

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024 DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS RELEVANT TO THE MEETING:

Contents below to date (latest information received - 25 April 2024):

Draft minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting
District Councillor Alison Eastwood's report
South Northants Policing Teams report
Thumpers club report

MINUTES OF THORPE MANDEVILLE'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 24 APRIL 2023

(A notice of the meeting had been displayed on the village notice boards and parish council website from 16 April 2023. Leaflets promoting the meeting had been distributed to houses in the village.)

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE 2024 MEETING

2023/1: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Janet Ormond (JO), Chairman of Thorpe Mandeville Parish Council, welcomed those present explaining that the meeting was not a meeting of the parish council.

2023/2: ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: 13 parishioners (including 4 parish councillors)

Apologies received: Police officer Mel Carter, District Councillor Alison Eastwood and Geraint Gregory

2023/3: MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: Minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2022 had been available on the Parish Council website since May 2022. They were approved and JO was authorised to sign approval. There were no matters arising not covered by agenda items.

2023/4: THE PARISH COUNCIL: JO referred to the following:

2023/4a: HS2: There was still no indication regarding the commencement of the long-term closure of Banbury Road between Bulls Lane and the Magpie Road junction during the construction period. The introduction of an HS2 Marshall by the district council had proved to be very beneficial. The parish council had objected to HS2's extension of working hours but little could be done (related permissions arose under the construction code of practice). The council had expressed serious concern at flood water in Lower Thorpe. It appeared that HS2 had made improvements but the position would be monitored. HS2 had donated an oak tree to commemorate the coronation on 6 May and it was intended to site it on the northern border of the parish where a Wellington aircraft crashed during a training exercise in 1943.

2023/4b: PRECEPT: The parish council precept for 2023/24 had been increased by £300 to £3,300 to meet anticipated higher costs, particularly streetlight electricity, and endeavouring to bring the precept towards a more realistic position. The clerk's salary was still deemed to be below the market rate.

2023/4c: PLANTER: Following a suggestion received by the parish council, a wooden planter was being provided on the green at the entrance to the village, funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund. The landlords of the Three Conies had kindly offered to maintain the planter.

2023/4d: BANKING ARRANGEMENTS: The services provided by the parish council's new bank facility with the Unity Trust Bank were pleasing. A deposit account had been opened for funds outside the immediate working capital.

2023/4e: CONSIDERATION OF BOUNDARY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS: JO summarised the recent recommendations whereby Thorpe Mandeville parish would transfer from Silverstone Ward to Middleton Cheney Ward with effect from the 2025 local elections. The consultation period deadline for representations was 15 May. Comments were requested from the attendees. No objection was raised; one person indicating that it sounded reasonable.

2023/4f: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUND (CIL Fund): £850 had been expended on necessary street light maintenance since the last meeting. Over £3,000 remained unallocated in the fund. JO welcomed suggestions for further expenditure, bearing in mind there is an expectation that funds are expended within 5 years of receipt – October 2023. A suggestion was made regarding replacement of litter bins.

2023/4g: HIGHWAY PROBLEMS: The parish council has expressed related concerns and worked with the district council regarding necessary repair work on parish roads and drainage.

2023/4h: PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN: JO advised that she would not be standing for re-election at the council's annual meeting in May but she would be continuing as a councillor. JO advised that for varying personal reasons the other councillors did not wish to become chairman. Therefore, there was the strong possibility that the parish council would cease, leaving the parish without a voice, unless a new councillor was appointed in the very near future with a view to becoming chairman.

It was suggested that one outcome could be for another parish to become enlarged to incorporate responsibility for Thorpe Mandeville.

2023/5: REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON EASTWOOD (AE)

A written report provided by Silverstone Ward councillors had been available on the parish council website from 17 April. JO summarised the content. Reference was made to the disappointing increase from £42 to £55pa for the green waste collection. (Related concern had been lodged by JO with the district council.) Improvements had been made to the planning department which had been in chaos. The annual budget had been balanced. There was a current consultation period regarding school transport. AE referred to climate change issues being everyone's responsibility. JO expressed thanks for AE's support on parish matters.

2023/6: POLICE AUTHORITY REPORT

A written report provided by the county constabulary had been available on the parish council website from 17 April. JO summarised the content. There was a focus on road safety, theft, drugs and safeguarding the vulnerable. Neighbourhood policing numbers had increased, coupled with a focus on rural crime prevention. JO indicated it was pleasing that more police patrol cars had been noticed going through the village.

