

# BURNHAM THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2022

### NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

This will be held on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 at 6.30 pm in the Nelson Memorial Hall. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

### STREET LIGHTING – MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I thought it would be useful to tell you all about how your Parish Council operates and how matters are raised, discussed, challenged then decisions made and implemented.

I want to tell you about the process and the integrity of every decision that is made but also how necessary it is to make decisions to ensure that we continue to enjoy and protect the environment. Whether it is next door's six storey extension or the flooding of the Burn

The reason I am doing this is because over a period of four months the Council has been considering street lighting. We have looked at the benefit we get from our rather limited number of street lights, the cost and whether we should be upgrading the quality of the lights and our control over them. We have thought about the safety of our children and the vulnerable in our community, the amenity they provide and we have also been encouraged to look at the Dark Skies initiative which aims to reduce light pollution.

Street lighting is one of those things that it seems you can never quite get right...too many and we have an over-lit housing estate-like effect with skies that slightly odd shade of orange; too few and we get puddles of light and dark corners that do not benefit everyone. The lights in Thorpe are not providing a significant amount of illumination and are not that controllable – the cost of maintenance and upgrade while not huge is a cost.

After discussion in various open council meetings the decision was taken to trial a switch off.

This decision was minuted and communicated on the Parish website and in the newsletter.

It is therefore with some disappointment that I have to report that a number of parishioners appear to have been caught a little off-guard by the switch-off and have raised questions around decision making, communication and the integrity.

The trial has had the desired outcome – people are thinking, as your Council has done, about the advantages and disadvantages of the village lights. At the next council meeting I am expecting everyone who has sent an email and had conversations in the streets to come and express their views and to listen to those who have different views.

We will then make a decision about whether to continue with the trial based on the village consensus about whether to continue with the trial or to turn the lights back on.

In the meantime or if you cannot make the meeting then come round when my car is in the drive – I make excellent coffee I love listening and I love good conversation.

Will James – Buntings – Chair of your Council

#### **HIGHWAYS**

Please do contact the Clerk if there are any potholes or other issues within the parish. These can also be reported on the [Norfolk County Council website](#) or telephone number: 03448008020.

#### **MINUTES**

The minutes to all parish meetings are on the website and the Noticeboard near the bus shelter. If parishioners with no internet access would like copies of the minutes or other documents, then please contact the Clerk.

#### **CONTACT**

Any suggestions please contact the Clerk – Sarah Raven on email: [clerkburnhamthorpe@gmail.com](mailto:clerkburnhamthorpe@gmail.com) or telephone 01328 738512 / 07788516733.

Further information, including all previous Newsletters, are on the website for Burnham Thorpe Parish Council: <https://clerkburnhamthorpe.wixsite.com/btpc>