

Cllr Ian Robinson

First Meeting with Head Teacher, Tom Sapsford

I had a productive initial meeting with Tom Sapsford, who has been the interim head teacher at Bewick Bridge Community Primary School for the past six months. Tom, a Cherry Hinton native and former pupil of the school, previously served as head of English and deputy head under the former head teacher. He is passionate about maintaining the school's strong academic standards while expanding opportunities for pupils to develop emotional and social skills. To this end, he plans to establish debating clubs and a school council.

We discussed several key areas where the parish council can offer support:

1. Environmental Collaboration: We considered how the environmental team could assist in developing the Cherry Tree Wood at the back of the school, with input from the school's environmental studies program.
2. Pea Festival 2025: The idea of bringing together Bewick Bridge and Teversham CofE for the next Pea Festival was proposed, which would encourage teamwork between the two schools and help address current challenges.
3. Pupil Representation at Parish Meetings: I suggested the possibility of having a pupil representative from the school attend future parish meetings to present the school council's views, which would help foster engagement between students and the wider community.

I also offered my personal involvement in the school's Career Day and mentioned that my wife is willing to support the school's board of governors if needed.

Finally, we discussed holding a joint meeting with Teversham CofE's governors to address shared concerns, particularly regarding the new developments at the Marshals site.