

BURNHAM THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 9th May 2022 at 6.30 pm at The Nelson Memorial Hall, Burnham Thorpe

Present:

Councillors: Mima Garland (Chair), Valerie Southerland (Vice-Chair), Chris Yardley, Sarah Greenall, Will James, Sam Sandell (Borough Councillor) Andrew Jamieson (County Councillor) Clerk: Sarah Raven

Members of the Public: 4

1. Minutes of the last council meeting held on the 5th May 2021.

Minutes were circulated before the meeting, it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to be signed as a true record with no amendments by the Chair, Cllr M Garland.

2. Chairman's Annual Report:

Report Attached

3. Clerks Financial Report: -

Report Attached.

4. Report from Borough Councillor:

Report Attached.

5. Report from Andrew Jamieson County Councillor:

It is a pleasure working with the Borough Council. There is a new leader at the Borough Council making working with the County Council a lot better. Norfolk County Council (NCC) net revenue budget was £464 million which is a £25 million increase from last year. Council tax was increased to 2.99%. Lots of services have received significant increases in their budgets. Speed Limits under the Road Safety Community Fund to reduce the speed limit on the B1355 North and South Creake had been granted. This cannot be used for Burnham Thorpe although other schemes are available. NCC have been successful with bids for bus service improvement plans. Schemes working with the Borough Council particularly more bus services which link with the trains, QE Hospital and along the Coast. Also, to try park and ride along the A149. Regarding flooding and the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance, Anglian Water is taking things on board and plans in place. New nature recovery scheme working with the Norfolk Rivers Authority to recover River Hun and River Stiffkey. This work will start imminently. It is anticipated all six chalk river schemes will be covered in due course through this project. Hopefully funding will be granted for this project. Transport Plan is very ambitious. Five new walks opened in this Platinum Jubilee Year. James Wild MP has been lobbying for a change in the law to properties being leased out as businesses and not paying either council tax or business rates. This loophole is being closed. Businesses will need to demonstrate they have been let for more than 70 days a year. Cost of Living and Support Scheme package with hardship support. This is a payment that will cover what was free school meals but will benefit more people.

6. Report from Friends of Burnham Thorpe:

There is £87 still in the account for the Friends of Burnham Thorpe. The email list is still being used to circulate news and the parish newsletter and all residents and friends can subscribe to it

7. Report from Playing Field Committee:

Report Attached

8. Report from Nelson Memorial Hall:

Report Attached

9. Report from Church:

Report Attached.

10. Report from Holkham Estate:

Lord Nelson – Holkham are still working towards opening up the Nelson Museum. Progress has stalled of late, but Holkham are optimistic this will open in the near future.

Pub accommodation – Holkham have paused progressing the plans at present. Holkham will liaise with the PC in due course.

6 Walsingham Road – This property has remained unoccupied for over 12 months. Work is soon to commence to undertake the modernisation of this property.

11. Norfolk Constabulary:

None.

12. Questions and Statements from Parishioners:

- The Table Tennis Club still exists (but is playing elsewhere because of the county schedule) and have all the facilities in the hall. If anyone wants to play table tennis, then hall fees will be paid by the Table Tennis Club. The aim would be to provide a community resource which it is hoped parishioners will use.
- Regarding the proposed Nelson Museum concern was expressed around additional traffic and is parking being considered together with increased traffic from the Fakenham Road and traffic through the village. Could this be clarified with Holkham together with signage to the museum. The signage should not give the impression of a large museum – given its supposed to be the smallest museum in Norfolk
- Wi-Fi in the Hall - there is a Social Infrastructure Fund available from the Norfolk County Council for Parish Councils to bid for.
- Member of the Public asked Cllr Jamieson regarding free school meal payments and how this would be communicated to schools. Cllr Jamieson outlined the proposed solution and how this would be distributed
- Cllr Garland enquired with Cllr Jamieson regarding the reduction of the speed limit for Burnham Thorpe to 20mph in line with Cllr Jamieson’s manifesto pledge. The Parish Council would hope to join the group initiative for the A149 speed reduction. Cllr Jamieson explained this was proving to be a bigger project but was definitely still a work in progress
- Cllr Jamieson explained regarding the Nature Regeneration Scheme presentation to take place shortly. Cllr Jamieson would email details to Parish Council.

