

THREAPWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
AGM – 28th May 2025

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

As Chair, it is my duty to report to the Parish the happenings over the past 12 months.

Threapwood Parish Council continued to represent the interests of the Parish and our Parishioners by making representations to Cheshire West and Chester Council on various issues wherever relevant.

I must firstly thank our Clerk Ruth Shackleton, who was appointed in Spring last year and who has been representing us, in a highly professional manner, for the last 12 months and representing the best interests of the Parish.

In a formal context, the following issues are worthy of note:

FORMAL MATTERS:

1) Planning:

In the past 12 months there have been only a limited number of planning applications submitted, and the main application being in respect of the Queens Head which I will cover in more detail shortly.

2) Risk Assessment

In accordance with requirements, the Parish Council undertook its annual Risk Assessment for the 12 month period.

3) Audit

The Parish Governance Statement, Year-end Cash Book, and Audit Accounting Statement for 2024-2025 were all Resolved and accepted whilst the current year audit will take place after the Parish Meeting.

4) Precept

In January the Parish Council approved precept for the year 2025-26 of £5,000, which was not increased from the previous year and which is in line with Government guidelines. The full details were outlined in the minutes and are available on the Threapwood Parish Council website.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

In 2024, after many years of loyal and dedicated service as Chair of the PC Miles Lewis stepped down and I was elected as the new Chair.

In 2024, Councillor Dave Cheshire applied for the vacant position and was unanimously accepted onto the Parish Council Committee and I would like to welcome Dave who has grown up in Cheshire and will, I am sure, represent the true interests of the Parish community moving forward.

PROJECTS

The Parish Council have been involved in the following projects (some carrying on from previous years) and I report on progress as follows:

1) Defibrillator

The defibrillator was sent away this year for maintenance,

But remains at the Village Garage and Stores on Wrexham Road.

We thank Ian and Ann for allowing the continued use of their property for its location.

2) Speed Limit Review.

The Parish Council continues to take the issue of speeding traffic through the village very seriously.

During this last year, we have continued to engage with CWAC Highways department to seek a reduction in the speed limit from 40MPH to 30MPH, with Councillor Brian Holmes taking the lead on this. It is with regret that I have to report that CWAC, so far, have stonewalled our approaches and reasoning submitted in support. These approaches will continue.

In the meantime, under the leadership of Councillor Holmes we have re-commenced a village speed-watch operation and you may well have experienced a team of High Viz clad individuals at various (Police approved) locations in the village pointing the said speed gun at you.

In order to avoid having to relying upon borrowing equipment from Malpas Council, the Council approved the purchase of its own speed gun. Then, with the support of a number of volunteers from the village, a number of teams have already commenced the monitoring of speeding on a number of occasions.

To date there has been no need to make any reports to Police.

3) The Queens Head - Asset of Community Value – ACV

As everyone is probably well aware the PC approved the sale of the Queens head to Mr and Mrs Sergeant and, prior to any formal planning application being submitted, works commenced, with substantial interior works being undertaken without any building control monitoring.

Finally, an application was submitted in June 2024, albeit this only came to our attention in July giving us limited attention to respond.

On inspection of the plans it was considered appropriate and necessary that an Extraordinary PC meeting followed by a public meeting be held to discuss same and various concerns raised by members of the parish.

Following this we made a series of representations to the Council, in particular objecting to the reduction in floor area of the part of the buildings to be retained in the part of the Building to remain as a public house. In addition the Council made other recommendations that are only now being addressed by the owners.

We are now in receipt of a revised plan/suggestions from the owners which only deal in part with our suggestions;

The Council CWAC has made a suggestion that the covered patio is enclosed;

We have discussed this at the meeting earlier and believe we should meet with the owner to find out exactly what his revised proposals are.

EVENTS

1) Threapwood Fun Day

We were most grateful to Sue Pickering who again hosted the event last Summer and we were once again able to mix in public and another successful evening was had. I would like to record our continued thanks to Sue and her team of helpers for their generous efforts. The occasion was as popular as ever and the event will be repeated this year on Saturday 19th July.

GENERAL ONGOING MATTERS

There are various ongoing matters under consideration and discussion and these will be posted as and when they occur via the notice board and Threapwood Parish Council website as usual.

We continue to liaise and encourage the Highways department to attend to the state of our roads.

We continue to support and update the Parish Council through social media, especially via Facebook, and Parishioners will be able to obtain updates on a regular basis.

New website on-line shortly.

End...