

TATTENHALL & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

LIST OF COUNCILLORS

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	
Jonathan Fell	770995	
Alison Pritchard	07711464338	

Representing Golborne Bellow (Gatesheath)

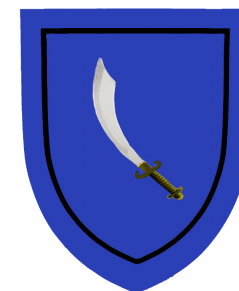
Neil Matthews	770289	Vice Chairman
Neil Goodwin	771388	

Representing Newton-by-Tattenhall

Andy Scarratt	770516	Vice Chairman
Norman Sharp	770566/164	
Tim Charmley	07980696999	

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.

TATTENHALL & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2012

IN TOUCH

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING Shaping Future Development for the Parish

At the Annual Parish Meeting on 23rd April 2012, the Parish Council awarded the following Cup and Certificates:

The Tattenhall & District Parish Council Cup was awarded to **Gordon Done** - for his exemplary voluntary support and service to the elderly and vulnerable in the community

David Tanswell was awarded a certificate for his work with young people and general support in the village

Marjorie Chalk was awarded a certificate for service to education and young people in our community

Tony Chalk was awarded a certificate for his contribution to Homewatch in the village

Anne and Tony McGrath were awarded a certificate for their voluntary contribution to organisations in the village

The Young Person's Award went to the **Young Cast of TADS** - for their enthusiastic contribution to amateur dramatics.

Lauren Bailey was awarded a certificate for her support in local fundraising

At the Annual meeting last year we were pleased to announce that Tattenhall and District had been selected as a pilot area for the Government's new planning system. 12 months on and the plan continues to make good progress.

The steering group has been attending village events raising awareness of neighbourhood planning and in the Autumn held a series of consultation meetings asking people for their thoughts on the parish.

We have finished analysing the information from these and by early Summer hope to have a report of the findings available. More importantly from this we have been able to ascertain the

issues and concerns that residents have and that will form the basis of our Neighbourhood Plan.

The Vision and Objectives document that you should have recently received is an important part of the Neighbourhood Planning consultation. Please read it and send in your responses.

This is **YOUR** community - how do **YOU** want it to develop?

It's time for **YOU** to give **YOUR** views.

Take this opportunity to speak out—every comment and opinion does count.

Cllr. Carol Weaver

COMMUNITY PRIDE COMPETITION

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

This year, as well as putting up bunting and baskets on the lamp posts, businesses and residents on the High Street were offered the chance to buy hanging baskets, ready filled in red, white and blue colours. Most of the premises took up the offer with the result that the High Street looked magnificent for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, and will continue to sport bright blooms throughout the summer and through the Olympic weeks. Pots were also placed at the War Memorial, and a bed was dug at Olympus House, courtesy of Bolesworth Estate. Again, the red, white and blue theme has worked well, and a planter round the village sign has brought it into view, where it is normally hidden amongst the trees.

The Parish Council has also entered the Community Spirit competition where local organisations are encouraged to share experiences of community working; something at which Tattenhall is immensely good.

Hopes are high for awards in at least one category.

Cllr Pat Black

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

The group, which consists of:

J Kershaw, C Weaver, G Spencer, G Marsden, N Sharp T Charmley N Mathews and R Blackhurst, has met five times.

- Dog Fouling is on the increase and the group agreed to contact the dog warden to make him aware of our concerns.
- It is major objective of the Parish Council to get Newton Lane designated as a primary gritting round
- Adolescent behaviour has improved greatly in recent months thanks to actions by the police.
- The police have been using SID (speed indicator device) in and around the village and will continue to do so on random dates throughout the coming months
- Dave Tanswell's recent youth initiative was a great success with over 120 youngsters attending. All agreed that providing facilities for teenagers must

remain a major priority for the Parish Council

- Parking around our school remains a problem.
- The group reiterated its support for a 20mph Speed Limit around school
- The issue of placing bollards on Tattenhall Road is still being considered
- Highways have been asked to look at the situation with a possible view to creating a *passing bay* part way along the queue of parked cars.
- The CCTV system in the High Street is working well.
- The Bolesworth Estate has agreed to re repaint the Disabled parking bays in Barbour Square.
- Parking in Bus bay has deteriorated. Highways have been asked to have the yellow paint redone.

Cllr Bob Blackhurst

MAINTENANCE GROUP

The Maintenance Working Group of the Parish Council keeps a watchful eye on all the assets owned by the Parish Council on behalf of the village. From the bus shelters, litter bins to the play equipment on The Park. We inspect the items on a regular basis and organise remedial work – as required.

During 2011 – 12 this has involved organising the repainting of the litter bins, and renewing some of the woodwork on 'The Park' play equipment. The bus shelter at Gatesheath has been repainted inside and out with wood preserver. Rotten roof timbers have been removed and the roof has been re-felted. We hope this will extend the life of the bus shelter by another 5 – 10 years.

Observant parishioners may also have noticed the Millennium Mile posts have had some work. Many of the plastic discs were starting to crack and fall off. We have had them remade in metal and three members of the Maintenance Working Group spent 4 hours on a cold February morning replacing them.

