



Thriplow & Heathfield Parish Council

**Annual Parish Meeting 2023
Thriplow Village Hall**

23rd March – 8.00 pm

**All are welcome to come
along and hear what's going
on within the Parish.**

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THRIFLOW AND HEATHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

TO BE HELD AT THRIFLOW VILLAGE HALL ON 23rd MARCH 2023 AT 8.00 PM

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence;**
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 24th March 2022;**
3. **Comments on the Report from Parish Council Chairman—Jane Gough;**
4. **Comments on the Neighbourhood Plan Report— David Easthope;**
5. **Comments on the Thriflow (CofE) School Report—Lucy How;**
6. **Comments on the Ladybird Playgroup Report—Sharon McGinty;**
7. **Comments on the Neighbourhood Watch Report - Jane Gough;**
8. **Comments on Village Hall Report - Oz Flynn;**
9. **Comments on the Health & Safety, Parish Maintenance and Recreation Ground Report—David Schneider;**
10. **Comments on the Thriflow Village Shop Report—Pat Easthope;**
11. **Comments on the Heathfield Report—Rowan Pashley;**
12. **Comments on the Trees Report—Carly Richman;**
13. **Comments on the St George’s Church Report—Elizabeth Moore;**
14. **Comments on the County Council Report— Peter McDonald;**
15. **Comments on the District Council Report—Richard Williams;**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting in Thriflow Village Hall held on Thursday the 24th March 2022 at 8.00 pm

Present:

Chairman - David Easthope

Councillors; - Kit Jackson, Carly Richman

County Cllr - Peter McDonald

District Cllr - Richard Williams

Parish Clerk- Martyn Corbet

RFO - Austin Flynn

Members of the Public

Geoff Axe, Angus Batley, Georgina Butcher, Robert Hale, David Heinzelmann,
Judy Murch, Paul Rogers, Terry Smith, Jean Tomlinson

1. Apologies for Absence

Mark Brogan, Jane Gough, Luigi Murton and Rowan Pashley

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on the 24th June 2021

There were no queries arising from the minutes and they were accepted at the end of the meeting.

3. Comments on the Report of the Parish Council Chairman—Jane Gough

There were no comments on this report.

4. Comments on the Neighbourhood Plan Report - Kit Jackson

There were no comments on the report but Cllr Jackson explained that the Neighbourhood Plan is making slow progress. There was a consultation in November and the comments received have been taken into account and included in the latest draft on the website. The consultation centres on how to enhance Heathfield and make it a more attractive environment. This includes ideas and how these might be actioned. The amended draft Neighbourhood Plan will be re-circulated. It will go to government inspectors then to residents. The draft report will be on the website.

5. Comments on the Thriplow (CofE) School Report—Victoria Penty

There were no comments on this report.

6. Comments on the Ladybird Playgroup Report—Sharon McGinty

There were no comments on this report.

7. Comments on the Neighbourhood Watch Report—Jane Gough

There were no comments on this report. Bob Hale asked about Neighbourhood Watch on Heathfield. Cllr Easthope said that David Schneider is the co-ordinator for Heathfield. Matters should be reported to him. It is hoped to appoint representatives for each road.

8. Comments on the Village Hall Report—Oz Flynn

There were no comments on this report. Cllr Easthope said that the floor in the chair store is being repaired. In response to a question raised he confirmed that the cost of cleaning the Village Hall is met from Village Hall Funds.

9. Comments on the Health & Safety, Parish Maintenance and Recreation Ground Report—David Schneider

Cllr Easthope explained that Cllr Schneider's report covers the whole parish. Cllr Schneider is doing a good job in getting things done. Cllr Richman provided an update on the proposed yellow lines at Hurdles Way. The press notices have been published and consultation with residents will take place. The yellow lines will run up to the front entrance. Cllr McDonald explained that the consultation period runs until the 10th April. Residents will have an opportunity to have a say. Angus Batley expressed concern that the yellow lines will cause people to park on areas further along from that area. He went on to comment that the Heathfield Open Space is very good. Cllr Easthope said most of it is the work of Darren Mullett.

10. Comments on the Heathfield Report—Mark Brogan

There were no comments on this report.

Angus Batley asked about the wooded area to the west of Hurdles Way. Cllr Easthope said that a plan is in hand to make this a pleasant area. Residents may join the Working Party.

11. Comments of the Website Report—Carly Richman and Luigi Murton

Cllr Richman said that changes have been made which would make it easier to find things. Councillors had been asked to comment. Once these have been considered the rest of the website will be improved.

12. Comments on the St George's Church Report—John Rimmer

There were no comments on this report. The cemetery will eventually be extended. Cllr Easthope commented upon bio-diversity in the cemetery. It is mowed once a year. This allows the wild flowers and insects such as bees to flourish. David Heinzelmann said that on the 11th April a cross will be carried through the village on its way to Walsingham.

13. Comments on the District Council Report—Richard Williams

Cllr Williams had some items to add to his report.

The Local Plan is being worked on. This sets down proposals for future development. There was a consultation last Autumn which has closed. The results are being looked at. Formal consultation will be early in 2023. The plan should be adopted in 2024-25.

