

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013:

For the Parish Council Year May 2012 – April 2013

The Council has successfully completed its second year of this term, which has been an extremely busy year. This year a bye election took place in September and the Council were pleased to welcome back Councillor Wooding

Precept:

The Parish Precept was set at £314,256.00 which represents a slight increase on last year. This increase was necessitated to accommodate increases from service providers, maintenance/repairs required on Council properties including refurbishment of changing rooms, and following H&S concerns identified by Council Grounds staff and concerns received from residents of Alexandra Street, a substantial program of tree works is required including reduction the large lime trees on Cemetery Drive and Garden Street Recreation Ground.

Diamond Jubilee:

I would like to thank Thurmaston Events team this year, including several Councillors and members of the community, for the fantastic program of events arranged in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee

Jubilee Celebrations commenced with the Picnic in the Park event on 31st May, where local schools were invited to Elizabeth Park for a huge picnic, the children were entertained with music and games and a visit from the circus clowns. Following on the 1st June - Rockin Through the Realm at the Harrow in. The Jubilee Dinner Dance took place on Saturday the 2nd June at Elizabeth Park,. There was a Tea Dance and Singalong at Silverdale Community Centre, and Jubilee Jamboree 50s Night at the Conservative Club on the 3rd. The Diamond Jubilee Carnival took place on Elizabeth Park on 4th and finally, the celebrations closed with the Diamond Jubilee Sparkler on Garden Street Recreation Ground.

The program of events were supported by various other events arranged by other community groups including street Parties and a thanksgiving parade and service at the church.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committees for their hard work.

Memorial Hall and Cemetery Committee

The Memorial Hall and Cemetery Committee continues to be chaired by Councillor Davies and I would like to thank Councillor Davies for his contributions.

The Hall is utilised every weekday by several well established groups, Thurmaston Village Pre-school continues to run weekdays in term time. Various weekly classes run during the evenings including, childrens dance classes, Karate club, Line dancing club and the local TA group.

This year to date, the Memorial hall has benefitted from re-sealing of the floor and re-decoration of the former Library Room to create a meeting room which is frequently used by Thurmaston Heritage Group and the TA's.

The Police continue to occupy the Memorial Hall Office, providing a local base for beat officers, and ensuring accessibility for the public and increased security for the premises and hirers.

The Cemetery:

The Council's Groundstaff are working hard to improve the cemetery including a program of pruning work for the trees and hedges. The committee considered removing the path from the school boundary side of the Cemetery and replacing with turf, however following the outcome of a public consultation, this proposal was withdrawn and the path will be resurfaced as soon as funding becomes available. The boundary fencing has been repaired/upgraded in preparation for the installation of the new path.

The proposed Cemetery extension scheme is due to commence in the Summer, a program of works will be developed pending availability of funding for the scheme. The scheme was publicised at the Christmas Lights Event and Cemetery Chapel open day where local residents were consulted on their views on the proposals, and contributions/ideas were invited and submitted for consideration. The Council's Grounds Team will be involved in the development of the scheme and the School Council have agreed to assist with development of the children's memorial garden.

Memorial Safety Testing

In light of Health and Safety, all headstones in the Cemetery will be stability tested. Funding was allocated within the current budget and the work is due to commence imminently.

Cemetery Chapel:

There will be an open day at the Cemetery Chapel on Saturday 13th April where Mrs Janet Dent will be unveiling a plaque in Memory of ex-Councillor Mr Keith Dent who sadly passed away last year. Keith oversaw the program of refurbishment of the Chapel and was involved in the initial plans for the cemetery extensions, Keiths contributions are sadly missed.

Leisure Centres and Parks Committee

The Leisure Centre's and Parks Committee continues to be chaired by Councillor Hill and I would like to thank Councillor Hill for his contributions.

Elizabeth Park Sports Centre:

The Centre is increasingly busy with both functions a regular sports clubs and activities and community groups including: badminton, childrens dance school, aerobics, Karate, Tetsudo, bowls and football. Community Group and clubs inc: weight watchers, Jagruti Elders group and a mother and toddler group.

