

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

THORNAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Kerry Harris, 89 The Street, Barney, NR21 0AD Tel: 01328 822583

Email thornageparishcouncil@gmail.com

www.thornagepc.wixsite.com/thornagepc

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd March 2023 at 7.00pm at All Saints Church, Thornage

The meeting was Chaired by Dan Earp (Chairman of Thornage Parish Council)

The Parish Clerk took the minutes and there were 21 electors and members of the public present at the meeting.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that attendance was more successful than for many years. He said that the meeting needed to decide this evening whether to hold an event to celebrate the Coronation and he welcomed anybody's thoughts during or after the meeting.

2. Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th May 2022

Copies of the minutes were available for review.

They were signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting held on 6th May 2022.

3. Receive the Chairman's Report

Welcome to the annual parish meeting for Thornage. This meeting is for all the electors and residents in Thornage.

We have moved this meeting further forward in the normal calendar year because of the upcoming elections.

We hope that offering a glass of wine may tempt a few more people to attend, understand what the Parish Council can and cannot do and be tempted to join.

The Parish Council serves the community and the annual parish meeting is the opportunity for everyone in the parish to express any views and questions about past, present and future activities of the Parish Council

Before I open the meeting to any comments, I'll give a very brief resume of some of the things have happened this year.

It has been an eventful year with the loss of our Queen, but now we have the Coronation to look forward to and this meeting is an opportunity to see if there is enough interest to put on some kind of event to celebrate the coronation of King Charles.

We marked the Jubilee with a splendid celebration here in the church, changed at the last minute because the weather was so bad, thank you again to Danny and her organising committee for all the hard work for what was a very successful event which the villagers have not seen for many years.

Speeding has always been an issue within the village. This year has seen the installation of the SAM2 speed sign. We are very grateful to Nigel who has taken on the regular moving of

Thornage Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023 – 22.03.2023

4 pages

the sign and keeping the battery charged, and to Jerry for the analysis of the software. The benefit of the data collection is we can identify if and when speeding occurs, and if appropriate, inform the police. It transpires that most speeding occurs during the school run!

I must also thank John Pugh-Smith for, who has worked tirelessly on planning matters for the Council, and to all our Councillors for their dedication and time on Parish Council matters.

The Village Sign has yet to be returned to its position as it is waiting some final touches. We are very grateful for Jerry and Chris who are repairing the supporting post and when finished, it should look really good.

As does the village noticeboard, which has been replaced with a larger one and is already full of notices. We are grateful to Darren Attew, Builder, who installed it for us, and the helpers, Chris and Paul, who took advantage of the old metal post supports to reinstall the map, which had fallen over a couple of months previously, because the posts had rotted.

We are grateful for the to the village volunteers, who not only have helped with the sign and noticeboard, but also have done litter picking, (supported by Andrew Brown and including volunteers from Thornage Hall), and leaf clearance from a dangerous section of the footpath. Plans for the near future include renovating the bench and repainting the telephone box, which houses the defibrillator. Again, thanks to Dany for monitoring this for us.

Indeed thank you to all our Councillors for their contributions, both past and present.

Finally, and most importantly, the Parish Council only works well because of the support of the parish clerk, and we are so lucky to have Kerry. Thank you Kerry for all you do.

4. Receive reports from other Organisations represented

The Church – The Chairman reported that the Church is investigating upgrading the electricity supply to enable greater use of the Church in colder weather.

He noted that this is the only social space remaining in the village, and if the Church were unavailable the Community would have nowhere left to meet.

Thornage Hall – Representatives had sent their apologies for this evening. The Chairman informed attendees that the Thornage Hall coffee mornings start on 24th March.

FROTH – A FROTH committee member updated residents on their activities. FROTH started in 2015 and its aim is to raise funds for the village, which it does through the Village Lottery which costs £12 per year, and events such as concerts, village suppers and pop-up bars. FROTH have contributed funds towards the following: the bench, noticeboard, repairs to the village sign, milestone, SAM2 speeding sign. Proposed events for the coming year include a Pop-up bar in July and a Quiz to be held in the Church. Anyone is welcome to join the lottery and to become involved with events.

5. Questions and comments from those attending

NNDC Cllr Andrew Brown introduced himself to the meeting and said that he would be standing again as the local District Councillor in the 4th May elections. He noted that he found working with the Parish Council both supportive and constructive.

Jo and Tom who have a Planning Application awaiting decision for a campsite gave the following statement:

Good evening everyone

Thornage Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023 – 22.03.2023

4 pages

I am Jo and this is my partner Tom...and we own Thornage Campsite

We currently run the campsite on Letheringsett Road and we have a planning application in progress to run for 5 months of the year, May through September...

We thank you all for taking the time to view our application and we really want to work with you all, as we do completely understand everyone's point of view...we have taken on board all of your concerns and we have reduced our pitches to only 8.

Our staff live locally and have done a wonderful job maintaining the campsite over the years. Our staff are always on call should an issue arise, be it noise or fire related. Regarding fire concerns, all of our pitches have a designated raised fire pit and in the horse box we have a fire extinguisher and beaters.

In regard to increased traffic, our campers haven't encountered any traffic related incidents.

In terms of noise coming from the campsite, please can you elaborate and confirm the date of the noise as the Parish Clerk has not recorded it and there is no official record of this happening.

Regarding Wildlife extinction due to our campers, it appears from our reviews it is quite the opposite, here is a review from last year...

"Autonomy of selecting pitch was great and fire pits welcome addition. Toilets clean too. Lots of wildlife to enjoy and nearby nesting buzzards were a treat to watch hunting."

We also run a campsite in Hickling and that has plenty of wildlife in abundance in the summer months, barn owls are frequently spotted, deer, hedgehogs and swallowtail are regular visitors.

Environment erosion worries are rather elaborate for a camping field with no electricity for five months of the year in summertime .

Regarding flood risk concerns, we are only running from May to September, and flooding has only occurred in winter months.

Our facilities, which comprise of two wooden compost toilets, a water bowser, which has been in situ for 3 years and isn't visible from anywhere unless you were right in front of it, and a green horse trailer, which has all our first aid, fire extinguishers, wood and beaters in. I'm sure you would agree you couldn't get more basic.

We really do want to work with you all in the village, and we have taken all of your views on board. We haven't purposefully set out to create an environment that would be detrimental to the village, your homes and the wildlife. We would like to create a space where people can come to relax from their busy lives and enjoy our Norfolk countryside, that we are so lucky to have use of all year around.

A local resident who has lived in the vicinity of the village for many years and is moving to live in the village from later this year stated that he could see nothing wrong with allowing people to enjoy temporarily the peace and quiet that we are able to enjoy all year long; that it seemed to him as "Not in my back yard" as he had been a camper all his life.

There then followed a lively debate between a number of attendees, which the Chair called to a pause after c. 5 minutes and suggested that this discussion between individuals could be continued at the social event to follow.

A resident local to the planned campsite stated his concerns to local wildlife and that he could not see how this campsite could be beneficial to wildlife.

6. Close the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.28pm

He invited all to comment on the Coronation Event, to consider joining the Parish Council and to continue discussions on all matters raised during the evening.

Signed

Date