

**MINUTES OF THE THROPTON PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST MAY 2024
COMMENCING 7PM IN THROPTON WAR MEMORIAL HALL**

Those Present: J Sutton, R Aplin, N Tuckey, C Foggon, S Bertram, C Miller (Clerk), ten members of the public

1/24 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2/24 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 16th May 2023

RESOLVED:

Those present agreed the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 16th May 2023 were a true record.

3/24 Public Participation

On a local and global level, R Aplin had concerns relating to environmental issues. Many residents are taking measures to alleviate problems, the local W.I. monitor river levels and pollution, and Thropton Together carry out village maintenance. The Parish Council take environmental issues into consideration, for instance when commenting on planning applications, and lobbying County Council on matters such as road flooding. R Aplin suggested a community environmental group be formed. Resident had concerns regarding water quality in the Wreigh Burn. Until two years ago there had been a colony of dippers, however discharge had entered the burn with the dippers having disappeared, as they only enter clean water. Northumbrian Water and Environment Agency had investigated and rectified where foul water was coming from, however there were still problems with water coming from somewhere on the hillside. Northumbrian Water should revisit and fully investigate, along with Natural England. Resident advised the Environment Agency no longer visit the parish. J Sutton suggested water quality can be checked via a dyeing method. Resident advised problems were thought to be on one side of the village, with dirty water and properties having been investigated.

Northumbrian Water had carried out testing last year, however some homes have septic tanks and a lot of rainfall could cause problems.

Resident advised polythene is difficult to get rid of, often dumped within general waste, and seems to be the major plastic. It was possible this could be collected, and County Council may be able to provide centralised bins. Other parts of the country do offer a range of services such as food waste collection. There are currently recycling bins at the Rothbury CO-OP and Alnwick Morrisons for polythene. The current recycling bins at the Village Hall were problematic, due to people accessing the back of the hall. There had been plans to move them to the front by the gate, and they could possibly be resited at the Spar. All plastic bottles can now be put in recycling bins. Parish Council can lobby the County Council, and it would be good if recycling bins could be located in the parish. The school are very interested in climate change, with pupils involved. Village Hall should have solar panels installed by the end of the year, and energy can be shared to support the community. There is a Thropton resident who works in renewable energies, who may have suggestions. A Wind turbine could assist, Wingate's and the surrounding area do benefit from nearby turbines through community funds. The downside being they cannot be recycled, hold oil and are detrimental to wildlife.

Spar lighting discussed, with the sign able to be viewed from Snitter, and in winter months there is significant light pollution. However there are regulations for fuel stations at night-time, lights are turned off at 9pm and

lighting is as low as it can be. Thropton school lights were brighter due to them being on individual sensors, but the problem had now been resolved.

Resident present had served on the Parish council and been disappointed by how little regard is taken by the County Council. If residents were more interested in the Parish Council, the County Council would take more notice if they could see parishioners taking a lead. There is a very vibrant community, and the Parish Council could link up with community groups who could nominate a person as a link to the Parish Council. R Aplin to liaise with community groups and link in with forming an environmental committee. Resident asked if the Parish Council had considered a social media page. This could be set up by joining onto Thropton Together facebook page. Resident asked if the Parish Council can do more to tell parishioners what the Parish Council do.

A strong link between the parish council and residents needs to be made. R Aplin stated an election would result in a democratically elected Council. Residents do not appear to read parish council notices in the parish noticeboard. Resident advised Seahouses Parish Council thrives due to the County Cllr referring people to the Parish Council as a first port of call.

Resident advised in his experience the best service happens when the Parish and County Cllr work closely together. Parish Council comments carry more weight if amplified by the County Cllr, however trying to attract residents to meetings could cause problems if they raise issues the Parish Council cannot assist with.

Resident asked if the police ever attended Council meetings. Clerk advised this did happen occasionally, where a PCSO would attend.

There were parking issues in the village, exacerbated by vehicles parking on pavements. The Parish Council had prepared a traffic management plan, County Council had looked at it, however traffic calming possibilities had not been popular in the parish, which had resulted in negativity for the Parish Council. Items such as interactive signage would need to be financed by parishioners through their parish precept, which had not been raised for many years until recent times. Data suggests there are approximately 2.7 cars per dwelling in the parish.

Those present were asked to give their contact details, should they be interested in creating an environmental group.

S Bertram suggested a mail chimp account be created for circulation via a subscriber system. A community email circulation would be a further option to keep residents aware of Parish Council business.

County Council had advised works to alleviate water in the village were scheduled.

4/24 Any Other Business

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8pm

5/24 Date of Next Meeting

The next annual assembly will be held on Tuesday 20th May 2025 commencing 7pm in the War Memorial Hall.