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# Thurcroft Parish Council

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Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, Green Arbour  
Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9DD

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## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023

Present: **B. Clark, Chairman of Thurcroft Parish Council (Chair), Thomas Collingham Clerk & RFO for Thurcroft Parish Council (Notetaker).**

There was 15 members of public in attendance.

**The meeting started at 6.30pm**

### **AM/2023/01. Matters Arising from last meeting**

There are no recorded minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022. Therefore, the minutes can not be used for matters arising.

### **AM/2023/02. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022**

There are no previous minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022, therefore, approval was unable to be taken on the accuracy of the minutes.

### **AM/2023/03. Report of the Parish Council Chairman**

There was a report given by the outgoing chair, Cllr Donna Andrews.

*"Good evening, As my term as the chair of Thurcroft Parish Council draws to a close, it is with a mix of emotions that I stand before you today. It has been an honour and privilege to serve as your chairperson, and I am grateful for the trust and support bestowed upon me throughout my tenure.*

*First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to each and every council member for their unwavering commitment, dedication, and tireless efforts in advancing our shared objectives. It is through your collective wisdom, vision, and collaborative spirit that we have been able to achieve significant milestones and make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.*

*During my time as chair, we have faced numerous challenges. Alan West retired from post in June last year after almost 40 years of service to the Council and a massive thank you to Cllr Dave Fretwell who stepped up in the interim over the summer until a new Clerk was appointed in September. We also had the aftermath of a by-election that saw eight new councillors joining the ropes of the Council eager to learn new processes.*

*We have also witnessed remarkable achievements. Laughton Common have benefited from a playground fit for a king with the new equipment gaining wide praise from residents, and we continued to invest in the environment with new benches across the parish and tree planting as part of Rotherham Council's commitment to plant more trees across the borough. There have been many events throughout the year, Remembrance Sunday for Thurcroft had its best resident's attendance in many years, as well as a fantastically festive Christmas lights switch*



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*on by our Christmas Card competition winner. In the last days of my role, the Kings Coronation event took place that was celebrated throughout the village bringing together each venue to celebrate in their own way and the parish council had a well-attended Medieval Reenactment with children getting passionately involved in the games showing true Thurcroft spirit!*

*Together, we have navigated complex issues, engaged in thoughtful deliberations, and taken decisive actions to drive meaningful change. I am immensely proud of the progress we have made and the transformative initiatives we have spearheaded.*

*I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to the council's staff, whose hard work and commitment behind the scenes have been instrumental in ensuring the smooth functioning of our operations. Their dedication and professionalism have been invaluable, and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their unwavering support.*

*As the outgoing chair, I would be remiss not to acknowledge the invaluable guidance and mentorship I have received from my predecessors. Their wisdom, experience, and leadership have inspired me and shaped my journey. I am grateful for their trust and for paving the way for me to contribute to the council's success.*

*Furthermore, I want to recognise the achievements and contributions of each council member individually. Your expertise, passion, and commitment have been crucial in driving our Council forward. It is through your diverse perspectives and collaborative spirit that we have been able to find innovative solutions to new ideas or problems and create a lasting impact.*

*As I pass on the baton to Cllr Brian Clark, I have full confidence in his ability to lead with distinction, inspire others, and steer this council towards greater heights. I encourage you all to extend the same support and cooperation to them that you have generously bestowed upon me. Together, under their capable leadership, I am confident that we will continue to achieve remarkable results and bring about positive change.*

*Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the community we serve. It is their trust, faith, and unwavering belief in our abilities that have fuelled our endeavours and kept us motivated. As we move forward, let us never forget the impact we have on the lives of those we represent and the responsibility we bear to advocate for their needs and aspirations.*

*In conclusion, it has been an incredible privilege to serve as the chairperson of Thurcroft Parish Council. I am profoundly grateful for the experiences, friendships, and memories that I will carry with me as I step down from this role. I am confident that our council will continue to flourish under new leadership, guided by our shared values and commitment to excellence."*

Cllr Donna Andrews was presented with a card and flowers to say thank you for her time as Chair of Thurcroft Parish Council. Cllr B. Clark presented a report on what is to come from Thurcroft Parish Council over the next 12 months.



