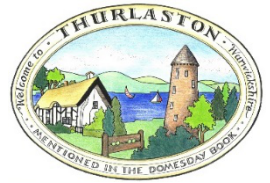


THURLASTON PARISH COUNCIL



Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 30th April 2026

Attending from the TPC, Holger Allroggen (Chair), Robert Ashford (Chair Planning), Lee White, Gary Smith and Andrew Fairgrieve plus approx. 30 residents.

Thurlaston Parish Council Chair, Holger Allroggen welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

1. **Apologies:** RBC Cllrs Jon Bennett, Mary & Colin Cook, Joyce and Gary Childs and John and Gill Wood.
2. **Minutes of the last APM held on 8th May 2025:** Approved at the Parish meeting held on Monday 14th July 2025, proposed by HA and seconded by GS.
3. **Report from the Chair of Thurlaston Parish Council** (Holger Allroggen)

The new Parish Council has completed its third year; for those who (still) don't know who we are:

Holger Allroggen (Chair), Robert Ashford, Andrew Fairgrieve, Gary Smith, Lee White (you all know our clerk Sylvia Jacques).

Whilst costs have been rising (including budgeting for expected planning legal and consultancy costs) we managed to request a precept similar to last year's from RBC, which means the TPC share of your council tax has not changed significantly - the projected balance end of year remains stable when compared with previous years (thanks once more to Meenaxi Patel for her accounting expertise).

Most time and effort recently has been spent on dealing with planning matters, in particular submitting our latest response to RBC's updated Local Plan consultation, having taken advice from both an expert planning barrister and a planning consultant. Because of evident joint interests we collaborated with Dunchurch Parish Council (which shared the legal and consultancy costs) and the local resident's pressure group Action for Dunchurch (A4D).

We spent most of Tritax's community grant payment. You will be familiar with the projects decided upon over the course of last year in collaboration with many residents (digitisation of Village Archives, Village Hall kitchen refurbishment and pergola, new parish noticeboards, new bus shelter on Coventry Road [yet to be decided]).

We have (again) been in correspondence with Warwickshire County Council's Leader in relation to the approximately £400k section 106 money the council received from Tritax for environmental offset in the vicinity of the village; this money is meant to mitigate against the impact of the large sheds built far too near to us. We have not had a satisfactory response and are exploring further options to ensure this money is spent in the immediate vicinity the village and not elsewhere. Our suggestions remain unchanged: Planting of trees or even a wood in strategically placed locations between the village and Tritax (Barnwell Fields Farm and the area between new road and M45/roundabout where originally a fire station was meant to be built).

I know that many of you are very concerned about the state of our village as a result of Severn Trent's work at the pumping station and the Highway Agency's bridge repairs, mainly to the verges. We are as concerned as you are and we have written

assurances that this will be professionally repaired once work has finally been completed (completion dates seem to be slipping all the time but this is outside the parish council's control). Regrettably this will be a long drawn-out process but we will ensure it gets done!

Finally, after some delays, the new website is more or less "live"; a link for you to explore will shortly appear on the existing website.

