

MINUTES OF THORPE MANDEVILLE'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 29 APRIL 2024

(A notice of the meeting had been displayed on the village notice boards and parish council website from 20 April 2024. Leaflets promoting the meeting had been distributed to houses in the village.)

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE 2025 MEETING

2024/1: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS: Doug Brown (DB), Chairman of Thorpe Mandeville Parish Council, welcomed those present explaining that the meeting was not a meeting of the parish council.

DB explained that he had joined the parish council and taken over the chair following Janet Ormond's resignation from the council. He expressed thanks to Janet for her services to the council over many years.

2024/2: ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Present: 12 parishioners (including 4 parish councillors)

Apologies received: Police officer Mel Carter, District Councillor Alison Eastwood, Tony Limb, Christine Isted and Philip Tustian.

2023/3: MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2023 had been available on the Parish Council website since May 2023. They were approved and DB was authorised to sign approval. There were no matters arising not covered by agenda items.

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

2024/4a: HS2: The oak tree donated by HS2 contractors EKFB to commemorate the coronation had been sited on the northern border of the parish where a Wellington aircraft crashed in 1943. It was understood that the commencement of the temporary long-term closure of Banbury Road between Bulls Lane and the Magpie Road junction during the construction period would not start until next year.

2024/4b: HIGHWAY PROBLEMS:

Road closure signage would be a concern on the above road closure. Concern continued to be expressed regarding the adequacy of signage on the frequent road closures, primarily by HS2. Anglian Water's inappropriate diversion of two-way traffic onto Bulls Lane during road works had led to considerable correspondence with the water authority and the district council.

The parish council continued to express concerns with the district council regarding necessary repair work on parish roads, particularly the state of Townsend Lane and Wardington Road.

2024/4c: TRAFFIC SPEED: Following concerns expressed to the police authority by both the council and our Neighbourhood Watch representative, David Wright, the police installed traffic speed and volume monitors at both ends of the village for a trial period of one week. The police advised that "the data at this time does not support the creation of a mobile enforcement location." The council had promoted the Community SpeedWatch scheme on the website and two noticeboards from 29 January. No volunteers had come forward to date to form the required team.

2024/4d: PLANTER: The council had provided a wooden planter on the green at the entrance to the village, funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund. The landlords of the Three Conies had kindly provided a further planter.

2024/4e: CELEBRATION OF THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III: DB expressed thanks to the committee of villagers which organised the most successful street party on Sunday 7 May.

2024/4f: ABILITY BUS SERVICE: DB advised that the 'on demand' bus service would be operating on Tuesdays and Thursdays into Banbury from 7 May.

2024/4g: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUND (CIL Fund): Over £3,000 remained unallocated in the fund. DB welcomed suggestions for further expenditure, bearing in mind the expenditure had to be within set criteria and funds had been held beyond the expected usage period of 5 years.

2024/4h: PRECEPT: The parish council precept for 2024/25 had been increased by £300 to £3,600 endeavouring to bring the precept towards a more realistic position.

2024/4i: DOG WASTE: The discarding of dog waste bags on road verges remained a problem. DB advised that the parish council still has this matter under consideration. General discussion arose regarding possible solutions, including replacement of the existing litter bins by ones more suitable to accommodate both litter and dog waste. The subject would be on the council agenda for further consideration

2024/5: REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON EASTWOOD: A written report had been available on the parish council website from 16 April. DB summarised the content. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) had produced a balanced budget based on a Council Tax increase of 4.99%. An increase in demand for services around supporting children in care and vulnerable adults was most challenging. £162m of Government funding would be allocated to the WNC from 2025/26 to increase local transport connections over 7 years. The WNC's revision of its local Plan regarding planning development was currently in a consultation period. DB commented that the parish council had submitted an earlier response supporting the parish being in the lowest category for planning development.

2024/6: POLICE AUTHORITY REPORT:

A written report provided by the county constabulary had been available on the parish council website from 16 April. DB summarised the content which did not make specific reference to the parish. There had been an increase in plant machinery thefts with building sites proving favourable. The police team have been busy with numerous warrants alongside the RSPCA for animal welfare related incidents. DB referred to several visits by the 'beat bus' having been made to the parish in the last year, providing the opportunity to speak with officers regarding concerns

2024/7: VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE:

Village Hall chairman, John Clouston, advised that although funds were currently sound they were being diminished by repair costs. The hall floor had recently been repaired and a wall area would be repointed shortly. Thanks were expressed for donations Bookings were poor. More trustees and new ideas would be welcome

2024/8: PARISH CHURCH:

PCC secretary, Maurice Cole, reported that attendance at festival services remained good but both attendance at the monthly service and ongoing finance remained problems. The church was operating without the benefit of churchwardens.

There was pleasing progress regarding bell ringing on special occasions, thanks to Jeremy Greenhalgh's original instigation and Duncan Lilly's bellringing leadership. More help with churchyard maintenance would be appreciated. The move into the Middleton Cheney benefice had proved to be very satisfactory.

2024/9: THUMPERS:

Tony Limb had supplied a written report on the Thumpers men's club. Meetings were normally on the first Wednesday of the month. There were 16 paid members. Activities continued to be based in the village as much as possible, trying to utilise the village hall. Food based evenings have been popular. The recent unfortunate closure of the Rabbit Ring ladies club through lack of support had led to events involving members' partners.

2023/10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

2023/10a: ELECTORAL POSITION: Maurice Cole, parish clerk, referred to the parish changing from Silverstone Ward to Middleton Cheney Ward with effect from the district council elections in May 2025.

2023/10b: ROAD DRAINS: Mike Pringle complained about the road drain vehicle not visiting Townsend Lane when it last attended the village. Maurice Cole would note this for when he was advised of the vehicle's next visit.

2023?10c: HIGHWAY PROBLEMS OUTSIDE THE PARISH: John Clouston noted that there was a blind spot on the 'Greatworth T,' the new HS2 temporary road. The meeting also expressed concern regarding the frequency of heavy goods vehicles over-turning on the B4525.

MEETING CLOSED at 7.40pm with the Chairman's thanks to those attending.