

Report by CHAIRMAN

As you may know, our Annual Parish Meeting takes place every April. The meeting provides an opportunity for parishioners to attend and hear about progress made by your council, discuss plans for the coming year and hear reports from parish groups.

I am particularly delighted that we have co-opted two new Parish Councillors, Roberta Cargill and Jacqui Goldring onto the Council. This still leaves a vacancy for one more councillor.

Sarah Kings has decided to not stand as a Parish Councillor and I and the Council, would like to thank her for her help in looking after our village and her support on Parish Matters.

Myself, Carol Powell, Mark Rolph, Bobbie Cargill and Jacqui Goldring all put our names forward for the forthcoming Parish Elections and we were all Elected unopposed.

Unfortunately the Thunderer has fallen by the wayside and I am grateful for Sarah Kings efforts in the short time we were involved in its publication. We are considering other forms to keep residents informed on matters in the village.

The South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocation Plan has been out for consultation and the Council have supported its content, as according to our Local Village Plan Ashby is not included for any further development.

We have continued to comment on planning applications in accordance with Our Local Plan, recommending for approval, any in-filling within the Ashby Development Area, which is basically Mill Road Area. Also extensions to properties or change of use of buildings outside the development area..

South Norfolk District Council has accepted our recommendations, apart from a change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling at Studio Barn Hill, which the District Council refused despite our recommendation for approval..

The other main Planning matter was the proposal put forward for the Old Rectory. It was for a new sustainable property within the curtilage of the Old Rectory, The applicant was putting forward the proposal for consideration under Para 79 of the Planning Policy Framework. This is for those wishing to build a property in the countryside which would normally be refused,

Strict conditions have to be met for the proposal to be considered. As this was important to Ashby, an extraordinary meeting was held for Parishioners to hear the applicants proposal.

Twenty parishioners attended the meeting. The proposal would be in conflict with the Ashby St Mary Local Parish Plan and after some debate the general consensus was to retain the current plan proposals for the village. Twelve Emails and telecoms were received, with only one in favour of the proposal. As a result the Parish Council recommended its refusal to South Norfolk DC and asked to be kept informed of any further details being submitted by the applicant. To date nothing has been heard from South Norfolk DC and a planning application has not been submitted as far as we are aware.

Two new Parish Notice Boards have been purchased and erected on Chapel Lane and at Sandy Lane Junction.

A new dog waste bin has been purchased and erected at the junction of Chapel Lane near the Old Rectory.

The Council has contributed to the resurfacing of the Village hall access road and the new defibrillator to be installed near the school on Ashby Road.

The Cycle Way signs erected by Norfolk CC last year have at last been resited onto the existing finger posts.

The Private Road from Mill Common to FP4 & 7 has again been raised by its residents. Dog Walkers etc. are still using the Loke and leaving Dog Waste in the hedges. The Loke is a private road not a Public Right of Way and anyone disputing this should take the matter up with South Norfolk District Council and Norfolk County Council.

A Celebration of the Coronation of Charles III, in the form of a “Community Get Together” with Thurton Parishioners is planned for Sunday 7th May 2023 from 12 noon to 2 o’clock. Posters and Social Media has been used to circulate details to residents.

Looking to the future we will continue to monitor anything that has an impact on the village. With regard to contact with Parishioners we will try and provide a short report quarterly to inform parishioners of what happening in the village.

The means of contact is being investigated, the Ashby update service is available by Email and extending this to all residents may be the way ahead. Another is to use a Whats App Group for all residents so that information can be passed quickly to all residents. We will consult with all parishioners to determine what is the preferred way ahead.

Terry Kitt
Chairman