2023/7: CELEBRATION OF THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III: Jeremy Greenhalgh, representing the committee of villagers organising a street party on Sunday 7 May, summarised the current plans for the party with tables being provided on the closed road in the village, an ice cream van in attendance, games arranged and the involvement of the Three Conies. The church bells would be rung on for an hour on Coronation Day, 6 May.

2023/8: VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Village Hall chairman, John Clouston, advised that although funds were currently strong the long-term survival of the hall was in question. Bookings were poor. There was a need to attract long-term income; there were there were no regular activities such as fitness sessions. Two open evenings to promote the hall had received disappointing support from the village. Thanks were expressed to various donors.

Suggestions were made regarding the provision of both display and children's equipment to attract new usage of the village hall, possibly utilising the CIL fund. Tony Limb indicated that his existing equipment could stream via the village hall internet onto a large screen. There was a discussion of the possibilities of this idea and whether it could attract young people and whether supervision may be required. Reference was made to the need to ensure expenditure met the CIL criteria if funding was considered from this source.

2023/9: PARISH CHURCH

PCC secretary, Maurice Cole, reported that attendance at festival services was good but both attendance at the monthly service and ongoing finance remained problems. The imminent retirement of the sole churchwarden,

James Hewison, would create practical problems in the absence of a designated replacement. Jeremy Greenhalgh summarised the pleasing progress being made by an emerging group of bell ringers from the parish, with six able to ring 'full circle.'

2023/10: RABBIT RING

Mags Durham advised that activities of the Rabbit Ring ladies club numbers were limited having lost some younger members. The low membership resulted in difficulty in funding speakers. The club had not fully recovered from the Covid period of inactivity.

2023/11: THUMPERS

Tony Limb reported on the Thumpers men's club. There were 15 on the circulation/members list. Activities were based in the village as much as possible, trying to utilise the village hall.

2023/12: ANY OTHER BUSINESS: JO was thanked for her services as chairman of both the Annual Parish Meeting and the parish council in recent years.

MEETING CLOSED at 8.20pm with the chairman's thanks to those attending.



Report received from District Councillor Alison Eastwood:

Budget

On Thursday 22nd February, West Northamptonshire Council set the Council Tax budget for 2024/2025. This will protect frontline services and tackle significant financial challenges and I am very pleased to say that it is a balanced budget.

In common with local authorities across the country, the Council is facing severe financial pressures due to the current economic climate, high inflation rates driving up running costs and an increase in demand for services, particularly around supporting children in care and vulnerable adults. This area is the most challenging because we have to provide care come what may and that means budgeting as such is impossible because we just don't know what each year will bring.

Despite these pressures, the authority has set a balanced revenue budget for 2024/2025 of £889.5m (£414.5m excluding the Dedicated Schools Grant).

The budget includes a Council Tax increase of 4.99%, which is in line with the Government's threshold, generating extra funding of around £13.1m – with 2% of the increase going towards funding adult social care and representing an average increase on a Band D property of £84.52 a year, the equivalent of £1.63 a week.

The approved budget follows a strong commitment to making services as efficient as possible and reviewing income streams in order to maintain and protect services, with £24.1m of productivity proposals put forward.

The 2024/2025 budget will see WNC invest over £164m in its capital programme, to improve local infrastructure and assets such as land, buildings and equipment.

The Council is also set to spend an estimated £20m in public health support, which is funding from the Government in the year ahead to progress a range of schemes aimed at improving residents' wellbeing, reducing health inequalities and continuing to support communities.

Within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) WNC plans to invest £59m of capital funds in social housing during the next financial year. This investment forms part of a total five-year capital programme, which amounts to £287m. Also built into the plans is investment in decarbonisation, which is estimated to impact on 500 homes.

Your precept arrangements should have been agreed within your individual Parishes and increased accordingly

£162 million worth of Government funding

Announced on 26th February, £162 million worth of Government funding will be allocated to West Northamptonshire Council from 2025/26 to increase local transport connections over a 7 years. The announcement from the Government's Local Transport Fund, means that £4.7 billion worth of investment, reallocated from HS2 funding, will, from April 2025, be invested in Midlands and the North to improve local transport connections particularly across smaller cities, towns, and rural areas "It is fantastic news that from 2025 West Northamptonshire will benefit from over £162 million worth of funding which we can inject into the local transport network to make a tangible impact for our residents.