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*"I stand before you today as the chairperson of Thurcroft Parish Council to express my heartfelt gratitude and to address some important points. It is indeed an honour to be entrusted with the responsibility of presiding over this Council and guiding our proceedings.*

*First and foremost, I would like to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you. Your presence here today is a testament to your commitment, passion, and dedication towards our common goals. Together, we form a diverse and dynamic community, united by our shared purpose and driven by our desire to make a positive impact.*

*We have many projects planned throughout this next year and some that are coming to fruition in the last few weeks. We are pleased to announce that hanging baskets will be in place in the next couple of weeks for the summer months, and that an order has been placed this week for new Christmas lights for Thurcroft, Laughton Common and Brampton.*

*Working alongside Rotherham Council, we have made a significant investment into the new library building for Thurcroft. A relocation of the building into the heart of the village next to the Gordon Bennett, making it more accessible for residents. Work is due to begin on the 5th June for the next 20 weeks.*

*Looking forward to the future, the Council are beginning to have early conversations about a 'revamp' of the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall. The community building is a great asset to Thurcroft, providing a space for many local groups for the village, as well as a hub for weekend parties.*

*Thurcroft Cemetery is beginning to fill up to the maximum of its current extension. There are plans to extend the cemetery and this will need to be a focus in the next 12 months to be able to continue with the offer for the future.*

*That being said, Let us reflect upon the significance of our collective efforts. Our vision and mission have brought us together, and it is through collaboration, cooperation, and open dialogue that we can truly accomplish great things. As the chairperson, my role is not only to chair but also to foster an environment of inclusivity and respect, where everyone's voice is heard and valued.*

*In the time we spend together, let us embrace the power of constructive discourse. Let us engage in meaningful conversations, where diverse perspectives can enlighten our understanding and challenge our preconceived notions. Through this exchange of ideas, we can collectively arrive at innovative solutions and pave the way for progress.*

*I encourage each and every one of you to actively participate, share your expertise, and contribute your unique insights. Your knowledge and experiences are invaluable assets that can enrich our discussions and shape our decisions. Remember, it is through the collective wisdom of this Council that we can address the challenges before us and seize the opportunities that lie ahead.*



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*Furthermore, as chairperson, I would like to emphasize the importance of maintaining decorum and respect throughout our meetings. Let us engage in healthy debates, always mindful of the impact our words and actions can have on others. By fostering an environment of mutual respect and understanding, we can ensure that every individual feels valued and empowered to contribute their best.*

*In conclusion, I am confident that our collective efforts will lead to meaningful outcomes and set us on a path towards success. As we embark on this journey together, let us remember that each one of us plays a vital role in shaping our shared destiny. Together, we can create a lasting impact and leave a legacy that inspires generations to come.*

*Thank you once again for your presence and participation. I wish you all a productive and enriching experience during our time together."*

### **AM/2023/04. Report of the RMBC Councillor for Thurcroft & Wickersley South**

Cllr Zachary Collingham on behalf of the RMBC Councillors for Thurcroft and Wickersley South, he gave an update on the progress from RMBC and the representation for Thurcroft at the borough level. He summarised the work with the road resurfacing in the village, as well as the initial outlines for the Towns and Villages project to rejuvenate the high street.

### **AM/2023/05. Any Other Business, for discussion only**

Various matters were discussed by electors. These included;

- Antisocial behaviour from motorbikes in village and what can be done to stop this from happening with how can the recreation field be sealed off from vehicles.
- Residents discussed when the next skip will be available in the village. However, there is a change in the law that is causing complications for the next skips.
- Thurcroft Cemetery and the provision of water, and a suspected tap which was clarified by an elector as a previous bowser in the cemetery.
- The Assets and land of the parish council being held in Charitable Trust for protection from being sold.
- Support for Brampton en-le Morthen and their recent petition for road safety.
- Grass cutting throughout the village is not good enough from RMBC.
- Car theft and making sure people are reporting crime.
- Attendance to the centennial event at Laughton en-le Morthen for the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the War Memorial.

Cllr B Clark thanked people for their attendance and brought the meeting to a close.



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The meeting closed at 19:30