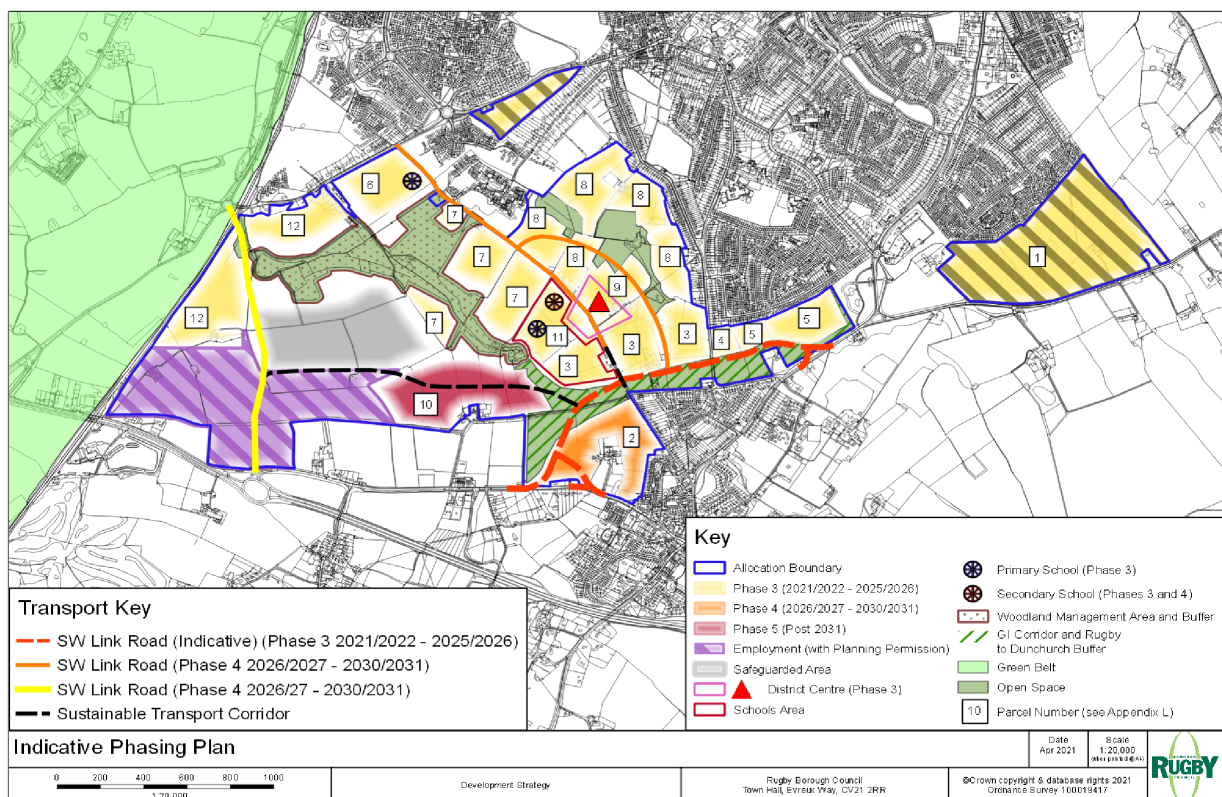
The remainder of the 2026/27 financial year will see significant ongoing challenges in particular in relation to the updated Local Plan. We will keep you up-to-date with important developments. Later in the Chronicle Robert Ashford will summarise all important planning matters.

4. Report from TPC Planning Sub Committee Chair (Robert Ashford)

Planning report

The 2019 Local Plan

Rugby Borough Council is our local planning authority. Planning rules, policies and intended development sites are established in its Local Plan. These drive what can be built and where. The current Local Plan was adopted in June 2019. It now includes a South West Rugby 'Masterplan' (shown below) according to which the warehousing in Tritax's Symmetry Park, 720 houses, a primary school, a secondary school, and two link roads should have been built between Thurlaston, Cawston and Dunchurch by mid-2026.



So far only Symmetry Park (167,000m² of warehousing) has been built. Permission has been granted for 210 dwelling houses off Cawston Lane (L&Q Estates) and permission has been applied for 195 houses south of Montague Road (Taylor

Wimpey). Only outline planning permission has been applied for 3,495 houses: 350 at Cawston Farm Phase 2 (Tritax); 275 at Cawston Farm Phase 1 (Tritax); 470 at Cawston Lane (Catesby Est's.); 800 more Cawston Lane (Taylor Wimpey); and 1600 off Cawston Lane (Homes England). Whilst a development off Ashlawn Road of 565 houses has proceeded, developers appear to have little appetite for housebuilding at present. Nevertheless, a massive urban infill is still in prospect.

It has now emerged that RBC commissioned a landscape study of the Thurlaston-Cawston-Dunchurch area that was produced back in April 2017. It concluded that: *The zones surveyed ... display characteristic features of the Dunsmore Plateau Farmlands landscape type ... In order to preserve the openness and rural character of the landscape **these zones are inappropriate for development*** (my emphasis). This report was mysteriously lost during the preparation of the current local plan in 2017. Its existence was revealed by RBC's Chief Officer for Growth and Investment at the Scrutiny Committee hearing on 21st January. Had it not been lost, Symmetry Park and its neighbouring developments in the 'Masterplan' may not have been approved.