Additionally, the Centre Staff successfully ran a program of multi sports days and craft days for local children over the Easter holidays, and a further extensive program is planned for the summer holidays. The play schemes are very popular with many children having booked places on the summer scheme.

Elizabeth Park Artificial Turf Pitches:

The pitches are proving extremely popular, weekday evenings are fully booked and we have a waiting list of teams for any regular slots when they become available. Local football teams continue to play after the end of season and throughout the year in order to maintain their slot.

The Council supported the Leicestershire & Rutland Inclusive Football Partnership Charity again this year by hosting some of their Inclusive (disability) Football events on our 3G pitches. The Inclusive Football Events play a vital and valuable opportunity for special needs / disabled students to take part in football.

Jubilee Park:

The Pavillion has benefitted from a large extension this year which is due to open shortly. Thanks go to the Thurmaston Action Group and Thurmaston Boxing Club who have raised funds towards the project. In addition to three Boxing Club sessions, a ladies boxercise class now takes place every week. Magpies Junior FC continue to benefit from use

of the pitches and changing facilities and we are hoping to attract more hirers following the opening of the extension.

Garden Street Recreation Ground:

Garden street recreation continues to be a popular meeting place for local young people, and for the first time this year hosted the circus who and they are here for a second visit this week.

We are pleased to report a decrease in anti-social behavior and no vandalism on Garden Street Recreation Ground this year!

Silverdale Park:

Silverdale park has benefitted from the installation a state of the art new playground. The Park was designed and developed in consultation with the Parish Council, STEP School Council and local young people who regularly meet on the village parks and young families. The Parish Council were able to progress the project with funding allocated for play equipment, and the success of a Charnwood Borough Council Community Facilities Grant funding bid and the support of 106 developer contribution funding.

The Opening of the new park took place 9th March. The celebrations were attended by the Parish Council, STEP School Council, local children and members of the community and the local Police Beat officer. Following at the opening, all present enjoyed cake and refreshments in the community Centre. The new play area will be monitored by CCTV.

The Health and Safety Committee:

The H&S Committee continues to be chaired by Councillor Raven and I would like to thank Councillor Raven for his contributions.

The Council's Policies will be reviewed again next month and the Committee continue to monitor the H&S of contractors on site and the H&S Management of the Council's project.

The Health and Safety Committee also monitor the playground inspections which are carried out weekly.

The Environmental Committee:

The Environmental Committee welcomed a new Chairman again this year, Councillor Seaton and I would like to thank Councillor Seaton for her contributions.

The Committee has been very busy again this year continuing to address environmental problems such as and traffic congestion issues, highway maintenance issues and making observations on planning applications.

The Environmental Committee invited local school children to take part in a poster competition this year - the Dog Fouling Poster Campaign aimed to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets. Children from Bishop Ellis School took part and the council awarded prizes for the three winning posters. Following on from the competition, the project was nominated for a Charnwood Borough Council 'Don't Muck around award' and was the winner of the Community Category.

In support of the Police, the Council has funded the provision of a CCTV camera to be located on the corner of Melton Road, the camera is due to be installed imminently and will be monitored within Charnwood Borough Council Scheme.

Finally, I would like to thank my Vice Chairman, Councillor Brown and all the Members of the Council and Clerks for their support over the last year.

Annual Accounts

The following is the statement of accounts for the latest audited accounts of Thurmaston Parish Council plus the previous year, as a comparison.

	31/03/11	31/03/12
Balances brought forward	209,987	253,944
Annual Precept	282,616	306,659
Other Receipts	239,022	172,586
Staff Costs	171,351	209,292
Loan Interest/Capital Repayments	24,027	24,027
Other Payments	282,303	209,481
Balances carried forward	253,944	290,389
Cash & short term investments	243,692	292,061
Total borrowing	155,302	144,051