

**Tongham Parish Council**  
**Chairmans Report 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

I would like to start my annual report by thanking all my fellow volunteer Parish Councilors. In no order of importance, but as always "Ladies First" Susie Hapgood, Sue Gray, Margaret Murray, Lyn Lowdon, Phil Buckley and Ed Hall. Every councilor does a great job on behalf of the village

Our not so new clerk Kevin Brennan has done a great job in "keeping the wheels turning" and seems a perfect fit for the job. Thanks also to Sue Gray for all the help/advise she has offered the new clerk since his appointment

Thanks to Matt Furniss and Sallie Barker our GBC Councilors for their help and guidance throughout the year

Around the village TPC have been busy maintaining and servicing all its commitments, the allotments are thriving and the Recreation Ground and Community Centre are very well used by locals and beyond, the Rec and Centre are a fantastic facility for everyone to use, the football and cricket clubs are both very grateful for such good sports facilities along with all regular groups that use the centre, and we have play areas to be proud of. The moors is also an area on our radar for maintaining and improving

The AGM saw the end of an era with councilor Margaret Murray retiring from her role as a Parish Councilor after many years, I would like to personally thank Margaret for everything she does around the village which extends far beyond the Parish Council, I for one will miss her.

As per my 2025 report it 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 are looking to build a large number of houses behind the hop fields on land that stretches down to the scout hut on Poyle Road, we have met them head on with our feelings towards yet another destructive unwanted development and I would like to thank all councilors for their input on this matter particularly Ed Hall who has put a huge amount of time and effort putting together a constructive and informative argument against this latest development. Well done Ed !

Following my re-election as Chairman at the AGM in May, you have got at least another year to put up with me and as always, I will do my bit for our village

Best Regards  
**Les**

