

Chairperson's Report – Tormarton Parish Council – 11 May 2026

Over the past 12 months, the Parish Council has enjoyed a period of administrative stability.

I would like to thank Sara Thomas, our Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for providing excellent support and steer to the Council over this period. Unfortunately, due to increased workload, Sara resigned her role in March 2026. We are delighted to welcome Emma Pattullo as our new Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, joining us in April this year.

My thanks also to Marilyn Palmer and Ben Stokes, our excellent Ward Councillors, who provide an invaluable service and link into South Gloucestershire Council.

And, of course, a big thank you to my Vice-Chair, Sue Giles and Councillors Janet Wells, Randal Crook and Beccy Derry-Evans for their commitment and hard work over the past year.

I can't let this opportunity go without publicly thanking Simon Stevens for his 6 years of service as Chair of Tormarton Parish Council. Due to a relocation to the US, Simon stepped down as Chair in July 2025. He gave so much of his time to the Parish Council and particularly to the residents of Tormarton. One of his early aims was to bring the community of Tormarton together and I think everyone will agree that he more than succeeded in this. All the very best to Simon and Vicky in the US.

Our aim over the past year has been to support our Parish community by improving the area in which we live and work in and to give all residents a voice if needed. Our main focus has been on road safety and maintenance, planning and development, biodiversity and community engagement.

We have consulted with South Gloucestershire Council on their new Local Plan and invited residents to add their comments as the Plan has proceeded. We now await the outcome of its Examination. We have spent considerable time supporting the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish, which could have influenced development decisions for the future, but unfortunately we decided last October to halt the process due to lack of volunteers and grant funding to run the project.

Parking (for car-sharing) and littering in Tormarton on the A46 junction is an on-going issue, and I can assure residents that we liaise regularly with South Gloucestershire Council to find ways to deal with this problem. We are hoping to persuade Highways to extend double yellow lines from the A46 to prevent road-side parking. Our speed sign continues to act as a deterrent for speeding within Tormarton village and we are actively trying to reduce the speed limit to 20mph in both villages. In recent months, we have arranged for our numerous potholes to be filled and we will continue to monitor maintenance of our roads.

We have developed a closer relationship with the Badminton Estate which we hope will benefit residents in the future. The Estate has now published a strategy plan for the next 15 years and we will be organizing a meeting with residents soon to discuss plans relevant to the Parish.

We have made an on-going funding commitment to the two defibrillators – one in each village - and arranged training for residents on three occasions over the past year. We have also made a donation to Citizens Advice South Gloucestershire.

We welcome all residents of our Parish to attend our Parish Council meetings or to contact a Councillor with any queries or issues you would like to raise. Our agendas and minutes are published on the Parish Council website – www.tormarton-pc.gov.uk – for all to access and important documents are also posted on our village noticeboards.

Thank you.

Katy Pool