



Thornage Parish Council

Parish Council and the Village.

Website: <https://thornagepc.wixsite.com/thornagepc>

Welcome to the 15th edition of our Thornage Parish Council newsletter. This Newsletter contains information about the budget discussion and Precept Approved at the December Parish Council meeting and other news from the Parish Council and the village. Full minutes are on the Noticeboard and Website.

WhatsApp Group QR code

A resident has created a Q code and formed a Village WhatsApp group. Do join to get information about things happening in the village.

Financial Matters - The Budget and precept

The Council considered the draft budget across all headings, taking into account the recent level of inflation to ensure it could meet its commitments and to ensure that the level of reserves maintained was as recommended to meet unexpected costs. It is now on track to get its finances into a sound and prudent footing.

All agreed to accept the recommendation of the RFO to approve a precept of £5,000. For a Band D Council Taxpayer this is an annual increase of £4.78 (making the annual Band D precept for a Band D payer £52.50) which equates to an increase of 10%

A clerk is the only paid employee of the Council and should be paid at a level appropriate for their work and experience. The Council unanimously voted for a salary raise following her appraisal.

Telephone lines

The traditional telephone exchange is in the process of being decommissioned meaning landline telephone handsets will no longer work, and will need to be upgraded to a digital system to operate via the internet. This has already happened to some properties, as their current landline contract is renewed, and the final deadline is currently before the end of 2025.

Liberal Democrats parliamentary candidate Steffan Aquarone has addressed several village meetings about support available. "My main concerns are to protect vulnerable residents to ensure residents are offered support in changing over when the time comes, and that vulnerable residents can register for battery backup devices from telephone service providers, and Ofcom. Dates and information will be circulated.

The link below to information on the age.uk website gives a good explanation of the changes:
<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/consumer-issues/changes-to-landline-telephones/>

Volunteers Group

Volunteers in the village help with activities such as the recent litter pick, clearing leaves along roads and the area around the bottle bank. Upcoming projects, when the weather improves, include cleaning and repainting the telephone box and maintaining the village sign and notice board. If you would like to help the Volunteers Group contact Cllr Hendrick or use the new WhatsApp group.

Newsletter 15 – January 2024. Comments are invited on the contents of this Newsletter – or any other matter you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish Council.



Contact Details - Parish Clerk – Kerry Harris. Tel: 01328 822583

Email: thornageparishcouncil@gmail.com Post: 89 The Street, Barney, NR21 0AD

Biodiversity in the Parish

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, every public body, including Parish Councils, already has a duty to conserve biodiversity. The Environment Act 2021 has strengthened this duty so those public bodies, including Parish Councils must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity throughout the Parish area, not just on land they own or are responsible for.

An Action Plan will be developed over the course of the next few months and progress will be reviewed at future meetings.

Thornage Beck

The Parish Council was recently made aware of the felling of the extensive alder carr along Thornage Beck as far as the Hunworth Road. NNDC and the Environment agency have been informed as the site is in the Glaven Valley Conservation area. A site meeting was held in early December to discuss how some of the land could be managed in a more environmentally-friendly way by means of the Landscape Recovery Scheme

Postbox

The Postbox at the Holt end of the village was stolen. After discussions with the Post Office, the replacement is to be sited opposite the Village Sign as this is seen to be safer for both residents and postal workers.

Highways News

B1110 Holt bridge – NCC Highways are going to increase the number of reflective signs which should increase awareness of the bend and therefore slow vehicles down as they approach it.

Hunworth Footbridge – we are waiting to hear from the Highways Team about proposed action.

The SAM2 is regularly moved location and there has been a request to include Little Thornage in the locations it visits. In future Newsletters we hope to give the fastest speed of the month.

Church Matters

More than forty villagers and friends attended the Carol Service. The Church was beautifully decorated and soprano Maria Butcher led the singing so well. A Holy Communion Service is held monthly on Sundays at 9.30am and the next dates are: 21st January , 18th February and 17th March.

Research is being undertaken into improving the heating in the church by revamping the power supply. The PCC has yet to consider these findings.

FROTH

Friends of Thornage hosted a well-attended music and social evening in the Church on Monday 18th December.

The village lottery has helped fund various projects (like the defibrillator, the bench, and supports other activities such as the Village sign repair, the flashing speed sign etc). We hope people either renew or join in for the first time so that we may continue to support the village.

Thornage Hall

We will be celebrating our 100th Biodynamic Spray next year a big milestone for Thornage as a community., with more information released closer to the date.

The Parish Council is very grateful for the support that Thornage Hall gives, by printing this newsletter – a cost the Parish Council would otherwise have to bear.

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