The new Local Plan

The current local plan lost much of its legal force after 5 years and RBC has been working on a new plan which, having concluded its Regulation 19 public consultation stage, is expected to be submitted to the government's inspectorate for examination in late April. The government inspector will review the public's comments on this plan and engage in public hearings. This will happen later in the year. The inspector can make significant revisions to what RBC propose before adoption early next year. For example, in 2019 he rejected RBC's proposed Lodge Farm development of 5,000 houses between Dunchurch and Grandborough.

The new local plan has a policy of 'separation' (called policy EN4) for SW Rugby intended to prevent the coalescence of Thurlaston, Dunchurch and Rugby town which is good news for the village. Whether this will affect applications for development in the 'Masterplan' above remains to be seen.

However, from the village's perspective, the latest Regulation 19 version of the plan is an improvement on its predecessor last year at the Regulation 18 consultation in that the proposed 130,000m² extension of Symmetry Park – which would nearly double its size – has been reduced to 60,000m² and two in-fill housing developments in Dunchurch south of Coventry Road and at Homestead Farm have been dropped. Nevertheless, Thurlaston Parish Council has joined forces with Dunchurch Parish Council and the campaigning group Action for Dunchurch to oppose any increase in the size of this warehouse park and reinforce our commitment to no more housing. It is very likely that Tritax Big Box Developments and Taylor Wimpey will be lobbying the inspector to re-instate the full Symmetry Park extension and Dunchurch housing developments.

TPC, DPC and A4D have formally argued that any extension to Symmetry Park or additional housing in Dunchurch is unsound. Extending Symmetry Park would: further degrade our village environment and setting; erode the separation between Thurlaston, Dunchurch and Rugby town; compromise the sensitive ecology of the

ancient woodland in Cawston Spinney; overload the transport network; and is not needed. Further housing in Dunchurch would similarly compromise the environment, erode our spatial separation, damage the ecology, clog the roads and is not needed either. There are further concerns about the stress it would put on the health services and schools. TPC and DPC hired planning consultants ET Planning to help put our case to the inspector as effectively and forcefully as possible.

Transport modelling underpins the local plan, but it is defective in that it explicitly omits the Gibbet Hill roundabout where the A5 intersects the A426 in the north of Rugby. This junction is critical for traffic going from, say, Symmetry Park, northwards. If it were included, the model just crashes!

Symmetry Park

In the interregnum between the Local Plans, TBBD have submitted an application (R25/0896) for the full sized extension to Symmetry Park of 130,000m² which TPC in conjunction with DPC has opposed and for which it took barrister's advice. The grounds for objection were similar to those for the reduced size extension in the Regulation 19 version of the local plan, but stronger in that it has to be assessed against the infrastructure and environment that exists now, not how these might exist after the successful adoption on the new local plan. RBC has not yet made a determination of this application.

RBC did not approve the large 'totem' signs now erected in Symmetry Park. TPC have objected to them and in consequence TBBD have applied for retrospective planning permission (R26/0189). This has yet to be determined, but TPC has objected on the grounds of their detrimental effects on our historic environment and landscape.

Noteworthy Planning applications in Thurlaston village

The Malthouse development of 6 new dwelling houses is nearing completion and the developers applied for permission to enhance their appearance (R25/0090 and R25/0469). TPC had no objection to this although it had to take action to ensure compliance with matters such as tree retention, the safe disposal of asbestos and obscure glazing.

Thurlaston Meadows has made two applications (R25/0776 and R25/1045) whose primary intent is to create a new car park between it and Main Street to be accessed from its southern entrance. TPC has raised a number of objections to this, principally because the care home already has an adequate car park and it would create a significant traffic hazard being accessed right opposite Church Lane. These applications have not yet been determined.

Biggin Hall Lane Poultry Farm has applied (R26/0028) to adapt the poultry sheds for human habitation, creating 6 dwelling houses. This does not seem a serious application in that it was hastily made with numerous errors. TPC has objected to this on the grounds that its access is inadequate and it is outside the village envelope. The applicant has until 8th May to revise the application and also address contamination issues raised by RBC's Environmental Health department.

Leam Valley Golf course has applied for permission to erect up to 18 holiday homes (R26/0061) and Medda Place has applied for permission to replace their polytunnels with single storey container storage (R26/0095). TPC had no objection to either proposal.

