

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

### Thornborough Annual Parish Assembly Report – held on 26 March 2025

#### 1 Arrival and Welcome

There was an opportunity both before and after the Assembly for residents to look at the display boards and talk to the Councillors about the village priorities and/or ask questions about Thornborough Parish Council (TPC).

Cllr Mary Taylor, Chair of TPC, warmly welcomed everyone. She introduced the Councillors and explained the purpose and structure of the Annual Parish Assembly.

#### 2 Annual Parish Meeting Report 2024

There were no outstanding matters arising from the 2024 Annual Assembly Report.

#### 3 Community Group/Organisation Reports

The following groups were thanked for their reports:

- St Mary the Virgin Church
- Thornborough Cricket Club (TCC)
- Thornborough and Thornton Fundraisers
- Thornborough Infant School
- Thornborough Methodist Chapel
- Thornborough News
- Thornborough Village Hall Trust
- Thornborough and Thornton WI.

The Chair reported the apologies received from some of the community representatives<sup>1</sup> and invited those who were present to talk about anything they wished to highlight.

The President of the Cricket Club highlighted the Junior Cricket Festival being held on the August bank holiday weekend.

The Head Teacher introduced herself before highlighting the school's current sports and music focus; its recent and planned extra curricula activities; the importance of the school being part of the community and its links with other village initiatives. She concluded by thanking the Fundraising Group for undertaking to allocate the money raised from the Open Gardens weekend – 14 and 15 June 2025.

The Chapel Steward talked about the extensive repairs to the chapel roof and the internal repair work which now had to be undertaken. She thanked the community for its patience during the roof repairs which meant the scaffolding was in place for much longer than originally anticipated and explained about the roof repairs delaying the chapel's plans to install wi-fi.

The Editor of Thornborough News reported a drop in advertising revenue. He asked those present and the wider community to use their networks to encourage more advertising so the current publication of six editions annually could be maintained.

The Community Reports are published as part of the Assembly outputs – please see the link at the end of this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Rev Dove; the Village Hall Trustees and the President of Thornborough and Thornton WI.

#### **4 Thornborough Parish Council (TPC) Report 2025**

Cllr Taylor as Chair of TPC gave the report. She highlighted the work undertaken following the flooding in late September 2024 and outlined the planned next steps, before encouraging all residents to be 'flood ready'. She also highlighted the increased financial and other demands of ageing assets such as the pavilion and playground, and the work undertaken by the councilor-led working parties. Cllr Taylor mentioned the challenges of what are referred to by the sector as 'casual vacancies', before talking about the forthcoming local council elections.

The TPC written report is published with the other reports prepared for the Assembly.

#### **5 Questions and/or Observations**

The Lower End Bridge was discussed. Cllrs Taylor and Morgan explained TPC had worked closely with its ward councillors to stress the urgent need for desilting. Although the work had been 'scheduled', the date(s) had yet to be announced by the relevant authorities.

There was then some discussion about the problems of the reeds/rushes which habitually colonise the waterways, potentially causing blockages. Followed by mention of a drain becoming overgrown, which again could make flooding more likely.

#### **6 Ecological Biodiversity**

Cllr Morgan explained the requirement for all local councils to have a Biodiversity Policy before outlining TPC's ongoing policy implementation work to enhance the ecological biodiversity within the parish. She listed the existing excellent local wildlife habitats, before providing an overview of TPC's plans to focus next on improving habitats for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Cllr Morgan then outlined the following options residents might want to try in their own gardens and other agreed spaces:

- Option 1      Let the grass grow and leave the garden wild - often referred to as No Mow May which doesn't need to involve the whole garden or be restricted to the month of May, selective 'wild areas' are surprisingly beneficial.
- Option 2      Developing areas of pollinators, wildflowers or nectar rich flowers from scratch in your garden or in agreed locations around the Parish.
- Option 3      Utilising what we already have in our garden and adding extras – such as creating a 'dead hedge', 'nectar cafes', bee hotels and butterfly houses.

If they had not already done so, those at the Assembly were encouraged to look at the display boards and take copies of the leaflets.

Cllr Morgan concluded by publicising the next Working Party on Sunday 27 April to undertake some work in the centre of the village. The planned work includes planting native wildflowers behind the bench by the pond.

During the subsequent discussion, a resident encouraged the planting of 'garden' rather than wild plants as pollinators and Cllr Dove expertly talked about the complexities of creating new wildflower meadows.

#### **Published Output:**

**[Annual Parish Assembly - Thornborough Parish Council](#)**