

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Thornton-le-Moor with Thornton-le-Street Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 29th March 2023 at Thief Hall, Thornton-le-Moor, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL7 9EH.

Present: Councillors: J. Barker (Chairman) B. Stockdale (Vice Chairman) P. Pybus, R. Barr and Cllr A Baker. **Clerk:** D. Robson

Attended by four members of the public

Apologies and Approval for Absence

Cllr Andy Robinson (HDC Councillor)

1. Approval of the Annual Meeting Minutes held on Wednesday 22nd March 2022

Councillors approved the minutes on 18th May 2022 as a true record of the meeting.

2. Chairman's Report – J. Barker

Chairmans report

Our parish council has met on 7 occasions within the past year with three visits to Thornton Le Street and four meetings at Thief Hall in Thornton Le Moor.

Following the Notice of Election on the 5th May 2022 our councillors have continued to support our area with their time and passion and I would like to thank our fellow representatives Bill Stockdale our vice chair, Roosje Barr, Peter Pybus and finally but most importantly our Clerk Debbie Robson whose expertise and dedication are vital to the workings of our village council.

Last year seemed to start with a wonderful energy and fresh look away from Covid with planning the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the 5th June 2022 and finally life started to feel a lot more stable with plans being made and residents less weary of meeting.

And so it was a bitter sweet time for us all when we lost Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the 8th September 2022 and as a result our parish meeting due to be held on the 14th September was postponed until the 5th October as a mark of respect. For many of us our Queen has been the one staple in our lives and I am sure I speak for many when I say it was wholeheartedly felt through our communities and around the world.

Later that same month on the 23rd September I attended the National Association of Local Councils meeting which was mainly focused on the worry of climate change and making sure all councils were up to date with their files, paperwork and safety procedures which Debbie Robson has been working endlessly on since of which we owe a huge thank you.

We then awarded Linda Carter the Denis Sturdy Award for service to the village on the 5th November at the Village dinner, this was the first time this annual award has been received and was very well deserved.

During the July meeting it was suggested that we looked at a First Aid course for the Parish and this was run at Thief Hall on the 8th November 2022 and was a fantastic opportunity with a good turnout.

On Monday 14th November I attended the Area 2 Highways meeting in Thirsk kindly run by Deborah Flowers of Highways for Hambleton. This gave a good insight into their systems, how we should be reporting incidents or highway issues such as potholes and created a good discussion with fellow councillors from various parishes.

Throughout 2022 the proposed Devolution has been discussed to establish a combined authority across York and North Yorkshire with one elected Mayor to provide strategic leadership across the region and hopefully seek the best value for taxpayers' money. We now head towards the looming April deadline and we will see.

Sadly we continue to have issues with The Black Swan Pub area which echo's last year's report and tidying this part of Thornton Le Moor up is now a priority of our village, we continue to have issues with dog fouling, pot holes and speeding of which we discuss solutions regularly.

I am going to finish with a plea to our two communities that if anyone would like to join us to make a difference to your village and support our parish council please come forward as there are welcome seats awaiting and the more support we have going forward especially with the unknown future within Yorkshire as we head towards this Devolution, please do speak to one of us for more information.

We will now hear from our community organisations about their activities but first I would like to pass on our thanks to the Trustees of Thornton Le Street Village Hall for the use of their facilities for our meetings and now with my Thief Hall hat on I would like to thank our fellow members for continuing to use Thief Hall as we really appreciate the collaboration we have with the village as a business in this area.

3. Thornton-le-Street Church Report – Liz Waller and Barry Lee

St Leonards Church

Report to the Parish Council 2022

After several years of disruption, the church is now 'back to normal' with services being held weekly. This year has proven to be busier with many variations with the attendance at services slightly increasing as the year progressed. Sadly there have been 2 funerals, one a lady who wished to return and be placed close to her parents and the other of Eric Waller, Deputy Church Warden and Treasurer. His role later was taken over by his wife.

The churchyard continues to be well cared for by Barry and grass cutting continues to be the role of D. Broadwith.

During May the Archdeacon, Amanda Bloor, conducted a visitation which resulted with a very positive report and later in the year the Architect's Quinquennial Inspection was carried out. Some minor work was pointed out to be rectified in the warmer weather, there is no immediate action to be taken on the others.

A village tree was planted in the churchyard for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. Sadly, this was followed shortly afterwards by the death of the Queen. A book of condolence was opened in the church which was left open for the week up to the funeral.

An invitation to members of the congregation at Stephens previous church in Bradford was accepted for a talk by Jackie Lee on the church history, followed by a service then an afternoon tea in the Village Hall. This was very well attended.

Harvest service followed by supper and the Family Carol Service were also well attended

The friendship lunches held once a month continue to be a success.

