

Report on the Annual Meeting of the Parish on Wednesday 22nd June 2011 in Thornborough Village Hall

The meeting was attended by only a handful of parishioners despite extensive publicity prior to the date. However many issues were raised by attending parishioners and the meeting covered a lot of topics. It was chaired by the Chair of Thornborough Parish Council (hereafter TPC) and attended by the councillors. These notes were taken by the clerk to the council.

Topics discussed included:

- **The speed limit in the village** and a suggestion that it be reduced to 20mph. It was acknowledged that the Nash Road especially can be hazardous especially because of the number of parked cars. However it was also acknowledged that evidence from the police previously has shown that most speeders are actually villagers! TPC does not think from the outcome of previous requests that BCC would agree to a reduction in the speed limit. It was noted that we are currently awaiting the outcome of the latest Speed Review Area 14 carried out for BCC for the village, but have the outcome for the Speed Review Area 12 which includes the south of the parish.
- **Sports Field – request for speed limit extended.** However there was some opposition to this request as this would extend the envelope (village boundaries) of the village. This is currently being considered under Speed Review Area 12.
- **Pot holes.** It was agreed that there are many throughout the parish.

Parishioners can report pot-holes to BCC directly by phoning 0845 230 2882, online at http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/transport/ea_report_problem.page or by email tfb@buckscc.gov.uk with details of the problem and location.

- **Children's Playground hedge** – needs cutting back or removing. There has recently been an inspection and the Clerk will follow up and ask for the inspection report.
- **Footpaths through the village** – generally overgrown and need attention. Overgrown hedges are the responsibility of the owner who has a duty to keep them from impeding people using the footpaths.
- **Street Lighting** – This is a continuing issue. Although many people would like street lighting, many more prefer the lights to be off except where they are necessary for safety. It is less costly and in keeping with government and county council policy to turn street lighting off where possible. TPC are considering solar powered footpath lighting as an alternative.
- **Sports Field** – the entrance needs improving. Possibly tarmac.
- **Provision of sporting facilities for ladies and younger people** – possibly tennis court or putting green? It was pointed out that ladies can also play cricket and football and might be a valuable addition to local teams, but agreed that extra provision might be good. There are questions about whether any future provision would be used, the expense of maintenance (especially with tennis courts) and where the provision could be.
- **The outside of the Village Hall needs re-decorating** – this is about to be done.
- **Churchyard maintenance** – all help from parishioners here would be helpful. Thrift Farm, who used to mow the churchyard, no longer does this sort of work. TPC to look into its responsibilities with regards to churchyards. It currently makes a donation of £500 towards churchyard maintenance.

- **Village Pond** – shouldn't it be mowed to the edge? The edge is left naturally growing along much of its length on the advice of environmental and conservation experts (from BBOWT, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust) to offer cover for water birds and small mammals such as water voles – a protected species and to preserve wild flowers. It is mowed at the end of the season
- **Gritting last winter** – this was poor and many people were trapped in the village. There was a long discussion about this. TPC has complained many times to BCC but to little avail. We have now acquired two more salt bins and will buy our own salt. The work done last year in clearing and salting village roads by parishioners was much appreciated. A central point where villagers unable to get out of the village could give information essential shopping items needed was suggested and offers received from people who lived outside the village and were more able to get to Buckingham to do this shopping were made.
- **Parking on the greens** – this is occurring more than before. TPC are in the process of adopting by-laws which will address this issue.
- **Pond under the foot bridge to the Village Hall, Church and school** – this is silting up and looks messy.
- **Cycle route to Buckingham** – this still looks unlikely as BCC are not taking it forward at present.
- **Post Office, how much is this costing and is it worth it?** – despite publicity through WI Wednesday afternoon teas there doesn't seem to be an increase in use of this facility. It is currently funded by TPC for £500 and reviewed yearly.

Several reports then followed.

- **Poor's Piece** – local charity. Henry Lewis, the administrator explained the history and how it works.
- **Thornborough Infant School** (attached)
- **Thornborough and Thornton Women's Institute** (attached)
- **Village Hall Committee** (attached)
- **St Mary's Church** (attached)

Other items

- **The Annual accounts of the Parish Council are available if anyone would like to see them apply to Clerk**
- **High Speed Rail 2 update: Consultation period runs till 29th July. You can access the consultation at <https://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/have-your-say>**
There is help with answering what are rather leading questions available from various websites such as those of BBOWT and StopHS2
- **TPC Councillor vacancies** - we are still two members short of our full council. We will be advertising.

The meeting finished at 20.52.