

BURNHAM THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 6.30 pm by Zoom Video Conference

Present:

Councillors: Mima Garland (Chair), Valerie Southerland, Sarah Greenall, Barbara Linsley, Chris Yardley, Alan Bodill, Jason Byard, Norfolk County Councillor Andrew Jamieson
Borough Councillor Sam Sandell and Clerk: Sarah Raven

Members of the Public: 15

Welcome by Chair

1. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting 13th May 2019.
The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2019 were PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED as a true record.

2. Chairman's annual report:
The Chair Cllr M Garland gave her report ([attached](#))

3. Clerk's financial report
The Clerk gave a financial report for the year ([attached](#))

4. Report from Borough Council Councillor
Borough Councillor S Sandell gave a report ([attached](#))

Cllr J Byard joined the meeting

5. Report from Norfolk County Council

Andrew Jamieson gave his report. In the last year working very closely in relation to the flooding in the parish and The Creakes. It has been very difficult working with all the different agencies involved in the flooding. Lord Dannant has been heading the Task Force and will help. Need longer term solutions including infrastructure spending by Anglian Water. Egmore Energy learnt from the lack of community communications. Routes, speed etc are sorted. Working closely with Borough Councillor S Sandell and hopefully the Borough Council can focus more on parishes. Sitting on the Cabinet has helped and focus on the particular problems regarding tourists, better buses etc.

6. Report from Friends of Burnham Thorpe.
David Black read out a report from Friends of Burnham Thorpe ([attached](#))

7. Report from Playing Field Committee
Lisa Wheeler (Chair) explained since 2019 have worked hard installing play equipment. The play boat will be replaced with another design and play trail. Planned to install a cantilever swing and other items for older children. Finishing planning application for the new equipment. Fund raising efforts in receiving funding donations of £15,000. Total project about £35,000. Fund raising by holding the race night however in 2020 all fund raising has stopped because of Covid. Applied for the CIL grants from the Borough Council. Exploring the issue of Charity Status for the Playing Field Committee. Increased use of facilities for the play equipment. Continuing costs of upkeep. Replaced toddler swing and roof of the pavilion. No dogs policy on the playing field. Thanked all committee members, John

Hendry for mole catching, Jason Byard who donated materials for the roof of the pavilion and the Smith Family.

8. Report from Nelson Memorial Hall.

Reverend Steve Wood read out the report ([attached](#))

9. Presentation from Holkham Estate

James Bracey and Peter Mitchell from Holkham Estate gave an update on the Lord Nelson Public House. Bought the Pub in 2019 and contributions from the residents to what was needed. Delayed opening because of Covid restrictions. The CEO of Woodfordes explained the involvement of Woodfordes and to be part of the community. Plans of the pub layout were shared on screen. Planning to open on the 3rd June. Opening times 11 – 11.

Peter Mitchell explained trying to re-establish the authentic connection to Lord Nelson. The Director General of the Royal Navy explained details to create a small museum for Lord Nelson outside the pub. Agreement with Holkham Estate and once funding in place then a timetable of about three months to create the museum.

Peter Mitchell discussed the layout for rooms of the pub. Layout shown on screen. There would be approximately 12 -15 rooms. This would make a difference to the Pub.

Questions from Public:

- Resident asked about opening times and whether winter times would change.
- Discussing the issue of Nelson's Blood trademark.
- Online booking forms will be available but not on at present.
- Resident asked if these plans had been seen before by the Parish Council. Confirmed that the Parish Council had not.

Cllr M Garland suggested that when an open event takes place that any pre-application proposals will be on display. Cllr M Garland thanked Holkham for the presentation.

