

**Parish Council 6.4.11.** Charles Milner-Williams in the Chair ; Councillors Debi Foynes and John Davis in attendance. Our Borough Councillor Phil Lashbrook ( and iPad ) also present.

There was discussion of **rubbish removal** at The Green. A rather prohibitive quote had been given for dealing with this professionally. It was decided that next month self-help, with a **bonfire**, would be the best solution.

Subject to the approval of TVBC ,It was decided to move the **green bin** from the field-gate at the Green ( little used ) up to the Sports Field.

The Chairman spoke about the **collection for Ernie**, and about the **footpaths work** ( see paragraphs on side 1), and looked ahead to the **royal wedding** celebrations, where the Council have voted contributory funding of £150.

Looking ahead to the **elections and referendum** next month, it was confirmed that existing Councillors Milner-Williams, Davis, Bradbury, Windsor, and Saunders would offer themselves for re-election, and that Janet Graham, who had previously served as a Councillor, was willing to stand again. Given that the full complement is **seven**, there is scope for others to come forward.

Phil Lashbrook said that there was nothing specifically local to report this time, but it was worth noting that , at **the 100 Acre**, proper traffic lights are in operation. He also cautioned that **Red Post Lane** is completely closed.

There was also good news about **parking at Andover Station** where more land has been acquired for that purpose.

The Chairman passed on to Phil thanks from Councillor Phillipson for a very effective **litter-pick on the A303**.

On **Planning**, John Davis said there were just two applications, both relating to trees, and we had no problems with either.

The Council looked ahead to next month's **Parish Assembly**, the invited speakers, and the provision of some refreshments. It was decided that up to £75 could reasonably be spent.

The Inland Revenue have raised the tax-free **car mileage allowance** to 45p per mile, after several years at 40p. It was decided to adopt this rate for Council business.

Returning to **Septic Tanks**,there is confirmation that all must be registered, and there are stiff penalties if there is a leak causing environmental pollution. Phil said that TVBC had not been directly informed. The whole thing had not been well presented. Charles said that he would put detailed information on to the Village Website.

There is **A Questionnaire** available for users

of our local buses to complete. Anyone who wants to express a viewpoint can get a copy by phoning the Parish Clerk on 773976.

Pam Simpson, the School Head, is supportive of **anti-litter** ideas , and the pupils have produced posters on the subject, which are being laminated, and will be put up around the area. The P.T.A are also involved.

The Council have been contacted by **HOME-START** a charity whose Andover & District branch are looking for “ *people with profession – al skills to step forward and be volunteer Trustees to help guide and oversee its work supporting local families with young children*” Contact Hilary Birley at [hilarybirley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hilarybirley@hotmail.co.uk) or visit [www.home-start.org.uk](http://www.home-start.org.uk)

Charles had warm thanks for retiring Councillor Debi Foynes, who had been a lively asset.

Next meeting **7pm** on May 11 to allow for **Annual Assembly at 8pm**.

**Churchyard tidying** (Christine Barrett) If you have time on your hands on Sat 9<sup>th</sup> April from 10am you will be more than welcome to join a working party at the churchyard to tidy it up or maybe paint the path gates or lamp post ( weather permitting). If you prefer something less strenuous maybe you would like to help clean the brass, while you sit and chat, remove high level cobwebs etc. Please bring a shears, rake, a wheelbarrow whatever with you. We will be very grateful to Mrs. Rome who has offered to provide refreshments. We look forward to seeing you.

Our Chairman wants to make the point that **Thrupton Post Office** is still very much open for all postal business. You can also license your car there, pay bills, and even draw money out , as well as post letters and buy stamps, birthday and other cards, as well as many a useful bit for house and garden. **Business as usual...so do please support “our own” P.O.**

**Project Workshops, Quarley.** Open weekend 7/8 May. **Always worth visiting.** Ten studios will be open, including that of Thrupton's own Vivi Mallock. A great day out for all the family and entry is absolutely **free** !

Footnote re the **Ernie Collection**. Can we please ask that donations be in by **10<sup>th</sup> May** so that the full amount can be handed over on the 11<sup>th</sup> when Ernie and his wife have agreed to attend the Assembly. Thank you very much.

Due to the *late date* of the Assembly, the Thrupton Times will not be out until **May 12/13**.

