

## **Report on the Annual Open Meeting 2019** Notes taken by Maggie Beach

- Thornborough Parish Council Chairman's Report - Cllr Steve Tribe read the report written by Cllr Melanie Staff reporting on her year as Chair.
- Thornborough and Coombs Woodlands Enterprise Trust – Report given by Cllr Mary Taylor who is a trustee of Thornborough and Coombs Woodlands Enterprise Trust
- Thornborough Fundraisers – no report made
- St Mary's Church – Report given by Cllr Charlotte Moore who is the Churchwarden
- Thornborough Chapel – no report made
- Thornborough Cricket Club - report given by Ian Davies, the Chair of Thornborough Cricket Club
- Thornborough Infant School –report given by Miss Olivia Quirke, Head teacher
- Thornborough Village Hall Trust – report given by Sue Kenyon, Thornborough Village Hall Committee

Sue Kenyon reported on the recent meeting to discuss Village/Community spaces called by members of the Thornborough Fundraisers on 8<sup>th</sup> May, explaining the various options raised. The majority of people the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May seemed to prefer the option of upgrading and improving the current village hall, rather than building a new one. The need for improvements to the Sports Pavilion was also noted.

There followed a discussion about the issues raised at the meeting. Both properties were owned by Thornborough Parish Council and are on record in parish council meetings as having been discussed and the general need for improvements agreed. The creation of some sort of committee or working group to look at possibilities was discussed, it would need the support of people outside Thornborough Parish Council as well as Thornborough Parish Council. It was noted that grants are available to supplement any money raised by Thornborough Fundraisers for improvements if they decide to do so.

Residents also commented on the village hall at Westbury. It is also the Sports Pavilion and houses a community shop and café.

- Thornborough & Thornton WI – report given by Cath Sayer, WI member

There was then a break for refreshments provided by Thornborough and Thornton WI.

After the break the meeting continued with a general discussion of any issues residents wanted to raise.

The issue of the state of the road at Thornhill was raised by residents both for discussion at the meeting and as an issue identified on the post it notes supplied. This comes up regularly and is constantly reported by Thornborough Parish Council to Buckinghamshire County Council Highways as needing work. Some patching has been done but the overall state of the road remains very poor. It was explained that Buckinghamshire County Council have criteria for size and depth for deciding whether a pothole needs patching, and many of the potholes at Thornhill do not match the criteria. However the issue is really not about the size of the potholes but the large number of potholes and the resulting total deterioration of the road. Although Thornborough Parish Council will continue to report the road as needing repair, it was suggested that local residents also reporting the need for repairs might carry more weight.

Cllr RG brought pictures of drones flying over property he owns at night and warned that it looks like this sort of activity could be drones with cameras 'casing' various properties with the intention of committing burglaries. The possibility of resurrecting local neighbourhood watch schemes was raised.

Other issues raised by residents on the post-it notes:

Street lighting, especially the street lighting at the pond and along the pavement from the Two Brewers towards the school. Thornborough Parish Council has budgeted for a further street light near the pond for safety reasons, and will be looking at this issue again in the future. The idea put forward of low level pavement lighting has been explored by TPC for other routes in the village in the past. Problems are the lack of electricity cables and the cost to install them along any route, the design of the low level lighting (previously considered by TPC to look too corporate and reminiscent of lighting in a car park) and the width of the walkway/pavement. Thornborough Parish Council has a street lighting policy which can be found under policies on the Thornborough Parish Council website.

Traffic at Lower End. The problem is one of increased amounts of through traffic because of various road closures elsewhere causing traffic to divert. Thornborough Parish Council have had assurances from police that there will be no official diversions through the village if there are closures of the A421 and A422, but increased levels of traffic that occur because drivers choose to drive through the village cannot be stopped. However, if there is a problem with traffic speeding this can be addressed by mobile speed cameras. Thornborough Parish Council has looked into this issue previously. The speed of traffic can be monitored (but speeding drivers cannot be prosecuted) by the parish council using a MVAS (Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign). These signs are quite expensive (together with all the support equipment the cost per sign is over £2,000) but there is also the possibility of hiring a MVAS. Council will also look into asking TVP to come and take speed data.

The meeting closed at 9.00.

18<sup>th</sup> May 2019

#### Post script

As a result of the discussion on the Village Hall and the issue of Westbury Village Hall, a Councillor has visited and researched. Westbury Village Hall, it is very impressive, although the main hall is not much bigger than Thornborough's. It has a cafe /shop and extensive sports facilities.

The cost was circa £800,000 raised through funding from very many sources. The running costs are a problem and the management committee struggle to break even and have to actively promote to get bookings.

Part of the funding included pay for a set up manager to help establish the shop and café.