**Parish Assembly 1st June, 2023**

**Report of Tysoe Parish Council Chair**

The last year has, once again, been a busy one for your Parish Council. However, before addressing the business of the Council I would like to pay tribute to those Councillors who stood down at the end of April this year.

We have lost considerable experience from the Council in the shape of Jacqui Sinclair who had served on the Council for over 25 years including terms as Chair and Vice Chair. Jane Millward resigned from the Council late last year after having served as both our Clerk and as a Councillor. Alison Cross stood down in April having served for a number of years as did Matt Jarvis-Cleaver. My thanks to all of them for having given many hours of service to the village.

New Councillors joining the Council in May were Amanda Venables and Adam Wyatt, both residents of Tysoe and both having helped enormously in preparing our objection to the digester application. They join remaining Councillors John Tongue, Malcolm Littlewood, James Bardey and myself, David Roache. At the first meeting of the new Council we co-opted Rebecca Billing. This gives us a complement of 7 Councillors leaving one vacancy which we can fill by co-opting a village resident. I join my fellow Councillors in welcoming our newcomers and thank them for committing to serve the residents of Tysoe.

Charmaine Swift remains our much-valued Clerk who keeps us on the straight and narrow and whose help is much appreciated by all.

I must also thank Cllr John Feilding, our previous SDC Ward Member who did not stand for re-election in May. His help and advice over several years has been much valued. His place is taken by Cllr Malcolm Littlewood who was successfully elected in May. To say he has his work cut out would seem to be an understatement.

Finally, I must thank Cllr Chris Mills, our WCC Ward Member whose help and advice are always welcome and much appreciated.

Much time, as always, has been taken up with reviewing planning applications. Most of these have been relatively straight forward and easy to deal with. However, in October 2022, Acorn Bioenergy submitted a planning application for a large, industrial bio-gas plant to be sited off the A422 in the north of the parish. This is an entirely opportunistic, inappropriate and unwelcome application. The PC enlisted the help of a number of concerned residents and the support of many of the surrounding Parish Councils and organisations such as the Cotswold AONB, CPRE etc. A very detailed and well researched 144 page objection was submitted to SDC and over 1400 individual objections, including from 20 Parish Councils, were lodged on SDC’s planning portal. We are still waiting for this application to be determined.

Also, still not yet determined, is the application from Cameron Homes to build 31 new homes off Sandpits Road, including 11 much needed affordable homes. This application was submitted in December, 2021 and is still not determined. We understand that disputes around the S.106 settlement are holding matters up.

The project to repair and reduce the number of street lights in Tysoe continues. In line with our stated “dark skies” policy we want to reduce the number of lights, whilst maintaining a safe environment for residents. The reduction in lighting will also reduce one of our major items of expenditure – electricity.

A major overhaul of our playground equipment was carried out earlier this year and the equipment is now in very good order. However, very recently we have had what appears to be an act of mindless vandalism. Two picnic benches, bought earlier this year and positioned near the play equipment for mothers and children, have been smashed. These cost the parish £600 and are being repaired by a very generous village resident. We had expected that this sort of thing would not be a problem in Tysoe.

A Jubilee tree was planted near the playground to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth 11’s accession to the throne. This followed a wonderful celebration held on 4th June, 2022 involving a concert by the village choir, TaDa, and many residents.

Very sadly, only weeks later, the village was in mourning for our late Queen.

However, in early May this year the village once again had something to celebrate – the coronation of King Charles 111. The village again demonstrated its deep pool of talent and residents enjoyed street parties and a hog roast.

So, a year of highs and lows with Councillors being kept busy by the usual tasks and by the unwelcome incursion of an opportunistic developer.

Looking forward our priorities are:

* To identify a site on which we can build a small number of affordable homes to enable both our young and older residents to remain in the village.
* To identify those residents who may be vulnerable, whether medically or financially, and signpost them to where they can receive the best advice and help.
* To co-opt an additional, suitable resident to serve on the Council.
* To identify a way of providing activities for our younger residents within the village.
* To ensure that the village infrastructure remains in good condition.
* To continue to work with our Ward Members from SDC and WCC to ensure all residents enjoy a quality environment (e.g. potholes, waste collection etc.)
* To solicit the views of residents to ensure that we are delivering what the people of Tysoe value.

We have worked hard to keep the Parish Precept increase to an absolute minimum. In monetary terms the precept for 2023/24 increased by only £1,127 to £35,472, an increase of 3.3% from the previous year. We are conscious of the burden of rising prices for everyone.

The Parish Council is here to serve the residents of Tysoe. If you have any questions or concerns we would love to see you at our monthly meetings which take place on the second Monday of each month in the village hall at 7.30 pm. If you would like to help with the work of the Council please let us know, we are always happy to work with volunteers within the community.

Cllr David Roache

Chairman, Tysoe Parish Council