

Chairman's Report 2024/25

Tonwell Playing Field: It has been a busy year in respect of the playing field. The most significant achievement being the creation of a new play area for the village. The majority of the funding was provided via a grant from East Herts Council that Cllr Matt Clutterbuck successfully applied for. This was supplemented with the community funds that were raised, and funds from the Parish Council. Following a robust procurement process Setter Play were appointed, and works were completed in March 2025. It is pleasing to see how well it has been utilised in such a short period of time.

Finances: We have remained in budget during the year. But due to inflation and ensuring that there are sufficient funds to carry out the requirement maintenance for the play area, the Parish Council took the difficult decision to implement a small increase in this year's precept.

Health and Safety: Both defibrillators within the Parish are registered on the national Circuit website which provides quarterly reminders for checks to be carried out. The annual playground inspection was carried out, with some recommendations which have been taken forward by the Parish Council.

Contractors: Our contractors for grass and hedge maintenance have remained the same and once again have done an excellent job.

School: During the year, Tonwell Primary School sadly closed due to a fall in numbers. Children at the school were offered places at Thundridge. But rather than the buildings remaining empty, it has since become a satellite location for Amwell View School who are a SEN specialist school.

Flytipping: During the year there have been several reports of fly tipping within the Parish, including blocking one of the entrances into Crouchfields, and along the BOAT in Chapmore End. Following intervention by Local Councillor Aubrey Holt, the fly tipping at Crouchfields was removed quickly. Both Aubrey and Ken Crofton – District Councillor are supporting the Parish in respect of the ongoing issues along the BOAT in Chapmore End.

Planning: We have seen a number of planning applications. The members have discussed and dealt with these in a professional manner.

Community: As in previous years the Parish Council were pleased to accept on behalf of the Parish a Christmas tree from Woodhall Estate, that was erected in Tonwell during the festive period.

I would like to thank Neil, Matt, Jayne and Victoria for their continued support. I would also like to thank Ken Crofton and Aubrey Holt for their continued advice and support.

Cllr Tony Ellis