These planning applications can viewed at RBC's planning portal <https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/rugby> and are indexed by application number (e.g. R26/0061).

5. Report from Councillor for Website and ICT (Lee White)

ICT Update

Website

Documentation and Policies

IT Hardware

Automated External Defibrillator

- 30/04/2026
- Prepared By Lee White

Website is LIVE, but some tasks to complete.....

- Website
- 30/04/2026
- Prepared By Lee White
- Completed Tasks
 1. Village Hall integration
 - Updated councilor's information
 2. Archived old finance documents
 3. Renewal of certificates
- Integrate of old website information, Functions for contact are working
- Outstanding Tasks
 - Training of new website
 - Missing documents (TBC)
 - PC to confirm dates for next training date
 - Payment of website design and execution
- Finalise web design and transfer £2,500.00
 - Annual fee for web hosting - £100.00-£200.00
 - Annual fee for VH booking system £150 per year

Required actions

- Documentation Updates

- 30/04/2026
- Prepared By Lee White
- Policy & Governance Dashboard – Summary (2026)

High Risk (Immediate Action) 10+ key policies overdue, including:
 ICT, Data Protection, Code of Conduct Transparency, Complaints, Equality
 Budget & Emergency Plan Primary governance & compliance risk

- Medium Priority (Due Soon) Policies due 2026 , including:
 Health & Safety, FOI, Communications Publication Scheme, Risk Policy
- Low Risk (Up to Date)
 Operational areas working well: Accounts, Meetings, Registers
 Regularly reviewed and compliant

Parish Clerk & Users IT equipment

- IT Hardware
- 30/04/2026
- Prepared By Lee White
- IT hardware is crucial to ensure that the data that is stored is not at risk of hacking or malware/spyware
 Replace your hardware yet, you can buy extra time through the Extended Security Updates (ESU) program until 13 October 2026. Should we consider this?
 Any old equipment with Windows 10 or prior needs to be replaced and considered in the 2026/2027 budget
 Security Gap: Free security patches have stopped as of October 2025.
 UK GDPR Risk: Using unsupported software can lead to data protection compliance failures.
 Disposal: Older UK hardware should be recycled via WEEE-compliant schemes or donated to charities
- Defibrillator
 No issues to report.

6. Rugby Borough Councillors Reports

Thurlaston Village - Councillor Report – Jill Simpson-Vince

Rugby Borough Council decided to send the local plan to the planning inspector on 27th April, with no feedback on Regulation 19 consultation, briefings or notifications to councillors.

With regards to the emerging local plan, I have yet to have a satisfactory answer as to why the safeguarded land needed to be used for further employment land. I have queried with officers the amount of employment land the plan says is needed and am not convinced by the answers. Given the vast site at Ansty for Fraser Group, the amount we apparently still need to allocate seems too high. In the midst of all this, Tritax submitted applications for the next phase, on the safeguarded land. Will wait to

see how this progresses now in tandem with the local plan, as it currently contrary to the emerging plan.

The junction with the A45 is finally finished and once the bridgework is complete, all the traffic cones will disappear. The land that now exists on the former road should be planted up and am chasing this with county councillor to see if we can get this sorted as using S106 money for an area the other side of Rugby seems unreasonable when there is capacity to do environmental improvements locally. Especially as light pollution is an issue at Symmetry Park.

Bin collections are an ongoing issue but Thurlaston doesn't seem to currently have as many issues as some of the other villages. The introduction of the food waste collections in July and changes to the other bin collection days could be a challenge over the summer. If any one has issues with bin collections, please do let me know, as well as reporting it on the website, so I can raise it with the Chief Officer.

Any issues on anything RBC related, please get in touch at jill.simpson-vince@rugby.gov.uk

7. TPC New Horizons Report & Archives (Brian Coleman)

Thurlaston Documented Heritage of 940 years, (from 1086 to 2026)

Be honest how many times have you put something in a safe place then when you needed it, it was difficult to track it down?

We have between 6000 and 8000 pages of data/photos/maps/schedules/stories etc that are stored in the Village Hall. The intent is to digitise the documents to make them available online and then to store the documents off site.

