

THORNER PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2013

Present Cllrs T. Mycock (in the Chair), G Castle, D. Gibbins, V.Forster, D. Johnston, R. Myers, V. Goodall-Fawcus, K James (Clerk), PCSO Geoff Nottingham, and a number of residents.

1 Welcome and introduction from the Chairman

Cllr Mycock welcomed residents to the meeting.

2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2nd May 2012

These had been circulated and were confirmed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.

3 Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr Mycock referred to the Report which was included in the recent newsletter and distributed to every house in the village. He provided an update on the plans for the work on the ford, which are now at the costings stage. He welcomed the new Clerk who came into post in October.

4 Parish Council accounts 2012/13

The Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, had produced and circulated a Receipts and Payments Account, in the newsletter, which also included a Bank Reconciliation to show the money in the bank available to the Parish Council. The Clerk gave details of the expenditure categorized as 'other' in the accounts. This expense comprised:

- a) £67.80 contribution to the Wetherby area community police vehicle
- b) £130 cost of engraving the Thorner trophy which was awarded to the winner of the best-decorated house contest during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations
- c) £925.20 cost of installing an electricity supply to the boules shelter on Main Street.

5 Police report (including presentation on Neighbourhood Watch)

Geoff Nottingham introduced himself as Thorner's new designated PCSO. He gave a short presentation on local crime, and the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. He distributed UV pens which residents can use to mark valuable portable goods their house number and postcode. He reported that crime has been low in Thorner over the past year, with the main problem being the theft of garden furniture. PCSOs have are to become involved in local Neighbourhood Watch schemes. The first meeting in Thorner will be held on Monday 27th May from 6.30-7.00pm at the Over 60's centre. The meetings will be held bi-monthly – please contact the Clerk for future dates. Neighbourhood Watch is the largest voluntary crime prevention group in the country and figures show that areas with a scheme experience lower crime rates. Schemes can raise awareness of crime issues and improve communication. If residents are interested in joining they can call 101, or ring Wetherby police station on 0113 2845374.

6 Neighbourhood Plan presentation

The Clerk gave a presentation on neighbourhood planning. Thorner Parish Council is about to start developing a Neighbourhood Plan, is recruiting volunteers for the steering group. In due course there will be consultation sessions so that residents can have their say. If anyone would like a copy of the slides please contact the Clerk. There was some discussion about future development being affordable, and how this might be defined.

7 Presentations by village societies

Over 60's (Steven Wood): Steven introduced himself as the new Secretary and said that the new Committee is anxious to promote the society. The society would like to do more and is open to ideas. The Committee would like the premises to be used for community purposes. Anyone who lives in Thorner and is aged over 60 is automatically entitled to join the society. However if someone does not strictly meet these criteria but would like to join, they can apply to the Committee. Currently only about 20 per cent of those eligible are members.

Thorner and District Historical Society (David Walmsley): David thanked the Parish Council for its continued support of the Society, and the Methodist Church for providing storage facilities. He reported that a grant has been awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund for an electronic archive system, which members have been trained to use. There are a few places remaining on the summer trip will take place on Saturday May 25th. The trip includes a journey from Pickering to Whitby on the North Yorkshire Steam Railway, and time in Whitby. The Society will have a stall at the Gala in June. Jointly with Victory Hall the Society is producing a book to commemorate the end of World War 1 and the construction of Victory Hall, due for publication in March 2014.

8 Open Forum

At the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2012 the issues of traffic and parking in Thorner were raised. In response the Parish Council undertook a survey of residents, as a result of which it made a series of proposals to Leeds City Council Highways. Highways have no immediate plans to act on any of the proposals. The Parish Council was thanked for undertaking the survey. There was some discussion of a response that could be made to Highways, and other measures that could be taken to address the issues raised.

The Parish Council was thanked for its efforts to clear snow from footpaths and pavements in the village.

Volunteers are needed to assist the Residents Association to plant bedding plants in the beds on Millennium Green.

The issue of dog fouling was raised. This was highlighted in the recent newsletter, which gives details of the number to ring at Leeds City Council if a resident wishes to report a culprit. The Parish Council is hoping to obtain some posters for the litter bins to further raise awareness of the issue.

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