

Minutes to Thurton Annual Parish Meeting

27th April 2023 at 9.00 pm

In Attendance: I Capps (IC) Chairman Chris Popplewell (CP), Karen Calderwood (KC), Lynn Paterson (LP), T Higlett (Clerk), District Councillor V Thomson.

Apologies from T Black

Chairman opened the meeting by thanking members of the parish council for their support. Particular thanks to Cllr Popplewell for guidance during the first year as Chairman of the parish council. Pleased with the joint working on projects with Ashby St Mary Parish Council. The village hall received assistance from both councils to enable them to have the driveway resurfaced. Councils had purchased a defibrillator which was installed in the redundant telephone box on Ashby Road. This would benefit residents in Thurton and Ashby.

Chairman passed on thanks to Cllr Paterson for overseeing the village footpaths and Cllr Calderwood for stepping up to join the platinum jubilee celebration working party.

1. The Annual Report for 2022/23 by Thurton Parish Council
Appendix 1.
2. Minutes from the annual meeting held on the 6th May 2022.
These were approved.
3. County Councillor report
Appendix 2.

District Councillor report

Cllr V Thomson advised an update on the A146 Masts. The older one of the two will be replaced (permitted development). Council will be advised when this will take place. A noise check has been carried out. The lower one had no sound emitted, whilst the older greener box had. However equipment will be replaced to combat this.

Since South Norfolk District Council has moved to its new location at Broadland Business £1million pounds has been saved in heating costs. By moving the refuse vehicles over to vegetable oil instead of diesel has cut the carbon footprint by 68%.

4. Village Organisations
 - a) St Ethelberts Church, Thurton and Children/Youth groups.
Appendix 3.
 - b) Ashby & Thurton Village Hall
Chairman passed on sincere appreciation from the parish council and residents of Thurton to C Powell for the time which she puts into the village hall. Her support with projects along with the parish council was exemplary.
 - c) Thurton Foundries Limited
Appendix 5
 - d) Tree Wardens report.
Cllr Popplewell advised that there had been no new planting in the village. The owner of the George and Dragon manages the hedging and trees around his property and these are in good shape. The foundry had now replaced the tree guard around the memorial tree in the graveyard.
 - e) Thurton and Ashby Preschool

Appendix 6.

f) Footpath warden.

Cllr Paterson advised footpaths were all accessible. The signage which has fell down on Hall Road was still waiting for highways to address. The sign on Lion Lane steps which had also come down had been reinstated.

Report Attached

g) South Yare Wildlife Group.

Cllr Popplewell advise the group continues to thrive with 80 members. The group is very active and are encouraging new builds to include wildlife areas, owl and swift boxes.

Meeting closed 22:10

Appendix 1.

[THURTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23](#)

Appendix 2.

Cllr Kay Mason Billig Norfolk County Council Annual Report 2023

Once again I have had a busy year as your County Councillor. I have been to many parish council meetings in the division and have been answering questions about local issues from residents.

We still have many problems with potholes. If you come across one, please report it on the Norfolk County Council website. This will give you an enquiry number. If it isn't fixed in reasonable time, then let me know. I will chase it up with my Highways Engineer to find out what is happening. Having an enquiry number makes this easier to do, as it has already been logged.

We still have issues with hedges and trees obstructing footpaths and causing visibility problems on some roads. Again, please report it and then let me know if things don't improve. Some foliage can be cut back by the Council team, where it is not on private property. Alternatively we can write to land owners asking for them to trim back any obstructions.

The new roundabout at Loddon on the A146 has made a massive difference to safety at this junction. I am aware that it is not looking its best though and I am pursuing this to get the dead trees removed and replanted and for some regular maintenance to take place.

The extension to the 50mph speed limit at the Hellington Bends is likely to happen later this year. I am awaiting the issue of the Road Traffic Order that will enable us to replace the signage and reduce the speed limit on this dangerous stretch of road.

We have tackled the problem of flooding in many different areas in the division including recent works in Ashby St Mary and Chedgrave. I am aware that this is an issue which affects many people and the flooding of residential property causes major distress and upset to residents. If you know of any particularly vulnerable places, let me know and I will ask my Highways engineer to take a look.

I have also been out with Officers from County to look at some new safety schemes in our villages. I am aware that speeding is a big issue in many places. I am trying to find solutions for the problems in Woodton, Chedgrave, Claxton, Rockland St Mary, Alington and also Loddon, which have been brought to my attention. I am sure there are many others. I can ask the Police to attend if you know of regular incidences, where we can give them intelligence about times and places.

Please get in touch if I can help. If I can help in any way, you can contact me at kay.masonbillig.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Appendix 3.

St Ethelberts Church – Thurton

Thurton is one of 5 parishes comprising the Thurton Benefice. Since 2020 we have been extremely fortunate to have Rev'd Cate Turner with us as Curate, and we'll be very sad to see her leave this year having completed her training.

