

Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Council Annual Report 2021/22



Chairman's Introduction

It has been a busy year for your Parish Council as we return to more normal times following the pandemic. It was, unfortunately, overshadowed by the sudden death of the very popular Parish Councillor Barry Dorman. This tragic event highlighted the need for First Responders in the parish, and we will take advice from nearby First Responder Groups and see if we can help establish such a group here.



Chairman
John Smith



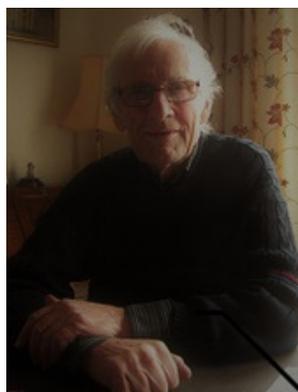
Vice -Chairman
Lyndsey Barwick



Councillor
Jason Brown



Councillor
Maggie Henderson



Councillor
Gerry Munson



Councillor
Richard Scott

Planning

As in previous years, we have discharged our responsibility as statutory consultees for 29 planning applications.

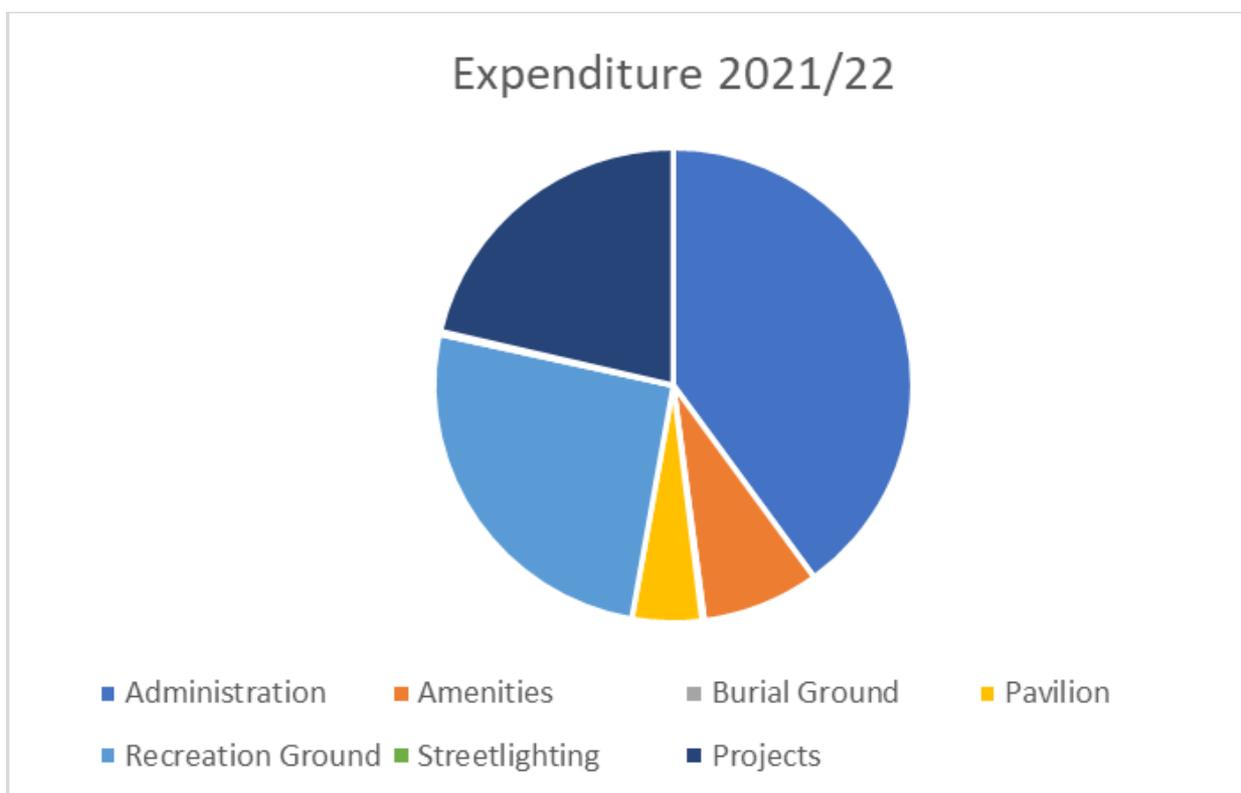
Cllr Richard Scott is the Parish Council lead on planning and visits all applicants and neighbours, where relevant, seeking their views and inviting them to our meeting. He then presents each application to members who have had access to the complete documentation, and we vote to either support or object to the applications.



Finance

The 2020/21 audits were completed without any adverse comments or issues raised, and the Internal Audit for 2021/22 will commence in May 2022.

Our income for the 2021/21 financial year totalled £27,013, of which £21,515 was the precept. Our overall expenditure was £37,046, and our closing balance was £29,441.90. As always, a complete set of accounts are published on our website with a hardcopy obtainable by contacting the Clerk.



Projects in 2021/22

Several projects were completed, including:

Following a successful application to the Community Initiatives Fund, we acquired a second defibrillator in the telephone kiosk outside the Queens Head Public House.

The Maypole and surrounding cage were renovated.

Cllr Jason Brown kindly cleaned, repainted and applied anti-graffiti treatment to the bus shelter.

The notice board and entrance gates were replaced at the Burial Ground.

A table tennis table and base were installed in the Recreation Ground.

The fence and gates surrounding the Recreation Ground play area were replaced.

The outside gym in the Recreation Ground outside was renovated.

A new concrete base for the Recreation Ground youth shelter was provided.

The businesses from Station Road donated a new bench in the village centre.



Table tennis facility at the Recreation Ground

New notice board at the Burial Ground



Clean, painted bus shelter

Support

We have provided financial support to:

The Village Hall Management Committee

The D'Arcy Litter pickers

We have rented the general-purpose room in the Pavilion to be used as a gymnasium and keep fit centre which has proved very popular with residents.

Parish Working Group (PWG)

As there was such interest in the Parish Council vacancy, we encouraged the unsuccessful candidates to form a working group to investigate issues and propose improvements to the parish. They attend Parish Council meetings and report on their findings. Initially, their focus has been on speeding in the village, and they have made recommendations that the Parish Council has adopted. They have now agreed to work with the Chairman on a strategy for reducing speeding issues in the long to medium term. This group provides important input and gives its members an insight into council workings should they continue to be interested in standing at the next elections.

The Year Ahead

- We intend to try and keep the precept at the same level again next year despite inflation and rising costs. The revenue from the pavilion hire will be reinvested in the recreation ground wherever possible.
- The popular children's roundabout in the play area needs substantial remedial work. We will have it restored to its former glory so it can be enjoyed for another 30 years.
- We plan to obtain a grant for the last piece of play equipment (at least 50% funding), and rather than decide what to provide, we will consult with the local school children with the assistance of the headmistress.
- We will also be celebrating the Queen's Jubilee probably by planting roses and a plaque in the area under the notice board.
- We will work with the PWG to try and reduce speeding in the village.
- We will gradually upgrade the litter bins around the parish.
- Complete the footpath to the Pavilion.
- Continue publishing quarterly newsletters.
- Create residents welcome pack.