

Church Report for the Parish Council.

We continue to hold services on alternate Sundays with Holme and this works well for us. Our congregations sadly haven't increased but all who do attend find the services fulfilling.

The church is popular with wedding couples and we had 3 weddings last year and have 4 booked for 2023. It is a good source of income for the church.

The north clerestory window cils were repaired in the hope that this would stop the ingress of water in severe weather conditions. Heated bat boxes were fitted to the north clerestory window and cameras installed to allow monitoring. This was part of the "Bats in Churches" project and fully funded by them. Very few bats were recorded on camera or in church, and it was decided that the window into church will remain open until this spring to see if the bats return.

We held a service to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June but sadly had to hold a service of Thanksgiving for her life when she died in September.

The church wall was damaged when a car collided into it but thankfully no one was seriously hurt. A claim was made to our insurance company, and we had the wall repaired by a local builder.

We had a successful church fete and raised much needed funds. This couldn't have been achieved without the support from others in the village who gave their time to support us. We have managed to keep the church clean with the much appreciated help from a very small band of volunteers.

We are extremely grateful to the Parish Council who give us a yearly grant of £2,750.00 to cover the maintenance of the churchyard and the annual service of the church clock. Our parish share for 2023 is £9,110.00 which we have to raise to send to the diocese.

The Bagladies gave us a grant to provide bookshelves in the church and we now have a large collection of books and the sale of these books gives us a good income throughout the year. We also have tea and coffee facilities now in the church thanks to the generosity of Stephanie Mocatta who did a half marathon and raised money through Just Giving. We are hoping to furnish this area in the near future, and our grateful thanks go to all involved in raising this money.

Finance & Staffing Working Party Report

May 2023

Outgoing Chair's Report

In Ian Barrett's absence, please find attached the report on the 2022/23 year for Thornham Parish Council.

Firstly, especial thanks to Ian Barrett for chairing the F&S Working Group and to Ali Chesterman for her consistent help and support.

At the end of the financial year, TPC is in excellent financial shape. The bank balances at the end of April 2023 were:

Community Account	£ 1,796.00
Deposit Account	£62,044.80
TOTAL	£63,850.80

CiL remains a significant portion of our income, at around 1/3rd of receipts. It is important that we continue to monitor this, and to spend it wherever possible within the five year period. The F&S WG recommends that CiL is a quarterly item on the agenda.

In terms of performance against budget, the largest variation was an underspend in legal fees as follows:

Budget	£12,500
Actual	£ 3,113
Difference	£ 9,387

Finally, whilst not part of the 22/23 year-end we can confirm that the precept of £35,000 for 23/24 has been received.

Year End Process

The 3rd and 4th quarter accounts have now been reconciled. With a few non-material items to be resolved it is anticipated that we will be able to move to completing the year end accounts by the deadline of 230th June 2023. We will be working with our Locum Clerk, Sarah Raven, and the F&S WG to finalise the paperwork. Glynis Allen has again agreed to perform the internal audit and we are grateful for her support.

We will be working with Sarah Raven to put in place a timetable for the year end.

List of payments and receipts

Due to the process with the change of Clerk, we do not have a list of payments and receipts for this meeting to consider. This should be available within the next ten days and, if appropriate, we could consider a short, one-item additional PC meeting to approve the payments.

F&S WG, 10th May 2023

Reports to Thornham Parish Council 10th May 2023

Shore Road Report – Agenda item 19.1

The good news is that there is nothing to report. This is in part due to the number of Bank Holidays since the 13th April meeting. There has been no recent communication from our legal team on any issue. A letter from a parishioner to the outgoing Chair was circulated to council, as was the reply to the parishioner. I trust this indicates a more positive way to a successful conclusion of this issue for Council in the near future.

Coronation Big Picnic Event - Agenda item 21.2

The sun shone, it was the hottest day of the year so far, the wind barely whispered and the rain stayed away. The gods were smiling on the event. The weather helped to ensure that this was, as intended, a relaxed and informal social event as was suggested by the Palace in their early advice. Admission was open, free to all, but mementos were limited to parishioners.

Approximately 100 people attended the event, with people bringing their own food and drink. The air was full of relaxed chatter as friends met and ate, drank and talked together. There was background music and Theo, our young local entertainer and rising star, provided two hours of entertainment demonstrating and encouraging others to try his circus skills. The Sunflower seedling plants from Wards of Ringstead were a popular memento for visitors. A number were left over and were distributed around the village by Ali and me to a number of older parishioners the following day as they needed to be planted.

The afternoon wound down around 5.30pm and a number of visitors expressed their thanks both then and subsequently to the team. Thanks must go to Ali and Becca Chesterman and Melanie Venes for their help and support for this event and of course to all of our visitors for their cheerful presence, participation and the donations of food from Hina and Nilesh Patel.

Financial Note: Costs and Grant awarded

Theo, the Entertainer £140, Wards Nurseries for 200 Sunflowers £190. There was no other expenditure. **Total cost £330.**

Grant from KLWNBC £200. Net cost to TPC £130. This is well within the budget provision set for the event.

As I used some of the remaining plants in my garden I will make an appropriate donation to TPC. Receipt from Wards and Card payment will be provided at the TPC meeting.

Agenda Item 26: Items for next Agenda. Please add Jubilee Meadow Working Party Report to subsequent Agendas under 'Outside Agencies', thank you.

Colin Venes

8th May 2023.