



THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL
THORPE ST ANDREW
ANNUAL PUBLIC TOWN MEETING

ALL WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

Town Hall, Pound Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, NR7 0UL
Tel/Fax: (01603) 701048 Email: office@thorpestandrew-tc.gov.uk

Agenda of Annual Public Town Meeting

You are hereby invited to attend the Annual Public Town Meeting of Thorpe St Andrew to be held at the Town Hall on 17th May 2023 from 7.00pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Dr Thomas Foreman
Locum Clerk to the Council

Sue Lawn
Town Mayor

AGENDA

- 1 To confirm the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 9th May 2022
- 2 Annual Report of Thorpe St Andrew Town Council from the Town Mayor, Councillor Sue Lawn
- 3 Finance – to follow
 - i. Finance Statement 2022/23
 - ii. Variance Report 2022/23
- 4 Update from Local Organisations
 - a) Thorpe St Andrew Parish Church
 - b) Norfolk Police
 - c) Royal British Legion
 - d) Thorpe History Group
 - e) Thorpe Dementia Support
 - f) Dussindale Centre
 - g) Community Groups - verbal
- 5 Public Participation
- 6 Close

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Locum Chief Executive Officer – Thomas Foreman

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**THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PUBLIC TOWN MEETING
HELD ON 9TH MAY 2022 AT 7:00PM**

Present

Miss S Lawn (Town Mayor)	Mr J Fisher	Mr P Berry	Mr S Snelling
Mrs T Mancini-Boyle	Mr F Bowe	Mr T Garner	Mr J Emsell
Mrs J Fisher	Mr T Fordham	Mr M Lake	Mr J Ward
Mr L Reeves	Ms M Friend		

Apologies:

Mr N Shaw

In attendance:

Dr T Foreman (Town Clerk)
Mrs R McCarthy (Administrative & Communication Officer)
Mr J Calver (Parks and Estates Supervisor)
One member of the public was present

1 MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Public Town Meeting held on 26th April 2019 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Miss S Lawn, seconded by Mr J Ward.

2 ANNUAL REPORT OF THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL FROM THE TOWN MAYOR, COUNCILLOR SUE LAWN

Miss S Lawn provided an overview of the civic year 2021/22. It was explained that 2022 was more different in terms of covid recovery than 2021 and 2020. Therefore, the update detailed the hard work underway by the town for the betterment of the community.

The year saw the return of face-to-face meetings, and a highly successful 'high street pop up' in the park which supported local small businesses. The Thorpe Poppy Trial was launched with a wonderful exhibition of World War II memorabilia.

The November fireworks welcomed approximately 9000 people to the Fitzmaurice Park, which was the largest event held to date. Following this, the Remembrance Parade was well attended and appreciation was extended to all those involved. Christmas saw two events with social distancing, followed by a rise in cases in January. February saw the unsuccessful recruitment of a CEO, with Dr T Foreman continuing in position.

Finally, April saw the return of the St George's Day celebration with a difference, as it introduced more street food stalls and was widely praised within the community.

Special mentions were given to the Dementia Support Group and Parish Church. It was also mentioned that the Queen's Jubilee event would shortly be taking place.

3 FINANCE

(i) Financial Statement 2021/22 – members noted the Financial Statement for 2021/22.

(ii) Variance Report 2021/22 - members noted the Variance Report for the period 1/4/21 to 31/3/22.

4 UPDATE FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

(a) Dr T Foreman provided an overview of the events taking place at the Church and details of the strong working relationship between both parties.

(b) Norfolk Police – The meeting welcomed the report of PC Al Jennings on behalf of the Safer Neighbourhood team. Principle issues included speeding, drugs, and increasing visible patrols.

The meeting appreciated the update and wished to extend their appreciation to PC Jennings.

(c) Royal British Legion – Mr Snelling provided a detailed annual report of the excellent work of the Royal British Legion. Details of the 2022 Remembrance Parade was also discussed.

(d) Thorpe St Andrew Armed Forces Champion – Mr F Bowe provided a verbal update on his work as Armed Forces Champion. This included achieving Bronze Status with the Armed Forces Covenant and details of the Models for Heroes scheme.