Cllr Williams mentioned some environmental matters. The Greenway has suffered from some pollution. This has been cleared up after he contacted the Environment Agency. He had also contacted Planning Enforcement in respect of the air conditioning units at Heathfield House. There has also been a problem with skips and rubbish being left. He has contacted the owners. If nothing is done then Cllr Williams will contact Environmental Health. Bob Hale referred to parking problems on the A505. Lorries often fill the lay-bys. This is because the truck stop available is expensive. Lorries have parked in Hurdles Way on an occasional basis. This damages the roads. It was agreed that if any lorries are seen parking in Hurdles Way this information should be communicated to Cllrs Richman and Williams with photos if possible.

A question was asked about future housing plans and in particular plans for the area north of Heathfield. There are no plans in the offing. The area north of the A505 is protected Green Belt.

Cllr McDonald referred to a plan by Gonville and Caius College to develop 800 houses. This has not been taken into the Local Plan. The Local Plan has sites in Duxford but not Thriplow.

Geoff Axe asked about upgrading the A505. Cllr Williams said that nothing has been heard about this.

Bob Hale referred to an increase in traffic on the A505. Cllr McDonald agreed that traffic had increased. There had been a lull during Lockdown. There have been traffic studies relating to the Genome Campus development.

Cllr McDonald feels the opening of a southbound junction 8 on the M11 might make a difference. Genome say that a majority of the new home owners will be key workers and that they will no longer have to bus people onto the site. The traffic and pollution on the A505 will be monitored. Cllr McDonald referred to the development of the Genome Campus with a further 1500 homes. One of the conditions for confirming outline permission might be the opening of junction 8 of the M11 southbound. Input will be needed from National Highways, Cambridgeshire County Council will be considering this option in July.

14. Comments on the County Councillor Report – Peter McDonald

Cllr McDonald said that CCC are trying to promote 20 mph zones. Money (£260,000) will be available in May This year. Over the next three years £400,000 per year will be available. The policy on 20 mph zones will be finalised in July. Geoff Axe asked about the possibility of introducing a 7.5 ton limit for vehicles in the village. Cllr McDonald said this is possible. It has already been done in Babraham.

Cllr Easthope referred to his enquiries about obtaining a 20 mph speed limit in Middle Street. CCC policy is that this cannot be done as there are no footpaths. Cllr McDonald said this will be addressed with some new criteria. Geoff Axe referred to the footpath on the road to Fowlmere. This is very narrow and not accessible for prams. He asked whether it might be made into a cycle way? Cllr McDonald did not rule this out and said there will be money in the budget.

Cllr McDonald referred to Civil Parking Enforcement. Under this CCC will take over control of parking from the police. Yellow lines need enforcing. The parish can call in officers from CCC who will be asked to ticket cars which offend. Angus Batley asked about parking on Heathfield. Cllr McDonald said that officers can enforce a Traffic Regulation Order. Cllr Williams said that the government is increasing the powers of the Civil Enforcement Officers. They will be able to do more of what the police presently do. Angus Batley said that non-residents use secluded roads to park at the expense of residents.

Other points raised not on the agenda

Paul Rogers referred to the lack of charging points for electric cars at Sherald's Croft. Cllr Williams said the District Council insists that each new house should have a charging point. There is no power to require this in existing homes. Cllr Williams will take up the matter on Mr Rogers' behalf with the District Council.

Geoff Axe referred to the increase in the Parish precept by 11.1%. Cllr Easthope said that the Precept was still one of the lowest in South Cambridgeshire. The plan had originally been to increase it by 7.5% but in January inflation had risen to 7.8%. It was necessary to take account of this. In future there will be a steady rise in the Parish Precept.

Cllr McDonald referred to such matters as LHI grant applications where money has to be paid toward the grant by the parish council. This necessitates using money from parish funds.

There being no further business the chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

THRILOW AND HEATHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – PRECEPT 2023/24

At its meeting on the 9th January the parish council set its Precept for the forthcoming Financial Year.

The Precept is the amount the parish council requires to finance its activities throughout the year. It is based on a budgetary estimate. This is calculated on the basis of the monies spent by the parish council in the current financial year taking into account increases in prices and inflation. It also includes known items of capital expenditure which will be incurred during 2023/24.

The parish council, like many other similar bodies, has always been mindful of the need for budgetary constraints. Previously, it was possible to cut down on the monies paid to contractors by arranging for volunteers to help out. Unfortunately, this way of doing things has passed. The parish council is now obliged to employ contractors to carry out work. Inevitably, this has caused costs to escalate. This will be seen in the way the Precept has had to be increased year on year. It is also the case that the parish council has provided more facilities in the parish, principally in the form of play areas and leisure parks, which require ongoing maintenance.

Every effort is being made to control costs wherever possible. The Precept is still one of the lowest in South Cambridgeshire and compares favourably with others in the vicinity.

This year the Precept has risen by 20%. The actual increase is £4984.00. The Precept for 2022/23 is £24,916.00 whilst that for 2023/24 will be £29,900.00. The cost of the Precept increase to each band D householder is £10.87 per annum. The tax band has decreased from 493.3 to 487.1.