10. Report from Church

Reverend Steve Wood gave a report for the Church ([attached](#))

11. Norfolk Constabulary

None

12. Questions and Statements from Parishioners

None

Meeting Closed at 7.34 pm

..... Chair

Dated:

**THESE MINUTES ARE UNCONFIRMED UNTIL APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL
AND SIGNED ABOVE BY CHAIR**

BURNHAM THORPE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT;

MAY 2019-MAY 2021

I start by thanking parish, district & county councillors, parishioners & others who work so hard for the village. Special thanks are due to our terrific clerk Sarah Raven – we're very lucky to have you Sarah! Now – it's 2 years since the last chairman's report. Since then, Thorpe's shared the world's Covid experience – tho we're luckier than most to live here.

Our meetings have been on Zoom. It's worked ok, but we're looking forward to meeting in person. We've also tried to keep those without internet in touch with a Newsletter through their letterbox every month.

Something that stands out over this 2 year period is the worst flooding pretty much in living memory this Spring, with some village roads almost impassable & with wastewater – including very dilute sewage – pumped into the Burn. The playing field will take a while to recover, and the PC will work with the playing field committee to help get it back into good condition. The flooding exposed problems with wastewater & highway infrastructure & maintenance. A very muddy site meeting brought this to the attention of James Wild MP and County Councillor Andrew Jamieson. Action has been taken &, we hope, there's more to come.

Our pub, the Lord Nelson, has been closed for over four & half years now, & during the last 2 years the PC played its part in planning & design consultation aimed at getting it back as soon as possible, looking as good as possible. I think it looks great & I hope we're going to get some good news on opening at this meeting.

2 years ago, work hadn't even started on Blacksmith's Yard's housing but, despite Covid restrictions, they're now close to being ready to be lived in & we can look forward to getting to know some new neighbours.

Commenting on planning applications such as Blacksmiths Yard, and also those just outside our parish such as the new surgery, is an important part of the PC's job, and of course that's continued over the last 2 years. During that time, we also worked hard to provide useful comments on the Local Plan and on proposed changes to National planning policy.

Working with the County Council on highway & traffic matters is also our job. 2 years ago speed awareness signing was about to be installed & that's been working well for a while now & giving useful information we can act on – such as the about to be installed village Gateways close to Whitehall Farm.

A big traffic problem for Thorpe & other local villages last autumn was the impact of Egmore Energy's anaerobic digester feedstock tractors. Councillors & parishioners are still working with EE to help fix this for the future, without damage to farming & business interests.

2 years ago, the Millennium Piece's original 20 year lease was due for renewal, & a village survey agreed to renew it for a further 20 years. In 2019, with the Norfolk Rivers Trust, we looked at how the Burn through the Piece could be made more environmentally friendly, but a survey confirmed we didn't think it was practical, so it didn't happen.

As well as our regular meetings every 2 months, we've held a number of additional meetings as needed, & have worked behind the scenes to try and fix things, such as last autumn's Broadband failure. Very importantly, we've tried hard not to waste your money.

So -this is your Parish Council – please tell us what we get wrong & what we should be doing! Thank you.

Mima Garland, 5th May 2021

Clerks Report 5th May 2021

BY S Raven Clerk/RFO

Balance as at 1 st April 2020	£6123.33
Receipts	£12599.13
Interest	£1.43
Payments for the year	£6120.32
Balance at 31 March 2021	£12603.57

Tree works	£1,000.00
Election Costs	£1,000.00
General Maintenance	£700.00
External Audit Fees	£250.00
Legal Fees	£1,500.00
CIL	£4,202.94
Hall Hire	
Laptop Expenses	
Grounds Maintenance for MP	
Total Earmarked	£8,652.94
Reserve Balance after Earmarked	£1,306.48
Total	£9,959.42

Borough Council Report 2021

In 2020 the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk have had the strangest year in its existence, the reason of course the Coronavirus Pandemic and the effects its had on West Norfolk.

The Borough Council its officers and councillors have stepped up to deal with the most serious peacetime threat in living memory.

Staff from the Council were seconded to various different organisations in the Borough for example Ask Lily the vaccination centre and Admin support for the hospital to name a few.