(e) Thorpe St Andrew Town Council Dementia Support Champion – Mr Snelling provided an update on the Dementia Support Group, including impact of staffing changes and the hard work of volunteers. The annual trip and Christmas party was also mentioned.

(f) Community Groups – A written report from the Dussindale Park Community Trust was provided.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A question was asked relating to the planning status of Thorpe Island and the issue of the sewage in the river. This was addressed by the Clerk.

The meeting closed at 7.33pm

Signed:

Dated:

THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022/2023

	Actual 21/22	Budget 22/23	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Verge Cutting	17416.57	17000.00	18845.00	19000.00
Sir George Morse Park & Pavilion	13391.49	15400.00	27308.84	18900.00
Events	19511.16	16000.00	39716.81	20000.00
Fitzmaurice Park & Town Hall	23439.21	18800.00	22659.00	17000.00
Allotments	10548.58	6050.00	7080.29	6000.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	13523.01		10224.97	
Precept	518758.00	534569.00	534569.00	550654.00
Business Sponsorship	420.00	250.00	673.33	450.00
Town Hall Office	179.06	50.00	3108.13	400.00
Roxley Hall	7168.34	10000.00	15568.98	12000.00
River Green	4234.64	1000.00	2473.05	1500.00
Grants	1000.00		1766.65	
Street Furniture	257.50		143.07	
Tree Management	40.00			
Legal Fees			15387.93	
Section 106			52457.65	
Neighbourhood & Town Plan			3300.00	
Capital Spend/Building Maintenance			97.13	
TOTAL INCOME	629887.56	619119.00	755379.83	645904.00
EXPENDITURE				
Verge Cutting	10934.30	8500.00	6206.59	8500.00
Sir George Morse Park & Pavilion	62847.68	53600.00	46206.30	55600.00
Events	14665.23	15000.00	32487.27	21500.00
Fitzmaurice Park/Town Hall	23009.96	22500.00	15428.00	21000.00
Allotments	5906.81	4800.00	5949.72	4900.00
Town Council Office	27180.29	25050.00	28035.91	30900.00
Legal fees	11499.30	6500.00	18498.10	8000.00
Business Sponsorship	592.94	1000.00	1713.61	1000.00
Cemetery	2565.72	3025.00	229.93	2250.00
Building Maintenance	10777.50	29000.00	31263.99	21000.00
Loan Repayment	27729.00	27268.00	25622.15	26807.00
Leases	5562.08	5200.00	4401.76	5200.00
Neighbourhood & Town Plan	1033.09	1000.00	3750.00	1000.00
Street Furniture	1755.83	1500.00	2024.23	2200.00
River Green	11838.24	10500.00	6621.41	7100.00
Capital Spending	12068.00	46000.00	140191.22	33500.00
Street Lighting	44742.16	32000.00	60650.13	44000.00
Roxley Hall	11924.22	10500.00	11568.24	11500.00
Salaries	325013.91	291626.00	254404.31	314447.00
Newsletter	2287.99	2000.00	4431.00	2500.00
Grants	1770.00		1320.96	
Section 137	50.00	550.00	550.00	
Youth Council	291.67	1000.00		1000.00
BDC Elections	7079.49	4000.00	4772.97	7000.00
Website	660.00	1000.00	1420.00	1000.00
Tree Management		9000.00	9174.07	9000.00
Contingency		7000.00		5000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	623785.41	619119.00	716921.87	645904.00

	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23
Total Expenditure		
General Fund 1 April	193822.29	138368.94
Add total income	629887.56	755379.83
Deduct expenditure	-623785.41	-716921.87
Transfer to (-) or from (+) Reserves	-61555.50	7895.17
Balance at 31 March	138368.94	184722.07
Represented by:		
General Fund Balance	138368.94	184722.07
Capital Reserve	55310.20	55415.03
Earmarked Reserves	168600.00	160600.00
Total Net Assets	362279.14	400737.10

THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL : FINANCIAL VARIANCES 2022/2023

