**Twyford and Thorpe Satchville Annual Parish Meeting**

**Chairman’s Report (2022/ 2023)**

**Twyford Village Hall**

**Tuesday 23rd May 2023**

**7.00pm**

The Parish Council has continued to conduct business using public meetings for the past twelve months.

It is still the case that many county council and borough council employees are now permitted to continue to work from home; there are still difficulties reaching the correct people to get answers to questions or activate requests re parish council business. Melton Borough Council Planning officers are heavily over worked dealing with all the applications resulting from the Local Plan and the major developments going on in and around Melton.

Again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues on the Parish Council for their help, support and vital input over the previous year, especially Mr P Challoner, the Clerk. I would also like to extend my thanks to those officers of the Borough Council and the County Council who have still been working under very difficult circumstances and have responded to issues raised.

1. Planning Applications

Over the past twelve months the Parish Council has dealt with eleven planning applications, five from Thorpe Satchville and six from Twyford. Most have been approved, both by the Parish Council and the borough council without objection and have been given permission to proceed.

The applications are as follows

**Thorpe Satchville**

Within the period April 2022 to March 2023, there have been five applications for planning permission, all were approved by the borough council. One application related to a new barn, one for demolition of the existing barn, two applications were for extensions to property and one application for the remodelling of a cottage for habitation. An application for sub-division of property, lodged in 2019/ 2020 was refused by MBC but has since been approved by Government Inspector on appeal.

**Twyford**

There have been six applications in total, five for development and one TPO during the past year. One for discharge of conditions, two for extensions to properties, one, a resubmission to regularise materials, all have been approved by the borough council.

Two further applications have been made, one for a removal of a tree with TPO and one for land to be used for holiday lets, both are unknown.

Enforcement – Removal of a mobile home from land without planning permission at John OGaunt. The Parish Council have worked with Melton Borough Council over this matter and are still waiting to see if the borough council will implement the enforcement notice that requires a resident to remove a mobile home from land without planning permission at John OGaunt and desist from using it as living accommodation.

A further case of possible enforcement has been reported to Melton Borough Council who are investigating: A possible breach at Thimble Hall on a 2020 application that was then converted into an application. This was refused by MBC but an expected new retrospective application is in the offing, (outcome unknown).

The application for the development of Home Farm, Twyford was refused in 2018. Nothing more has been heard re this development but it is hoped that this can be progressed at some point during the next twelve months.

The development of the barns on the bend of Tilton Road, Twyford, has also not progressed and therefore it looks as though this site will remain an eyesore for the near future.

The parish council decided that it would not develop a Neighbourhood Plan to cover the parish. It was felt that there was insufficient interest from locals to move this project forward. It is to be noted that the Neighbourhood Plan is community led.

1. Internal and external audits.

The Parish Council continues to be financially resilient. A second new style internal audit was carried out by associates from LRALC. The report was ranked unqualified, meaning there were no issues raised through the audit process. Other general financial activity has been approved by the internal auditor but with reservations regarding payments to St Michael and All Angels Church, Thorpe Satchville and St Andrew Church, Twyford.

There were no recommendations to be actioned but an advisory was made re the allocation of purchase against a coded budget heading.

There was no external audit during the last twelve months, the clerk claimed an exemption.

The council extends its thanks to the clerk, Mr P Challoner for all his hard work both in compiling the paperwork for audits and also for his unstinting work carried out throughout the year on behalf of the council.

1. Allotments

All fourteen allotments were allocated during the financial year and used by nineteen people. Again, these need monitoring closely to ensure the Parish Council does not become liable for the lost income.

1. Garage Parking Space

The Parish Council has once again derived income from a small portion of land between the village hall and bordering the B6047. It is hoped that this will continue into 2022/ 2023.

1. Purchases and donations

Donations were made to the following organisations over the past twelve months:

St Michaels Church – Annual Donation - £130

St Andrews Church – Annual Donation - £190

Citizens Advice - £25

1. Introduction of the GDPR.

The new General Data Protection Regulations have been embedded and all councilors are now using their new email address linked to the council. The data is now stored securely on the iPads supplied. A review of the way the council stores data will be carried out annually and the GDPR policy updated if necessary.

1. Local Infrastructure

The Parish Council has again this year had to deal with blocked gulleys/ drains; the county council have been notified and responded to our requests for work to be carried out. All gulleys can be reported as being in good working order after extensive work on some, carried out by Leicestershire County Council Highways Department.

The Environment Agency carried out the planned work as promised to de-silt the Gaddesby Brook, by the bridge in Twyford, in October/ November 2022. This is now monitored to ensure minimal silt build-up in the future.

The issues around the Fox Inn, Thorpe Satchville are still continuing. It is hoped a resolution to the problems will be found in 2023. The new owners of the Fox are currently carrying out due diligence on scheme proposals and hope to have a planning application in at MBC in the near future. The villagers will be consulted first on the proposals to ensure backing for the scheme.

The Parish Council has been granted money from County Councillor Joe Orson’s pot of the LCC Member Highways Fund. Thanks to Joe, we have been given £1500 for a new street light in Twyford and £4500 for two LED speed warning signs. This money has been received by the clerk and is in the parish council coffers. We are still awaiting approval from LCC Highways re the positioning of the poles to hang the speed signs from. This has been going on since last September.

1. Finance

The precept for 2022/ 2023 was set at £9000. At the start of the financial year, the council held £9302.01 in reserves and finished the year with £9473.97 in reserves. (It is to be noted that the first precept payment is made in April and that expenditure in April is heavy).

There is still an outstanding charge for a new lamp post at the top of Church Lane, Thorpe Satchville that was replaced in August 2021. This outstanding bill amounts to over £1000.

The council is required by law to carry a healthy contingency in reserves in the event of catastrophic event.

1. Policies

Throughout the year policies have been put in place to ensure the council is compliant with regulations. The GDPR policies were established and posted on the Parish Council website as was the Code of Conduct for Parish Councils. Each policy was approved by the council and this action is contained within the relevant minutes.

The new Code of Conduct for Parish Councils, in conformity with the latest NALC guidelines, will be rolled out for the new council term starting in May 2023.

1. Council sub-committee (Speeding Vehicles and Noise)

The council sub-committee on Speeding was disbanded because Mrs Baker left the village. The purpose of the sub-committee was to look at and deal with the speed and noise generated by motorcycles, vans, lorries and cars as they pass through both villages.

After a meeting with MP Alicia Kearns, who visited both villages, it was agreed that PC Ben Tranter would play an active role in supervising the problem when it was possible for him to do so alongside his normal duties. Ben has been very active in monitoring the speed of vehicles and pursuing speeding motorists and issuing cautions etc. to those who offend. It is hoped that when the new speed signs go up, they will collect the data to show we have a serious problem and that this data can be used to force other agencies to respond to our concerns.

The Parish Council applied to join Speedwatch for a second time with a view to carrying out its own speed surveillance within both villages, but was turned down because the Police Road Patrol Unit (RPU) and speed camera vans were active on the B6047. This was challenged and since then, we have seen some activity from the camera vans.

M A Jones 23rd May 2023 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman of the Parish Council, Mick Jones Date