

TATTENHALL & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

LIST OF COUNCILLORS AS AT 6TH MAY 2011

Clerk: Jean Dutton
Hill Farm, Burwardsley
Tattenhall, Chester CH3 9PF
01829 770379
dutton@tdpc.wanadoo.co.uk

Representing Tattenhall

Pat Black	770483	
Sheila Chapman	770960	
Doug Haynes	771400	
Jonny Kershaw	770381	
Graham Spencer	770980	Chairman
David Thomson	770178	
Carol Weaver	771443	
Bob Blackhurst	770377	
Alison Pritchard	07711464338	

Representing Golborne Bellow (Gatesheath)

Neil Matthews	770289	Vice Chairman
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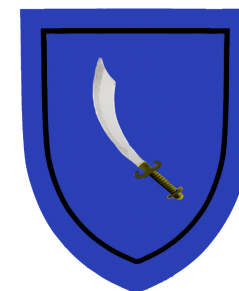
Representing Newton-by-Tattenhall

Andy Scarratt	770516	Vice Chairman
Norman Sharp	770566/164	

Parish Council Meetings are usually held on the first Monday of each month, at 7.30pm in the Barbour Institute, and all residents are welcome to attend.

When the first Monday falls on a Bank Holiday, the meeting is moved to the following week.

TATTENHALL & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

IN TOUCH

TATTENHALL DAY CENTRE CHANGES

In early 2010, Age UK announced that it was to introduce a change of policy on supporting vulnerable older people and to not manage day centres across Cheshire from that summer.

The Parish Council, along with the local MP and many parishioners, including those who helped the Day Centre as volunteers, raised objections to this plan. Despite much debate and a petition, all that was achieved was a delay to the withdrawal date of 31st May 2011.

Parish Councillors and other local people have instead worked all year to devise a way of maintaining the Tuesday Day Centre in Tattenhall, used by 12 local older people.

In conjunction with representatives from Tarporley, Malpas, Kelsall and Helsby Day Centres, which are also affected by this change, a new organisation has been formed. It has recently gained financial support from Cheshire West and Chester Council, thus securing the future of the five centres for the next three years.

This is a real success story and is down to the group of volunteers, working with Parish Councillors, who feel so strongly about the need for a day centre facility in our community.

The new Tuesday meeting called Tattenhall Diamond Club, opened on 7 June.

Cllr. D Thomson

At the Annual Parish Meeting on 18th April 2011, the Parish Council awarded the following Cup and Certificates:

The Tattenhall & District Parish Council Cup was awarded to **Carol Siddorn** - for the passion for horticulture which contributed to the setting up of the Allotment Association and her involvement in other community groups

Certificate - Alison Pritchard - for her contribution in setting up the Tattenhall Business Alliance and her continued involvement in other community groups

Young Person's Award

This year's award went, jointly, to **Sophie Hill** and **Milly Goodwin** - for their fundraising efforts baking, and selling, cakes and biscuits for Red Nose Day, and for involving the community.

Both received a Gift Voucher and a Certificate

CHANGES TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Just before the local elections in May, James Craven stood down from the Parish Council, and at the elections Linda Davenport lost her seat. Both are thanked for their work for the Parish during their time as Councillors.

Community Pride Competition

The Parish Council regularly enters this competition, which includes the award for Best Kept Village.

Since hanging baskets were introduced two years ago, the judges' comments have been ever more favourable, and businesses and commercial premises have been encouraged to get involved.

There are a number of other parts to the competition, including Community Spirit, Community Safety and a new category, Little Gems, the winner of which is chosen by the judges who come round each village.

Last year, the village came third in the Best Kept Village competition and this year we are striving to be in the top two with the addition of bunting on the High Street in time for the Royal Wedding, which will remain up until after the Church Fete.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

The working group, which has met six times throughout the year, consists of:-

J Ford, J Kershaw, C Weaver, G Spencer, G Marsden, N Sharp and R Blackhurst.

The group has:

1. secured funding for, and arranged, the upgrading of the CCTV surveillance equipment in the High Street.
2. reviewed several places for parking for the disabled in the village centre. In-depth discussions with highways have taken place. Four places around the centre of the village have been identified, two in Barbour Square (to be refurbished), one at the Barbour Institute and one at the School.
3. requested speed monitoring equipment in Newton and Rocky Lane. Rocky Lane results showed a speeding problem.
4. had the signage at Newton Crossroads moved further away from the junction. It is also monitoring the new fence at the junction. Further negotiation is ongoing.
5. monitored the incidents of Antisocial Behaviour and has consulted with the Police on

many occasions.

6. forged links with a group called "The Two Saints Way" who are involved in constructing a long distance footpath from Lichfield to Chester. They plan to use the Canal Tow Path for the 10 miles closest to Chester. This will help our objective of improved pedestrian/cycle access between Tattenhall and Chester.
7. investigated the need for a "Zebra" crossing at the Ice Cream Farm
8. concerns about the increasing heavy traffic using Newton Lane. They have checked that T&G are operating within their licence and are supporting high level discussions with Highways
9. concerns about parking, speeding and driving on the pavement around the school. Members have worked with the school governors to formally request a 20mph speed restriction around school, at the start and end of the school day. The working group is investigating placing bollards along the pavement edge to help reduce the risk to pedestrians.

Cllr Bob Blackhurst

The Annual Parish Meeting marks the end of the year for the Parish Council. It also marks the end of our current term of office as next month all the Tattenhall Parish Councillors are up for re-election.