For both 'online access' and 'off site storage' the documents need individual references to enable them to be accessed and viewed. *Anyone who has a skill of patience to help with this task please get in touch.*

During the first part of this year Warwickshire Records Department have been encouraging everyone to "Tell my story". *Again, if any of our residents would like to 'tell their story' or take down someone else's story, please get in touch.*

Once the referencing task has been completed, we can get back on with the Timeline Project. Readers may remember from previous reports that the Timeline Project is where historic events connected with the village will be displayed on a pictorial chart or alternatively shown as a digital display. The idea is to make the village heritage more easily visible and relevant.

We have received an encouraging boost this year through several events.

The official detectorist associated with the bridge contractor who has been active in this area has discovered a number of small items which tell a story of historic activity in our village.

We have received several official documents recently, some relative to the Village Hall, an official account for The Manor of Thurlaston before and after Inclosure 1717-1728, and the Thurlaston Ramblers' record of the groups activity over several years.

While researching existing files we have rediscovered an absolute gem of village talent. See the images of flowers hand painted by Betty Wagstaff done for an art

competition in the village circa 30 years ago. These were all plants found in the village.

If you are fascinated by the history of this village, please get in touch.

Brian Coleman
Co-ordinator
(please contact me via the Parish Council)

8. Report from the Village Hall Committee (Bridget Rothwell)

The Village Hall continues to be used regularly by groups within the village including Ladies Club, Church Group, the Fete and as a meeting point for the Progressive Supper. The revamped pub night has proven to be popular along with quiz night and afternoon tea.

Other regular users include the Guides, various charities, RBC, the Police Hub, National Highways and a new educational establishment. A bridge club and yoga group were started in the hall but lack of attendees resulted in discontinuation, however art classes and botanical printing are proving more popular and the hall is also popular for parties and other activities where a more intimate space is required. In 2024 we commenced a refurbishment programme and replaced rotten cladding, repaired sheds and extensively cut back the hedging which had encroached on the buildings.

In 2025 we continued this project installing a new kitchen, repairing the kitchen wall and erecting a pergola, these were funded by Tritax. We also re-stained the exterior of the building and fencing, painted the gate and railings and redecorated the interior. We purchased new chairs and window blinds, updated the electrics and replaced broken radiators. The garden was also an area of focus and is enjoyed by villagers and our resident toad family.

In 2026 we are planning to reduce the height of the drain covers which are currently a trip hazard and extend the rear patio area to a more usable area. The hall has a fresher look and feedback from hirers has all been very positive.

In 2025 our annual income was £6,722.40 (PY £5,319.29, an increase of £1,403.11). Expenditure was £8,384.27 (PY £6,492.06, an increase in costs of £1,892.21). The net loss in 2025 was £1,661.87 compared to a net loss of £1,172.77 PY (prior year). Whilst external hire receipts were broadly flat year on year, income benefited from a Parish Council contribution and higher bank interest, offset in part by a reduction in fete receipts.

The losses in the last two years are largely due to refurbishment costs which have been funded from reserves. Other additional costs were associated with our insurers who every five years require an electrical survey, a rebuilding cost survey and a roof survey.

Trustee changes:

We are delighted to welcome two new trustees, Joyce Childs and Sheena Ashton and are now back to seven trustees in total in line with the requirements of the Deed of Trust.

Thurlaston Village Hall Trustees

9. Dunchurch Boughton School Trust (Rebecca Shields)

Trustees

Phil Freeman
Celia Jones
Chris Sarson
Rebecca Shields
Tim Wainwright
Clare Cherrett
Fiona Stevenson
Ian Sweeney

Thank you for inviting me to submit a report for the Dunchurch Boughton Trust of which I was appointed a trustee, representing Thurlaston, since November 2022.

Activity

The Trust provides financial support to Dunchurch Boughton C of E Junior Academy by administering the Trust established by Frances Boughton. Since federation of the Infant School with the Junior School the Trust now includes both schools within its remit.

We have been working closely with Suzanne Marson, Head of the Infant School and Emma Darragh, New Head of the Junior School. We are also delighted to welcome Ian Sweeney, Vicar of St Peter's and St Edmund's as a new Trustee.

Most recently this has been through provision of funding for a refurbishment of the library in the Infant School by transforming the existing IT suite into a library and area for quiet small group learning. Additional books and equipment have already been funded through PTA fundraising. We also provided emergency funding after the fire which affected primarily the reception classes and School Hall.

