

THURGARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Tina Tsoukatos

Lynda Ogilvie
Locum Clerk
Forge Cottage
Main Street
Bleasby NG14 7GH

Email: Clerk@thurgarton.org.uk
Tel: 07885 862484



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday, 23 May 2024

6.30 Thurgarton Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Tina Tsoukatos, David Lewis, Denise Bryant, Roger Foster, Katie Chan and Jeremy Ross, District/County Councillor Roger Jackson, and 18 members of the village.

In Attendance: Lynda Ogilvie, Temporary Clerk

Cllr Tsoukatos, Chair of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting. She thanked all the volunteers who work so hard to create the great community in Thurgarton. In particular she mentioned the following:

- parish councillors,
- those who pick up jobs for the parish council
- the producers, sponsors and deliverers of Thurgarton People
- the webmaster who looks after the website and the village email service
- the Thurgarton Village Hall Charity Management Committee who run the village hall
- the Thurgarton Emergency Plan volunteers who help to keep our community safe
- Neighbourhood Watch volunteers
- the Community Speed Watch volunteers
- those who dress the village with bunting and poppies
- those who assist in the Spring or Autumn clean-ups
- those involved in the Village Green initiative

The number of people who volunteer in the village is significant and the Parish Council always asks for more people to put themselves forward to that the jobs in the village can be share around. When Cllr Tsoukatos became a Councillor in 2013 she was told that people would never volunteer their time. How wrong they were!

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Natalie Robinson

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 2023

No Minutes had been located at this time but will be presented for signature when found

3. Any Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Thurgarton Charity Committee (TCC) – Annual Report to the Village

Cllrs Bryant and Lewis reported on the management of the village hall.

Maintenance issues are tackled quickly, by the management team, a new defibrillator has been installed, and security has been upgraded.

There are many activities which take place in the hall, but the management team always welcome new suggestions.

Cllr Tsoukatos commented that the hall is currently run very well and professionally by a dedicated team of volunteers.

5. Red Lion – the village pub

Unfortunately no one from the Red Lion was available to attend the meeting, but they have undertaken to write an article for Thurgarton People.

6. Village Environment - the extensive work on the village that is undertaken to keep the village looking great and the village Lengthsman Scheme – Mat Mitchell and Cllr Denise Bryant

Cllr Denise Bryant and Mat Mitchell of Green Oak Gardening Services explained how the Lengthsman scheme worked. This is a scheme whereby a local council undertakes minor environment works on behalf of VIA and is paid an annual grant to help defray some of the costs. This enables the village to be kept tidy and weed free, and minor works to be dealt with quickly and flexibly.

Mat spoke about his business, which is family owned. He pays particular attention to the drains and gulleys in Thurgarton because of flood issues. He also sources a Christmas tree for the village free of charge as a gift to the village.

7. Community Speed Watch – Margaret Edkins

Margaret Edkins explained that Speed Watch had been set up in 2019 to try to encourage a reduction in the number of cars speeding through the village. Initially there were a good number of volunteers. All offences are logged and passed to the police, who will respond appropriately. Recently a 40 mph buffer has been introduced at the entrance to the village on the A612 and also between Thurgarton and Bleasby. This is helping to slow traffic down before it reaches the village. More volunteers are now needed, and training can be given.

Margaret is now standing down from Speed Watch, and she was profusely thanked for her work with the scheme during the last few years.

8. Parish Survey results and how these have influenced the Parish Council stated objectives for 2024/25 – Jeremy Ross & Tina Tsoukatos

Cllr Jeremy Ross reported on the parish survey. 80 responses had been received, including several families. A number of issues had been highlighted:

- Playground – this is a ‘work in progress’, and it is hoped that current discussions will lead to a positive outcome
- Highways and speeding – this is an ongoing problem with no easy solution, but the parish council regularly raises this with the relevant authorities
- Dog bins – more have now been provided
- Flooding – this is a major issue for the parish and there are a number on ongoing initiatives, including the emergency plan, the Beck monitor system

Cllr Tsoukatos thanked Cllr Ross for taking on responsibility for conducting the survey, and producing an analysis of the results. This will help to inform the parish council of residents’ priorities.

9. Any Other Business

No other matters were raised.

10. Close

There being no further business, Cllr Tsoukatos thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting at 7.30 pm.