



Tongham Parish Council

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## AUTUMN 2021 NEWSLETTER

### Your Parish Council Meetings

We are pleased to advise you that full parish council meetings are now back to being held in person after some time restricted to remote meetings. You will find dates for future meetings on the website (subject to any changes in guidance from the government.) They are usually held on the third Monday of each month although August is an exception. Start time is 7.30pm in the Old School Hall. Please check the [website](https://tonghamparishcouncil.gov.uk/) (<https://tonghamparishcouncil.gov.uk/>) for dates and agendas. The meetings are generally well attended and we are always happy to see new faces so, if you can, please come along to see what goes on.

### What have we been doing in Tongham

#### Rec Facilities

The tennis court in the Recreation Ground has been refurbished to provide a better playing surface. No need to book so do come along for a game or knockabout.

The court completes the recent upgrades to the Rec alongside the gym, the new playground, the toddler's playground and the sports court. Next year we hope to be able to add a teen shelter to the sports court.



#### Telephone Box

The adopted telephone box in the village centre has undergone a total refurbishment with grateful thanks to Mr Ben Waugh. It has a new coat of paint, including gold insignias, new glass, a tiled floor and wooden lining to the rear. A defibrillator will be installed in the near future. This will be a second defibrillator for the village, the other being on the veranda at the Community Centre in the Rec. It is intended to fit shelves for a book exchange when Covid19 issues settle down, alternatively if any residents have any ideas for using the box (adopted from BT for £1) please let the clerk know.



## Villages in Bloom

We entered the Villages in Bloom competition again this year and after a detailed tour of the village we were awarded a silver medal. We are going for gold next year or at least silver gilt. Thank you to everyone for their efforts and hopefully more people will come on board for next year to make the neighbourhood even more colourful. We hope to increase the floral displays in the Street during summer and spring bulbs have been added to the planters at the crossroads. Any photographic evidence which can be provided will be useful so get planning and remember to record what you have done.



## Maintenance

After replacing the fencing in The Street we found this year that the greenery was growing through it and spilling onto the pavement. Although not officially our responsibility we decided to fund clearing this ourselves in order to maintain safety and appearance but taking into account the wildlife within.

The water drainage issue with the trampoline in the play area at the Rec remains and it was agreed we should try a method of helping absorb the excess water which gathers as, if possible, this popular piece of equipment should be retained. However there are health and safety issues to consider and we will be monitoring the situation moving forward.

## Fireworks

Most recently we were pleased to be able to celebrate Bonfire Night with a fantastic firework display and huge bonfire. The large crowd were generous and over £4500 was raised to be shared by 4th Farnham Scouts and other projects in the village. Our thanks go to all the people involved with the event who helped to make everything run smoothly and safely. These included the team who built the bonfire and prepared the site including members of the Parish Council, Scout Leaders and 4th Farnham members and local residents. We should also mention the suppliers of the firework display, Flashpoint Fireworks, Pete Hawkins for the music, the hard-working bar staff in the Community Centre, the providers of attractions for the younger members of the community and, of course, 4th Farnham Scouts for the burgers and for shaking buckets. . A special thanks goes to our Chairman, Les Oakley, for arranging the event.



## Section 137

Applications received and payments made under Section 137\* so far this year are:

Tongham Woods Improvement Group: £500 towards insurance and new tools

Tongham Community Association: £350.00 towards re-opening costs, including fixing a leaking radiator

Scouts: £500 towards new hut and equipment

Guildford Young Carers: £20 awarded.

Tongham Football Club: £250 awarded for ground maintenance.

\*Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables local councils to spend a limited amount of money for purposes for which they have no other specific statutory expenditure. To apply for a grant contact the Parish Clerk on

[tonghamclerk@outlook.com](mailto:tonghamclerk@outlook.com)

## Tongham Reported Issues

### Traffic

As many of you will be aware there have been a number of further issues with traffic this year. Not only have heavy construction lorries been using our roads in opposition to the transport plans in place with developers but there has been a huge increase in traffic due to the roadworks at the A31/A331 junction. We have been supported by both our borough and county councillors in mitigating the problems but we have little power against the mighty "sat nav". The roadworks are on track for completion by the end of the year and it is anticipated that the new slipway from the 331 to the Hog's Back will minimise the amount of traffic travelling through the village to avoid backlogs. There will also be a pedestrian crossing to allow safer crossing from the end of Grange Road onward to Runfold and the new SANG on the slopes of the Hog's Back.

Speeding is still a big problem in various parts of the parish and we continue to lobby for measures to lessen this.

### ASB

The anti-social behaviour reported in our last newsletter appears to have decreased considerably but the situation is still being monitored. Should there be further problems at the recreation ground we have a plan to try minimise this.

Antisocial behaviour takes many forms from aggressive, noisy or abusive behaviour to neighbourhood disturbances involving drugs or animals, this would include any acts of vandalism, in particular damage to cars, which seems to have become more regular recently.

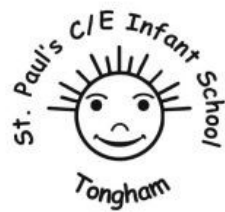
Please report any incidents to Surrey Police (by calling 101 and 999 if it is an emergency) so that any incidences can be logged.



## Other News from Tongham

### ST PAUL'S INFANT SCHOOL

There will be a Christmas Fair on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December (subject to any changes in government guidelines.) The Parish Council have donated a food hamper as a raffle prize and we hope that many people will buy a ticket to raise money for the school.



### ST PAUL'S CHURCH

On Thursday 9th December there will be a living nativity alongside the church. TPC have funded this event which will be attended by pupils of St Paul's School and Tongham Day Care attendees. The event will be open to members of the community – please see [Church Website](https://www.stpaulstongham.org.uk/seasonal) (<https://www.stpaulstongham.org.uk/seasonal>) for details of times.



### . . . and finally

Our festive lights will be appearing very soon so may your parish councillors take this opportunity of wishing each and every one of you Seasons Greetings.

We hope to see you all at our meetings in 2022 so you can have your input into what happens in your village.