THRILOW AND HEATHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
WHO IS WHO MARCH 2023

Chairman

Jane Gough - Tel 07792 645138 Email jane.gough@thriplow.org.uk

Vice— Chairman

David Schneider Tel 07784 233982 Email david.schneider@thriplow.org.uk

Parish Councillors

David Easthope - Tel 01763 208401 Email david.easthope@thriplow.org.uk

Rowan Pashley Tel 07876 260660 Email rowan.pashley@thriplow.org.uk

Carly Richman Tel 01223 3839397 Email carly.richman@thriplow.org.uk

Parish Clerk

Martyn Corbet Tel 01223 839546 Email parishclerk@thriplow.org.uk

Responsible Financial Officer

Oz Flynn Tel 01223 839546 Email austin.flynn@thriplow.org.uk

Website Administrator

Carol Deed Tel 01763 208487

Tree Warden

Carly Richman Tel 01223 3839397 Email carly.richman@thriplow.org.uk

County Councillor

Peter McDonald Tel 07912 669092 Email Peter.McDonald@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

District Councillor

District Councillor Tel 07584 037010 Email cllr.williamsr@scambs.gov.uk

VACANCIES

The Parish Council normally has 9 parish councillors but we are currently 5. If there is anybody interested in becoming a parish councillor please speak to our clerk or to any one of our parish councillors who would be happy to speak to you about vacancies. It is a great thing to get involved with your parish and community. You get to know so much. We have some really good parish councillors, so come and join us.



**Chairman's Report
Jane Gough**

I wish to thank all our Parish Councillors, District and County Councillors for their support and work for our parish; it all helps to make Heathfield and the village a great place to live.

Throughout our parish issues have arisen with motocross and quad bikes, riding around Heathfield public open space, along the bridleway paths between Heathfield and Thriplow. Other than this is not legal, it does constitute a safety issue to children and families using the amenities correctly. Damage has been caused to the open space. Motor vehicles of any kind are not permitted on this or any other recreational spaces. The police are aware of the situation and are helping us address this issue.

We have received complaints for sometime regarding inconsiderate parking in Church Street at the beginning and the end of the school day. The road is quite narrow, and has a small path for pedestrians at the school end of the street. The vehicles are having to park on the pavement to allow any larger vehicles to drive past, thus not allowing pedestrians to use the path, and having to walk on the road to get past! Other than the safety issue to pedestrian and other road users, if you are caught parking on a pavement "you could be charged with unnecessary obstruction of any part of the highway" please could we politely ask for more consideration from drivers.

Cambridgeshire County Council will soon be erecting posts around the village to enable Speedwatch to position the recently acquired MVAS to be positioned where regular speeding occurs. The flashing sign will be moved from post to post by volunteers. A licence has been obtained to enable the same sign to be displayed at Heathfield. It has taken a long time to gather the Funds to be able to purchase the sign. Let us hope it has the desired effect. Volunteers to help with this project are very welcome.

At last we have found a maintenance company so we will be able to catch up on some badly needed jobs in the parish. We look forward to working with them.

We are lucky to have a great community in our parish, we have many bodies doing a variety of things to make Heathfield and the Village Ward, a pleasure to live in. We have the Daffodil Committee bringing the village to life for a weekend each year, helping good causes along the way. Thriplow Society, HRA, The Gardening Club, the Church and their afternoon teas and chat, the community shop, the village school, playgroup and of course The Green Man. These are but to name a few. Recently the Parish Council has established a Facebook page. The purpose of this is to enable information to be given to residents. It is intended only to be informative.

The Parish Council would like to thank you the Parishioners for making this a wonderful community. We hope to see you at our meeting.

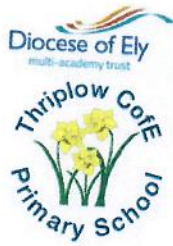


**Neighbourhood Plan
Report
David Easthope**

The Parish Council first decided that a Neighbourhood Plan should be prepared for the whole of the parish back in 2017. A District Council officer was invited to speak at an open meeting of the parish council in March of that year to explain what would be required to prepare a plan and the implications of that plan when it had been approved. A flyer was delivered to every household in the parish and a public meeting was held in October of that year at which several people put their names forward as being prepared to serve on a steering group. These volunteers formed the basis of a committee to advise the parish council on the preparation and, hopefully, the completion of a Neighbourhood Plan. There followed a lengthy period when plans prepared by other villages were looked at and seminars were attended organised by the local district council and Cambridgeshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England).

A questionnaire was prepared with responses required by the end of May 2018. The questionnaire, a 16 page document, sought peoples views about living in the parish and how they would like to see the parish develop. During this time Philippa MacGarry agreed to take over the chairmanship of the steering group and a great deal of work went into analysing the results of the consultation. As a result, two further consultation events were arranged in Thriplow Village Hall and Duxford Officers Mess where displays incorporating details from the public consultation were presented in order to seek further local views. These meetings were held approximately 10 days before lockdown forced by the Covid pandemic came into force.

