



Thornage Parish Council

Parish Council and the Village.

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

Welcome to the 16th edition of our Thornage Parish Council newsletter. Included: information about the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting, action on biodiversity, updates on the road and footbridges and other local news. Further details on the Noticeboard and Website.

Annual Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 22nd May 6.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting – 7.30pm – 8.30pm – All Saint’s Church

The **Annual Parish Council Meeting** elects the Parish Council Chair for the forthcoming year. This is followed by the usual PC business. All are very welcome to attend this meeting (as is the case with all meetings of the Parish Council) and there is always the opportunity for you to ask questions and express concerns to Councillors.

This will be followed by the **Annual Parish Meeting**. This meeting predates Parish Councils and is a whole village event. Everyone in Thornage and Little Thornage is invited to come along. It is the annual opportunity for all the residents to meet and talk about what has happened locally over the previous year and to plan for the year ahead. This year there will be a report by Nigel Watchorn on **the Common** and its relevance to the Biodiversity legislation and proposals moving forward.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** starts at 7.30pm. There will be short updates from local groups and biodiversity plans for Thornage Common followed by an Open Forum for questions and comments. This will be followed by light refreshments provided by Friends of Thornage.

Biodiversity in the Parish – Draft Action Plan (copies on website and Noticeboard)

This considers how the Parish Council can influence District and County Councils and also what residents can do on their own properties. You might like to consider these for your gardens:

- reduced Spring mowing during the last half of May and early June and leave some unmown grass until September to encourage insects and birds.
- avoid cutting hedges in nesting season (March-August).
- leave log piles and hedge cuttings (to encourage hedgehogs & toads)
- plant bee-friendly and indigenous trees (particularly those with berries) and flowers
- bird and bat boxes in suitable locations, and hedgehog highways between gardens
- consider making a natural pond with ledges for creatures to climb in & out, and to sunbathe.
- Leave piles of stones, much loved by newts, toads & frogs – the damper the better
- Identify & reduce sources of light pollution due to their impact on the nocturnal natural habitat

Highways News

B1110 Holt bridge - Parish Councillors note that the bridge appears safer with increased visibility due to the reduced height of the hedges and have passed their views onto NCC Highways.

Hunworth Footbridge – photos of the latest condition of the footbridge have been sent to NCC Highways and the local County Councillor.

SAM2 Speed Monitor - A site has been agreed with NCC Highways for the SAM2 in Little Thornage. Locations will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Newsletter 16 – April 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

Holiday Accommodation Bins

Business rated Holiday accommodation may not have a domestic bin and there have been cases when end of let waste has been added to a neighbour's bin. Dog waste has also been deposited in the Churchyard bin. Holiday Homeowners are asked to put up a notice informing holiday makers how to dispose of their waste. If you notice a problem, please get in touch.

Church Matters

11 April saw the annual election for the Thornage PCC and it was excellent to see such a strong and diverse turnout at the meeting. The new church wardens are Debbie Major and Jerry Pearce with 2 PCC members, John Smart and Joe Ashley, 2 Synod representatives, Janet Hammond and Beau Hopkins and 2 co-opted PCC members Angela and Nigel Watchorn.

Thanks go to the previous church warden, John, and to Janet, who continues in her Synod role, for all that they have done over the past year and for continuing their involvement. Also huge thanks goes to Phil Anderson who is stepping down as Treasurer of the PCC after many years of service.

The Church is first and foremost a place of worship offering regular services but also important as a wider community asset hosting other village events and of benefit to all local residents and visitors. Events bring in donations to maintain and improve church facilities: In short, we use it or we may ultimately lose it. It is also positive that Friends of Thornage will direct a proportion of funds raised, towards improving the church for community events.

Friends of Thornage

Are delighted to announce their new team: Dan Earp (Chairman), Dany Pearce (Treasurer), Debbie Major (Secretary), Chris Major (Lottery Organiser), Angela Watchorn, Nigel Watchorn, Jerry Pearce and Lisa Moor.

A successful coffee morning was held on 20th April for the relaunch of Friends of Thornage, welcoming new faces to the village as well as long standing members. The morning gave an opportunity for everyone to put forward their views and suggestions on what they would like to see happening in the village going forward. Events, meet ups and facilities were discussed. A big thank you to all that came along to support and make this event happen.

Lottery - The Thornage Lottery has also been relaunched. For £12 a year a monthly draw will take place with 1st prize £20 2nd prize £10, 3rd prize £5. There will also be a one-off bonus draw of £60 for anyone joining the lottery by standing order by the 30th June. Draw for this to be in July. The lottery will help to fund village projects and events. Contact for the lottery is Chris Major 07712874596, email: chrissiemajor@hotmail.com

Dates for the Diary.

18th May - Coffee Morning All Saints Church

9th June - Garden Party The Grange

*WhatsApp Group QR code: Join the **Village WhatsApp group** to get information about what is happening in the village*

Thornage Hall

We are excited to share that we will be providing a tea and cake stand at Stody Gardens on May 10th, 2024 - we hope to see some of you there. The community at Thornage Hall would also like to thank Duncan Baker, MP, for the official opening of our new office block.

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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