Future work will include the re-siting of some missing Millennium Mile posts and the play area rubberised safety surface will have a 'wash and brush up' soon.

The annual meeting marks another year of the Parish Council working with the community.

Council elections were held in May 2011 and returned a new Council. Our new Councillors have settled in well and are a welcome addition to the team.

At the AGM meeting in May, Carol Weaver stood down as Chairman after two very successful years.

The **Finance Committee's** remit is to plan the income and expenditure for the year. Through careful management of the budget the Parish Council has been able to improve our services, maintain our assets, and provide funding for community groups.

Funding examples include:

- essential training equipment for our First Responders.
- match funding for Diamond Jubilee events
- Jubilee woods interpretation panel.
- the Parish history website.

We have invested in an interest bearing account and have been able to keep the Precept increase below inflation.

All Councillors are members of the **Planning Committee** which has a very full portfolio. All applications have due consideration and the recommendations that are made to Cheshire West and Chester reflect current planning policy and take account of the best long term benefit for our community.

The **Community Safety** working group liaises closely with the police and Homewatch and works with highways to improve our road condition. One of its priorities is to find solutions to parking issues around the village and this work is on-going.

This group is responsible for the CCTV equipment on the High Street and its

maintenance.

The Clerk and the **Quality Parish Council** working group have made excellent progress in working towards this qualification which will ensure that your council operates with the best practice. We are working towards accreditation mid 2012. Some time ago, the Parish Council successfully led the development of the Parish Plan and Village Design statement. The intention was to ensure that these were living documents, bringing them up to date every 5 years. Updating the Parish Plan coincided with the localism bill being introduced.

The Parish Council, in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester Council, formulated a bid to become a pilot front runner in developing a **Neighbourhood Plan**. This bid was successful and we are in the process of consolidating the Parish Plan and Village Design Statement documents into a single Neighbourhood Plan.

Maintenance Group members are responsible for the inspection and maintenance of our assets.

- Bus shelters
- Bins
- Play area
- Millennium mile

The Gatesheath bus shelter has been refurbished and the litter bins have been repainted. Millennium mile posts have been replaced and new discs installed. The playground needs to be brought up to date and the Parish Council is looking for sufficient funds to do this work.

The **Community Pride** working group is responsible for our community events.

Decorations and keeping our community clean and tidy.

The Christmas Market was very successful

and exceeded expectations.

The Christmas Carol singing event, which is a joint venture with Tattenhall Community Association, was well supported again this year.

This year we are working hard to ensure Tattenhall has the best possible opportunity to achieve recognition in the community pride awards run by Cheshire Community Action. Your support will be very much appreciated.

The Parish Council is facilitating meetings with community groups to ensure we have a truly memorable celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We have funding support from our Ward Councillor and Bolesworth estate.

All our younger members will receive a gift to commemorate this special occasion and we will decorate the high street with flags and bunting.

A high street business display competition is planned as well as a photographic completion to record this

year for future generations.

Remembrance Sunday was a truly memorable day. A large number of village organisations were represented and the exhibition in our village hall was excellent.

We are very proud to support our service men and women in these difficult times.

Many councillors are also members of other organisations in the village and make valuable, and valued, contributions to the community. For example, the successful creation and launch of the Diamond Club in June was due in large measure to the work of your councillors. The cattle will again be in residence on Glebe Meadow. This is a successful partnership with Tattenhall Wildlife Group.

Parish Councillors are all volunteers who give their time to ensure that the Parish remains a special place to live and I would like to thank them for their commitment and support.

Cllr. Graham Spencer

PLANNING COMMITTEE

We have had a busy year on the Planning Committee with 38 Planning applications received ranging from the removal of trees and shrubs to the Retirement Home development. Moving forward we can see that speculative developers will make for a challenging year ahead. It is important the village is aware of the commitment the Parish Council have towards the Neighbourhood Development Plan in ensuring that Tattenhall does not become a village that none of us recognize. Some development is inevitable but with your support we can try to make sure this done in a way that is as agreeable as possible.

We on the Parish Council have agreed to push on with the Neighbourhood Development Plan" as thoroughly and diligently as possible but need the INPUT of all households when consultation documents are sent out.

All residents are welcome to Planning Meetings, and the Parish Council would welcome any input to the NDP.

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 2012

In the year to March 2012, we planned for an income of £26,000. Through pursuing some additional grant income for specific projects together with donations received towards the Jubilee celebrations, our income was £6,400 better than planned.

With regard to our costs, the main elements in the year were the floral displays, the clerk's salary, £2,000 for the Christmas events and decorations together with improvements for the Community Pride competition (formerly Best Kept Village) and £4,400 on the maintenance of the Park, the churchyard, the Spinney, Glebe Meadow and other areas of the village. We spent £700 on the start of the development of the

Neighbourhood Plan which was fully funded by grants received. Through tight control and regular reviews we reduced our total costs during the year to £23,000. During the coming year, as well as the usual costs, we have the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan and funding of the Jubilee celebrations. The main element of our income is the parish precept. For the year starting in April 2012, we have increased this by 5p 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