Worship Services: The 1st Sunday of the month is Holy Communion and 3rd Sunday either Family Service or Songs of Praise - these are going well. The 5 churches take turns with 2nd Sunday service worshipping together. There were various special services in 2022 - Harvest Festival, Remembrance, Christmas (Carols and Christingle) and Easter. The church is available for baptisms, weddings and funerals. There is a home Bible study group in the village.

The church building has also been used by local people for music rehearsal and concerts including a full house for Charlotte Cork's friends and pupils in December 2022.

There are good links between the church and the school with representation on the governing body. A team presents Bible stories in assembly using the 'Open the book' scheme. The whole school goes to the church for a service several times a year.

The church and churchyard are well cared for by a team of volunteers and the church is open every day for peaceful reflection and prayer. 'Friends of Thurton Church' organise events and social activities, which raise money towards restoration and upkeep.

The PCC has to meet substantial running costs each year (approximately £10,000) eg. insurance, utilities, and the cost of Clergy. This sum does not include any maintenance costs or donations to charity.

We are grateful to Thurton Parish Council for grants towards the Remembrance Day wreath and village hall costs for youth work.

Children/Youth groups at Ashby and Thurton Village Hall

Little Fish meets on alternate Wednesday mornings during term time and under fives attend with their parents and carers from Thurton and Ashby and the surrounding villages. The group is led by Judy Jackson. Sessions include songs, a Bible story, prayer and activities followed by playtime and a drink and biscuit.

Explorers meet on alternate Friday evenings during term time. 7-11 year olds come along and enjoy being with their friends, being themselves and being able to explore and think about things to do with a Christian faith all wrapped up in a fun programme of games, Bible stories to act, challenges, craft and making time.

Halo follows on from Explorers and is for high school children.

Both groups are ably led by Gary Watson from Youth for Christ and a team of volunteers.

Appendix 4.

Thurton Foundries

REPORT TO THURTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 27th APRIL 2023

Thurton Foundries continues to produce specialist castings into its 60th year.

Over the past twelve months the company has been involved with a wide range of engineering projects.

The year has seen some stability with regards continuity of orders and raw material costs. Alternative sources for materials have been established since the start of the war in the Ukraine.

Training continues to be part of the company's activities due to the technical nature of our work. We have connected with a foundry metallurgist from Sheffield who acts as a mentor for one of our staff.

Virtual manufacturing at the foundry enables us to plan our new projects and manufacture them right first time. We have extended the use of MAGMA to include MAGMA IRON, a specific module to risk-assess iron-based castings of a complex nature. Saving the company time, energy and valuable resources.

The company had its three yearly recertification to the quality standard ISO9001:2015. The Quality Management System was audited to the standard and was successful.

All staff are involved with our monthly continuous improvement meetings. Quality is a large part of our culture and has enabled the company to work with some well-known Engineering brand names.

New cast materials have been introduced to the company's range. It is with the interest and competence of the staff that has proved this to be a successful pathway.

Having a diverse range of customers has helped the company avoid a downturn in orders and kept the staff involved in interesting casting projects.

Ian Capps

Managing Director - Thurton Foundries Limited

Appendix 6.

Thurton & Ashby Pre School

I can't quite believe that we are now in the summer term of the school year. The Autumn and Spring term seemed to whizz by!

I joined the team in September as the new Playleader, supported by Sandra, I settled really quickly. I soon learnt that we had a fabulous team and lovely group of children. We made the most of the lovely Autumnal weather and enjoyed being out in the garden for the most part. We welcomed parents in to several events – a reading café, Christmas decoration making afternoon and Christmas sing song. We held two successful fundraisers with the Christmas Bazaar being really well attended and lots of fun had by everyone!

We then had a fabulous Spring term with a mix of being inside and outside. We saw a glimmer of sunshine and warmth at times and started to work a little more on the garden in preparation for the hopefully nicer weather to come. We planted flowers and vegetables and we hope that these will flourish and produce the goods before we break for the summer holidays. We also have a new water wall with more plans in the pipe line to allow for more self investigative play. We also battled rain, snow and hail – the children love to explore and play in all weather and don't seem particularly fazed by a bit of cold!

The children continued to enjoy imaginative play and we have had lots of superheroes on hand to get us out of tricky situations. Messy play had also been a real feature of the term – we've had potions, mud painting, messy tea parties, gloop, home made frogspawn and much more. We also enjoyed some more parent events with a fabulous Easter craft café and some stay and play sessions.

Woodland Wanderers has been ongoing through the Autumn and Spring term where the children have made the most of getting out of the setting and letting their wild sides run free. Again, they have had a real mix of rain and sunshine with hopefully more of the latter to come!

Our numbers have increased steadily throughout the year where we are now at 23 children on a Tuesday and Friday and 21 on a Monday and Thursday. This is super news for our fantastic village Preschool – it is thriving!

Ellen Mussell

Playleader