By this time funding for the work had been obtained from a government grant and Cambridgeshire ACRE had been engaged to assist with the further preparation of the plan. Clearly Covid had an impact on the timing but work continued and we are now in the position of having prepared a draft plan, which the parish council have approved and, at the time of writing, is being considered by the whole parish in a Pre-submission version of the Thriplow & Heathfield Neighbourhood Plan. The last date for submitting comments on this plan is 5pm on 14th March this year and it is hoped that you have been able to submit your views for consideration. The plan will then be reviewed and all comments made will be considered. Following this the plan will go before the District Council for approval. When approved the District Council will arrange a referendum when 50% or more respondents will be required to agree to the plan for it to be formally adopted by the District Council. When adopted it will then become part of their planning policy.



**Thriplow CofE Primary
School Report
Lucy How**

I write this report as the first month of the calendar year draws to a close. The leadership structure of the school changed at the beginning of this term as I took over as headteacher from our Executive Headteacher, Mrs Victoria Penty. Victoria is now headteacher full-time at Babraham Primary School.

The covid-19 pandemic continued to challenge us on the early months of 2022, with high levels of absence in both staff and children. As restrictions gradually lifted, the children have enjoyed opportunities that were not available to them during much of the previous two years. Year 5 and 6 enjoyed 4 nights in May at Hautbois, an outward bound centre in Norfolk. The school choir had a wonderful time at the Young Voices concert at the O2 in May, singing as part of a choir of thousands.

We were delighted to perform at Daffodil Weekend. The children entertained through singing, poetry and Maypole dancing and it was fantastic for them to experience the feeling of being part of a community once again.

The children have enjoyed getting back into the swing of extra-curricular clubs which have included art, street dance, Mandarin, football, tag rugby, book club and maypole.

We enjoyed joining the rest of the country to celebrate the Queen's 70 years on the throne by holding a dress up day showcasing the fashions of the last 70 years. We came together in a special assembly to mourn her death in September. The children look forward to celebrating the coronation later this year.

The school has continued to support charities such as MacMillan and Save the Children, with further charity events planned for this year.

We celebrated Christmas by putting on a nativity play, sharing carols in church and a whole school Christingle service. We were delighted to once again welcome parents into school for our annual Decoration Day.



**Ladybird Playgroup
Report
Sharon McGinty**

Last year was a bit of a low year numbers wise for Ladybird Playgroup initially. Fortunately, as the year progressed families began booking places and by the end of the year things were showing signs of improvement.

We lowered the intake age from 2.5 to 2.3 months so families could access early years childcare with us earlier. This has proved to be popular. To help Thriplow Primary School offer wraparound care, our Breakfast Club for children aged from 3 to 11 years continues to run from 8am every morning offering a varied menu. This allows parents to get off to work earlier. Last year we decided to offer an Early Bird session starting at 8.30 for families who don't require breakfast. This has been found to be helpful too.

The children enjoyed a great range of learning experiences which helped to prepare them for school in September. All but two of our preschool children moved on to Thriplow in September and with many we are now welcoming their younger siblings.

Fundraising continues to be very important to us being a committee run setting. We thank everyone who supported us by coming along to our Woodland Crafts tent at Daffodil Weekend, attending the Quiz and the children's Christmas Santa experience.





**Neighbourhood Watch
Report
Jane Gough**

Neighbourhood watch tries to work with residents and the police to make a better and safer environment to live. If we are vigilant within our community less opportunities arise for crimes to be committed.

Fly tipping cause's huge problems creating health and safety issues, danger to wildlife, unsightliness and a cost to the local council to remove it.

Thefts from church buildings are more common in rural areas, also not forgetting hare coursing, which is a big issue in all rural areas.

In our parish we have had theft of catalytic converters also theft from outbuildings, and a serious burglary in the village.

PCSO Wiseman is a great asset to our parish and is always at the end of a phone for advice when he is on duty.

If you have an emergency call 999. If you are in danger but can't talk on the phone, you should call 999, then do the following if calling from a mobile press 55 when prompted and your call will be transferred to the police. If calling from a landline and the operator can only hear background noise, you will automatically be connected to the police and they will have your location.

If you have a speech or hearing impairment use their text phone service on 18001 101.

Online crimestoppers.uk.org. by phone 0800 555 111.

Live chat can also be used to contact the police, it is handled in the same way as 101. This is via web chat service.

Also you can contact them at www.cambs.police.uk

Dial 101 for any non emergencies.

If you have an interest in Neighbourhood Watch please just come and speak to us.

HIRING THRIPLow VILLAGE HALL

The Hall is available for hire to all daytime or evenings. Facilities include WiFi, sound system, tables and chairs, fully equipped kitchen, Committee/Meeting room, stage area, toilets and parking.

To book, please contact Oz Flynn on 01223 839546 (Monday—Thursday 7—8.30 pm Saturday 10.00 am—5.00 pm) or email flynoz@aol.com



**Village Hall Report
Oz Flynn**

This year the Village Hall will be 23 years old. During this time it has served as a hub for our parish. It provides a venue for social events as well as classes and courses. It is also a meeting place for the parish council and any large meeting on local issues.

As with all buildings, maintenance on a regular basis is essential to maintain standards. This is especially so when the building is open to the public. Plans are afoot to install a replacement boiler so that the heating can be upgraded. This will also be more efficient in conserving fuel. The Velox windows in the roof needed attention.

