

Parish Council 1.9.10 Charles Milner-Williams in the Chair; Councillors Saunders, Bradbury, Windsor and Davis in attendance.

There was no Borough or County presence, but, by invitation, 2 people had come to explain the whys and wherefores of a "**Parish Plan**". Alan Leslie of Thrupton Down, who had relentlessly pushed the subject, was present to hear and to question.

Jo Dixon, and Marianne Piggin gave a careful and detailed exposition, emphasising the fact that that it is not only a document but a *process*, which, if properly done, brings the community together, and sets priorities for the next 5-10 years. Accepting that areas such as Thrupton Down had not had proper attention in the existing Village Design Statement, what steps, and costs, would be involved in incorporating a Parish Plan into that document, which does have formal status, whereas Parish Plans, at present, do not? Council will consider this further, and Alan Leslie's offer to assist is accepted.

In response to a question from the floor about incorporating part of **Amport Parish** into this one, the Chairman said that, although he knew that this had been aired (not for the first time) no formal approach had been made. John Davis commented that when this last came up, several years ago, TVBC declined to take any interest whatsoever.

The Phone Box, now ours, would soon have shelves put up so that it can be used as a **Paper-back book exchange**. Residents will be urged to **bring** books to get it started.

The Chairman spoke about **3 footpaths** needing attention, one of which runs along St. Johns Lane. An attempt will be made to get Southern Electricity and / or Testway Housing, both of which have an interest, to contribute to costs.

It was noted, with amusement, that the "risk-assessment" saga of our young **grass-cutter**, Luke, had made the columns of the Daily Telegraph. It is agreed he is doing a good, thorough job.

On the subject of the **Sports Field**, there was news that the new **Pavilion is approved** subject to conditions. There are still details of access to the field to be sorted out, and the need for "a small picket fence" was floated.

The Council were not much impressed by a new Government edict that a Parish Council will have an absolute **right to build houses** anywhere in its domain provided 80% of all the electors vote in favour. The chances of getting 80% of any electorate out to vote on anything, and all to vote in favour, would seem to be paper-thin to vanishing point.

There had however been, apparently, more rigid rules announced by Eric Pickles concerning **Travelling people**, and when questioned by the Chairman as to whether or not this was applicable to Showpeople, the clear and swift answer was "yes". Charles added the information that **on Oct 19th at the Guildhall** there will be the "informal hearing" into the present Appeal. As for the **Doggy Day** at Quarley, Charles said that 3 children from the Village had gone along, as had he, and, in spite of less than lovely weather, it had been informative and enjoyable.

The next Council meeting will be on Oct. 6th.

Church opening As has now become "traditional" the regular afternoon opening will cease at Harvest Thanksgiving on Oct 3rd. Much thanks as ever to the team.....Ron Pennells, Jan Lawrence, John Borrett, Gill Bally, Reg & Roma Reeves, Janet Graham and Valerie Bayley. One memorable entry in the Visitors' Book, someone from Ireland, described the building as "Full of Faith": a wonderful testament to the countless generations who have worshipped there.

Bonus Ball. The Seventh Series of Bonus Ball has started, and runs from 28th Aug to 20th November. Each week the holder of the National Lottery bonus ball number gets a cheque for £25. The Trustees are very grateful to those who continue to support this scheme which produces valuable funding towards the upkeep of the Memorial Hall.

Sabbatical As reported in "7 Whole Days" Revd. Ann McKenzie is to have a break from her Church duties. To mark her ministry there is to be a special service on Oct. 10th at 10 am, followed by refreshments, and everyone is more than welcome to attend.

Hall Diary Dates. Keep these dates free :-
11th Nov. Spanish Gypsy band; crazy party
17th Dec The Little Mermaid : trapeze artists and others will entrance children of all ages.
6th Jan Twelfth Night ; comedy revue show with Iestyn Edwards and "Madame Galina"
Full details to come.

Progressive Dinner Party will next be on Sat Nov. 13th. Previous participants will be contacted soon, but if you are "new" to this please speak to Jeremy Bally 772896, and he will be delighted to explain how it works.

Phew! Just about got it all in. Back with you in early October with lots more news.