..... Chair Dated:

THESE MINUTES ARE UNCONFIRMED UNTIL APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL AND SIGNED ABOVE BY CHAIR

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT; MAY 2021-MAY 2022

Firstly, thanks to parish, district & county councillors, parishioners & others who work so hard for Thorpe. Special thanks for his great help go to Jason Byard, a longstanding parish councillor who resigned earlier this year – and we welcome Will James in his place. Thanks also to other village bodies, particularly the Playing Field Committee for help and support as we work alongside another, to the Hall committee and to those who help care for our Church. Together we do well. But special thanks are due to our terrific clerk Sarah Raven – she works hard, she's effective & most important – she really cares about Thorpe.

Keeping people informed and involved in the work of the PC is central to the work of the PC. Our last annual meeting was on Zoom, since when meetings have been in person. It was great to be able to get together, but in-person attendance was lower than previous years on-line attendance. We don't have the technology to enable remote access – perhaps something for the future? We also continue to keep people informed with a monthly Newsletter through their letterbox.

As many will remember we had the worst flooding in living memory in early 2021, with village roads impassable, wastewater – including dilute sewage – pumped into the Burn and the playing field becoming a temporary ice rink! Many Norfolk communities were affected and a high-level multi-organisational body – the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA), led by Lord Richard Dannat - was established to try to ensure all key bodies took appropriate action. The PC has worked hard to engage with the NSFA & individual bodies to try to get the changes and improvements needed – there have been some small improvements, but not enough. Happily, the County Council is taking advice from local sources of knowledge, and that should help in the future.

On a happy note, our pub, the Lord Nelson, reopened last June after being closed for nearly five years. It's a joy to have it back & I'm personally delighted to have Landlady Jessika & family as next-door neighbours. It's also great to have Blacksmith's Yard's housing fully occupied.

The PC worked hard with owners, tenants, potential developers, and neighbours on the pub and housing project. We tried, and I think to some extent succeeded, in getting the best outcome possible in the circumstances. We also work to provide useful input on planning and environmental matters outside the parish, at local, regional, and national level. A current example is support to a group of Norfolk parishes who are working to try and rationalise on-shore infrastructure for some off-shore windfarms.

Working with the County Council on highway & traffic matters is also our job. Some critical repairs have been carried out, speed awareness signing continues to be useful and we now have village Gateways close to Whitehall Farm. But speeding remains a problem and a survey confirmed a majority would like a 20mph speed limit in Thorpe. This information is with Councillor Jamieson.

A big traffic problem for Thorpe & other local villages in autumn 2020 was Egmore Energy's anaerobic digester feedstock tractors. Councillors & parishioners worked with EE to help fix this, without damage to farming & business interests, and the autumn 2021 harvest had a much less impact on our village.

Last year a village survey agreed to renew the Millennium Piece's lease for a further 20 years. But the cost of renewal rose significantly and another survey, setting out all costs and asking parishioners to reconfirm their decision, is due for return by mid-May.

So – it's your Parish Council – please tell us what we get wrong & what we should be doing! Thank you - Mima Garland, May 2022.

Clerks Financial Report 2021/2022 by S Raven (Clerk/RFO)

Balance as at 1 st April 2021	£12603.57
Receipts for the Year	£9379.25
Payments for the Year	£10288.98
Interest	£1.14

Closing Balance per Cash Book as at 31st March 2022 £11.694.90

CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)

Carried forward from previous year	£4202.94
Receipts received	£0.00
Payments:	
White Gateways	£202.59
Trim Trail	£1030.40
Notice Board	£676.00
Balance Remaining	£2239.95

Borough Councillor – Sam Sandell Report

A little introduction about myself, because since the last Parish Council AGM there are a changes to my role with in the Borough.

I have been the Borough Councillor for all the Burnhams for the past 8 years and for the last 3 years this has merged with Docking, Stanhoe, Barwick, Barmer and Bircham Newton.

Last May when we had a new Leader at the Borough Council I was given a position on the Cabinet. My cabinet role is called People and Communities. This covers a large portfolio ranging from housing standards, social inclusion (including migrant, homelessness, disabled and LGBGT). It also covers community initiatives, welfare and benefits, travellers, council tax and housing benefits, travellers, community safety, health prevention, promotion and improvement, local partnership trusts working with the Integrated Care System and the QEH. Also included are leisure, LILY and care and repair, financial assistance and lottery and community transport. I also sit on a number of outside bodies: Action for children, Active Norfolk, Burnham Overy Harbour trust, Community Action Norfolk, Freebridge Community Housing and the Health and wellbeing board based in Norwich at County Hall.

I also sit on the Local Plan task group at the Council.

Over the last year we have seen a different way of working at the Council some meetings are still on teams and some face to face.