Unfortunately, this necessitated the hiring of scaffolding tower because using a ladder etc would have been unsafe.

Reports have been received of a pervading smell in the kitchen area. This is being dealt with.

Work is required on trees to the rear of the Village Hall. This will be undertaken as soon as possible.

A little used room which has been a store is being kitted out as an office for the parish clerk.

A decision has been taken to rename the Committee Room. Henceforth it will be "The Barbara Pointon Room". This is in honour of the late Barbara Pointon who gave so much time to the Village Hall and the community in general.

There has been a slow return of users due to the Covid 19 pandemic over the last few years.

Bookings for the last year have risen to 346 from the previous year. This is still a far cry from the maximum total of yearly bookings which 587 some years ago. The Village Hall also faces

competition from the new Village Hall in Duxford. Last year the Village Hall Committee attempted to organise a Hog Roast and Quiz Night.

Unfortunately, this had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. It is hoped that any future events will receive better support from our community. With events such as this forward planning and commitments are required. This can lead to financial loss if the event goes ahead without enough support.

Whilst the Village Hall is cleaned to a high standard on a regular basis, it has been noted that some hirers leave rubbish behind or dispose of it in neighbours' bins. The Committee has reminded hirers that they are responsible for the disposal of their own rubbish. It is in the interests of all for this to be heeded.



Health & Safety, Parish Maintenance and Recreation Ground Report

David Schneider

Twice a year the parish council undertakes Health and Safety inspections. These relate to the various pieces of equipment owned by the parish council including the play and leisure equipment located on the Village Rec, Heathfield Open Space and Ringstone. These areas belong to the parish council. The parish council has no involvement with the playground belonging to Heathfields Residents Association.

These inspections cover more than Health and Safety. Maintenance issues are also highlighted. These include potholes in the roads, overhanging trees and hedges and the condition of the footpaths. Some of these are the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council as the Highways Authority. Others maybe the responsibility of individual property owners. Everyone has a part to play in keep our parish neat, safe and tidy. Thank you to all residents who have trimmed back overgrown vegetation and improved road and footpath safety.

Maintenance issues for which the parish council is directly responsible include the bus shelters, benches and notice boards together with broken and missing road signs. Recently it has been reported that two speed bumps in the village are in need of repair. These are an issue for the County Council.

During the recent cold and icy weather the condition of the salt bins has been of concern. Whilst checks are carried out, any resident seeing a salt bin needing filling should notify the parish clerk. The contents of the salt bins are for use on public roads and footpaths only. The salt bins should not be used as rubbish bins!

Potholes have appeared in our roads due to the very cold weather. These have been reported but such is the workload of the County Council it will take some time to deal with the reported potholes. Another report is due in May.

Recently, some work has been put on hold whilst priority has been given to dealing with the urgent health and safety issues. This has been due to price increases and stock levels on certain materials. However, this year the parish council will be carrying out repairs to areas such as Thriplow Rec, the triangles in the Village and the Pepperslade notice board. In addition the parish council has acquired the services of a handyman which will make it easier to facilitate of other repairs when they become necessary.

After a long time the yellow lines at the entrance to Heathfield have been painted by the County Council. In addition, the white lines and roundabout have been renewed.

It would be helpful if residents avoid driving over the roundabout so as to help preserve the white paint. A matter of concern is parking on the Ringstone Open Space. This area needs protection from damage. The parish council is reviewing placing bollards along the side of the green.

Some of the concrete slabs on The Greenway have sunk in places. This has been reported to the farmer who owns The Greenway and is responsible for its upkeep. On occasion, the parish council has received comments about the amount of mud on The Greenway. Unfortunately, there is very little that can be done about this. The Greenway is part of a working arable farm. It is inevitable that mud will be left on it during wet weather. If there are any issues you wish to report please do so via the contact address on the website for the parish



Thriplow Village Shop Report

Pat Easthope

The shop has been community run by the Thriplow Village Shop Association (TVSA) since 2007. It remained open throughout the pandemic although closed earlier each day in order to give the staff time to prepare orders for delivery. These deliveries could not have taken place without tremendous voluntary help from members of the Church and Daffodil Weekend. In fact, volunteers have always played a large part in the success of the shop. There are 7 members on the management committee who all give their time voluntarily and cover a lot of the general administration work involved in running a shop. Teams of volunteers (including 4 committee members) man the shop on Sunday mornings or help out during the week with sorting orders or replenishing shelves. Our volunteers also often provide cover when regular staff are on holiday or unwell. The shop could not survive without this voluntary help and new volunteers are always welcome.

We have a good team of three regular staff members, Alice who joined us last summer and works on Saturday mornings, Georgina our new manager who joined us in the autumn and David who joined us towards the end of 2021 and opens and closes the shop on weekdays.

The TVSA is a not-for-profit organisation and the current cost of living crisis is having an effect. As well as the general increase in prices our main supplier has imposed a weekly delivery charge which amounts to some £1817 per year. We try to absorb some of these cost increases but unfortunately some price rises are inevitable.

Membership of the TVSA is available to everyone. You don't have to be a member to use the shop but the annual membership subscription of £10 provides vital income helping to support the shop.