	Budget 22/23	Actual 22/23	Difference	Difference	Explanation of Variance	Earmarking
INCOME	£	£	£	%		
Verge Cutting	17000.00	18845.00	1845.00	10.85%	Increased payment from NCC	-2000.00
Sir George Morse Park & Pavilion	15400.00	27308.84	11908.84	77.33%	Café electricity contribution (1380), Grounds maintenance refund (3230), Sale of Assets (7108)	
Events	16000.00	39716.81	23716.81	148.23%	Fireworks takings (33251), Jubilee event not budgeted (3458)	-5000.00
Fitzmaurice Park & Town Hall	18800.00	22659.00	3859.00	20.53%	Grounds maintenance refund (3230)	
Allotments	6050.00	7080.29	1030.29	17.03%	Arrears water payment	
Community Infrastructure Levy		10224.97	10224.97			
Precept	534569.00	534569.00				
Business Sponsorship	250.00	673.33	423.33	169.33%	Development of "Made in Thorpe"	
Town Hall Office	50.00	3108.13	3058.13	6116.26%	Subscription refund (1250), Bank Interest (953), Bottle Bank (417)	
Roxley Hall	10000.00	15568.98	5568.98	55.69%	Lettings back to pre-Covid capacity	
River Green	1000.00	2473.05	1473.05	147.31%	Arrears Mooring electricity	
Grants		1766.65	1766.65		Morse Planting Project & Warm Spaces Grants	
Street Furniture		143.07				
Tree Management						
Legal Fees		15387.93			NPLaw refund (4187), Legal Charges (11200)	
Section 106		52457.65	52457.65		Contribution to Morse Play Equipment	
Neighbourhood & Town Plan		3300.00	3300.00		Grant Award	
Capital Spend/Building Maintenance		97.13				
Total Income	619119.00	755379.83	120632.70	19.48%		
EXPENDITURE	£	£	£	%	Explanation of Variance	
Verge Cutting	8500.00	6206.59	2293.41	26.98%	Underspend on all (see Leases)	
Sir George Morse Park & Pavilion	53600.00	46206.30	7393.70	13.79%	Grounds maintenance underspend (7571.3)	
Events	15000.00	32487.27	-17487.27	-116.58%	Jubilee event un-budgeted (10840), new equipment purchased & Xmas event overspend (4510)	
Fitzmaurice Park/Town Hall	22500.00	15428.00	7072.00	31.43%	Grounds Maintenance underspend (5372), Youth shelter underspend (823), electricity underspend (1634)	
Allotments	4800.00	5949.72	-1149.72	-23.95%	Hillside water leak (1055)	
Town Council Office	25050.00	28035.91	-2985.91	-11.92%	New telephony/Wifi system (1348), Full team Training costs included (1605), subscriptions (3559). Other cost savings achieved	increased
Legal Fees	6500.00	18498.10	-11998.10	-184.59%	3x Legal matters	
Business Sponsorship	1000.00	1713.61	-713.61	-71.36%	Significant improvements on St Andrews roundabout	
Cemetery	3025.00	229.93	2795.07	92.40%	No maintenance cost (2525)	
Building Maintenance	29000.00	31263.99	-2263.99	-7.81%	Overspends at River Green (5234), Morse (1365) & Café (739), counteracted by underspend at Town Hall	-2000.00
Loan Repayment	27268.00	25622.15	1645.85	6.04%		
Leases	5200.00	4401.76	798.24	15.35%	Verge Cutting cost attributed 21/22	
Neighbourhood & Town Plan	1000.00	3750.00	-2750.00	-275.00%	Grant Award spent	
Street Furniture	1500.00	2024.23	-524.23	-34.95%	Graffiti removal, repairs & maintenance (449)	
River Green	10500.00	6621.41	3878.59	36.94%	Water costs (1523) counteracted by rates exemption (1800) & reduced maintenance cost (2321)	
Capital Spending	46000.00	140191.22	-94191.22	-204.76%	Play Equipment (78014), E-Vehicle (29360), Lighting Towers (6805), Cricket Mower (6350), Grounds Works (3295), Feasibility Studies (3000), Dog Agility Installation (2999), Photocopier (2000)	
Street Lighting	32000.00	60650.13	-28650.13	-89.53%	Energy Charge overspend (11698), Repairs (19152)	
Roxley Hall	10500.00	11568.24	-1068.24	-10.17%	WiFi upgrade (1114)	
Salaries	291626.00	254404.31	37221.69	12.76%	2x zero cost officers (53085), CEO cost saving (6807). New Comms & Parks Officers employed.	-7000.00
Newsletter	2000.00	4431.00	-2431.00	-121.55%	3x editions published. Design company required due to vacancy	
Grants		1320.96	-1320.96			
Section 137	550.00	550.00				
Youth Council	1000.00		1000.00	100.00%		
BDC Elections	4000.00	4772.97	-772.97	-19.32%	2x Elections	1000.00
Website	1000.00	1420.00	-420.00	-42.00%	Upgrade to auto-reporting	
Tree Management	9000.00	9174.07	-174.07	-1.93%		
Contingency	7000.00	7000.00				
	619119.00	716921.87	-97802.87	-15.80%		