The Borough Council reacted very quickly to deal with the coronavirus legislation rolled out by the Government and administered millions of pounds worth of support grants to small

business and charities throughout the Borough. As I write this a half a million pound grant scheme opened on the 30TH April to help local independent business to support the safe re opening of premises that might otherwise struggle to comply with government guidance. This has been developed by the Council using the governments additional restrictions funding. The grants will provide up to 75% of eligible costs towards work to the premises such as temporary weather shielding structures, umbrellas and or barriers and equipment. Applications should be made by visiting www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/refreshandreopengrant.

I haven't been to a Council meeting in person since the beginning of march 2020. Meetings have continued which are the most important, like full council, planning and I have chaired 3 licensing panels via zoom from my back bedroom. Some smaller task groups were suspended due to staff shortages and deployment. It is a testament to everybody that they have all adapted to using new technology so well all are now experts in zoom or teams for all our meetings.

On a final not, I would just like to say how extremely proud of our Burnham Surgery for the great effort our Dr's, Nurses, receptionists and volunteers from the local area have put into rolling out the vaccination programme to the residents of the area. Speaking to many residents whilst I've been helping out at the vaccination centre people are getting a feeling of normality returning.

Many residents and Parish Councillors have been a lifeline to the most vulnerable of our community. Its been a great effort and long may it continue.

Sam Sandell (Borough Councillor)

Friends of Burnham Thorpe

Since our last report, back in 2019, the group has been less active so there is not much to report.

Pandemic: During the pandemic we played several small but useful roles, including helping some people who were shielding or isolating. However, it is good to be able to say that most people were able to get help from their family, friends and neighbours.

The Nelson's Village Website: We have recently transferred much of the content from our website across to the community section of the Parish Council site. Many thanks to the Clerk, Sarah Raven, for her help with this. At the time our website was set up there was no Parish Council site. Our website will be taken down shortly.

Current Role: Our main current role is to circulate information directly affecting the village by email to the 150 contacts on our email list. This is a fast and easy way to spread useful information to most of the people in the village – although, regrettably, it doesn't reach everyone. However, it does also allow us to reach many people elsewhere who have a close connection to Burnham Thorpe. We are very happy to continue serve this purpose in future. If anyone would like to be added to our list, please email us at nelsonsvillage@gmail.com.

Report for the Nelson hall

In common with all other similar venues the Nelson Hall has been closed for much of the past year save for a short period in between lockdowns when the yoga group were able to meet. We have successfully applied for and received Covid related grants from the government; the committee are intending to use the monies towards refurbishment. One of the priorities will be the windows which are not only now of poor appearance but offer little or no insulation.

I would like us to remember the contribution of Pat Jennings most recently as secretary but also for many years as a supporter of the village and of the hall in countless ways. My thanks also go to Holly Smith who has kept a watchful eye on the building and has arranged for the necessary maintenance whenever needed. The committee is very small and we would welcome quite urgently offers from others to take part in the running of this unique feature of the village. There is nothing onerous but fresh eyes and ideas will be especially appreciated.

Steve Wood

Report for All Saints Church

Needless to say the life of our village church has been difficult during the past year in light of the measures put in place to control the spread of Covid-19. Losing our 2020 Easter services was a severe blow to Christians everywhere and the mandated closure for all activities a matter of great regret. Since then we tried to strike a balance between precaution and availability. Christmas services took place in all churches of the benefice including carols on the hour and usual communion celebrations. All Saints remained open for private prayer on Mondays and is with the low rates of infection in our area once more open every day. Social distancing, hand sanitation and the wearing of masks remain in place for all services but this did not prevent us from holding a service of commemoration for HRH Prince Phillip which was also marked by the flying of the white ensign at half mast.

The usual rotation of church services in the benefice have resumed and we hope that after June 21st, if not before, that congregational singing may be permitted. As a sign of life returning there is a wedding planned for the 12th June. You will have noted too that there is a varied programme of concerts taking place in the church from the 21st May throughout the summer which I hope will bring visitors and joy to the community.

Steve Wood