We would like to thank Stephen for his energy and enthusiasm during the year, all our members, helpers and volunteers for their help and support in many ways.

Liz. Waller and Barry Lee, Deputy Church Wardens.

4. Thornton- le-Street and North Kilvington Village Hall Report – Barry Lee

Chairman's Report to the Parish Council 2022

From the end of November 2021 to the end of January 2022, the Trustees were busy planning and organising various quotes and estimates from different tradesmen and in February we began to implement the upgrading of the Village Hall, starting with the loft insulation above the main hall and completely repainting of the interior of the building.

The lighting was upgraded to L.E.D. and the emergency lights were brought up to present specifications.

New heaters were installed in the ladies' and easy access toilets.

An overhead projector with speakers, access to the internet, a dedicated laptop computer and a stand-alone sound system are now available.

In the kitchen, improvements have been made to the hot water system and a catering dishwasher has been installed.

To complete the interior, new curtains and blinds have been fitted.

In October, the deteriorating roof tiles over the small hall have been replaced as well as roof-felting and upgrading the insulation.

The Hall now looks amazing and is in good condition for the future. Well done to everyone concerned. This is a tremendous achievement.

The Electrical Inspection was carried out and was certified as in good order.

On a more general note, bookings are now picking up and are slightly up on pre-covid years, but we cannot be complacent. We need to actively promote the use of the hall. An Open Day was held in April and, although not many attended, comments from visitors have been encouraging and it is hoped to attract more bookings in the future.

Regular bookings have been maintained, these include upholstery, craft, dog training and sewing.

We have seen an increase in the use of the hall for private bookings including children's parties, fundraising events, and meetings. In December we had the Village Hall Carols around the Christmas tree followed by mince pies and mulled wine and a prize draw.

A very successful Craft Fair was held in October in aid of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. The access to WiFi was a great boon for stall-holders to take electronic payments.

St. Leonard's Church has also made good use of the hall this year for meetings and events throughout the year. Friendship lunches have also continued which is an essential source of revenue for the church. These are well supported and popular. Well done to all who contribute to this rewarding work.

The flower rota has worked well again this year. Many thanks to all those who helped to keep a splendid and colourful display during the very hot and dry summer.

Many thanks to all the Trustees for all their work this year.

Finally, special thanks to Barbara for her regular cleaning, Lindsey for taking care of the bookings, collecting fees and keeping the website up-to date, and to the secretary for all her support over the year.

Barry Lee, Chairman

November 2022

5. Thornton-le-Street History Group – Bill Stockdale

Thornton-le-Street History Group - Report of year's activities, April 2022 to March 2023

For Annual Parish Meeting

Overview - Our programme re-started following 3 years of pandemic restrictions.

Steering Group – the group is led by a Steering Group of 6 people who have met 7 times this year to plan and review activities.

Funding – We are now a self-funding group with events run at cost, and donations are welcomed, for example to pay for webinar speaker costs. The group was delighted to be awarded £1000 from North Yorkshire County Council's Locality Fund,

via Cllr Alyson Baker. This will be used to fund professional time for recording and reporting.

Supporters - Our email contact list has continued to increase this year - we now have over 400 supporters.

Publications - Our first book - *Thornton-le-Street – The Archaeology and History in its Landscape* has continued to be popular with further copies being sold after webinars attracted new supporters to our group.

Key dates and activities - 3 Webinars were shown this year - 2 were recorded for showing on our YouTube channel to give access to a wider audience. 485 people watched these webinars.

Nov 2022 - Al Oswald (Univ of York), Roman Malton what happened next?

Dec 2022 – Mark Newman (National Trust Consultant Archaeologist) – Beningbrough Hall, Great British Dig revisited (Hugh Dennis not included)

Jan 2023 – Prof Richard Hingley (Univ of Durham) - The Roman conquest of central Britain and the nature of the main roads

Visits with Prof Chris Gerrard (Univ of Durham)

We organised visits to Auckland Castle excavations & Low Swainby medieval site near Pickhill, Thirsk

Fieldwork

- One test pit dug in a TLS village garden
- Fieldwalking to the south of TLS village
- also fieldwalking at Low Swainby medieval site, where finds included a range of medieval pottery.
- Earthwork survey of The Pines garden to add this to the Mill Field Survey carried out earlier, to give a fuller picture of the remaining medieval earthworks.

Our Tees Valley Ware Pottery Research Group work continues, collating research from local museums and other sources to expand knowledge about this pottery type.

