

# THURGARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Wednesday 9 May 2012

## THOSE PRESENT/APOLOGIES

Chair	Toni Smith	TS
Deputy	David Waine	DW
Cllr	Neville Butler	NB
Cllr	Charles Day	CD
Cllr	Ian Edwards	IE
Cllr	Tony Monaghan	TM
Cllr	Ellis Morgan	EM
Cllr	Roger Blaney	RB
Cllr	Andy Stewart	AS
Clerk	Annie Duquemin	Clerk

50 members of the public were in attendance

## ACTION

### 1.0 WELCOME

Following refreshments in part kindly donated by The Red Lion and served by the WI, Toni Smith opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing the evening as "Celebrating Thurgarton Past Present and Future" to focus on the passion, commitment and wide range of personalities who make up the village and the activities within it.

TS thanked all the councilors for their hard work and in particular Ian Edwards and John Holland for their long service to the Parish Council.

### 2.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair : Toni Smith

Nominated and seconded

Vice chair : David Waine

Nominated and seconded

### 3.0 THURGARTON : THE PAST : Ellis Morgan

Ellis Morgan gave a very interesting talk with slides and contributions from some residents about village history, tracing some of the activities which have taken place and the personalities who shaped them.

### 4.0 THURGARTON : THE PAST LEADING TO THE FUTURE : Austin Brady

Austin Brady reminded everyone about the Parish Plan which was published by the Parish Plan Committee in July 2008. Key features which were identified by the village at that time with the measures which have been achieved are :

Traffic speeding : signs installed, speed gun trials carried out

Environment : war memorial has been refurbished, new footpath to Bleasby created

Communications : Village newsletter and e mail service set up

Lack of a shop : not yet achieved but still some interest

Community space : not yet achieved but some progress being made

Austin noted that the Parish Council and the newly formed Thurgarton Community Association are now taking on board some of the issues raised in the Parish Plan.

### 5.0 THURGARTON : THE FUTURE : David Waine and Toni Smith

David Waine gave some background on the recent questionnaire carried out by the Parish Council. Toni Smith, appointed as the new chairperson in 2011, had sought to identify weak and strong areas of village life, to introduce specific areas of responsibility for the councilors and to encourage the Council to be proactive in trying to satisfy the views that the village expressed. A long list of volunteers has been assembled from the questionnaire results and David thanked all those who had submitted their names for this. A summary of the results from the questionnaire was pinned up for all to see and is attached to these minutes. The return was 35% which was probably because of the quick turnaround required, but this was necessary due to the need to have a response about the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the application for a grant.

The results of the questionnaire and the way in which they are being taken forward can be summarised as follows:

#### 5.1 Open Spaces

There was support for this but a lot of discrepancy about how such space could be used.

The PC are in discussion with Roland Duce about the provision of some possible allotment type space maybe in the walled garden and also with Trinity College about land near to the village hall.

Brian Oliver a local resident expressed an interest in setting up a gardening club with benefits such as seed and equipment sharing, social gatherings, talks etc. Interested residents signed up to this.

## 5.2 **Best Kept Village**

This had the lowest support, mainly because people did not know enough about the scheme. The PC need to address this and will circulate details of what residents can do and how the scheme works.

However, there have been significant village improvements carried out by the Parish Council in the past year, namely bulb planting, a village Christmas tree and a new light to illuminate the war memorial which is in hand. The PC are looking into a new noticeboard and some new signs/village entrance markers.

## 5.3 **Website/Newsletter**

There was a positive response to this in the questionnaire.

A working party has been established by the Parish Council to research the setting up of a village website. This is headed up by Jim Ward and Darryl North. The newsletter is being expanded by David Waine working with Linda Morgan and Toria Parker which will provide communication for all the village including those who do not have internet access. The new style version will be launched in July.

## 5.4 **Community Association**

There was a lot of support for this and the proposal to organise a village event to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee.

Liz Edwards is the chair and reported that the Thurgarton Community Association is now up and running and is busy organising 2 events for the Jubilee on 5 June, a strawberry fayre and a ceilidh. The Association has 9 members and will be organising future events to suit all ages as well as seeking to coordinate activities within the village.