SUGGESTED EARMARKED RESERVES MOVEMENT	-15000.00
RESERVES AVAILABLE	38000.00
REMAINING RESERVES AVAILABLE TO EARMARK*	23000.00

* includes 11000 Legal Charges



The Parish of Thorpe St Andrew

Thorpe St Andrew Parish Church The Church of The Good Shepherd

Introduction

Our town's name derives from the church's dedication to St Andrew – one of the very first disciples to answer Christ's call to 'Come, follow me!' Since the earliest church's foundation here, Christians have gathered in places of worship and have kept on responding to that call in their lives. It is truly humbling to continue to lead this parish with so many in our community as your Rector. The year of 2022 was a year of turmoil for our nation and the world, as although Covid-19 restrictions were lifted there continued to be anxiety about the spread of the illness. In addition, much of the world pledged its support for our friends in Ukraine as Putin commenced war against them, there were three UK Prime Ministers, the cost of living crisis began to be a cause of concern for most, and, only a few months after celebrating her Platinum Jubilee, Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II sadly died in her beautiful Highland retreat of Balmoral. Amidst all these events our churches remained strongholds for prayer, worship and service to our community, radiating the light and love of Christ.

Events

- We began our commemoration of the Her late Majesty's Platinum with a special service on the anniversary of her accession (6 February). This coincided with a planned visit of the Archdeacon of Norwich, who visited the parish for the last time before moving to a post in the Diocese of Salisbury.
- During the season of Lent we held a face to face Lent group and it was a great honour to lead the parish's first Lenten pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham on 31 March 2022. In Holy Week and Easter we were able to hold most services similar to our pre-pandemic programme with reasonable congregations. We also saw the return of our Easter Fun Day for children and young families which was had very good numbers.
- After months of careful planning by the Platinum Jubilee Planning Group we were able to present a day of activity on the Sunday of the Jubilee Weekend with a Service of Thanksgiving and The Big Jubilee Lunch with picnic boxes prepared by The Rivergarden Pub. We were entertained to an excellent concert by the Norwich City Concert Band, The T'ree Fellas singing group, assisted by The Lady Birds, concluding with a Sing-along led by Pip Jenkinson and Fr James. The whole day was a great success. Fr James also participated in the afternoon and evening celebrations at the Town Council celebrations at the Sir George Morse Park on the Thursday of the Jubilee Weekend.
- We held a number of summer events including the Platinum Jubilee Plant Sale, a concert from Norwich School, the Summer Concert and Strawberry Tea, the Summer Fete, Summer Fun Day for children, The Truckers' Sunday celebrations, some super Organ Recitals, a visit from the choir from Liberec University in Czech Republic and many more enjoyable events. Our Harvest Festival and Lunch took place at the Church of the Good Shepherd in 2022 and was followed by the Harvest Lunch. In November we held our annual service for those who have been bereaved

during the year, on Sunday 6 November at the Parish Church. This was very well attended and it well received by the families whom we serve. On the following Sunday members of the Royal British Legion, Town Council, other civic guests and a very good turnout of members of the junior uniformed groups of our town paraded from Broadland District Council offices to the War Memorial and then to a Remembrance Service in the Parish Church.