Archaeological dig at Beningbrough Hall

National Trust's Consultant Archaeologist invited our group to undertake archaeological investigations before the construction of their new Mediterranean Garden in September 2023. From September 2022 to March 2023 we have dug 40+ test pits and 3 trenches, using a total of **194 volunteer days (to 8 March)**. Our work includes finds recording and this is expanding the knowledge of Beningbrough's history, particularly the gardens. Profiling of our work included last year's Open Heritage Days, this Easter and the National Festival of Archaeology this summer.

Publicity/Comms

- Twitter – 194 followers
- **Website** – includes a wide range of resources.

- **Eventbrite** advertises our events, gathers delegates' feedback and collects donations for us.
- **YouTube** – our channel hosts our 3 videos and our 14 recorded webinars.
- **Zoom Webinar platform** is used to host our webinar presentations.
- **Contact Lists** – over 400 email addresses on our supporter contact list. Additionally, 18 professional partners and 18 village/general email contacts. Webinars led to 30 additional contacts.
- **CBA Yorkshire** advertises our events on its website and has offered to host our recorded webinars and videos on its Video Archive.
- **Durham Univ. Archaeology Dept** – we have a reciprocal arrangement to circulate each other's events.
- **Darlington & Stockton Times** newspaper is used to advertise our events in their Villages and Towns section

We continue to welcome both local people and those from further afield to participate and enjoy the events that we are providing.

6. Thornton-le-Moor Cricket Club Report – John Pinches

The cricket club sent a circular out around the village in February seeking funding.

The refurbishment comprises of two phases, the first is an extension to the club house and will provide ladies and gents changing rooms to include a shower room for home and away teams. This is on track to be completed in a couple of weeks. The second phase is to do a full refurbishment of the pavilion with the aim of providing a proper social hub and eventually install a bar.

The cricket club are seeking further funding of £10,000 on 1st April from ECB. The community managed to donate £5,600, which the cricket club thought was very generous.

The cricket club are inviting the community to view the extension and changing rooms and to see the pavilion on the 16th April. A flyer will follow.

The cricket club is trying to complete the extension and refurbishment to a high finish and are fortunate to have done it so cost effectively by many tradesmen and women within the cricket club willing to help and offer their trade skills. These include a joiner, plumber and electrician. The cricket club also benefited from local farmers who used their tractors to dig drains and fit a septic tank. The cricket club is really grateful for the community's help and support.

They have three guys coaching this month from Northallerton which enabled them to apply for the funding from ECB and also enabled them to set up on Facebook All Stars Cricket. A summer course for children starting in May, 14 children have already signed up.

The cricket season has started and the programme for events is advertised in the News and Views.

7. Thornton-le-Moor Village Hall Society Report – Ken Hughes (read out at the January parish council meeting included for information only)

Review of 2022 Events for the Parish Council

Chairman's Review of 2022 Events :-

The Chairman points out that owing to the continued disruption caused by the covid situation, events for the last year had not been as organised as would have been liked.

The Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth was celebrated in June with events held over four days

Thurs saw a Scarecrow & Best Dressed House village competition, on Fri. a 'Children's Fun Day' was held on the Cricket field, on Sat. the village come together on the front lawn of Laurel Dene, (Thanks to the family of the late Les Fisher), for a very lavish afternoon tea, with Pimms, food donated by the villagers & incidental music provided by Jacky Atkinson.

The weekend was completed on Sun. with a performance of Music from 'The Beatles' by a choir in Thief Hall together with a Barbeque Meal.

In August The Durham Shakespeare Company performed in the Churchyard.

The 'Fun Day' organised for Sept was cancelled owing to the Funeral of the late Queen.

November saw a Village Meal and Quiz night in Thief Hall.

In Dec. a carol 'singalong' was held at 'Moor Lodge' TLM, by kind permission of Deanne & Steven Howell, Music was provided by Bedale Band. Mince pies and mulled wine were available, and much enjoyed.

Questions have been raised concerning the future of the 'Black swan' as it has become something of an eyesore. The chairman response to these has been, that as the Pub had now been closed for some 8 years, it was now probably uneconomic to restore it as a 'going concern', so it's future is now in the hands of the new owners.

8. South Otterington Primary School Report – Miss A Gledhill

This year (2022-2023) we have 101 children on roll and 12 children enrolled in Pre-School. The attendance has improved during this academic year and we currently stand at 96.5%, which means we are above the Government national benchmark of 95%. We now have a new school logo which reflects the vision of our school.