The Trust continues to support the maintenance of the Haven, an outdoor learning area with pond, seating area, fire pit and wildflower planting in the Junior School.

Trust Accounts

The Trust is still receiving income from previous investments and are in a good position to be able to continue to support both schools.

10. Report from St Edmunds Church (Brian Bowsher Deputy Churchwarden)**St Edmund's welcomes our new Vicar – Rev. Ian Sweeney.**

Since arriving in October 2025, life at St Edmund's has continued with a steady pattern of worship and community activity, and it has been a pleasure to become part of the parish and village. Regular services, along with special occasions through the year, including wonderful Christmas gatherings, have provided opportunities for people to gather, reflect, and mark important moments together.

The church remains supported by a small but committed group of volunteers whose dedication ensures that both the building and its activities continue. Alongside services, events such as coffee mornings and charitable undertakings all help to maintain St Edmund's place at the heart of village life, and ongoing support from the wider community is greatly appreciated.

As with many rural churches, there are challenges around sustaining this work into the future, but with this challenge, we believe God is preparing a way to move forward together as a church. We are grateful for the encouragement and involvement of so many within the village, and we look forward to continuing to serve the community in the year ahead, including supporting events such as the village fete in July.

Every blessing, Rev. Ian

Deputy Churchwarden's report:-

On 14th October 2025 we welcomed our new vicar Rev. Ian Sweeney and family to our Parish, after a relatively short interregnum. During 2025 we were able to run eighteen Holy Communion services at 9 o'clock on the first Sunday of each month, with particular help from Hilary Iredale, with an average attendance of thirteen. On third Sundays of the month we ran six 6 o'clock Evensong services with help from pianist Alan Leach, with an average attendance of eleven. Half hour reflective prayer meetings were held on Wednesday each week at 9.00am, and special services were well supported; Carol Service 65 attending, St Edmund's Day 45, Compline 11, Remembrance 12, and two joint congregation services 34 each on fifth Sundays. On the 2025 financial front, we had a surplus of £1,895, having contributed £8,280 towards the yearly Diocesan Quota, with running costs of £14,086, and year end funds of £16,025. At first glance this appears satisfactory, but with the quinquennial architectural review overdue and a roof which is being repaired piecemeal, with long term re-roofing costs of perhaps £200,000, this gives concern.

Perhaps of greater concern, is the lack of healthy people who are able to attend and take over the running of the church from a congregation and organizing committee which is keen but increasingly frail. Added to this is a decline in the number of services able to be run due to parish pressures.

Running costs have been kept under control by the monthly income of £603 from letting the apartment in the St Edmund's tower; from the generosity of many villagers, and substantial gifts from annual fetes over many years, which is very much appreciated. Our current tenant has been in place for five years, having contributed some £30,000 to the parish, and has now decided to move, leaving on 4th March. We now face a gap in the rental income, as our agents Horts seek a new tenant. In order to attract the right sort of tenant it has been necessary to replace some items, redecorate throughout and repair the entrance door which needed the attention of a skilled carpenter, as advised by the Church Architect Stephen Oliver. Some of this work can be recovered from the tenant's deposit but the additional work is likely to be of the order of £4,000. Hort's also advise that all the surrounding gardens need to be looked after by the church as it is unlikely that a tenant would be able to cope with their portion. We will need to improve the garden a bit at a time. Finally, the good work of the church committee must be mentioned covering not only the running of church services, but also the upkeep of the building, and community work such as the monthly coffee mornings and charity work particularly supporting the Myton Hospice.

11. Report of the Poor's Plot Charity (Paula Irish)

Thurlaston Poor's Plot has its origins in a grant of 43 acres of land set aside in 1728 to relieve the poor of Thurlaston and enable villagers to grow food for their families.

Today, just over an acre is used as allotments located off the Coventry Road, which are all currently in use. The remainder is rented by two local farming families, with work ongoing to update the leases.

Historically, many of the charity's grants helped householders, often agricultural workers, buy extra coal for the winter months. Today's equivalent might be someone needing support after losing their winter fuel allowance.

The charity is keen to raise awareness that its mandate remains the same – to support those in need or hardship in the village. For example, as a result of changing circumstances or unexpected life events.

