



## **2021 Annual Town Meeting**

### **Covid – 19**

It is now over a year since the seriousness of the threat of Covid 19 and the global pandemic became clear, and the first lockdown began. Two further lockdowns later, we hope there is a light at the end of the tunnel as the vaccination program rolls out, but no- one should be complacent.

Many of us have faced challenges in finding new ways of working and for the Town Council, holding virtual meetings via Zoom has been a Godsend. I would like to thank all the Councillors for embracing this new technology and making our meetings possible.

The Town Council are also very grateful to all the organisations and individuals who have helped the community and in particular Dial-A-trip and Costcutter, who made sure that the older and more vulnerable residents received food, prescriptions and many other services. My thanks also to our Medical Centre and Pharmacy who remained open and available for medical needs.

There are many other examples of how the community has pulled together during this difficult time and our heartfelt thanks goes to them all.

### **Town Council Changes**

We have been joined this year by a New Councillor, David Naylor. Since joining he has promised to push forward with Tuxford's Neighbourhood Plan, and we look forward to seeing progress made.

Unfortunately, Councillor Rogers resigned from the Council, but I would like to thank him for the contribution he made during his time with us.

The Town Council still has vacancies for new Councillors, but you will be pleased to know that we have recently received three new applications. It is rewarding to know that individuals in Tuxford are keen to join us in working for the community and we look forward to considering their applications.

Our Grounds Maintenance staff continue to do a great job of keeping the Town looking attractive, litter free and a lovely place to visit. They worked continuously throughout the Pandemic and I thank them for their diligence in difficult times. Unfortunately, one of our Grounds Maintenance staff resigned and took early retirement, but I would like to thank Mr Steven Bolstridge for his work as part of the team and his help in keeping the Town safe and looking its best and wish him well.

Lastly on staffing, I would like to give special thanks to Clare our Clerk. Thanks to Clare the Town Council has continued to function, due to her professionalism and hard work. She has kept us all in check with the many new rules and regulations we have all had to embrace.



Her pride in our TOWN and Community has been outstanding, and during all this she somehow found the time to get Married!!! Congratulations Clare.

I am sure you will all agree Clare is a great asset to the Town Council and to Tuxford.

### **Town Council achievements 2020**

Unfortunately, we had to Cancel our Christmas Market and Lights Switch on due to lockdown restrictions. But in the face of adversity, we all pulled together and tried to make the festive season as normal as was possible.

The lights were installed, along with several new lamppost lights for Lincoln Road. 30 new wall mounted Christmas trees were purchased, and a very impressive tree was erected in the Market Square, along with beautiful new lights.

The children from Tuxford Primary Academy provided us with some lovely hand-made decorations, which were hung on the tree, making it a really personal spectacle.

We would like to thank North Notts Bid for contributing towards the cost for the purchase of the new lights.

The children also decorated the 'Lock-Up' as a stable and baby Jesus was visited by many families on the week preceding Christmas.

The Town Council arranged for Father Christmas and his sleigh to visit Tuxford Primary Academy and Pump Farm Nursery, and all the children received a present. Tuxford Town Council would like to thank Retford Rotary for providing Father Christmas and Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council for contributing towards the cost of the presents.

### **NEW NOTICE BOARDS**

We have installed a further two noticeboards in the town. One sited on Lincoln Road (corner of Ashvale Road) and the other one on Gilbert Avenue playing field. These noticeboards are in addition to the three already in the town (Newark Road car park, Lincoln Road, outside the old grammar school and on the wall outside the butchers).

I am sure you will agree they look splendid. Please take some time to view them, as they contain useful information.

### **CLARK LANE PLAY PARK**

We were delighted to be able to purchase new play equipment for the children in the play park on Clark Lane.

This was made possible with Match funding from Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Improvement Scheme and Tuxford Town Council. The suppliers really pulled out all the stops and the equipment were installed and ready to use for the Easter Break.

It was good to read all the supportive, appreciative comments on Social Media from Parents and I am sure you will agree that it is good to know that our efforts are appreciated.

## GILBERT AVENUE

This year has seen excellent progress with Football facilities for the youngsters of Tuxford at the Gilbert Avenue Play area. I would like to thank Tuxford Youth Football Club and its organisers for all their hard work and dedication in forming this much needed community facility. We are proud to be able to support them and look forward to them going from strength to strength.

## NEW MOWING EQUIPMENT

One of the major tasks that Tuxford Town Council undertakes is the grass cutting throughout the Town. The council made the decision this year to replace the mowing equipment, so that Tuxford continues to live up to its accolade of BEST KEPT VILLAGE. Obviously, this has been a major outlay and is reflected in the setting of the Precept.

## PRECEPT

Box No.	Description	Year ending		
		31/03/2020 £	31/03/2021 £	
1	Balances brought fwd	100676	61574	*
2	Annual precept	103625	131034	*
3	Total other receipts	29784	38945	*
4	Staff Costs	87649	98600	
5	Loan interest/capital repayments	9258	9258	
6	Total other payments	75604	56040	*
7	Balances carried forward	61574	67656	
8	Total Cash and Short Term Investments	61574	67656	
9	Total Fixed Assets and Long Term Investments	294728	310562	
10	Total Borrowings	171494	168762	

## Conclusion

To list the jobs and responsibilities that the Town Council undertakes on behalf of its residents would take far too long, but to name a few we maintain the Cemetery, Clark Lane



play areas, Seating, Defibrillators, Notice Boards, Allotments, Town Council Facebook page, consistently posting information on Tuxford Chat and much much more, making sure the Town runs efficiently and legally.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow Councillors for voluntarily giving their time and for their dedication to the Town Council in what has not been an easy year. I look forward us now making plans for further improvements to the Town in conjunction with its residents.