

Parish Council 12 5 10 At this meeting at was necessary to re-elect certain positions. The Clerk took the Chair while Charles Milner-Williams and John Davis were re-elected, *nem con*, to the Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship respectively. Other Councillors present were Mike Windsor (first meeting), Debi Foynes, Ray Bradbury and Kate Phillipson. Our County Councillor Mrs. Pat West was also present. Various committee work was accepted : John Davis continuing with **Planning**. Debi Foynes to see to matters such as the **Play Area**. Mike Windsor agreed to oversee **green** matters (Village Green !) and so on. The Clerk said that new **mileage rates** approved for Councillors' expenses allowed, according to circumstances, higher rates than the 40p in force for quite a long time. The Chairman proposed, and it was approved, that Thruxton's be "capped " at the 40p per mile.

The question of moving the **Ian Taylor Play Area** equipment from the Circuit to our Play Area was discussed by Debi Foynes. The actual moving of it would not be a problem, and there was room for it , but **the cost**, apparently several thousand pounds, would be prohibitive, and hence lead to our having to turn down the kind offer.

There was ongoing contact with B.T. concerning the transferring of ownership of the **Phone Box** and its electricity supply. We shall make it clear that an electricity supply to the Box is **not wanted**.

A letter received from a resident in **St. John's Lane** indicated a willingness to tackle the ongoing problem of the bad surface and the substantial puddles that regularly feature there. John Davis, reviewing the lengthy history of this situation, said that it had been established quite a while ago that this was a problem for the residents, but there had seemed to be a lack of collective will.

The Council would be very ready to back any practical move, now, by the residents.

The Clerk declared that "**Thruxton Down Road**" is now the approved name for what the local authority had previously insisted on calling "Topliss Hill"....audible sighs of relief ! This part of the evening ended on a lighter note when Councillor Bradbury declared that he was **Pooh-sticks Champion of Thruxton**, having beaten off a challenge from 2 (much) younger competitors. Mrs. West was asked if County might have grants available to foster this traditional sport. After this frivolity the evening re-constituted itself as **The Annual Parish Assembly**.

Our TVBC Councillor Phil Lashbrook had

arrived, as had several invited guests. Charles welcomed them, and gave his annual report, and expressed thanks to the Clerk, to his fellow-councillors, to Pat West & Phil Lashbrook, to Jason & Clive Bailey, Terry Thorne, Sue King, and others, who all did their bit to make this such a good and pleasant place. He welcomed the enviable and still expanding range of activities available here. The "floor" was then handed over to various speakers : Steve Payne for the **Sports Trust**, urged that other sports, apart from football, be fostered on the Field – cricket, of course, but there are others; space is available.

Christine Sexton, Acting Head, and Pam Simpson, to be Head after the summer, spoke about **The School**. Pam said that she already feels part of the community, and hopes to develop this further.

Chris Rome spoke about the **Hall, and the Gardening Club**, both doing well but still working to improve.

Mandy Squires for the new **Children's Activities Group** spoke of the benefits of getting parents and children together in this venture, and outlined ideas for future events. The support of the Village Assocn was gratefully acknowledged.

Others who spoke included Richard Ward for **Village Assocn.**; **A Policewoman**; Julia Ward for the **W.I.** ; Jeremy Bally dealt with **Neighbourhood Watch** and with the **Allotments**(don't mention rabbits)

Pat West for the **County**, and Phil Lashbrook for **TVBC** were unstinting in their praise for the "marvellously well run" Thruxton Council.

The formalities ended with a happy ceremony when **Ron Pennells**, who had been, (in Wiltshire, in Fyfield, and most recently in Thruxton) a Councillor as far back as the 1960's was presented with gifts and a framed certificate in recognition of this record of service. Charles Milner-Williams, and Pat West made the presentations. It happened to be Ron's 80th birthday, and Pat revealed that it was also *her birthday*, so a rousing chorus was sung by the assembled throng. What a great finale !!

Ron said he had much enjoyed public office (also School Governorship) and felt proud to have been elected several times.

Don't miss our June issue, due on 4th.