We have been working hard in planting trees across the Borough and following several enquires we are working on a programme to provide thousands of saplings to be planted later this year.

Bin days will be changing from May 9th. A letter has been sent to all households. The Council are in talks with a company to review our bin lorries and start moving to electrically powered vehicles where possible although this will take a few years and older vehicles need replacing.

Planning applications continue to be high across the Borough, and we still have a few planning officer vacancies within the Borough. We are advertising but there is a national shortage of qualified planners.

The CIL Funding applications were very heavily oversubscribed in this round. I do encourage you to apply again.

We have seen a big increase in the Borough of people doing Neighbourhood Plans. I have always thought these were a good idea and have encouraged Parish Councils within my wards to look into them. You can't necessarily stop development or infill, but you can certainly shape the way you want your villages to look. Good and strong policies are key.

The Local Plan draft document has been submitted to the Planning inspectorate for review. This is a significant milestone in the process. The inspectorate will undertake the independent examination in public which will take place over the remainder of the year. The Local Plan is a key document for the borough as it allocates land for development and sets out a range of policies for delivering sustainable developments up to 2036.

Within my portfolio I am working on a Sports Facilities and Sport pitches initiative. This survey aims to shape the future of sports facilities and pitches within the Borough, not just for now but for the future of our health and wellbeing of residents and visitors. This is a good project. Please encourage people to get involved and get their voices heard. The email address is:- www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/sportsfacility research. This is open till May 17th 2022. We mustn't just think of now we must look into the future of the residents in West Norfolk. They must be able to access sports and recreational facilities so growing them now is really important. As we all know it's all about educating people and providing them with the tools to do this, also the health and wellbeing of our residents is really important.

Homeless numbers within the Borough are almost zero. We know of a couple of rough sleepers who we have made contact with. These people are not ready to engage yet. We have a number of emergency accommodation available. We have seen a high number of people presenting themselves at the council fleeing domestic violence situations and family breakdowns. The number has also risen due to the fact landlords are giving section 21 eviction notices due to selling the property. This may also be due to the landlords having a duty of care to provide adequate housing which has an energy efficiency rating of an E or above. We do have a high number of complex cases. These people are getting a high level of support.

The Ukraine situation is changing on a daily basis. It is difficult to say how many people are coming to the area. We have had a number of landlords offering up properties. These are being inspected to make sure they are up to a good standard. We have a number of support packages in place, from helping with benefits, food vouchers and schooling. There is a team at the Council office in Kings Court who are ready to help. As of last Monday, 12 refugee families were seen in the Welcome Centre. One of the refugees has also volunteered to help at the welcome centre. Primark vouchers and PAYG Sim cards are available along with welcome packs of toys and other wraparound support.

On the 17th March I attended the opening of the Big C Centre on the London Road in Kings Lynn. With aid of the Norfolk Community Foundation Funding to which I sit on the panel we were able to give them funds of £9,209.00 this went towards the cost of furniture, fixtures and fittings and IT support. This will support local people affected by cancer and, also family member who are living with people who have or have been affected by this awful disease, From the beginning of April they were hoping to be able to drop in chats if anyone wanted to pop in.

I don't have a very up to date briefing from the hospital re covid numbers and I am due an update soon which I can send to you in a separate update. The hospital has now over 1500 props holding it up. The Borough Council are continuing to support the hospital.

As portfolio holder I sit on the board of the active Clean connectivity programme. This is looking at ways to improve the cycling within Kings Lynn and encourage more people to cycle in. This is part of the Borough Council's £25 million town deal board.

With my Community Councillor grant monies, I donated £100.00 to Burnham Thorpe Village towards a defibrillator. £400 to Friends of Burnham Market School towards the cost of a defibrillator. £500 to Burnham Market surgery for benches. One to be out the front for people to sit and wait for transport etc and one for the dementia garden. The Borough Councillors have used their money for some great projects across the Borough. This was an initiative set up by the leader of the Council. It has been very successful. Hopefully we will be able to do this again.

I hope from the report you will see that the Council are delivering some good news across the Borough. I could write so much more.

More than happy to take emails. My role as you can see from the report has change some what from last year.

Best Wishes Sam
Borough Councillor for Burnham with Docking
Cabinet Member for People and Communities

Burnham Thorpe Playing Field Committee

The Playing Field has successfully installed the first phase of new equipment. We are expecting to continue fundraising for the remainder.

The bowls club have decided to wind up and we are assisting in their organisation of return of the site to us.

The Nelson carving has been very popular. It has also brought management challenges, such as an increase in dogs on the field. We will work with other local businesses and bodies to try and find solutions.

