

**Tongham Parish Council**  
**Chairmans Report 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

I would like to start my annual report by thanking all my fellow volunteer Parish Councillors. In no order of importance, but as always "Ladies First" Susie Hapgood, Sue Gray, Margaret Murray, Lyn Lowdon, Phil Buckley and Ed Hall. Special thanks to Sue G and Margaret for keeping on top of things whilst we have been running without a clerk to the council.

On the subject of a clerk, I would like to express a warm welcome to Kevin Brennan, who after the interview process and interest from others, was the successful candidate and is now in place as the new Parish Council clerk, I'm sure you will all join me in wishing him well in his new job.

Thanks to Matt Furniss and Sallie Barker our GBC councillors for their help and guidance throughout the year and congratulations to Sallie who has just completed her year as the Mayor of Guildford. Thanks also to all the members of the public, particularly the 1 or 2 that attend month in month out (you know who you are)

Around the village TPC have been busy maintaining and servicing all our commitments, the two largest being the Recreation ground which has seen improvements to the football facilities by way of a new spectator safety barrier to which the Parish Council made a very generous donation to the overall cost, we have put in paths to allow better access to adult gym area and the concrete horseshoe road in the wooded area's to assist, in particular dog walkers, who had advised that due to the frequent wet winters it was becoming increasingly difficult to walk on the grassed area's that join one end of the horse shoe road to the other. The Toddlers playground is undergoing a complete re-fit at present and should be re-opened to the public in 10 days or so. The other large commitment in my opinion is the allotments and we are busy working our way through plot holders who are not working their plots in favour of people on waiting list who will.

This year saw us take back responsibility for the Moors, a parcel of land that links Tongham to Heron wood. We have recently had a walk around the area to assess what can be done to upkeep the area for public use and will be carrying out some repairs to fencing and tidy up to some of the hedge's that have overgrown

My report wouldn't be complete without mentioning Housing Development, as you all know the village has changed over the last few years and not for the better in my opinion, I felt if we had to accept what was in the local plan for the developers to back off then so be it, so it saddens me to hear that Taylor Wimpey whilst saying nothing at present are almost certainly going to look to build a large number of houses behind the hop fields on land that stretches down to the scout hut on Poyle Road, we must ensure as a council, with the help of the residents of the village, that they don't get to completely ruin the village, I will leave it there for now .

Best Regards

**Les**