Number on roll and class organisation we have four classes in School- Mars (Y5/6), Neptune (Y3/4), Earth (Y1/2) and Venus (EYFS/Y1). The names of the classes were chosen to fit in with the vision of our school and you will notice lots of stars and planets in the school environment

We continue to embed our new curriculum in school making sure the children are 'knowing more and remembering more'. We are focusing on our Science curriculum over the year and so our 'Year of Science 2022-2023' is to enthusing and inspiring some future scientists! On World Book day (March 2nd) we all dressed as Scientists

to celebrate the many Science books and welcomed Professor Brainstorm himself! We are also looking forward to the inflatable Planetarium visit. This academic year we have also had a Five Pillars of Islam visitor- Imran Kotwal who was able to build on his work from his previous visit in September 2022. Our Diocesan Advisor and Mrs Ashleigh Lees (HT at All Saints) to support us with preparing for our SIAMs inspection. This is due to take place before the end of the academic year. They were both very complimentary about our current practice and were delighted to meet our Collective Worship Stars- twelve children who host our daily Collective Worship. Father Stephen is a regular visitor, as is Jen Holder (New Life Baptist Church) and Rev Sheilagh Williamson. We have a number of After School Clubs running including Netball, French, Football and our Sports Leaders (Y6 pupils) run a lunchtime club for the EYFS children. We had a Wheelchair Basketball club in the Summer term and this is booked again to visit during our Sports Week in June. Our Y6 children completed their 'mini-medics' First Aid training in October. All the children in school are still learning to communicate in British Sign Language- we learn a word of the week. We continue to sign the Lord's Prayer in our Collective Worship each day, led by our Collective Worship Star hosts. Our Christian Values for this academic year are: Forgiveness, Reverence and Gentleness. We are delighted that Father Stephen will be holding Confirmation classes in school during April and May ready for the Confirmation service on Sunday July 9th at 10.45am with Bishop Paul. We continued with our Ethical Leadership Framework in school during this year and our Ethical Leaders and Collective Worship Stars raised money for a Himalayan Prayer Garden, which is now in place at the entrance to the school building, providing time for the children to reflect or pray during their outdoor time. The Writing Shed and the Reading Shed continue to be a huge success for the children. One child even wrote a prayer to use in our Collective Worship. The Friends of the School were hugely successful in raising enough money through a Summer Fair and a Christmas Fair to build a new outdoor classroom for the children to use during Woodland School. We are very thankful for all their hard work with this. Governance Our Governing body continues to be a valuable and active support to our school. We held a Governor Hot-seating meeting in February so that the Governors could find out more about our school. This involved staff sharing information with the Governors e.g. our curriculum, our support for Tony and Jocelyn in Uganda, our annual Staff Wellbeing Retreat at the York Diocesan House-Wydale Hall. Links with St. Andrews We have been able to use St Andrew's for our celebrations during this year- we had our Harvest and Christmas services in church and were able to invite our parents- many thanks to the Red Pinny Brigade who are always happy to support these events. We donated tins to the Hambleton Food Share from our Harvest collection and we supported the Poppy Appeal. We sang Christmas Carols around the Christmas tree outside school and were able to perform our Christmas performances in the school hall once again. We have paid for Tony to go to school in Uganda and our pupils decided after meeting him and Jocelyn in a live TEAMS call, that they also wanted to pay for Jocelyn to go to school. The pupils are now making and selling cookies each Thursday to raise this money. The pupils also arranged for a suitcase to go to Uganda with Rev Sheilagh, with a washbag and pencil case for each of Tony's classmates. Our EYFS pupils raised money so that Tony and Jocelyn both received

a Christmas gift- proudly showing them off in the photograph. Collaboration We have continued to work very closely with the other Dales Academy Trust schools- All Saints Secondary School, Croft, Trinity Schools (Richmond), Ainderby Steeple, Kirkby Fleetham, Barton, Ravensworth, East Cowton, St Francis of Assissi, Thornaby, and Carnagill Community school. We warmly invite you to join us for Collective Worship, which is at 9.05am each day, so you can see our Christian vision and values at work. I look forward to meeting you all, Kind regards, Amanda Gledhill Headteacher South Otterington CE Primary School is strongly committed to using the Ethical Leadership Framework to create and uphold an ethos that stresses high achievement, equal opportunities, the valuing of cultural diversity, the provision of a secure environment, partnerships with parents and the wider community.

9. PG Thornton-le-Street

PG Report to Thornton le Moor with Thornton le Street Parish Council

29 March 2023

The Thornton le Street PG's purpose is to run get-togethers for villagers, welcoming everyone to our events that are simple to provide and easy to attend.

Over the last year we organised a number of events, which were generally well received and attended and included:

29 January 2022 – village coffee morning

3 June 2022 – Platinum Jubilee village street party. We used this event to raise funds for Cleveland Mountain Rescue, with £110 donated.

1 August 2022 – Yorkshire Day barbecue

13 January 2023 – Fish and Chip supper in the Village Hall

18 March 2023 – coffee and collage in the Village Hall, sharing and displaying photographs of Thornton le Street over the years.

We are currently planning a celebratory picnic for the Coronation.

Signed by Chairman:

Date: