

Report on the Annual Meeting of the Parish on Monday 10th June 2013 in Thornborough Village Hall

The meeting was attended by 8 parishioners and Cllrs, Mark Cole (Chairman), Andy Spurr, Mary Taylor, Melanie Staff, Ray Goodger and Charlotte Moore. Notes taken by Thornborough Parish Council Clerk, Maggie Beach.

1. County Councillor Warren Whyte had sent his apologies.
2. The report of the meeting dated 21st May 2012 were accepted as accurate
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 - £17,630.09
 - ii. Reserve Account - £15,149.08, making a
 - iii. Total - £32,779.17
 - iv. Total Fixed Assets - £326,286.08

The Clerk explained that TPC has a large proportion of the reserves ear-marked for street lighting upgrades.

The Fixed Assets reflects the original prices paid for assets as required for the annual audit, not the current values for insurance purposes.

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. The plans for the extension were also available for viewing.
 - St Mary's Church
 - Thornborough Chapel
 - Village Hall Trust
 - Thornborough Sports and Social Committee
 - Thornborough and Thornton W.I.

Copies of reports submitted are available on request.

5. Robert Smart – Energy saving
Robert explained that he worked for AVDC and his role was around managing energy, but this was also a passion. AVDC has an energy budget of 1.6 million pounds. He has made his home a 'Super Home' which means he has cut his carbon footprint Buckinghamshire over 60% and as a result reduced his energy bills. His home is open twice a year for interested people to view, the next time will be 14th – 19th September. All are welcome.

Many people have an interest in reducing energy bills for both their homes and their businesses, e.g. local farmers. He has been interested to help various local people reduce their energy bills. Many older people have been accustomed to believe remaining loyal to their provider was a good thing but this is no longer the case if you want to pay less for your energy. They have been paying shockingly high energy bills. People's energy bills are expected to rise dramatically over the coming years and equate more with mortgage repayments by 2020.

He is currently looking at working with Thornborough Infants School on a new heating package.

Various Community Energy schemes were discussed, there are several in the area. Boiler Juice was one, a man in Whaddon runs another. Robert is the Community Oil Co-ordinator for Bucks Community Action.

Robert invited people to contact him if they are interested in discussing energy cost and /or consumption reduction.

6. Thornborough Community Woodland – The Chairman gave a summary of the history and update of the current position. We are still waiting for the lease from Buckinghamshire County Council before we can officially take over the management and this is causing some problems, the grass is now a metre high. It also makes applying for grants impossible until we are legally managing the woodland. Questions were asked from the floor and concerns were voiced about maintenance costs in future years. The Chairman re-assured parishioners that the council would be able to manage what little cost would be involved through fund-raising and various grant applications. The plan was that the woodland would have no cost to Thornborough Parish Council's annual budget. Julia Carey has ensured that Buckinghamshire County Council have replaced and repaired much of the fencing and will leave the site in good order. The concern about the woodland being on top of a landfill site was also voiced. However this is carefully managed and regularly assessed and should not be a problem to Thornborough Parish Council.

7. Any other issues Parishioners would like to be discussed to be tabled and discussed: Various people had brought concerns or comments as listed here:
 - John Cranwell expressed concern at the dangerous cross roads junction at Nash Brakes where someone was killed a couple of years ago. He believes that the GIVE WAY signs should be replaced by STOP signs. The Clerk will raise this issue with Transport for Bucks.
 - Robert Smart raised the issue of the Cycle Path. Fiona Coppins had looked into this last year but was unable to get any action on it from BCC.
 - John Cranwell raised the issue of street lighting. There was discussion about where people did or did not want lights. Nash Road was especially mentioned. The Clerk explained the history of the choice of street lights. TPC will once again look into this issue.
 - John Cranwell raised the issue of the entrance to the Sports Field being tarmaced which he raised at previous open meetings but nothing had yet been done. Cllr AS explained that we are waiting until we know better what the situation is with Thornborough Parish Council's negotiations with the Moore Trust about taking over the field next to the Sports Field and extending Thornborough' sports facilities.
 - John Cranwell congratulated the Church on mowing the Churchyard more this year but said that the War Memorial needed cleaning. The Clerk will look into who is responsible for cleaning it.
 - John Cranwell raised the issue of the pond. He was concerned that it was choked with weeds and rubbish and there were no fish and not enough ducks. TPC agreed that there were no ducks and maybe too many drakes, but Cllr AS assured him that there were fish still in the pond. He also explained that bad weather had made dredging the pond too difficult to accomplish last year but TPC were aware that this needed doing and were taking steps to ensure it was done.
 - Cllr RG expressed a concern about the level of street lighting in certain areas of the village.
 - John Cranwell raised the issue of gritting through the village. The Chairman explained that we could not get BCC to put Thornborough on a regular gritting schedule but it was gritted twice last winter. The issue of people being warned not to privately undertake gritting or clearing local roads was raised.

8. There were no further comments on the meeting, which closed at 9.20.