

# Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council

## Annual Parish Meeting

### Minutes 29 May 2024 at 18:30

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Councillor Brindley opened and chaired the meeting

**Present:** Cllrs Brindley, Lyons, Ives, Sheldon MBE. K Vickers (Parish Clerk), District Councillor Peter Overton, 2 members of the public.

**24.01 Minutes of the previous meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023** – agreed and signed as a true record.

#### **24.02 Introduction**

Councillor Brindley thanked everyone for attending the meeting and explained that the purpose of the meeting was for the residents to discuss any issues or concerns they may have without the constraints of a Parish Council Meeting setting.

#### **24.03 Chairman's Report.**

Please see Appendix A

#### **24.04 Open Forum**

The members of the public asked for an update on the solar project.

Councillor Brindley advised that the formal public consultation process, which was due to start in Spring 2024, has been postponed. The developer has been contacted but has been unable to provide any updates or revised timings. All the indicators suggest that the proposals have been deferred in light of the imminent general election, with attendant uncertainty regarding the priorities and policies of any new government.

The local Fosse Green Energy project, and its sister the Springwell Farm development, are both dependent upon the approval of an application for a new sub-station in Navenby, in order to secure appropriate connections to the National Grid. Without these new connections it is almost certain that the solar proposals will not progress, at least in their current form. The action group are therefore focussing their efforts on supporting the group fighting the application, and a public meeting is planned in Navenby on 8th July to raise awareness and consult local residents.

Meeting concluded at 18:50

## Appendix A

### THORPE ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

#### REPORT FROM THE CHAIR MAY 2023 to MAY 2024

This was a very busy year, and the first full one for our Clerk Kerrie Vickers, who has made an outstanding contribution. We head into the next year with a refurbished hall, much improved financial management, all licences updated and improved, and fully compliant procedures and documentation. Also, linked to the Clerk's role, Kerrie organised two very successful Upshall's Charity events, a pensioner's afternoon tea and a Christmas lunch. I am sure all councillors will join me in acknowledging all that Kerrie has achieved this year.

We began the year by welcoming new NKDC councillor Mitch Elliot and new LCC councillor Alan Briggs, and welcoming back NKDC councillor Peter Overton. On behalf of the Parish Council, I thank them for their attendance and thoughtful contributions to our meetings.

This year saw the conclusion of the, long discussed, project to extend and refurbish the Oliver Roper Village Hall. We began with a public consultation, refined our plans because of the feedback received, obtained planning permission, selected a builder, and completed the project.

The new Scout's Lake Licence was approved, and a Licence for the Bowl's Club, to formalise their relationship with the Parish Council, was negotiated and agreed.

The Bowl's Club Pavilion was repaired and refurbished, and thanks are due to Councillor Lyons for his work on this, the Bowls Club licence, and the new arrangements for allotment holders.

The Parish Council offered support to Oliver Chapple, who opened his field as a summer recreational amenity for the village. On behalf of all TOTH residents, I thank Oliver for this generous contribution to the community.

Councillor Bob Sheldon, MBE, was awarded the freedom of the parish in recognition of his many years of outstanding service to the community. He joins Ron Bradford, MBE, as the second recipient of the award.

John Burden did a wonderful job of restoring the memorial bench on the green. On behalf of all TOTH residents, I thank John for this important refurbishment of a well-known village feature that badly needed some care and attention.

The Parish Council awarded the following grants to local organisations.

Thorpe on the Hill Playgroup – £563.96

St Michael and All Angels Church – £800

View from the Hill – £820

St Michael's Church of England School – £239.98

Fosse Green Energy Solar Farm first came to our attention early in the year. A public information event was held, the whole village surveyed, and a local action group formed to oppose the proposal. A Parish Council response was prepared for the non-statutory consultation undertaken by the developers. As we move into the 2024-to-2025-year, resistance to the development of utility scale solar farms close to our village will be of increasing importance and a Parish Council priority.