

Todenham Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly

The assembly was held on 16 May 2022 2022 at the Village Hall immediately following the AGM

Present: Bill Joss (BJ), Bruce Eastabrook (BE), Jo Trice-Rolph (JTR) Stephen Pannell (SP), James Duckett (JD), Sue Finlay (Clerk)

APA.2022.1. Apologies: Cynnie Clifford, Richard & Louise Derrington

APA.2022.2. Approval of minutes of last meeting (2021): Approved.

APA.2022.3: Village Reports:

Police: PC Westmacott presented a brief report on the state of crime and policing over the past year.

Crime Comparison Statistics For Parish Council 01 May 2021 – 10 May 2022 compared with 01 May 2020 – 10 May 2021 for the parish of Todenham

HO Band	HO Category	Crime 01 May 21 to 10 May 22	Crime 01 May 20 to 10 May 21	+/-	% Crime Diff	Detect 01 May 21 to 10 May 22	Detect 01 May 20 to 10 May 21	+/-	% Detect Diff
Violence	Stalking	1	1	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Violence	Malicious Communications	2	0	2	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Violence	Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	0	1	-1	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Violence	Assault w/o Injury	1	0	1	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Sexual offences	Sexual assault on female 13+	0	1	-1	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Burglary	Burglary - Residential	0	5	-5	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Burglary	Burglary - Business and community	3	0	3	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Theft	Profiting from/Concealing Knowledge of the Proceeds of Crime	0	1	-1	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	1	1	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Criminal damage	Criminal damage -vehicles	1	3	-2	(66.67%)	0	0	0	0.00%
Criminal damage	Criminal damage -other	1	0	1	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Other notifiable	Blackmail	0	1	-1	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Other notifiable	Obscene Publications etc	0	1	-1	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
=		10	15	-5	(33.33%)	0	0	0	0.00%

Detections exclude administrative disposals (NFA, investigation complete - no suspect, evidential difficulties).

APA 2022.4: Parish Council Chairman's report, 2021–2022:

It is difficult to start these notes in any place other than with another reflection on the continuing impact of Covid, which has dictated our patterns of interaction and behaviour for another year, albeit without the same level of anxiety and fear which many of us felt 18 months ago.

To say that Parish Council activity returned to normal would be overstating it, but at least we were able to meet in person and resume discussions on the matters which normally occupy our time

At which point, let me thank my fellow Councillors for their commitment throughout the year, and for preserving in the main the structure and purpose of the Council as we considered our priorities and direction for the future.

Sadly, we saw little or no participation from the village community in general and there were times when we considered whether or not we should maintain the independence of our tiny Parish.

Most Parish Meetings were attended only by the Councillors themselves and it was once again demotivating for us to feel that whilst we received occasional comments and complaints (usually connected with Planning Applications), there was little evidence of support for the continuation of Todenham Parish Council as distinct from its larger neighbours.

However, after some debate we concluded that it would not be in Parishioners' interests to see the Parish Council subsumed by Moreton and CDC and we approved several initiatives which we felt would enhance village life and give a purpose to our activities.

The most visible of these has been the start of the project to restore the village pond which will encourage wildlife and provide a pleasant location for passing walkers and cyclists to pause and reflect on Life and the Universe!

Hopefully once established the area around the pond will also serve to remind all of us of a feature of Todenham of old, when the pond served a useful function in the village.

The second visible and important initiative saw the installation of the Commemorative Plaque in remembrance of those local people who fought for our freedom in various conflicts. Again, we hope that this will serve as a spot to quietly contemplate how fortunate more recent generations of villagers have been.

Initiatives such as reviewing traffic flow through the village, supporting the Jubilee celebrations and continuing to financially support the maintenance of the Village Hall have still left us with a healthy financial reserve which we will continue to apply to the upkeep of village assets, and we would always be delighted to hear – in person ideally – of further ideas to enhance Todenham's undoubted attractiveness as a place to live.

We will continue to monitor Planning Applications, of which there have been many. Our 'powers' in this context are limited, but we believe that this is an essential element in maintaining the Parish Council's independence.

In support of the above, we would like to thank Sue Finlay, our Clerk and wish her well as she heads into retirement.

Looking ahead, we will continue to serve what we believe to be the best interests of our village, and would simply ask that you come forward if you feel you can contribute in any way.

Bill Joss, Chairman.

APA.2022.5. Village Reports:

None. The clerk was asked to check up on the District Councillor as we had not heard from her recently and were told that she had moved to Malvern.

APA2022:6 Questions from residents

There was support for the continued independence⁴ of the council. SP felt that DC were trying to lessen the impact small councils have. It is hoped the Jubilee celebrations will reinvigorate village life.

The VHC suggested that Community heartbeat should be approached with a view to running another first aid course and a course on use of the defibrillators.

The meeting was followed by the Village Hall AGM, then refreshments.