Additionally, requests for the general benefit of the community are considered, and £300 educational grants are available to young people leaving school to put towards books or equipment for their further studies or apprenticeships.

Individual grant applications remain strictly confidential, so anyone in need of support is urged to get in touch to see if the charity is able to help.

The current trustees are Roland Robinson (chair), Jenny Cooper, Paula Irish, Selina Larque and Nick Glasheen. Applications can be made by emailing the clerk, catsabine@outlook.com, and further information can be found on the Thurlaston website: www.thurlaston-pc.gov.uk

12. Newcombe & Spears Almshouses (Stuart Boulton)

Newcombe & Spier Almshouses Charity, The Green Dunchurch.

I took over as the Thurlaston Representative at the November Trustee's Meeting. I asked for past minutes before that meeting and saw that the previous meetings had all taken place in Thurlaston. On the basis that it proves easier to park in Thurlaston than in Dunchurch, a tradition that I followed.

The Rev. Ian Sweeney and myself simultaneously joined the group. The Trustees have a varying length of service and lifetime experience, and positivity in looking at progression planning.

As a newbie, I was pleased to see an up to date Maintenance Report and Inventory Survey. I do recall my childhood, but like many I take central heating as the norm, not storage heaters. Those in the property are updated and electrically checked. The difficulties of loft insulation, with limited access over the 6 roof spaces have been explored and alternatives explored. Those in the Village with older properties, they will be familiar with dealing with similar problems. Even the difficulties of plumbing to a new outside water tap.

The accounts are in good order and investments are with a leading Investment & Savings Company.

This allows widows to live in central Dunchurch, keep contact with family and friends, in maintained and, albeit limited, accommodation. It was my pleasure to meet them all, for a mince pie and sherry just before Christmas. In recognition of the commitment that Walter Harvey had given to the Charity I am pleased to report that Jackie was able to join us.

13. Report of Village Fete (Sylvia Jacques)

Village Fete 2025

We changed the date to September last year to see what difference it would make as we are usually competing with all the villages around. We did not get the footfall so the takings were down.

We had stalls all along Main Street as well as in Church Lane; Books, Bric a Brac, Raffle, the children had a stall selling Used Toys, Water and Wine, Tombola, Plants and Produce, Ladies Club stall and the Guides and we used the Church for the Cake stall and some of the Craft stalls. We did not have the usual Strawberries and Cream but Teas and homemade cakes in the Village Hall, Pimms in the grounds of the Church were all a hit. Music outside the Church by

Paul Jacques. As we could not use Thurlaston Meadows for the Children's area we set up in Church Lane, which was a great success. We also had Hot Dogs and Ice Cream. Not forgetting our local artist, David, who did some stunning portraits. Bee keeper, Greg brought local honey.

We had some "outsiders" who gave a donation to have a stall and gave a raffle prize. These were popular, miniature gardens in leathercraft, ceramics ware, a woodturner with lots of interesting items and of course, the Toft Alpacas.

We had one of the Ambulances that take goods to the Ukraine on show with the Eden family to explain the problems they encounter.

The date of the Fete was on 6th September 2025, with the theme "Autumn Extravaganza.

We had lots of handmade bunting from the previous year.

The Rugbyele Band in Main Street, creating a very jolly atmosphere.

The local group After Dark played in the Village Hall for the evening social event.

As the numbers were down we gave the Church and the Village Hall £550 each.

It was very successful and residents said how much they enjoyed the day and although the forecast was not promising, the sun came out ready for the Fete.

Watch out for details of the 2026 Fete, we are changing the date back to July on the 4th. Will it be a success? It depends on you to give help, setting up beforehand, during and afterwards for the clearing up on the Sunday. Would you like to help with one of the stalls? Everyone welcome.

We have a new member to our team, Vikki who has the latest technology for spreading the word on social media.

Thanks to Mary Cook, who for a number of years has been a member of the Committee and worked very hard.

Thanks also to Paula for all the advertising and Ev continuing as Treasurer.

Fete Team: Sylvia, Ronnie, John, Vikki and Robert.

14. Thurlaston Chronicle (Paula Irish)

Thurlaston Chronicle 2025-2026

The Thurlaston Chronicle was again published in 2025 and is due out again this Spring.

