

Report on the Annual Meeting of the Parish on Monday 18th May 2015 in Thornborough Village Hall

The meeting was attended by 23 parishioners, and Cllrs. Stuart Mitchell (Chairman), Andy Spurr, and Ray Goodger. Notes taken by Thornborough Parish Council Clerk, Maggie Beach.

1. Apologies received from Cllrs. Melanie Staff, Mary Taylor and Charlotte Moore; BCC Cllr Warren Whyte, AVDC Cllr Sir Billy Stanier, Rev Gussie Walsh, Beth Trembath, Bernard Garbe and Bidy Howard.
2. The report of the meeting dated 19th May 2014 were accepted as accurate. There were no comments or questions.
3. Maggie Beach, the Clerk, gave a statement of the annual accounts of Thornborough Parish Council for the end of the financial year as follows:
 - i. Current account - £15,848.45
 - ii. Reserve Account - £11,663.39
 - iii. Total Liabilities - £8.10 making a
 - iv. Total - £27,503.74
 - v. Total Fixed Assets - £385,934.13

The Fixed Assets reflects the original prices paid for assets as required for the annual audit, not the current values for insurance purposes. This year two new street lights have been added to the list of Fixed Assets.

Full copies of the annual accounts are available from the Clerk on request.

4. **Reports to the Annual Meeting from the following organisations were presented:**

- Thornborough Parish Council Chairman on the previous year's work in the Council.
- Thornborough Infant School.
- St Mary's Church
- Thornborough Chapel
- Village Hall Trust
- Thornborough Pre-School
- Thornborough and Thornton W.I.
- Gardening Society
- Thornborough Cricket Club

Copies of reports submitted are available on request and on the web site.

5. **The Parish Plan**

The Clerk explained that the Thornborough Parish Plan originally published in 2008 has been updated. The updated version will not be published as a hard copy but will be available on the Thornborough Parish web site: www.thornboroughparish.co.uk.

The Parish Plan provides a useful guide and several of the intentions of the original have been carried out, for instance we now have 5 of the 8 needed affordable homes. However the plan gives no protection against speculative development. There was a discussion about the possible benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan. Opinions of the benefit of such a plan for Thornborough in the absence of an overarching Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, not planned to be available before 2017, were divided. The Clerk will continue to research this issue with regards to cost and efficacy.

6. **Thornborough Community Woodland** – Cllr AS gave a summary of the history and update of the current position.

The lease has been signed by both Thornborough Parish Council and Buckinghamshire County Council and Thornborough Parish Council now are the legal tenants. Thornborough and Coombs Community Woodlands Committee set up under Thornborough Parish

Council are currently negotiating to create a Charitable Enterprise Trust. Once the Trust is confirmed, BCC will assign the lease to the Trust this removing all legal and financial responsibility from Thornborough Parish Council to the Trust as had always been the intention.

There have been successful meetings and events at the Woodlands. There is a growing team of willing volunteers to help maintain the Woodlands. The rides have been mowed to a slightly greater width to aid walking. Wild flowers are flourishing. Cllr AS showed maps of the area to inform his report

7. **Any other issues Parishioners would like to be discussed to be tabled and discussed:**

- **Roads.** The issue of the surface water on the High Street between Swandon and the pond was raised. This is an ongoing issue that Thornborough Parish Council has been working with Transport for Bucks (TfB). TfB believe, after testing the water, that the issue is a broken pipe belonging to Anglian Water, so they have referred the matter on to them.

The Clerk explained that Thornborough Parish Councillors have regular 6 monthly walk rounds with TfB representatives to look at and report road issues. The next Village Walk round with TfB has been booked for 1.00pm Thursday 28th May, meeting outside The Two Brewers. If any parishioner is interested in accompanying the walk round, please let the Clerk know. Also please let her know of any issues that you would like raised with TfB. The pot holes at Thornhill were reported. The Clerk will pass this on. She also explained that anyone can go online to the TfB pages on the BCC website (link on our Thornborough web site) and report a pothole issue.

The Clerk and the Chairman updated the meeting on the Speed Limit review for Coombs. This is being funded by the Local Area Forum. We will have to apply for more funding to implement any recommendations should the review recommend a change in the current speed limit.

- **Grass cutting** The clerk read out a letter from a resident complaining about the lack of mowing on the verges at Thornhill and also the state of the allotments. The Clerk explained that responsibility for mowing different areas of the village belongs to different authorities. She will check why Thornhill is not being mowed. A map of the different mowing responsibilities will be put on the Thornborough web site.
- The Clerk will check out issue of the allotments and report back to Thornborough Parish Council.
- **Bins.** The 4 waste bins around the village on land not owned by Thornborough Parish Council should be emptied regularly as part of the AVDC waste collections. The Clerk will check that this is still happening.
- **Street Lighting.** There have been a total of 5 new street lights erected in the village in the last two years. Most of these were replacements for old lights removed by BT from their poles. There is now a Thornborough street lighting policy on the web site.

8. It was agreed that the meeting had been a successful one. A resident suggested that Reports from the different organisations could be printed out and circulated to remove the necessity of reading them out at the meeting. This was briefly discussed and the alternative point of view was also expressed that reading them out made sure that there was an exchange of information between all the many organisations concerning future plans and resources to enable greater community cohesion.

There were no further comments on the meeting, which closed at 9.25.