

## **Tawstock Parish Council Annual Chairs report**

14<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Tawstock Parish Council has had another productive and eventful year with many meetings taking place over the course of the year, with approximately 30 meetings held to date. These have included our regular monthly council meetings, as well as meetings, focused on planning, parks & open spaces, and governance.

Our thanks go to our ground's contractor Lewis Evely for his continued dedication over the last 12 months in maintaining the parks and surrounding areas. His efforts have been appreciated by local residents many of whom have commented positively on the appearance and upkeep of our public spaces.

### **Key Achievements and Initiatives:**

- **Defibrillator Installation-** The Parish has purchased a new defibrillator from the British Heart Foundation for the village of Harracott and was installed in the phone box by a local electrician, enhancing emergency readiness in the village.
- **Support for Tawstock Village Hall-** The Parish Council contributed towards the purchase of two air and heat pumps improving the heating system at the hall at a cost of £7,816 excluding Vat. This upgrade benefits all users of the hall including the children of Tawstock School.
- **Community Grant Secured-** A **£1000 grant** from the County Council Community fund was successfully obtained and used to support the village hall project.
- **Cemetery Headstone Survey-** A structural survey of the headstones in the Parish Cemetery was commissioned, as part of the required five-year review. Seven headstones were identified as needing either urgent repairs or attention in the near future.
- **New Cemetery Notice Board-** A new notice board has been purchased for Tawstock Cemetery. Although not yet erected, it will soon provide valuable public information about the cemetery.
- **Remembrance Wreath-** a wreath was purchased and laid in November by the Parish Council in honour of all those who gave their lives in conflict.

- **New Bench at Tudor Drive Park**- a new bench has been installed at Tudor Drive Park for community use and enjoyment.
- **Precept Adjustment**- Although Tawstock's precept remains one of the lowest in the area, a 12.8% increase was implemented to address rising costs and additional responsibilities. This adjustment helps rebalance from two previous years of lower precepts during the cost-of-living crisis. For the financial year 2025/2026 this equates to £22.00 per annum- an increase of £2.50 from the previous year on a Band D property.
- **Parish Survey Development**- work continues on a parish-wide survey aimed at gathering resident's views on desired improvements in both urban and rural areas. The council remains committed to implementing community driven improvements over the coming year.

In closing, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all the Parish Councillors and our Clerk for all their hard work throughout the year. Their voluntary efforts and dedication greatly benefit the community, and I am confident that we will continue to make significant progress in the months ahead.

Thank you

Joy Bowden

Chair