As ever we are grateful to all those who take the time contribute their stories and photographs, and write the reports on behalf of the various clubs and groups in Thurlaston. It is always a fantastic reflection of the community spirit of the village.

In 2025, the Chronicle was again printed as an A4 booklet with 16 full colour pages, thanks to the Parish Council funding the costs of £265 for 150 copies, enough for each household.

For a number of years the Chronicle has been published by a local printing firm in Rugby, Steers, who are always helpful in ensuring a quality magazine for the village. Sue Winton and Paula Irish continue to form the core editorial team for publishing the Chronicle and are currently working on the 2026 issue. Very much appreciated is the valuable support of Parish Council clerk Sylvia Jacques and also Brian Coleman, who have been instrumental in helping to collect reports for the latest edition.

The deadline for the 2026 edition was 20th April and it is hoped that the Chronicle will be published in early May. Thank you in advance to all those who help to deliver it - we couldn't do it without you and hope it will again be well received by all who read it.

If you would like to contribute or join the Chronicle team to help produce this annual publication, please do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

Email Paula and Sue at: thurlastonchronicle@gmail.com

Email: thurlastonchronicle@gmail.com

Extra report from Thurlaston Bridge Refurbishment 2026 (National Highways)

Thurlaston Bridge Refurb 2026

Since last August, National Highways has been carrying out refurbishment works to the Main Road bridge over the M45. While this has meant some closures and delays for residents, we appreciate everyone's patience.

As the only way in and out of Thurlaston, the bridge is an important connection for the village, serving as both a safe crossing point over the M45 and a gateway to the wider area. It's therefore a priority for us to ensure the bridge remains safe to use and work with residents to keep disruption to a minimum.

We understand that even our most essential work can impact motorists and nearby communities, especially when we put in lane closures, but your experiences matter to us. This is why we're committed to carrying out our work with as little disruption as possible.

Why the work is needed.

More than 65 years since it was constructed, the bridge remains structurally sound, but it has been exposed to decades of traffic, weather, and road treatments (such as de-icing salts). As a result, some of its protective layers need renewing.

This is routine work that every bridge of this age eventually needs.

A waterproof layer that protects the concrete beams from water and de-icing salts lies beneath the road surface. These materials have a shorter lifespan than the bridge itself, meaning they wear out over time and usually need replacing every few decades.

Without this maintenance work, water could eventually get into the bridge's structure, causing damage that's much more dangerous, but that also becomes more difficult and expensive to fix.

The new waterproofing membrane we'll install is a high-performance material that's sprayed on and then tested to make sure even the smallest imperfections are spotted and fixed. By renewing the waterproofing layer now, we're helping the bridge last well beyond its original

120-year design life, as well as avoiding more serious problems and greater costs further down the line.

What we're doing.

National Highways is working with Balvac Ltd., a specialist structure repair and maintenance company, to carry out the refurbishment of the bridge. As well as installing the new waterproofing, our work will also include removing the road and footway surfaces so we can reach the concrete underneath for repairs, followed by resurfacing.

We'll also upgrade the bridge's safety barriers to modern standards.

As the bridge provides the only route in and out of the village, two-way temporary traffic lights are in place to help maintain access for residents throughout our work. This allows us to complete the work on one side of the bridge before moving to the other side.

Carrying out this refurbishment now will mean a much safer bridge and a significantly reduced need for future disruption.

We understand it may have caused some inconvenience and delays in the shortterm, but we hope it means there will be long-term benefits for the longevity and safety of the bridge, keeping Thurlaston safely linked to the wider area for many more decades ahead.

Keeping updated

We'll continue to keep you informed on our work and its progress. If you have any questions, or if you would like to know more about our work, please call us on 0300 123 5000, or email info@nationalhighways.co.uk. You can also visit our website at <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/west-midlands/west-midlands-maintenance-schemes/> or write to us at National Highways, National Traffic

Operations

Centre, 3 Ridgeway, Quinton Business Park, Birmingham, B32 1AF.

15. Close of Meeting (Holger Allroggen)

The meeting closed at 21.30.

The date of the next meeting will be April/May 2027.

Minutes by Sylvia Jacques

Parish.clerk@thurlaston-pc.gov.uk

Signed by Chair..... Dated.....