

Tongham Parish Council Chairmans Report 13th May 2022

Been a funny year, what with the covid restrictions and the official lifting of those restrictions to allow us all to lead as normal a life as possible.

The Developments at the old orchard in Poyle Road and both Manor Farm and Grange road are now really starting to change the look of our village forever, whether it will be good for the long term future of the people of Tongham remains to be seen, nonetheless we have to accept them, just like residents of Ash have, and that there is little any of us can do to stop it.

This year has also seen a “ Changing of the guard” with Margaret stepping down as Parish Clerk after many years of sterling service to both the Parish Council and the residents of Tongham, I for one will miss Margaret and enjoyed immensely serving with her on the Parish Council. This leads me to welcome our new Clerk, Jill Smith. Jill is a long time resident of Tongham and I have known her for more years then she will thank me for making public and I’m sure all Councillors at Parish, Borough and County level join me in welcoming her to her new post. Margaret has been helping Jill find her feet in what is not an easy job, but I feel Jill is a great fit for the role, and thanks to Margaret for giving up her time free of charge to help with the transition.

My thanks go to all my fellow Parish Councillors for their voluntary work in just trying to make Tongham a better place to live. It’s not been easy trying to make decisions staring at each other on a split computer screen, so well done all, and to our relative newbie Phil Buckley who seems to have taken to the task of Parish Councillor like a duck to water.

My final thanks go to our County Council representative Matt Furniss, our Borough Councillors Paul Spooner and Graham Erye who attend pretty much every Parish meeting despite their busy lives. Lets not forget the “die hard” Tongham residents who attend almost every month to support us. And I couldn’t finish my report without thanking Mike Heath who continues to work tirelessly on a number of issues close to his heart.

My very Best Regards

Les Oakley: Chairman Tongham Parish Council

