



## Thurcroft Parish Council

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

e: [clerk@thurcroftparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@thurcroftparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 May 2025

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

There was 5 members of public in attendance.

**The meeting started at 5.00pm**

#### **AM/2025/01. Matters Arising from last meeting**

- Bulb and flowers around the village have been extended to include more streets in Thurcroft, and Brampton and Laughton Common.
- The Towns and Villages programme cannot be extended to the other side of the street due to different ownership on both sides.
- The grass cutting in the Playground in Brampton en-le Morthen has now been actioned.
- Requests for a village newsletter – watch this space! This will be actioned in the coming months.
- Events to be louder with more advertising. This has been actioned with notices in the noticeboards and announcements on Facebook.
- The land in the middle of The Crescent is under private ownership and each household is responsible for the land in front of their house.
- Cutting back the Mineral Line has now been actioned.

#### **AM/2025/02. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

No matters were raised in the minutes.

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record, and that the chairman sign the bottom of each page of the minutes to verify that these are approved.

#### **AM/2025/03. Report of the Parish Council Chairman**

The Chair started by welcoming electors to the Annual Parish Meeting before reading through his annual update.

*I have had the honour of being Chair of Thurcroft Parish Council for 2 years now. I will happily admit to being something of a rabbit in the headlights this time 2 years ago, however I cannot believe how much I have learned in that time. I will never feel like an expert, but I definitely know a lot more than I did!*



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*My task has been made so much easier because of the incredible support I have had from my fellow councillors and am genuinely humbled by the trust they have placed in me.*

*I have of course been very ably supported in the role by Cath Walker, who has stepped in on a number of occasions when I have been unable to attend functions or chair meetings. Thank you Cath.*

*In the 14 months since our last Public Meeting much has happened. We had a Deputy Clerk who left for a 'full' Clerk role elsewhere, and an Admin assistant who unfortunately had to leave after 6 weeks due to family support issues. We replaced the Deputy Clerk with Amanda who has learned from scratch but quickly become part of the Parish 'family'.*

*We then had a real period of turmoil in November 2024 when our Clerk left for another role on promotion. This ended up being quite a sudden departure, leaving us in something of an immediate predicament. We had nonetheless appointed a new Clerk (Sarah) who started with us on 1st December. Sarah came to us with no experience of being a Parish Clerk, but plenty of relevant skills and a real desire to learn.*

*In the 5 months since December the transformation is remarkable. Not only has Sarah settled in and become confident in her role, Amanda has too, and they both have given tremendous support to each other, myself, and my fellow councillors. This has been further enhanced by the more recent addition of Sue to the team as Admin Support. I am pleased to say we now have a settled Parish office team who work well together, support each other and are determined to continually improve the Parish and its functions. They have already made huge strides in establishing more efficient processes and resolving 'confusions' from past council operations, not least in how they've really got to grips with the cemetery and how it is managed. Thank you, our Parish Clerk team.*

*Despite the challenges the Parish Council has made real positive progress. Our Audit Report for 2024 raised few issues – a far cry from 2 years ago when we were picked out as being something of a failure. The drive over the last 2 years has been focussed on securing the foundations of the Parish Council both from a financial and functional perspective. I am confident that we are now an efficient, professional Council which operates fully within its legal framework. We are now focussed on continuous improvement.*

*Thank you to all Councillors and staff who have contributed to this tremendous progress.*

*Unfortunately, we have seen a few Councillors unable to continue with their role. Some stood down at the May 2024 elections and some have since left for personal reasons. I would like to put on record my thanks to them for their contributions over the years. Nonetheless we have recently added 2 new councillors through the co-option process and will always welcome new*



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*'recruits' to fill the vacancies we have, particularly from Laughton Common which is not currently represented.*

*A number of highlights from the past year are: (in no particular order) -*

*New Notice boards in Thurcroft and Laughton Common*

*Events in summer, at Easter, Halloween, and Christmas, including the second year of our new Christmas street lighting.*

*Supporting the Remembrance events in November and last week for the VE Day 80th celebrations*

*New flagpoles in Thurcroft and Brampton*

*Begun the creation of a proper miners memorial, soon to be completed.*

*Negotiated and put in place new contracts for a number of services and groups including – grounds and garden maintenance resulting in much improved grass cutting and maintenance throughout the Parish, with Thurcroft FC for the hire of pitches, and running of the Gordon Bennett Bar.*

*The Flowers and baskets throughout the Parish. In particular the hanging baskets were spectacular last year.*

*Improving our financial investment strategy to make the most of our money reserves.*

*Enhanced the working relationships with some of our community groups – e.g. Thurcroft FC and Thurcroft Veterans. We now have really positive relationships with these groups.*

*Kicked off the redevelopment programme for the Gordon Bennett through consultation with local residents and user groups.*

*Awarded financial grants to local groups such as BelM Village Association, Thurcroft Bowls Club, Toddler Group, Willows School etc*

*Continued to report issues to RMBC such as rubbish accumulation and fly-tipping.*

*I must also add here the incredible efforts of my fellow councillors who have worked tirelessly to make improvements in the community. More and more volunteers turn up to help and I must particularly mention the group who spent hours and hours tidying, clearing, and smartening up*



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*the cemetery, even managing to find and reveal a path which no-one really knew was there!  
Great work and thank you!*

