

## **Tidenham Parish Council – Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2022 by Councillor Swambo**

PCSO Natalie Lang, who had worked in the area for 15 years, has moved to another role and was publicly thanked for her hard work and dedication to the community.

The Council committees had continued to be busy throughout the year with the number of planning applications increasing by 82%. Following years of working with Gloucestershire County Council Highways, Castleford Hill has now been resurfaced and made safe.

The remaining £1500 in the Council's grant budget has been earmarked for emergency items that may be required for Ukrainian refugees staying in the Parish.

As one of its Platinum Jubilee projects, the Parish Council, in conjunction with the War Memorial Hall Trust is installing a shelter / bandstand on the Tutshill recreation ground for the community to use.

Tidenham Parochial Church Council, with funding from the Parish Council amongst others, has employed a part time well being Chaplain, Nikki Bullivant, who provides pastoral care in the Parish. Thank you to Nikki for 'going the extra mile' in her much needed work.

In September 2021 the Parish Council resolved to recognise the climate emergency. As part of its commitment to help make a difference, the Parish Council has allocated land for a community garden and the first public meeting for this will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> June – this will be an open meeting for everybody interested. Also, using funds from a Build Back Better grant from Glos. County Council, 30 volunteers planted native wildflower plug plants on a trial area in Wyebank Road which, if introduced elsewhere, can help reduce mowing and costs, and also provides a much needed habitat for pollinators.

Another Jubilee project paid for by the Council has been to arrange for Forestry England to clear the area around the Queen Victoria Jubilee Stone on Parson's Allotment and provide a bench and information plaque that will be installed in the next week or so.

Emily Timmins was appointed as the Parish Youth Worker in October 2021. Emily has worked hard engaging with children of all ages in the Parish and it has been good to see so many being involved in activities she has arranged. The role is being supported by a social prescribing fund of £10k over two years provided through a grant from Glos. County Council which can help change lives – for example helping with a bus pass to college where otherwise it would be difficult to attend. Emily is currently undertaking a survey of pupils at Wyedean School on what young people want to see in their community in order that future events and activities can be specifically tailored. If anybody has any ideas, please contact Emily.

Sedbury Space, supported by funding from the Parish Council, organised the first community Christmas Day Lunch last year which was very successful. Thanks to community generosity enough funds remain for a monthly Sunday lunch to be provided on the first Sunday each month – thanks to all of the community volunteers.

In order to help increase community engagement, the first community hub event was held at the Hall bringing together local groups showcasing what they do in the community. These events will take place periodically throughout the Parish.

Michael Swambo finished by saying that the past year has been very busy and the Parish Council had managed to achieve a lot. Local community groups need new members to be involved.