- We began Advent with the Christmas Tree Festival and welcomed many organisations in our community to display Christmas Trees in the Parish Church. As the lights were switched on at River Green we welcomed many into our church, We were then able to however hold school Carol Services, our own Carol Services at both churches and the usual services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day – crib services, midnight masses and Christmas morning service. All received a very warm welcome and many thanked us for that we are doing.
- We are very grateful for Victor Scrivens and his team for organising many other events including Blingo Bingo, Quiz Nights, Film Nights and the Spring and Autumn Fairs, to name only a few.

Change of service times

After the results of our consultation *Celebrating our life together* were gathered in, the PCC voted unanimously to change the service times to 9.00am at the Church of The Good Shepherd and 10.30am at the Parish Church, which took effect from 12 June 2022.

Eco Church

In March 2022 Adam Wegg and I applied to Eco Church for our Bronze Award which we achieved. The hard work of continuing this eco-journey to obtain the Silver Award is a work in progress.

Ministry team enlarged

I am pleased to say that, following the agreement of the PCC, Bishop Graham authorised Adam Wegg as an Authorised Worship Assistant and he was commissioned on Palm Sunday 2022. Adam with Nicole King are key members of our ministry, leading on much of our work with Children and Young Families. They are both a great blessing to us.

The Commemoration of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's death

The nation (indeed the world) were deeply saddened on 8 September 2022 at the news of the death of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We commemorated Her late Majesty's passing with a number of events, including a Compline 2½ hours after the announcement of her death, the tolling of the bells, the setting up of a book of condolence and on both Sundays during the period of National Mourning we held services in the presence of civic guests, which were both very well attended.

Warm and Wellness Hub

As the cost of living crisis worsened across our nation many churches decided to offer a warm space. We joined this initiative and with the help of grants from the Norfolk Community Foundation and Broadland District Council we provided a warm and welcoming space for four hours each Thursday from 10 November 2022 through until 30 March 2023 from 10am until 2pm. In the early stages we were featured on *ITV Anglia*! Our thanks go to the wonderful team of volunteers.

Café Church

We continued to welcome new young families to our informal worship which takes place once a month at the St Andrew's Centre. It became clear towards the end of 2022 that there was a need for some refreshing of what was happening here and so a new time of 3.00pm is being trialled in early 2023.

Continuing to use technology to proclaim the gospel

Begun at the outset of the pandemic and continuing in 2023 we are streaming our Sunday service live from the Parish Church and a Morning Prayer on a Thursday. There have been a number of requests to stop doing this but there are a small group of people who benefit hugely from this and there is a national encouragement to offer online alternatives, so we are continuing. We now have Wi-Fi in the Parish Church with thanks to Paul Green.

Parish Life

After many years as a very polished glossy production, we made the decision in 2022 to scale this back to a more home-spun affair which is already saving considerable amounts of money and helping us re-balance our finances. We are very grateful to Chris George and his wife Gillian and son Perry for their dedication to *Parish Life* for nearly 20 years.

General Activities

In addition to the other matters reported above many groups meet regularly under the auspices of this parish. Koffee and Kompany is growing and is a very popular place for people to come and chat once a month with coffee and a lunch. Junior Choir continues: we are hoping to recruit some new members soon. The Fundraising Committee (FunCom) under the chairmanship of Victor Scrivens, reported elsewhere, has done sterling work this year and is an opportunity not just to raise funds but to come together in fun and fellowship. The Pastoral Care and Bereavement Group has met throughout the year and its work is much appreciated.

Thank you

We are very grateful for the support our community has shown with there time and money in the past year, to our churchwardens John Ward and Andrew Hayden, our Parochial Church Council, our many volunteers and those who continue to answer Christ's call to 'Come, follow me!' in 2023 and look forward with the beacon of hope which is Jesus Christ for the mission to serve this community which has been entrusted to us. Thank you.

**The Revd James Stewart
Rector of Thorpe St Andrew
May 2023**

Royal British Legion - Thorpe Branch

Report to Town Council May 2023

Thorpe Branch RBL is in its 74th year and 1st year without any Covid event cancellations.