*Last and by no means least I must mention that the Parish Clerk Team and Councillors have been supported so well by the other employees who look after the Gordon Bennett and fulfil litter picking in Thurcroft. This is an established team of colleagues who show real dedication to their work and play a big part in making the Parish Council and the services we deliver function efficiently. Thank you to all of them.*

*Finally, as I mentioned earlier the last 2 or 3 years has been a hard toil re-establishing the reputation of the Parish Council. We still have a way to go to fulfil that completely, but we have made tremendous progress from the position we were in. We now, in my view, have a team of people – both councillors and staff – who share the same ambitions and are focussed on delivering for the community. We don't, won't and indeed shouldn't agree on everything, but we do respect each other and our views and, as has been proven, we will always find a way forward or a resolution. I know speak for the whole team in saying our more solid foundations will enable us to do more of what we really want – delivering more and more for the communities of Thurcroft, Brampton and Laughton Common. I only see that increasing over the coming years.*

*Thank you.*

### **AM/2025/04. Report of the RMBC Councillor for Thurcroft & Wickersley South**

B Clark read out a statement provided by Thurcroft & Wickersley South councillors Tom Collingham and Zac Collingham on their behalf as they could not attend the meeting in person.

#### **Annual Report to Thurcroft Parish Council 2024/25**

For 2024/25, our Ward Priorities were:

1. Build a stronger, cohesive community
2. Support crime prevention strategies and target anti-social behaviour
3. Develop and improve the local environment

1. Build a stronger, cohesive community

Councillors held monthly surgeries in Thurcroft and Wickersley, providing residents with opportunities to raise concerns and seek support on local issues.



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There was a specific focus on supporting the vulnerable other the winter months, and we worked with Thurcroft Parish Council. Thurcroft Library and Thurcroft Parish Church. A wellbeing event was organised and held in early November. It was attended by partners from Rotherham Council's Community Energy Team, Green Doctor, and Rotherfed.

Councillors sought to improve health and wellbeing and have continued to support Rother Valley South PCN to set up the 'Root N Grow' to set up and expand the community allotment project which specifically focuses on improving mental health.

### 2. Support crime prevention strategies and target anti-social behaviour

Ward Councillors have continued to chair monthly Community Action Partnership (CAP) meetings, bringing together key stakeholders including South Yorkshire Police, Housing Services, the Community Protection Unit (CPU), Early Help teams, Parish Councils, and other relevant partners as needed. These meetings have played a vital role in coordinating responses to local issues. Notably, they have led to targeted police patrols in response to reports of anti-social behaviour, particularly around Thurcroft Hub and the Recreation Ground.

Councillors have supported the effective use of CCTV in key hotspots to deter crime and support enforcement.

In addition, road safety has remained a key priority. Councillors have continued to work with the local authority and schools to address concerns, particularly around school drop-off and pick-up times.

### 3. Develop and improve the local environment

Councillors have continued to respond to a wide range of resident concerns through casework, including issues related to housing, anti-social behaviour, environmental conditions, and access to essential services.

Significant progress has been made in improving local infrastructure. Funding was secured for the resurfacing of key roads and the repair of damaged footpaths, with notable improvements delivered on Kingsforth Lane, Sawn Moor Avenue, and Arbour Drive.

In collaboration with Rotherham Council and local schools, Councillors have worked to improve traffic flow and parking near school sites, enhancing safety during peak times. They have also actively promoted sustainable transport and active travel initiatives to encourage healthier, greener travel choices.

Councillors supported the introduction of traffic calming measures in Brampton-en-le-Morthen to reduce speeding and improve road safety for residents.



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Environmental improvements have remained a priority. Councillors supported multiple community clean-up events and worked closely with enforcement teams to tackle persistent fly-tipping. Several community skip days were funded, giving residents the opportunity to dispose of waste responsibly, locally, and free of charge.

Additionally, Councillors backed tree planting schemes and biodiversity projects in partnership with local schools and community groups, helping to enhance green spaces and promote environmental sustainability.

### Ward Budgets / Community Grants

Thurcroft & Wickersley South Ward Councillors supported 7 community organisations in 2024/25 through their Ward Budget. We spent a total of £8,878.22 directly supporting

community groups as well as providing additional services via public sector partners or purchasing items / equipment from the private sector for community activities.

### Priorities 2025/26

Looking forward, our Ward Priorities for 2025/26 are:

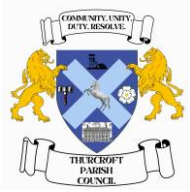
#### PRIORITY 1: Build a stronger, cohesive community

- Encourage and empower community groups, including both parish councils
- Improve resident engagement
- Improve community facilities, amenities and opportunities
- Support individuals, families and businesses to navigate financial challenges and receive maximum support.
- Support and developing initiative to address social isolation

#### PRIORITY 2: SUPPORT CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES AND TARGET ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- Work in partnership with local Police to identify and address local crime
- Promote the importance of reporting crime and support residents to do so
- Identify opportunities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour





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- Carry out targeted work to address issues with off road vehicles

### PRIORITY 3: DEVELOP AND IMPROVE THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage and inspire pride in the local community and the environment
- Support community clean up days
- Support local businesses and shops and encourage people to shop local
- Support local people and work in partnership with stakeholders to improve public spaces

#### **AM/2025/05. Any other business, for discussion only**

No immediate matters were discussed in the meeting.

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

**The meeting closed at 17.30pm**