

Chairman's Report

Good evening to you all and would you please accept my apologies for not attending this evening's meeting.

May I begin by thanking Cllr Christine Milligan for standing in for me this evening and Cllr Maggie Stainton for chairing the monthly meeting to follow. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Bob Bailey in his appointment as Clerk & RFO to the Parish Council.

It has been a great pleasure and privilege to serve as Chair to Thurnham Parish Council for the past 12 months, something that I would not have achieved without the support of my Vice Chairman, Mike Hornshaw all other Councillors. Thankyou.

Whilst it has been a pleasure – it has also been very challenging, some projects more than others. I haven't checked to see when Lancashire Environment Fund first appeared on the Agenda – it was on January 2016 and I am sure pre-dates this! However, if anything proves that commitment and doggedness pays off the LEF grant application demonstrates it does.

The LEF grant to redevelop the former Babagee area in the village with the cooperation of Canals & Rivers Trust appeared to require almost full time managing, badgering and liaising with other 3rd parties to achieve the finish article – an area now that benefits the village community and is visually appealing to all. This would have not come to fruition without the endeavours of Cllr's Maggie Stainton and Christine Milligan and I am sure we all, the Parish included, would like to express our thanks for this.

As a Parish, we have suffered with the loss of our Lengthsman, a position we have still not been able to fill. Certain areas of the village and Parish in general have been highlighted as requiring attention by members of the public; however, it is fair to say that there is one group in the village that strives to help where it can, and our thanks should go to Christine Rowlands and Glasson Action Partnership (GAP) In the continued absence of a Lengthsman, going in to 2017/2018 we must further explore the options to allow GAP (if they are willing) to undertake more duties for us.

Ship Road, the main route to Glasson for residents, visitors and HGV traffic to the Dock was finally resurfaced after campaigning by the Parish Council, Cllr Gina Dowding and residents alike. You will recall, the Government allocated funds to Lancashire County Council and others – with Lancashire asking for 2 projects to be undertaken. Gina put a successful case forward for Ship Road to be resurfaced and we are all grateful to her for this.

May I thank Geoff Cann our outgoing Clerk for his services to the Parish Council and undertaking the duties of RFO until we were able to fill the vacancy. Geoff has also done a great job in getting the website up and running.

Cllr James Lamb joined us mid-term and being a local farmer his input on rural issues that affect the community have been welcomed.

Thurnham Parish Council, under the guidance of our new Clerk, is in a healthy position going in to the new year; we must all continue to work together as a team and fulfil our duties to the Parish.

In closing, my thanks again to you all for your support and I look forward with optimism to 2017/2018

Best wishes,

Dave Whitworth

Chair, Thurnham Parish Council

May 8th 2017