

Tongham Parish Council Newsletter

Spring 2024



As we look forward to Summer here is an update from the past few months in the village.

We are pleased to welcome our new parish clerk, Zed Watyoka. He is normally in the office at the Community Centre, Poyle Road, on a Wednesday morning. Please check before visiting: clerk@tonghamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

It is great to see the new Scout Hut now in full use. This is a wonderful asset for the village and all those involved with the huge amount of work involved to get it up and running are to be congratulated.

There is a new pedestrian entrance with railings provided by Tongham Care Group and an agreement by SCC to install a footpath to link from the Scout hut to the Community Centre entrance. Hopefully this will be completed within this financial year.



Parish Council Chair Les Oakley officially opened the church community garden.

The Vicar, Rev Claire Holt, thanked the Parish Council for the grants made over the past year and the One Stop shop for a grant which allowed the church to provide a seat round a tree. She said the garden is available for people who do not have a garden of their own, to help the environment, to provide an outdoor space for the children's groups and of course to grow fruit and vegetables.



If anyone would like to help please contact Claire on: Vicar@stpaulstongham.org.uk



The village sign donated by Bellway is now in place although currently rather hidden by the advertising flags. Once these are removed it will provide a clear entry point to the village from the south.

The White Hart in the centre of the village has been revitalised with the new landlords introducing a number of events and offering a varied menu but the building is now up for sale so the future for the business is still unclear at the time of writing.



There is an Asset of Community Value order on the premises which should protect its use for the benefit of the community.

As part of the road enhancements, Phase 1 has been completed with tables in The Street and improvements made to the pinch points at each end of The Street. Unfortunately, the tables were not built to standard and this has recently been rectified. The planned pedestrian entrance into the new houses at Manor Farm has now been installed close to the pinch point. We are currently awaiting an update on the second phase.

The application for another MacDonald's restaurant at the Runfold Diversion roundabout on A331 is still in hand with SCC requesting a number of changes to the plan and we await further news on this.



With another busy year ahead at the allotment site in Spoil Lane the parish councillors are keeping check on use in line with the rules. A recent amendment has been made and in future only those living within the parish will be able to apply for a plot. This has resulted in a slight adjustment to the number on the waiting list. Due to increasing costs including water supply and waste disposal, the annual rental will rise in April next year to £45.00. The Parish Council are actively monitoring use of the plots to ensure they are being used in line with the rules.

St Paul's School is to increase in size and become a much-needed one form entry primary school for the village. Work will soon begin on the extension required to accommodate four further classes on the site. The extended school numbers are due to be initiated in September 2025.



Surrey County Council are proposing to introduce a 20mph limits on roads in The Cardinals to further improve road safety in the area. The final consultation closed on 19 April. This is in addition to double yellow lines around the school area which have recently been put in place. *It is important to adhere to these restrictions for the safety of pedestrians using the area.*

A small number of litter pickers and hi viz vests are to be made available to community members wishing to clear litter from their local area. Collection can be arranged through our Clerk. Please be aware of personal safety if you choose to carry out litter picking activities.



The village has once again registered for "Parishes in Bloom" and we hope to, at least, achieve another Silver Gilt award. Judging will take place in late June or early July.

Tongham Moors - Upkeep of this area is being looked at by representatives of TWIG and Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust.

SECTION 137 GRANTS

The Parish Council has funds available to non-profit making organisations within the village to be used for the benefit of the community.

Further information on previous awards can be found on our website

<https://tonghamparishcouncil.gov.uk/section-137-awards/> together with an application form.



Our SCC and Guildford BC Councillor Matt Furniss has reminded us of the Your Fund Surrey Small Community Project Fund which is available to support capital community projects with between £1,000 and £50,000 and the Your Councillor Community Fund which supports residents and community organisations to deliver activities that benefit local people in the neighbourhood. He has asked to be advised of any local projects which residents may like to support.

The Therapy Garden – Normandy - Looking for volunteers

The Therapy Garden works to have a positive and significant impact on the lives of people facing challenges in life. Whether by giving a sense of purpose to children with special needs; or by reducing the isolation of a young person living with autism or someone older living with dementia. Whether by building confidence in adults recovering from a stroke; or by helping to equip young people who have additional learning needs for a possible future in the workplace. We change lives for the better and we do this by creating a safe place to enjoy the power of gardening and to connect with nature.

We are open 5 days a week, Monday to Friday from 9.15am until 2.30pm. Our adult clients attend all year round but our teenagers only attend during school term times. The Therapy Garden is not generally open to the public, although we have several open days during the year. We are also affiliated to the National Garden Scheme and will next be open to the public on 22nd September. We are due to celebrate our 25th anniversary year and will be publicising a series of events in the near future.



Volunteer roles

- We are looking for Client Support Volunteers to assist in the Garden alongside our horticulturists in the supervision of our adult clients and teenagers with a variety of disabilities.
- Our volunteers work in the garden with clients, helping them with various tasks such as planting, harvesting, pruning and mowing to name a few, under the guidance of our team of horticulturists.
- As well as general gardening work you will be assisting our clients, both children and adults with the opportunity to achieve a qualification in horticulture.
- Other tasks our volunteers help with include general garden maintenance, DIY tasks or craft/cookery activities.
- **No gardening experience is required**, just the ability to get along with others and muck in! This can be a great stepping stone to further education or work opportunities.
- At present, we are looking for Volunteers who can offer a regular weekly commitment.

Should anyone wish to apply here is a link to their volunteering page.

[Volunteers - The Therapy Garden](#). **NB applicants will need to scroll down to find the application form!**