Our regular customer base includes customers from surrounding villages. As well as taking card and cash payments we run a pre-pay system. Customers can choose to open a pre-pay account and then have the cost of their purchases taken from their account. As well as being a convenience for customers this system also helps the shop with cash flow.

For a small village shop we are often complimented on the selection of goods on offer. We try to source locally where possible and milk and fresh fruit & vegetables are delivered daily. Bread, pasties, sausage rolls, etc, are baked on the premises. We have a weekly dry cleaning service and medical prescriptions for both Harston and Sawston surgeries can be left at the shop. Medications will then be delivered to the shop for collection.

We appreciate that most customers will get their main shopping from large supermarkets but Thriplow shop is very handy if you unexpectedly run out of something. If you don't know our shop why not call in to see what we have to offer – have a cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate while you browse our selection. You will receive a warm welcome

THRIPLLOW VILLAGE SHOP

OPENING TIMES

Monday to Friday 7.00am to 5.30pm

Saturday 8.00am to 1.00pm

Sunday 10.00am to 12 noon



Tree Report

Carly

Richman

This year I have taken on the role of Tree Warden for the Parish Council. The main role of the tree warden is to oversee any planning applications involving trees as well as being a contact for all things tree related. One of the key aspects within the parish is to ensure that where possible trees are not removed unnecessarily as now more than ever trees are vital in sustaining our environment and an issue that Thriplow Parish Council considers extremely important. The role also means promoting the planting of new trees and last year you may have noticed some new trees around the parish. This has been the result of the Free Trees Scheme in partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council. Some of the new trees that have been planted are two Rowan Trees between Sheralds Croft and Fowlmere Road, one Maple on the Green and one Maple on Ringstone Green with more to come this year including two between Kingsway and Hurdles Way. If you have any queries regarding trees in our parish, please feel free to contact myself via the parish council website.



Heathfield Report

Rowan Pashley

This is the first report that I have had to write for the Heathfield ward, and I am happy to say that in my opinion, it has been a very good year. As always, there has been a great community spirit. This has led to many excellent events, such as the Halloween craft event, the Christmas gnome trail and carol singing. All of these events were organised by volunteers from the area, and I am very grateful to the organisers for giving up their time to arrange them. This kind of events really do bring the community together, and it was great to meet lots of new (and some older) neighbours! Several residents have formed a gardening club, who meet regularly to swap ideas and information on a range of green fingered topics, and I hope that they will spread some of this knowledge around the ward. I would also like to thank the residents who provided and planted a Christmas tree on Whitehall Gardens, which will grow to be a focal point for future Christmas activities.

The Public open spaces are being well used. The gym and play equipment on the Heathfield Open Space are always busy. The Parish council are working to put some permanent goal posts on the Ringstone open space, something that has been requested by numerous residents. Unfortunately, there have been a few reports of motor vehicles being used on the public open spaces. Please can we remind you that motor vehicles are not allowed on any of the parish recreation grounds and open spaces. This includes motorcross and quad bikes.

The condition of the bridleway between the two wards has been raised by residents several times. The path is used by the farm machinery to access the fields, and requires regular sweeping in order to keep the mud in the fields and off the track. The parish council will keep in contact with the land owner about this, to try and keep it at a level that is acceptable to all.

During the recent cold snaps it was noted that the contents of the salt bins had solidified. The County Council were notified, and the salt is in the process of being replaced. Please do let the Clerk know if these have run low.

A reconditioned notice board has been sourced to replace the damaged one on Pepperslade. By the time you read this, it should have been installed, however at the time of writing this, the ground is a little bit too soft.

Lastly, the roundabout has been repainted, and new double yellow lines have been placed on Heathfield Way and Hurdles way opposite the bus stop. The latter is the conclusion of a very long awaited PHFI process, and we are very grateful to everybody for their patience with this. It is expected that these will ease the congestion that often forms in this area, particularly in the mornings when the school busses are visiting.

As we look towards the next year, I hope that the amazing neighbourly spirit that was so prevalent this year will continue, and I look forward to attending some more community run events. I hear talk of a 'Pudding' club, which I will be following with particular interest.



**St George's
Church
Report
Elizabeth Moore &
Revd Angela
Melaniphy**

At our St George's Church annual parochial meeting in April 2022 Mr John Rimmer formally stood down as Church Warden. John has been in the role for 12 years and was an excellent warden who will be greatly missed. We have many things to thank him for, particularly his calm and thoughtful approach at services and his diligent management of the church building. Elizabeth Moore continues as the only churchwarden since no one else has come forward to stand for election, but we hope that someone else would like to also take on the role. In the meantime, the PCC members are supporting services and we are very thankful to Tony King who has volunteered to take on the responsibility for building management.

This year, the four-church benefice has opened all of its churches fully again for services following the lifting of restrictions with the coronavirus pandemic. There are no restrictions on numbers in church, singing, or serving refreshments. At Christmas St George's had a full range of services in the church the first time for two years. St George's have two services a month at 9.30am with Holy Communion on the first and third Sunday in the month. On the other Sundays, parishioners are invited to join one of the other churches in the benefice either Foxton, or Fowlmere.