## 5.5 **Use of the church for appropriate secular activities**

Residents gave approval to this in the questionnaire but noted the lack of facilities which currently make it difficult. Plans have been approved to provide a disabled toilet and running water at a cost of £25,000, half of which has been raised to date.

Mike Ackroyd reported on the formation and remit of TAG which is now being wound up and the remaining monies distributed. He thanked the committee in general and Ian Edwards and Neville Butler in particular for their service and noted that £1500 had previously been given to refurbish the war memorial. Several proposals to defray the surplus funds were debated intensely by the TAG committee in consultation with the Parish Council. In the end, 2 cheques were handed over : £5000 to Ian Edwards on behalf of St Peter's PCC for the new toilet facilities fund £650 to Jan Johnson on behalf of the Village Hall Committee for redecorating.

## 5.6 **Traffic calming**

There is clear support for this in the questionnaire and Charles Day has been tasked by the Council to look into various options

## 6.0 **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Councillors have been given specific roles for which they take primary responsibility feeding back to the Council as follows :

Toni Smith : A general steer plus specifics on Community surveys, open spaces, TCA and projects

David Waine : Communications and crime

Neville Butler : Industrial relations (communicating with Hansons, Tarmac etc)

Charles Day : Traffic and Highways

Ian Edwards : Environment and emergency weather

Tony Monaghan : Best Kept Village, Community spirit and engagement

Ellis Morgan : Footpaths and bridleways.

David Waine introduced Jim Ward who has volunteered to be the new Neighbourhood Watch Officer. Helping him will be Mel Sparham, June Marshall, Brian Oliver and Alan Higson to provide village wide coverage.

## 7.0 **MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC**

The meeting closed at 8.20pm and was opened to the public

## 7.1 **Roger Blaney made the following points :**

### **Gardening club**

RB suggested the village could consider a shared compost heap.

### **Neighbourhood watch**

RB welcomed the new coordinator and team and confirmed that they knew about the Safer Neighbourhoods Meetings.

## **Best Kept Village**

RB agreed the criteria for judging which takes place in June should be publicised so that villagers knew what was expected. All agreed that it was worth trying to make the village look good all year round, not just for the competition. A resident commented that litter picking was necessary. Suggestion that the bank of volunteers could be approached about this.

TM

### **7.2 Andy Stewart made the following points :**

#### **A6197**

This road is going to have speed cameras installed

### **7.3 Thanks**

A local resident thanked the Parish Council for all their hard work

### **8.0 MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

The meeting was closed to the public at 8.28pm. Toni Smith concluded by thanking everyone who had contributed to the evening and saying we should all help to make Thurgarton even better than it currently is; ideas are welcome from everyone.

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

### **9.0 MINUTES FROM LAST AGM**

The minutes were approved and signed by TS

### **10.0 MATTERS ARISING**

None

### **11.0 STRATEGY ROLES**

#### **Communications: David Waine**

Website: should be up and running by beg July and will have links to other websites.

Costs: hosting £60/year, domain name £8.68 every 2 years.

Vote: unanimous support

Newsletter: is being developed by Linda Morgan and Toria Parker with David Waine (PC Communications) and will be called "Thurgarton People".

Costs: Printing for 6 editions will be £250 for the first year which will be paid for by advertising and funding from the Parish Council. Ads have already been placed and there are plenty of offers of contributions.

TS

Vote: unanimous support

#### **Best Kept Village: Tony Monaghan**

The village needs to be informed about the scheme. TM will send out an e mail explaining and will contact the strimmer.

TM  
Clerk

Clerk to contact Andy Stewart about the proposed tree cutting now that the bulbs have finished

Ellis has suggested a village walk to look at redundant signs, areas for improvement etc.

**Post meeting note**: date agreed for this 16 June 10am meet at Tonic

### **12.0 FINANCE**

Clerk has prepared accounts which will be passed to internal auditor

Clerk

Clerk approved as signatory so she can deal with any issues that arise with the bank.

Post meeting note : Internal audit achieved successfully. External audit to be facilitated.

### **13.0 PLANNING**

Application ref 12/00519/FUL : Mayfield

Vote: Unanimous support

### **14.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

27 June 2012 at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church

### **15.0 CIRCULATION**

All councillors

Village e mail

TS and DW to draft short note to be included in village newsletter and on e mail

TS/DW