On this occasion Gateshead (Golborne Bellow) and Newton-by-Tattenhall will not have elections as they were each one nominee short of the number required and once elected, the new council will set in place the arrangements to co-opt persons to fill those two seats.

In the year 2010 - 11 the Parish Council has again had a busy and varied year. The Full Council held 12 monthly meetings and 1 extra-ordinary meeting.

The **Finance Committee** met on 4 occasions and as well as monitoring the councils income and expenditure, continued with its work of reviewing the councils financial paperwork and overseeing the contracts for litter picking and grass cutting.

The **Planning Committee** held 10 Meetings and 1 extra-ordinary meeting in order to consider all the planning applications received. As well as the standard applications for signage and extensions two major applications reached very different stages. The application for mixed development at The Oak Rooms was turned down by a government inspector in December and the application for the retirement community at Frog Hall Farm was, in March, referred to the Secretary of State for final approval.

Our working groups, which are made up of both councillors and members of the community continue with their work and meet regularly.

The **Community Safety** group has overseen the refurbishment of the CCTV and liaises closely with the Police and Homewatch. It also continues to monitor the parking situation in several areas of the village

The **Maintenance Group** carries out monthly inspections of the Council's property such as waymarkers, litter bins and bus shelters. They also carry out some of the minor repair works themselves for which the Council is very grateful.

The **Community Pride Group** organised yet another very successful Christmas event and for the second year we were lucky enough to get a visit from Father Christmas. They also continue to brighten the village through the Summer with floral displays and hanging baskets. The bunting which went up in time for the Royal Wedding will remain until after the Church fete and then will be safely stored for the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations next year.

The **Quality Parish Council Group** and the Clerk continue the work toward the quality accreditation that we hope will be awarded to us in the early part of 2012.

Last year the houses on Grakle Croft were still under construction. The **Housing Group** was very pleased when they were completed ahead of schedule and all occupied by people from the village.

And last but not least a small group of Councillors has worked with other local groups and agencies in order to maintain elderly day care provision in the village. Thanks to a lot of hard work a new day centre with a local management committee will open shortly.

Following the publication of the Localism Bill, Tattenhall & District Parish Council was approached by Cheshire West and Chester Council and asked if we would like to bid to be a pilot area for the new Neighbourhood Planning system being set up by the Department of Communities and Local Government. At the end of March we were proud and delighted to be told by the Minister that we had been selected and the Parish Council looks forward over the next

18 months or so to being at the forefront of the setting of future planning policy.

Recently we received from Cheshire West and Chester Council the Rural Regeneration Strategy and Rural Housing Strategy for consultation and comment by early Summer.

The Dexter cattle are once again in residence on Glebe Meadow for the Summer and the Tattenhall Wildlife Group continues to liaise with the Parish Council on projects around the village.

Parish Councillors are volunteers who give their time freely and willingly because they believe in the community they live in and I would like to thank them all for their work and the contribution that they make to our Parish.

Cllr Carol Weaver

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Over the 12 months of 2010/2011 44 planning applications were considered and commented on ranging from the retirement village at Frog Hall to the felling of trees. A decision in the year was taken to make everyone on the Parish Council a member of the Planning Committee to enable each Councillor to be involved if they so wished. This change helps to meet our aim of ensuring the whole local planning process is open and transparent.

Tattenhall Parish Council Planning Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month. Residents are welcome to attend these open meetings and are invited to comment where appropriate. The dates for the meetings are advertised on the Parish web site and the Parish Council notice Board.

Cllr Neil Matthews

Maintenance Group

The Maintenance Group makes sure that all village owned assets are kept in good order. The village is divided into 4 sections and a report is submitted to the Parish Council every month. This means that each of the 4 sections of the village is inspected 3 times a year.

The War Memorial is in good order following an inspection report which was carried out during the year.

Plans are in progress to prioritise, and action work on the Play Area following the annual report. Four new swing seats have already been replaced.

The rolling programme to replace, and renew, the Millennium Mile Posts will soon be completed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Parish Council Finance Committee's role is to ensure that all financial processes are transparent and open. Minutes of all meetings are published on the web site and can be read, in hard copy form, on application to the Clerk.

The Finance committee meets on a regular basis to ensure all its responsibilities are undertaken at the correct time to ensure financial stability.

It completes a detailed annual risk assessment to ensure any risks are reduced to an acceptable level; assesses assets with regard to planned maintenance and cost control, and to ensure that they are adequately insured; and reviews contracts each year with the objective of improving the service at reasonable cost.

The committee is responsible for maintaining services and providing the best value for the community.

The accounts are independently audited each year and the auditors have been satisfied that no issues have arisen.

All meetings are open to members of our community and everyone is welcome to attend.

Financial Report for the year ended 31 March 2011

In the year to March 2011, we planned for an income of £32,200. Through pursuing some additional grant income for specific projects, our income was £2,300 better than forecasted.

With regard to our costs, the main elements in the year were £6,800 for litter picking in the village, the clerk's salary, the floral displays, £1,200 for the Christmas events and Community Pride (formerly Best Kept Village) and £4,600 on the maintenance of the Park, the churchyard, the Spinney, Glebe Meadow and other areas of the village. We also spent £5,500 as

our contribution towards the £100,000 Barbour Institute main hall refurbishment. Through tight control and regular reviews we reduced our total costs by £5,000 during the year to £33,800.

The main element of our income is the parish precept. We have increased this by 6p per month for a Band D property. This, together with the continuing tight control on costs, will help us maintain the level of services in the parish through this year.

Cllr Andy Scarratt