In February the RBL - Thorpe Branch were awarded the Hayden Cup at the Norfolk Royal British Legion Conference. Winners of the award for the largest branch with 5 years continuous improvement.

The above sounds good, but it has to be put in context. The RBL Branches of Norwich, Sprowston, Trowse, Old Catton, Brundall and Blofield have all closed down completely. Thorpe Branch membership numbers have considerably reduced. Since Covid started, we have now lost over 40 members and supporters, reducing our membership numbers to just over 70. While members are young at heart, many are not as fit as they would like, which sadly reduces attendance to our events.

With regard to the RBL Poppy Appeal, many new Thorpe St Andrew volunteers have come forward to help and spend a few hours collecting at Sainsbury's. These new helpers included our MP, Town Mayor and Broadland Chairman, plus many new younger supporters from the Sea Scouts, Norwich Sea Cadets and Army Reserve.

Mr Barry Stephenson, our Thorpe RBL Poppy Appeal Organiser, reports our very generous Thorpe Community have donated nearly £18,000 last year. Thorpe St Andrew donations are nearly 70% higher than the UK average for our population. A massive Thank You to everybody that volunteered and donated a few extra hours of their time to help the Poppy Appeal Collection. A brilliant achievement.

We also wish to thank Thorpe Town Council for its support, especially with the 2022 Remembrance Parade and events. Two WW2 veterans of 97 years lead the parade, both wishing to personally lay wreaths at our War Memorial for their fallen colleagues. The EDP was clearly impressed as they put a lovely photo of them on the front page of the EDP.

Last year was the final Remembrance Parade from the Broadland offices. Sadly some rather overzealous security marshals incorrectly stopped and prevented many veterans parading. We are assured this will never happen again and this year's 2023 parade on Sunday 12th November will hopefully be from a new starting point, perhaps near Thunder Lane Junction.

We also thank Fr James and the Church for his great support during the year and thank Thorpe History Group members for arranged another Poppy trail with the Town Council.

The RBL Thorpe Branch meets at the Cottage Pub on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month, with regular social gatherings, lunches and entertainment. For more information please contact the undersigned.

We are extremely proud and grateful for the support Thorpe St Andrew community gives to veterans. In these very troubled times, we will remember them.

Chairman – Royal British Legion, Thorpe Branch.

Cllr Stuart Snelling

07798-516906

The Thorpe History Group report

Since January 2023 and the removal of restrictions on public events during the covid pandemic the Thorpe History Group has been able to put on a full programme of talks and guided walks.

Our first talk in February by Julie Jakeway was 'Manifestations of Madness: Women's voice from the Norfolk Lunatic Asylum.' Based on Julie's book of the same title it covered the experiences of women at the former St Andrew's Mental Hospital during the mid to late nineteenth century. The second talk, in April, was given by local author and historian Frank Meeres on 'Thorpe Wood and the growth of the Parish.' Both were well attended, demonstrating the interest people have in the history of Thorpe.

There will be further talks this year, including one on 'The view from the River Green' in June and one in October on 'The Polish community in Norfolk and at St Andrew's Hospital.' We have also arranged several guided walks during the summer and will be participating in the Armed Forces Day event in June.

There is further information about the Thorpe History Group on our website at <http://www.thorpe-history-group.org/> where there are details of how to book places at our events.

Thorpe Dementia Support Group

Report to Town Council May 2023

This week is “Dementia Action Week”. **“Asking the same question, Over and Over again, it’s not called getting old, It’s called getting ill.”**

Dementia is a terminal illness, Britain’s 2nd biggest killer. Local GPs estimate 350 people suffer from diagnosed Dementia in Thorpe, double that number are probably undiagnosed. The Government calculate the economic cost of dementia is 23 billion a year. They predict costs will triple in 18 years, more than Cancer, Heart Disease and stroke costs all together.

The Thorpe Dementia Support Group welcomed nearly 100 family carers and cared-for suffers through its doors last year. More than in any year to date. Proof, if needed, this disease is increasing locally, as more and more families call, all desperate for our help.

Last year our group used two separate rooms off the main hall at Roxley Hall for family carers to meet privately with other family carers and professionals. To share experiences in confidence, learn from each other, gain moral support and build long-term friendships.

