



## THORNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

### THORNBOROUGH ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY REPORT 2026

You are very welcome this evening as we meet to celebrate our village's achievements and discuss our challenges.

May I take this opportunity to report on what your Parish Council has been doing in the past year.

Thornborough Parish Council should consist of 7 councillors. During the year that number has fluctuated, at one point we did achieve 7 members which really helps to spread the workload.

In June last year we were very sad to accept the resignation of Ray Goodger who had been a Parish Councillor, boy and man, for over 50 years. Ray was an invaluable member of our team and his contributions to the village are a big loss. Enjoy your retirement, Ray, it is well deserved – you did your bit! There is an ornamental tree, Prunus Kanzan, planted outside the Village Hall to remind us of Ray and all the work he did around the village

In September Will Morris was co-opted to the Council. We are very pleased to welcome a younger member of the village.

And we have also lost two councillors this year.

Richard Dove resigned in January. He will be a huge loss to our community. He was 'into everything' and has had a vital role in making sure that the level of the pond has kept steady in addition to championing biodiversity, monitoring trees, chairing the Finance Group and being part of Thornborough Flood Action Group (TFAG) as well as all the other roles that a councillor fulfils. Thanks to Richard for his support.

Michael Synnott resigned in March. Micheal's comments, advice and research results have contributed to the council's decisions - thanks to Michael for his support.

The remaining members of the Parish Council are Lynn Morgan, Richard Burden and Rupert Bursell whom, along with Will, I thank whole heartedly for their work over the last year.

At this point I would like to urge you to consider becoming a councillor. It's an interesting role; you get to know the village well and its residents. Currently, with the exception of, Will I think we would all admit to being more senior members of the community. We need younger people, we won't last for ever and we are losing our strength.

Most people don't really know what their Parish Council does – this is a definition:  
*A parish council is the first tier of local government in England, representing residents at a grassroots level by delivering specific local services, managing amenities, and influencing planning. They improve community life by maintaining playgrounds, village halls, lighting, and open spaces, while acting as a statutory consultee on local development.*

And what that means, amongst other things is that:

- they make sure that the streetlights work and are paid for
- that the parish grass within the village is cut
- that the playground is safe and fit for purpose
- that the allotments are available for those who wish to rent them
- that the sports field is fit for use
- and that planning requests are considered with the good of the village in mind.

I hope you feel we achieve this. And more, I sincerely hope that some of you tonight will feel that being a councillor is something you would like to do. It is an interesting role and varied as you will learn shortly and never a dull moment as they say – Thornborough Parish Council really does need two more members – could it be you? Without a full complement of councillors we will not be able to achieve everything we would like to achieve.

Please we do need your help.

Projects this year have included the eco biodiversity project. Wildflowers have been planted around the village and the pond needed attention. Those reeds can really grow!

The Sports field has been maintained. What a joy to see cricket being played there in the summer.

As the cricket teams go from strength to strength the Pavilion is feeling the strain. Basic maintenance is ongoing but there are plans/hopes to extend the shower facilities, there are just not enough

This means two things. That funds need to be raised to do this but also – the Pavilion should not just be for summer use. The Parish Council is looking for sports organisations that would like to rent it for use in the winter, be it as a base for activities or as a winter 'club house'.

The Pavilion really needs us all to get it back on its feet. It must be one of the key focuses of the Parish Council's work over the next year or two.

And have you seen Cowerde Brook. This is the brook that runs alongside the far Sports Field – previously shrouded in nettles in the summer and covered in shrubs and undergrowth through the winter. I didn't even know its name previously and even less how picturesque it is. We are hoping that it may become more of a venue for relaxation within the village. How about children's parties and picnics. What a site for fun and games with the Pavilion available. Here's hoping!

The children's playground at the other end of the village continues to be busy with users – great. It does need constant vigilance to keep it safe; it is regularly inspected but please, do let a councillor know if you spot a problem. Also, it must be regularly cleaned and helpers are always welcome for that job.

There have been various work parties. There have been informal litter picks and a big thank you to the residents who pick litter as they walk around the village – it is noticed and it is appreciated. TFAG, much more about that shortly, organised a work party to 'excavate' the ditches at the end of Back Street and the bottom of Thornton Road by Hatchet's Leys Lane – what a difference that has made.

The spirit of our village continues to shine out in the activities that take place, the Church, the Chapel and the School as solid evidence of so much caring.

Communication in the village is key. There is a new Community Noticeboard beside the pond – please feel free to use it.

Thornborough News continues to keep us regularly well informed of past and future events. Thanks to all who are involved in producing, collating and distributing it.

Thornborough ENews continues to inform us and keep us up to date. Thanks for those who manage it.

Very recently the village has said goodbye, and thank you for everything, to the Reverend Dove. Jacqueline, and Richard, very quickly became so very much part of our community and they will be sorely missed. Happy landings Doves!

And one final thankyou and goodbye. Our Parish Clerk, Alison, is taking well deserved retirement. We thank her for all the years of service and friendship she has given both to councillors and to Thornborough residents.

She has led/pushed/pulled us through the complexities of, as I mentioned earlier *the first tier of local government in England* and it is far more complex and demanding role than one might imagine. Without Alison's guidance and support we would have had a much harder time of it.

I know that Alison has put a lot of her own time and energies into supporting our village and I am personally very grateful for that as I am sure you are too. Alison, a very sincere thank you, for everything.

I am sure that there is lots I have missed, my apologies for that but I will stop now. And finally, once again your Parish Council really does need you!!

My fellow councillors and I will be happy to answer questions and more importantly to hear what you would like to happen in your village in the future.