Even though Covid restrictions have been lifted, we found that many people found on-line activities more convenient and popular. So we continue with some online events. This includes Morning Prayer every Tuesday 9 to 9.30am on zoom and every Sunday one of the services in the benefice is recorded and goes out on you tube, as well as being burnt onto CD and distributed to those unable to come in person.

Throughout the year, St George's Church have supported charities through special services. These have enabled us to make food donations to Jimmy's Night Shelter, cash donations to Cambridge Churches Homeless Project, The Royal British Legion, and Toy Box where we have helped to provide birth certificates for street children.

It was of course with much sadness that we learnt of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The church hosted the book of remembrance for the village to leave their messages. The bells at St George's were also tolled in accordance with regulations during the period of mourning as well as flying the Union Flag at half-mast and full mast as required to mark the mourning and accession.

Following our planning permission to extend the churchyard the legal transfer of the portion of land adjacent to the church gifted by Hon Oliver Walston to St George's Church is now nearly complete. The ground will then need to be consecrated by the Bishop of Ely before burials can take place there. The next steps are then fencing, creating a pedestrian access through the North Wall and a vehicular access from Brook Road. We hope this work will take place throughout the coming year. St Georges PCC was grateful to be given a grant by Daffodil weekend trustees towards the works on the churchyard extension. These developments will also require all of our fundraising activities this year to go towards this project.

Church maintenance is always ongoing. The repair and maintenance of the ornate drain pipes and gutters in the chancel was completed along with the cleaning of the windows in the chancel. This has made a huge difference to the light and ambience in the church. This work was all possible thanks to a grant from Peterhouse college who are St George's Lay Rectors.

As well as the regular twice monthly Sunday services in 2022 there was one wedding and 4 Funeral services at the Church. Thriplow School also uses the Church for their services at the end of each term.

In addition to our services, the church building is always open every day from 8am to 4pm and many find it a restful place for quiet reflection. All are more than welcome to drop in.

Becca Glazier is our Tower Captain, and the bell ringers meet every other Thursday evening for practice. They also ring before the regular Sunday services. Becca is now a qualified ringing teacher and this autumn has been training several new ringers.

**Please remember that
members of the public
are always welcome at
meetings of the Parish
Council**



**County Council
Report
Peter McDonald**

I have represented Duxford Division since February 2020 which includes Duxford, Hinxtton, Ickleton, Babraham, Pampisford, Foxton, Fowlmere, Shepreth, Thriplow, Heathfield, Heydon, Chishills, Whittlesford.

Budgeting & Council Tax 2023

The proposed budget which will now be put to all Members to consider at Full Council on February 7th, seeks to bridge a potential funding gap for the coming year of £21.4m, even after finding more than £10m of additional savings or income, in the face of levels of inflation not seen for 40 years plus rising costs for energy and essential services. The budget includes:

- £1m to continue free school meal vouchers for eligible children,
- £1m into highways schemes including rural roads drainage,
- £1m investment into flood mitigation,
- more than £1.3m into libraries,
- £380k investment in community services.

The proposal which will be put to Full Council is to set a balanced budget for 2023/24 through a mix of savings, use of one-off reserves, and the generation of additional income including a council tax rise for the coming year to 4.99%. This would see band D properties in the county paying an additional £73 per year, although more than half (64%) of county lives in homes rated band C or below and would see rises of between £49 and £65 per year.

In total this would raise £17.8m towards setting a legally balanced budget for 2023/4 – and would help to mitigate the additional costs of demand for, and inflation related to, adult social care costs forecast by the council in the year ahead.

Over the next five years, additional improvements the business plan looks to deliver include.

- £122m for new primary school places
- £164m for new secondary school places
- £13.3m investment into converting streetlights to LED, delivering both environmental and financial benefits
- £2.5m into a new highways materials recycling operation
- A £7.2m upgrade to the March and Milton Household recycling

My responsibilities are serving on:

- Highways Committee,
- County Farms Group as a member

In Highways currently we are working on 20 mph implementation which will be open for new schemes this year, Civil Parking Enforcement which will bring welcome relief to many villages and HGV strategy to mitigate impacts of HGV on local villages.