The management committee of 10 villagers meet regularly and at our recent AGM voted to register as a charity.

Our insurance costs have risen because of new equipment. Some items have been scheduled for maintenance. We would like to thank the Parish Council for CIL money toward the

purchase of the trim trial and also continue to support with regards to grass cutting and allowing the committee to focus on other management matters and fundraising.

Nelson Hall Report for 2021 Burnham Thorpe

Bookings

In common with other facilities The Nelson Hall is now open and fully operating as in pre-pandemic times. Nonetheless there is still an impact from cancellations when hirers fall to Covid infections. (Two such in April alone) Some repeat regular bookings have been lost for example table tennis where a league reorganisation meant that the club had to move to another hall to accommodate travel from visiting teams. Occasional bookings for parties and similar events are beginning to show a pick up especially for the summer months.

Fabric

Attention is focussed on upgrading the windows to the hall particularly to improve insulation. Planning permission has been sought to replace the "Crittall" windows at the front and the side of the building. The arched windows are a special listed feature and will need to be carefully restored before being double glazed on the insides.

We intend to install a publicly accessible defibrillator near the front door and have applied for the necessary funding.

Events

The Nelson Society are holding their annual meeting here in the Nelson Hall in October and of course we expect to be a focal point during the forthcoming Jubilee celebrations.

We want to thank all villagers for their support of this unique hall and will always welcome additional members to the committee for their advice and help.

Vicar's Report 2021 The Burnham Benefice

Numbers

2021 was a year when we emerged from lockdowns and anxieties and was characterised by firstly cautious and now a flourishing return to church. Sadly, amongst the more than 30 funerals I took last year, by far the majority in our churches or churchyards, some were of longtime faithful members of our congregation, notably Sylvia Tasker, Nora Goodley, Frieda Harley, and Mike Tapper. Others have fallen ill and are unable to join Sunday services so in total it is easy for me to name more than a dozen missing from our pews. From an electoral roll of 63 last year this is a significant change which you cannot fail to notice. Less obviously we do have some new worshippers which is encouraging.

How delightful that weddings were back last summer with seven taking place together with a wedding blessing at Overy Staithe, making a busy but enjoyable season. During the summer we welcomed two babies into the church in two enjoyable baptism services.

Services

Services have continued in our TOWN pattern with the addition of a monthly choral evensong, initially at Thorpe but now established on the third Sunday of the month at Sutton. We held a special service of remembrance and thanksgiving relating to the pandemic at Thorpe in November where all of our regular organists played and we heard from members of the community - a headteacher, a nurse, a doctor, a chair of a parish council and the bereaved. We held an innovative Harvest Festival at St. Margaret Norton, some of which we were able to hold outside. We have had a pulpit swap between the Holkham and Burnham benefices as we work ever more closely together. Trafalgar day was celebrated with the seacadets from Wells and plans are in place for this year's service. Rotating Daily Morning Prayer, which was introduced over three years ago continues with regular and new attendees.

Fundraising and other events

Although circumscribed by Covid regulations the fete at Burnham Norton took place in the form of a pop up Bric-a Brac sale, the Burnham Overy fete returned at full steam (well sail) and the Burnham Breck Camping navigated the restrictions with a reduced number of pitches and did extremely well. We saw the inception of Thorpe Music which put on concerts at All Saints Thorpe and attracted audiences and first time church visitors. The Burnham Market craft fair did not take place last year so the well loved and supported church lunch did not take place.

The Vicar's other activities

I continue to be present at the local schools, giving regular assemblies either live or via video. I am the vice chair of governors on the joint board for the two primary schools in Wells and Burnham. Talking Elephants, the bereavement group, runs regularly at the Community Hospital where I am now a trustee. I visit Heritage House occasionally, supporting Brenda Stewart as needed. I remain chair of the Nelson Hall Committee. I attend the various parish council meetings when my diary permits. All of these activities support the priest's presence in the parish.

Concerns

Now that we have mapped the federation between Holkham and Burnham benefices the main ongoing concern is the shortage of church officers. This is most urgent at St. Mary Westgate where there are now *no* officers, so the organisation of services, finance, fabric matters and general administration falls to the vicar and the hard worked churchwarden of Norton. This is unsustainable. Reliance on a very few affects the three other churches as well where faithful and capable people who have served for many years are growing older and struggle to relinquish responsibilities. We held a "Jointly held PCC meeting" in November and issued an appeal in the magazine. This was not unheeded but yielded welcome offers for occasional light churchyard work or cleaning rather than any more substantial contributions.