

Parish Council 7.4.10 Charles Milner - Williams in the Chair; Councillors Phillipson, Saunders, Bradbury, Foynes and Davis in attendance ; no Borough or County Councillors. From the floor Alan Leslie again argued the case for a **Parish Plan**, so as to include Thrupton Down, in a way that the Village Design Statement fails to do. John Davis again made the point that The V.D.S. has "statutory weight", whereas these proposed "Parish Plans" do not. Then how possible would it be to *amend* the existing V.D.S., was the next question. It appears that this might be possible, but at some cost. This will be looked into. Alan added that the "Thrupton Down" sign "is in the wrong place!".

The Council then considered **the vacancy** and the need to co-opt a new councillor. The situation was unusual in that **two** strong candidates had offered to serve. One was the aforesaid **Alan Leslie** and the other was **Mike Windsor** of Stanbury Close. Each man, in the absence of the other, was given a few minutes to address the Council.

Alan spoke first, and mentioned his previous experience some years ago as a councillor both at Shipton Bellinger, and here at Thrupton. He is, by profession, a Quantity Surveyor. He was putting himself forward as a voice for Thrupton Down, which, he claimed is "soon to be under attack again"

Mike Windsor then spoke, and explained that he and his wife Marion, had come to the Village in 2007. His career had been, and is, in Local Government. The Windsors like it here, are impressed by the activities and community spirit, and want to contribute.

Asked if he had other demands on his time, he said that he was involved with one of the Andover churches, but otherwise could devote time to Council duties.

In closed session the Council considered who to co-opt. Finally, the Chairman, emphasising the difficulty of the decision, announced that **Mike Windsor** had been chosen.

Alan accepted the decision graciously, and congratulated Mike.

On the matter of **Grit Bins**, it is agreed in principle to have Three new ones, i.e. at the far end of Lambourne Close; at the junction of Halcyon Drive and Beech Close, and at the near end of Dauntsey Lane.

On **Play Area** matters it was announced that we had been offered a large wooden climbing structure, which is currently sited at the Circuit, and had been given, as part of a play area there by the widow of the late **lan Taylor** tragically killed in a flying accident a few years ago. There would be some cost in

re-siting it. Debi Foynes and John Davis will report back to the May meeting.

On **Planning**, there was no objection to the proposal for a summer house at Yew Tree Cottage.

There was a lengthy discussion of many aspects of ongoing matters at the **Sports Field**, most of which were too intricate and detailed for your humble editor to follow. However, Heather Bourner, the Clerk, with her "Sports Trust" hat on, flagged up a big **Cricket Day at the field on 19th June**, which will incorporate teas, a beer tent, and other goodies. Police involved too! Diary please.

Satisfaction was expressed with the first cut of **The Green**, and this will be conveyed to the new contractor.

Looking ahead to the **Annual Assembly** on May 12th the Clerk gave an impressive list of people who have been asked to come along to speak, and possibly to be questioned.

This is one of the BIG events in our Village life, and residents are strongly urged to come along. It's at 8pm, preceded by the usual Parish Council meeting which is at 7pm.

Project Workshops. We are happy to give some publicity to their **Open Studios & Summer Exhibition** on Sat. May 8th and Sun. May 9th at the usual Quarley venue. The whole event is in aid of Alzheimers research, and will feature a host of fascinating art items, and the opening of their "fabulous new studio buildings". There will be home-made refreshments too. 10am-5pm both days. Entry £5.

Andover U3A Visit. ...One of the many sub-groups studies "*Villages*"; their history, geography and so on. On Tuesday of this week the group, numbering about 26, were hosted at Thrupton by your Editor, and Revd. Ann McKenzie. They were shown, and/or had explained to them many features of life here past and present. Arriving at the Manor, we were greeted by Chris Rome, who conducted a fascinating and informative tour (yours truly learned a few things too). Then to the Church where wonders such as the wooden Lady Philpott, and the brass Sir John Lisle were admired, and even a trial bit of **bell-ringing**. By a circuitous route we then got to the Hall, where John and Margaret Davis were on hand to explain the wonders of this revitalised and expanded building...and do a bit of "hard sell" for hall rentals. The Group then made their way to **The George** where many had already ordered their lunches. All expressed great admiration for the Village. Thank goodness the weather was kind!