

2021 May Station Works – Chairman Introduction

Hello – I'm Simon Davison chair of the Parish Council.

You see on the screen the Agenda for this meeting and Gerry will take you through the power point in a minute.

I'd like to thank Simon from IL for coming along and he is willing to respond to questions after the Power Point presentation.

But first I just want to clarify a few points:

Before I became a councillor I didn't really understand what the Parish Council did.

So - to be clear

It is separate from Wiltshire Council.

The Parish Council doesn't have much executive power. Instead - Our main function is to be the eyes and ears of what's going on in Tisbury and then try to get Wiltshire Council to do something if there is a problem.

There should be 11 Councillors – at the moment there are 8. We all give our time freely and so there is a lot of pressure on us when a situation like this comes along.

I have to say we are incredibly lucky to have a great Parish Clerk – Sandra. Who works way and beyond what she's actually paid for.

So – one duty of the Parish council is to look at planning applications. Again we don't have much power – we give our opinion but we can be ignored by the Wiltshire planning officers. Mostly we deal with extensions and converting garages but -

We also have to respond to the much bigger and important planning applications that will seriously change the nature of the village – Like the Station Works.

Which brings me to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plans came in with the Localism Act of 2011. The idea is that a Neighbourhood Plan 'is an important and powerful tool that gives communities statutory powers to shape how their communities develop.'

Tisbury's Neighbourhood Plan took over 3 years to put together – again done by volunteers who put in a huge amount of time and energy – but also with paid expert advice. You may remember there was a referendum and the plan was unanimously approved.

It was accepted as an official document in November 2019. It is a totally legitimate expression of what Tisbury wants.

How powerful the Neighbourhood plan can be is a moot point. I think we are about to find out.