**District Council
Report
Richard
Williams**

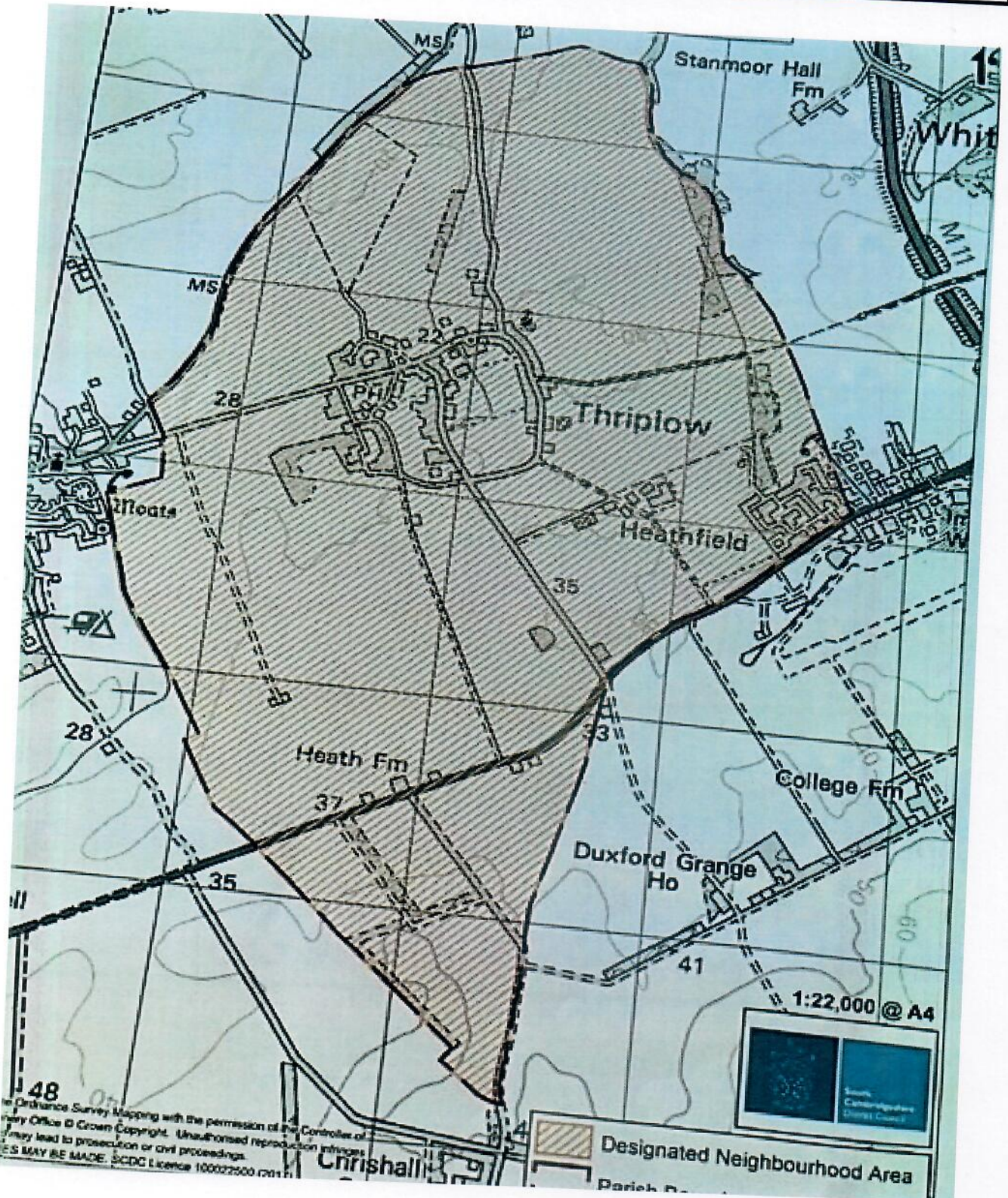
The District Council is in the process of drawing up a new plan for housebuilding and other development in South Cambridgeshire up to 2041. Every District Council is required to draw up a plan and keep it up to date. The first proposals for a new plan were published in 2021, as I discussed in my report last year. An updated proposal for housebuilding in Cambridge and South Cambs was presented by the planning service in January 2023. The 2021 proposal was for building 48,840 new houses to 2041, but the update has raised the figure by 8,000 to 57,000 houses. This is a huge number. There are barely 50,000 houses in the whole of the South Cambridge District at the moment, so the scale of development suggested is huge (though the 57,000 figure relates to Cambridge and South Cambs together). As I discussed in my report last year, there are serious doubts as to whether enough water could be found to supply this level of housing growth, as well as whether local roads, infrastructure and services could cope with the increase in population from such unprecedented building.

I have pressed the Council for more analysis of the constraints that these factors must place in development so that we can be sure that the plan that is eventually brought forward contains a reasonable number of new houses (the government suggests we need about 37,000 houses) that helps local people find housing, but which does not put unbearable strain on local services. A full draft Plan will be published later this year and I will keep the Parish updated.

In 2022 the Greater Cambridge Partnership, which is a body controlled by South Cambs District, Cambridge City and Cambridgeshire County Council, proposed the introduction of a daily congestion charge £5 for all cars driving within Cambridge between 7am and 7pm on weekdays. The proposed charging zone includes Addenbrookes Hospital. The money raised from the charge would be put into improving the bus network for Cambridge and some villages, as well as improving cycling routes in the city. The proposal has raised concerns for people who are dependant on cars for travel, either for work or because of childcare or health reasons. Locally, the bus proposals have an uneven impact. A regular bus service from Thriplow to Shelford is proposed to replace the existing service, and a change would be needed in Shelford to get to Cambridge. Unfortunately, no scheduled service to or from Heathfield was proposed. I have raised concerns about the impact that the charge would have on many residents and the exclusion of Heathfield from the scheduled service map. I do not believe that a congestion charge is the right solution for our area, and I do not support it.

Throughout the year I have helped residents with a wide variety of housing, environmental, planning and other issues. If you would like to discuss a matter of local concern, please do not hesitate to get in touch and I will do my best to help.

THE PARISH OF THRILOW AND HEATHFIELD



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