Remembrance Sunday.

Thank-you for listening and I hope this gives you a sense of the work the council does on behalf of the village. I'm happy to answer any questions now or after the meeting