

Thurlton Parish Council Chairman's Report for 2021-2022

The beginning of the PC year was marked by the return to face-to-face Parish Council meetings, as the emergency legislation to allow meetings to be held via Zoom/Teams expired and was not replaced by the government.

Since then all Parish Council meetings have been held face-to-face in either the Thurlton Village Hall or the Norton Chapel (whilst the Village Hall had its floor replaced), where we have had, at times, a number of residents attend to discuss local issues.

During the early part of the year, we concluded discussions on whether to progress a formal "Neighbourhood Plan" for the village, these are costly to produce and require a long-term commitment from the wider community to be effective. We had a representative from Poringland Council present to the Parish Council, to help explain the approach they took and the level of commitment as well as the benefits they have seen from the exercise. In the end the Thurlton Parish Council decided to defer any further activity on this to a later date, as the benefits we would expect to receive would not match the costs involved.

We have re-vitalised our engagement with the Village Hall committee and are now working far more closely together on mutually beneficial projects, eg CCTV – thanks to Claire for picking up this responsibility

Our main project for the year has been the work on Mill Lane. Since the Parish Council have now been confirmed as the lawful owners of the lane, we are working to complete a re-surfacing project to restore vehicular access for disabled and emergency services to the playing field via this route. We have obtained a level of grant funding and will be awarding the contract shortly.

Finally, the Parish Council is supporting the Queens Jubilee celebrations in June. This is a cross-organisation initiative which is being ably led by Gill on behalf of the Parish Council (and the village!)

Paul Jackson

Thurlton Parish Council (Chair)