

**Thornhaugh Parish Council**  
**Chair's Annual Report for the year April 2023 to April 2024**

The year to April 2024 has seen a new group of Councillors working together and all meetings have been held in the Church, with several residents attending at various times, and we have still had the support of Gavin Elsey, who will continue to represent us until after the forthcoming elections in May this year. Gavin has resigned from the Conservative Party and has been operating as an Independent, still serving our needs.

**Thornhaugh Parish Council Website**

I hope you have found the new website more user friendly and informative. We have had a number of questions via the "contact us" area of the site, as well as direct approaches to Councillors on various issues. Please don't hesitate to contact by whatever method you feel comfortable with if you want to raise issues or concerns.

**Planning Applications**

The Parish Council continues to review various planning applications coming from Peterborough City Council and these are all dealt with by the Parish Council, with decisions minuted as appropriate. All Planning applications are available for public viewing on the City Council website and comments from the Parish Council, made on behalf of the residents, are open to view.

**Footpaths**

Our footpaths are much used and appreciated by all. Landowners, in the main, continue to keep the paths clear for public enjoyment. Please respect the footpaths and don't drop litter. If your dog drops some "litter" please pick it up and put it in the bin provided on Russell Hill, which has been renewed in the last year.

**Village Events**

The Christmas Tree Lights event was once again a resounding success, with our grateful thanks to the Wansford Ukulele Folk for turning out in the cold and leading the festivities. Thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed it with us.

**Finances**

We continue to be vigilant in managing Parish funds, being aware that this money comes from residents' Council Tax to be used for the administration of Parish Council business and community projects and events. Copies of the accounts can be obtained at any time from the Clerk to the Parish Council and can be found on the Website.

Once again, this year we did not request an increase to the precept, bearing in mind the financial difficulties all Councils are experiencing.

Residents are encouraged to let the Parish Council have any ideas for projects during the year that would benefit the community.

**Other Matters**

***National Highways*** We continue to try and persuade National Highways to make adjustments to the A1 northbound entrance/exit from Thornhaugh and more particularly to get the layby just before the turning into Thornhaugh closed. They have confirmed that a review of the exit and layby is due during the next round of budget planning aimed for 2025.

**A47 Duelling** We have had an update from National Highways and confirm they are coming to the end of the Archaeology works. They are in the process of planning an Archaeology open day for 7<sup>th</sup> July at Sacrewell Farm to showcase the finds from the dig. Details yet to be confirmed.

With regards to the main construction – once the archaeological digs are complete, they will then look to carry out early works such as compound set ups and so on. They are unable to provide an exact timeline until the archaeology works are complete. They will be carrying out public information events before the main construction starts and will be informing all the parish councils where and when these will be taking place.

**Litter Picking** Once again our dedicated band of litter-pickers have been in operation. A massive thank you to all who participate and especially Nikki Higgins for her continued energy and organisational skills. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Nikki on [nikki@4stonecottage.co.uk](mailto:nikki@4stonecottage.co.uk).

**Book Exchange** This is still going strong, with many people taking advantage of it. It is a great attraction in the village. If you have any books to donate, please leave them at 10B Meadow Lane, Thornhaugh.

**Defibriller** Another year has gone by with the defibrillator in situ in the Church Porch - the only major asset that I am glad to be able to say we haven't needed to use. Long may that continue. Thanks go to Louise Molesworth, Ian Molesworth and Ade Rodgers who manage the checking and maintenance. A great training session was held at The Christie Hall on how to use the defibrillator in the event of an emergency. Some further First Aid sessions are planned in the future, subject to interest.

**Administration** Without the continued support and knowledge of the Clerk to the Parish Council, we would not be able to function as we do. Our thanks as always go to Deirdre McCumiskey for everything she does for us.

My personal thanks go to my fellow Councillors for their continued support and commitment. Your Parish Council is elected by you and is here for you. Please don't hesitate to contact any Councillor or the Clerk if you have any issues or suggestions. All contact details are on the website.

Christine Smith  
Chair, Thornhaugh Parish Council  
7<sup>th</sup> May 2024