Over the coming months, WNC will work with the Department for Transport to consider how to best utilise this funding to ensure it makes a real difference for West Northamptonshire. The Government will provide guidance to enable investment in transformative and ambitious transport improvements focussing on better connectivity within our towns and villages and improve everyday local journeys. WNC is currently in the process of developing the Local Transport Plan and bus strategy for West Northamptonshire which will play a key role in shaping how this funding can be best utilised. You can follow the progress of the Local Transport Plan via: www.westnorthants.gov.uk.

Local plan progress

First Rural Settlement Hierarchy – the WNC planning policy team has been in touch with you about a key part of the local plan – the Rural Settlement Hierarchy. To collect evidence via a questionnaire which you have already received.

Secondly, the next local plan is going out to consultation very soon and there will be a lot of information going around and it's important to keep track of this because it will affect the whole domestic and commercial development plans for several years to come. The new version will be one plan rather than the four that exist and the pages reduce from more than 900 to near 400.

Local Planning updates

Briefing received from senior planning officer Dan Callis very recently - The applicant for **Shacks Barn** on the Silverstone/Whittlebury border submitted updated traffic modelling information the about three weeks ago and this was forwarded to National Highways and WNC Highways the same week. The information is on the website. The earliest the application could come to committee is April. Regarding the other main AL sites, **DHL** is still receiving objections from National Highways and WNC Highways has not completed its report following the latest traffic information submitted. **Bell Plantation** is still working on its traffic modelling.

HS2 continues to cause havoc in our lives and as you are aware the line has been curtailed and now runs between Birmingham, and Royal Oak (London) There is an on-going ruckus on the B 4525 between Helmdon and Crowfield with Highways investigating. There are further problems at Boddington-The Wormleighton Road will not be closed in the immediate future whilst Bridge issues are being resolved. The Greatworth T has finally re-opened with a speed limit of 40 MPH

Regeneration is going on in Northampton around Market Square, Abingdon Park, the Cultural Quarter, De La Pre Abbey and Fish Street

The National Museum has been re-arranged to include the Museum of Leather; and the exciting Vivienne Westwood exhibition has opened. I would encourage you to visit the Mackintosh house at Derngate 78, the wonderful new glass extension has been completed, and the Restaurant re-vamped serving delicious afternoon teas.

A recent Choir fest is followed by a full programme of concerts including James Arthur who will be performing in June "A Perfect Day" arts and culture@news.eesthants.gov.uk

Sport:

WNC will be one of eight hosts for the Women’s Rugby World Cup 3 Weekend matches are to take place at Franklin Gardens

The Council continues to partnership with British Cycling.

Of road coaching will be delivered at Northants Bike Park.

Don’t forget the marvellous bike facility for children at Lower Boddington.

WNC are in the process of on- boarding volunteers for a new “well-being” walks programme.

Worldclass sports has announced that we will be hosting the GRAND PRIX until 2035. A feather in our cap. This now takes Silverstone Racetrack into its 9th decade.

On May 2nd we go to the polls to elect our new Commissioner of Police, fire and Ambulance Stephen Mold will not now be standing.

A new school @ Tiffield near Towcester has opened, catering for children who are on the Autistic Spectrum.

Grants of up to £10,000 have been awarded to the voluntary and community sector for the project to alleviate youth and knife crime in our local communities

Here endeth the annual report. May I wish you all a productive and safe 2024-2025.

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Report from South Northants Policing Teams:

Annual Report and You Said, We Did March 2024

South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Teams have welcomed a couple of new members to the team and have also seen a couple move onto pastures new. PC Mohammed Mir has joined Brackley and PC Stefan Macovei has joined Towcester. PC Frankie Smith has moved to a seconded post as a Dog Legislation Officer with the Force and PCSO Paris Jones has left to take up a role as a civil servant. PCSO Jen Harrison is supporting our team whilst working as a dedicated anti-social behaviour officer.

Hopefully most villages will have now been visited by the Beat Bus, an initiative launched in late 2021. We aim to use this and other resources to bring officers to your doorstep and offer some of our more isolated residents the opportunity to speak to officers on a 1-2-1 basis whilst the officers also complete some of their existing workload in an agile manner. Our focus is driven by you and if you feel that your village would benefit from any additional visits then please contact us – details can be found at the end of this report.

We would rather become involved in resolving any issues or concerns at an early stage to prevent situations escalating or deteriorating. Ideally our visits should be timed alongside community events, meetings or gatherings to maximise opportunities to meet your local officers.

Overall, South Northants is a pleasant and safe place to live. Crime levels are relatively low and if you wish to look at more detailed information in respect of these then you can visit [Police.uk - Your area](https://www.police.uk)

Our community identified policing priority surveys, highlighted that road safety; vehicle crime and rural crime are your real areas of concern and these were chosen to be the priorities between December 2023 and March 2024.

Road Safety:

As a Neighbourhood Team, we have responsibility for engaging with all of our local schools across all year groups. We receive many reports relating to the use of vehicles around school times from the public and schools themselves. These reports are followed up by ourselves, or by us linking in with partner agencies and enforcement will be undertaken where appropriate. We acknowledge that many schools are located within tight road networks and that societal changes are often the cause of sheer volume of traffic utilising these to get children to and from school. Therefore, much of our work in tackling issues will be educationally based in order to, disrupt and deter issues. Enforcement will be a last resort but is always an option for persistent issues.

In December 2023 during the Force's Drink and Drug Drive campaign, an operation was carried out during a night in South Northants. This resulted in 27 people submitting to breath tests, 3 arrests for drug drive, disqualified driving and handling stolen goods (diesel). 18 offences were identified, 5 vehicles seized and a quantity of stolen property recovered. For anyone believing that it is unfair Police targeting motorists clearly this proves that notion to be misguided. Criminals use our road network and drive vehicles also.

Vehicle Crime:

Nationally there is a trend in stealing load and diesel from HGVs parked up overnight. Currently these offences are low in number in South Northants and affect major trunk road predominately. Thefts of tools from vans is more problematic and officers aim to follow up all offences of theft from a motor vehicle with a call or visit to the victim, completion of any CCTV enquiries, house to house where appropriate and a media report for witnesses. These offences are opportunistic in nature and hard to second guess where they may occur. Vans are a particularly vulnerable target for stealing tools however these types of vehicles are parked in most streets and activity around them doesn't always draw attention. We encourage van owners or operators to invest in lockable options for items within the van and consider marking tools to make them less attractive for onwards sale.

Rural Crime:

The rural crime team has seen a much quieter start to 2024 than 2023 with far less thefts and rural crime activity happening. We have noted an increase in plant machinery thefts and building sites are proving favourable. The team have been busy with numerous warrants alongside the RSPCA for animal welfare related incidents as unfortunately we are seeing an increase in people abandoning their animals or just not caring for them. We have had several arrests for rural crime which are progressing at this time and cross border working with our neighbouring forces where we see offenders committing crime across several counties. We have delivered training inputs to all the young farmer groups across the county which have been well received. We have also been on training inputs with the other regional forces in Lincolnshire and Leicestershire on wildlife crime matters and to the LAMMA show at the NEC where we build working relationships with other forces and manufacturers as well as engaging with our own rural community who attend the event.

We have recovered several stolen items and returned them to their owners and are continually developing intelligence around offenders.

We've also had several reports of livestock worrying and where we had a particular problem which resulted in a warrant being obtained and the dogs seized and eventually rehomed. We will continue to support the rural communities through attending events and being visible and ask that any information no matter how small you may think it is, report it as it may be the missing part to a wider problem.

Please consider signing up to Northants Talking. This is an email messaging system that all Schools, Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch and community members can join. In registering your email address, you will receive up-to-date information regarding crimes, policing activity, crime prevention advice and much more. This system is a two-way process and offers you a chance to respond to information provided as appropriate. If the majority of the community sign up then we can create a virtual network of additional eyes and ears, watching out for suspicious activity, looking out for vulnerable friends, family and neighbours and receiving information about local events and activities that can help alleviate fear of crime and promote a safe and secure lifestyle.

You can join the Northants Talking Messaging System easily via this link:

Northamptonshire Talking

Your Neighbourhood Policing Teams are based within the Community at Brackley and Towcester Police Stations. These are Police bases so don't have an open front office to visit but officers are there daily. We would like to attend as many events, local groups, warm spaces, community ladders as possible to allow you opportunities to meet us and share your concerns, we can offer information and advice and tackle community issues with your support.

Please do follow us on social media where possible (Twitter: @SthNorthantsNPT and Facebook: 'Daventry and South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Team'). We try and promote as much of our day to day activities as we can however if there is anything else that you would like to see us report back on then let us know. Your feedback is important to us and you should be part of any changes we implement.

There are some aspects of our work that we cannot report back on due to the vulnerabilities of the persons involved, and their right to privacy but we will try and let you know as much as we can about the type of work that we get involved with.³

We work closely with our Rural Crime Team and you can follow their work via Twitter: @hutch472 & @NorPolRural.

We have previously reported a rise in issues associated with the use of social media to send offensive messages and/or images. This has especially been an issue with children of school age from school years 6 upwards (ages 10-16). Thankfully work between Police and schools seems to have reduced the amount of reports. We will always focus on safeguarding, education and intervention as first choice but there have been occasions where this type of behaviour has had to be tackled at a higher level with Youth Offending Team intervention to prevent children entering the Criminal Justice System. Officers will be undertaking further assemblies and class inputs with schools over the coming months.

Should you wish to discuss a particular issue that is of concern to you or meet a member of your Neighbourhood Policing Team then please contact either team via:

NT-SouthNorthantsBrackley@pnn.police.uk or NT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@pnn.police.uk

PLEASE DO NOT REPORT CRIMES VIA THESE EMAIL ADDRESSES

Reporting an issue or crime to the Police can be made in a number of ways. This includes ringing 101 or online. Northants Police's new website offers a reporting system for

- A road traffic incident
- Missing person – no immediate harm
- Terrorist activity
- Fingerprints appointments – this could be asked for when travelling abroad
- Hate Crime/ Incident

So that your report can be managed as quickly as possible, it's important to consider the following information and have it ready to provide:

- the date and time the crime happened
- the location, such as address or road name along with the town or village
- a description of any people involved
- the details of any witnesses or suspects
- if you think there's any other evidence such as forensic evidence or mobile phone footage
- if there is clear CCTV footage of the offence being committed

The above reporting tool can be reached via:

<https://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

USEFUL LINKS

Northamptonshire Police Website: <http://www.northants.police.uk/>

Check if a vehicle is taxed or untaxed and report if necessary: <https://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax>

Useful link for all matters related to driving: <http://think.direct.gov.uk/>

This link will provide you with useful information to help protect yourself from scams:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/>

Trading Standards – Advice and help for consumers: [West Northants Trading Standards](#)

Contact Crime Stoppers anonymously about crime:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Fearless - a site where young people can access non-judgmental information and advice about crime:

<https://www.fearless.org/>

Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Watch:

www.ourwatch.org.uk

Report to South Northants Council - Fly tipping, dog fouling, Litter, noise pollution and other issues:

[West](#)

[Northants Council](#)

Advice on boundary disputes with neighbours:

<https://www.ricsfirms.com/residential/legal-issues/boundaries/rics-consumer-guide-boundary-disputes/>

Street Doctor – reporting Highways issues:

<http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/roads-and-streets/Pages/report-highway-problem.aspx>

Thank you from South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Teams

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Thumpers report to Annual Parish Meeting April 2024

Thumpers continues to operate on a once-a-month activity, being on the first Wednesday of each month. It was originally formed to provide additional usage for the village hall and to try to ensure various activities have a wide level of interest for any villager wishing to take part. It is primarily a men's group mirroring the Rabbit Ring ladies club, but since they have decided to stop operating anything we do will also on occasions be opened up for former Rabbits, friends and family.

Any villager is welcome to join the Thumpers' circulation list, with no commitment to becoming a Thumper, or if there any questions please contact Tony Limb: tony.limb@tiscali.co.uk. Perhaps you have an idea for an activity or get-together.

Our Activities

Food based evenings always seem to be well attended. Following the Christmas meal at the Three Conies this year we have also had our what has become an annual pie and pea night, thanks to Janet and John Clouston, and also more recently a fish and chip night. Both were well-attended evenings. Our next activity will be snooker at a Banbury Snooker Hall on 1st May.

We continually look for things that may be of interest. Currently we have 16 paid members and would welcome others.

Having hired the village hall on three occasions this year to date, we are likely to make a further donation to the hall (subject to agreement by all members) as we have just over £400 available in our funds. Our aim is to support the village hall while finding something different for our members to do.

Tony Limb