Last year, many family carers were in tears as they left after their first visit, tears of true joy and relief that they have eventually found a team of people who truly care for them, help, support and understand them. There is no better heart-warming thanks than that.

I’m very proud to lead a great team of 20 skilled volunteers. The volunteers are the heart and the heroes of Thorpe Dementia Support Group. They have the knowledge in caring for people with dementia. Most importantly they help family carers overcome the devastating and heart breaking tasks of caring for their loved ones, loved ones they see disappearing before their eyes, loved ones they can’t recognise as the person they married.

Last year volunteers arranged new activities for the cared for. We started an indoor gardening group. Local companies donated over £1000 worth of seeds, plants, bulbs, even paint for garden sleepers. Behind Roxley hall we built our Dementia Garden. We used donations to buy recycled benches and tables so we can enjoy the garden this summer.

Other volunteers organised team bonding games. We arranged outings for morning coffee, visits to the coast, walks, and Christmas shopping outing, plus a coach trip to Cromer Pier summer show. In addition we entertained them with special Roxley Hall party events with music and singers for dancing. All adding quality of life, supporting family carers to help keep their loved one at home for longer and reducing family carer’s frustrations.

Roxley Singing group, is a spin off from the Dementia Group, now open to all local singers. Kindly donated funds have now enabled us to own our own electric organ / piano.

We thank the Town Council for supporting our Dementia events, and all our loving Thorpe community who support us with kind donations. Brilliant Thank You

Dementia Champion – Thorpe Dementia Support Group.

CLlr Stuart Snelling - 07798-516906

Dussindale Park Community Trust report for 2023 Annual public Meeting

The Trust owns and hires the Dussindale Community Centre, Pound Lane to provide its income. The last financial year 2022 – 2023 saw the community centre open as normal following extensive closure during the covid years.

Caretaker manager Jonathan Emsell worked hard to restore hire of the Centre back to pre covid levels and new hirers have been found to replace those who did not return to use the sports hall and meeting room when the lockdown opening restrictions were finally removed.

Whilst occupancy reached a satisfactory level rising expenses outstripped income. In particular the service charge payable to Sainsburys which increased by almost 75%. This was principally due to major works costing £141,000 of which the Trust, in common with the other businesses on the site, was required to pay its share. Thankfully in the current financial year the service charge is to reduce to more normal levels albeit with substantial rises in the cost of electricity and gas.

In summary there is another difficult year ahead but with a strong and varied user base the Community Centre expects to continue to provide a comprehensive range of facilities that appeal to users of all ages from badminton, parent and baby groups, aerobic groups, short mat bowls and many other activities.

Steven Ford, secretary Dussindale Park Community Trust.



Registered Charity No: 257209

Chairman: Cllr Ian Mackie; Secretary: The Revd James Stewart;

Trustees: Steven Ford, Julian Mogford

Report for Annual Public Meeting – May 2023

General

The Thorpe St Andrew Trust (formerly Burial Trust) continues to meet regularly. Under the Chairmanship of Thorpe St Andrew County Councillor, Ian Mackie, and with fellow Trustees, The Rector, Steven Ford and Julian Mogford. Reports have been received concerning the Thorpe St Andrew Churchyard Extension and assistance provided as appropriate. Other projects are in the process of tender.

Community Grants

A small grant was awarded to Dale Wiseman and John Balls who produced a book about the Second World War Memorials in the town – originally requested by Thorpe History Group. A small grant was also made to assist with the cost of the Norwich City Concert Band at the Platinum Jubilee Big Lunch celebrations, enjoyed by many from our community.

Warm and Wellness Fund

In November 2022, in tandem with the Parish of Thorpe St Andrew's Warm and Wellness Hub the Trust launched the **Warm and Wellness Fund** to provide small grants to those struggling with energy bills as a result of the cost of living crisis. This is very much in line with the Trust's history and ethos, since the Fuel Allotment Trusts were amalgamated with this Trust. A number of residents from various different parts of the Parish of Thorpe St Andrew were awarded small grants, which have been very gratefully received with some very generous comments being made about how pleased they were to receive the sums.

The Revd James Stewart
Secretary
May 2023