



**Torworth Parish Council
Annual Parish Council Meeting (AGM).**

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday
4th May 2021 at 7.00pm by virtual Conference.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence
 - None
2. Minutes of the last AGM: Signed as true and accurate recording of proceedings.
3. Matters Arising – CW raises the issue of not having a Neighbourhood Plan Group, the only 2 members still existing being CW & AD.
4. Election of Chairman – C Willis (proposes JH/AD)
5. Election of Vice-Chairman – James Helliwell
6. To elect Representatives to Village Committees/Working Groups
 - Neighbourhood Plan – A Duce (Chair), R Willis
 - Health and Safety – C Willis
 - Grass Cutting Contracts – C Challenger
 - Emergency Plan/ Snow Warden – J Helliwell, R Willis
 - Central Bassetlaw Forum – C Willis as chair, clerk.
 - Bassetlaw Parish Forum – On rotation as available
 - Rural Conference – J Helliwell
 - Playground Sub-Committee/ Treasurer – C Willis chair, D Lacey, R Willis, A Duce
 - Tree Warden & Footpath Warden – warden duties
 - Burial Board – R Willis (Chair), J Helliwell, D Lacey.
7. The Standing Orders and policies are reviewed and adopted for 2021
7. Date of Next Meeting – May 2022

For all queries please contact the clerk at: parishcouncil@torworth.org.uk or a member of the Parish Council direct.

Mrs Claire Challener – Clerk, Tel: – 01777 816952 07557104323



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4th May 2021 at 7.00pm by virtual Conference.

Chair's Report May 2020 to May 2021

Well, this has been a year like no other, with national lockdowns, school and business closures, sporting and leisure activities paused, and social visiting restricted due to the coronavirus pandemic. Covid-19 has completely changed the way we live, work and communicate, and indeed, for the Parish Council this has impacted on how we hold meetings and the cancellation of planned projects and activities. However, many positives are also emerging despite the crisis: I have seen how the residents of Torworth have pulled together to look after neighbours, to shop for those who are vulnerable or isolating, and as such, residents have created a great support network that extends throughout the village. Torworth Parish Council is also proud to have been able to contribute to the Ranskill and Torworth Coronavirus Group who assembled and delivered food parcels to those in need within the local communities.

Moving our parish council meetings online was a steep learning curve for many of us, but we were able to conduct council business without interruption. Several initiatives to reduce the amount of money spent on grass mowing proved successful with a part-funded LIS grant for a ride-on-mower and multi-tool grounds keeping kit. We have also installed a defibrillator, replaced the baby swings and are working towards multiple on-going projects. These include the re-installation of the two village signposts, a pedestrian gate for the playpark, speed limit reductions within the parish boundary, HGV restrictions on the Baulk/Graves Moor Lane, WW1 memorial stone and plaque, and the continuation of bulb planting. As a council, we have also adopted several policies such as grievance procedures, accessibility, and financial records. However, we have also faced a few challenges as we have not been able to properly launch a Neighbourhood Plan, nor is the council operating at full capacity. It is hoped that with the renewed interest in the village shown by residents, that they will get involved in shaping the future of Torworth.

The main topics that have occupied the parish council this past year include the increase in fly-tipping, the major increase in roadside littering (despite lockdowns and a reduction of traffic), a 10-year renewal of land for the allotments and upkeeping the playpark with the installation of orchard trees, cutting back ivy, cutting out dead/dying trees and general maintenance. However the largest hurdle we have faced is Bassetlaw District Council's overdevelopment of Torworth despite loud objections and complaints by the Parish Councils

and residents. In the past few years, 31 new residential houses have been approved within the village thus increasing the number of properties within Torworth by 20% despite being considered a countryside area. Of these approved planning applications, an estate of 20 houses has enlarged the village envelope into Ranskill Parish and is now causing a coalescent of the villages thereby eroding their unique identities. BDC is also failing to provide any form of enforcement to planning breaches and our efforts to place TPOs on village trees has been on-going for several years.

Looking towards the future, the Parish Council will be replacing the fencing surrounding the playpark and repairing the boundary lines, purchasing a shipping container for temporary storage of grounds maintenance equipment, and will be applying for new play park equipment.

I will continue to work with both county and district councillors to reduce the negative impact of new developments in Torworth, and I am keen to support other local parish councils who seek to protect and preserve our wonderful countryside and extend/enhance our green spaces.

**Report for Torworth Parish Council's
Annual Parish Meeting 2020-2021**

All activities and festivities were cancelled last year due to the coronavirus; however, we will be applying for new playground equipment this year. It is also hoped that our annual fundraising at the Scarecrow Festival will resume next year.

We will be contributing a sum of money to Torworth Parish Council for the purchase of a shipping container and shelving units which will store the marquees, cups/saucers, water boiler and other equipment.

Bank account

Balance as of 30/04/2021 £2,718.25

Torworth & Ranskill Allotment Association Report for 2019-2021.

Over the past 18 months the allotments have remained open to plot holders, but all members have had to follow the national guidelines in relation to the management of the Covid 19 outbreak.

1. Organisation of the Allotment Association:

The allotment group has:

- Opened the allotments to the residents of Scrooby & Scrooby Top.
- Finalised the updating of all tenancy agreements.
- Implemented the Risk Assessment Report.

Presently the following are on hold until the national Covid 19 lockdown is lifted:

- The regular meetings for members.
- Ensuring as many members as possible attend the members meetings.
- Having regular site maintenance working days.
- Ensuring all plots are rabbit proof.

At the AGM in March 2019 the following people were elected as officers of the Association:

- Chairperson – Rosemary Spray.
- Vice Chairperson – Stephen Cole.
- Treasurer – Richard Spray.
- Secretary – Stephen Saddington.

Presently all plots are rented with a waiting list of no local people. An article has been submitted to The Star asking residents to put their names forward for a plot in the future.

Now that the site is open to residents from Scrooby & Scrooby Top the Association at its next AGM will be discussing incorporating Scrooby into its name to reflect the 3 communities.

The breakdown of the allotment holders by community is:

- Ranskill – 8
- Scrooby – 2
- Torworth – 3

Although we have not been able to forward all our plans due to the Covid 19 outbreak we have been able to ensure that the whole site is now fully productive and well managed.

Stephen Saddington

Secretary

May 2021

Ref: T&RAA/TPC/Report 12-21

Date: May 2021.

Annual Report from the Joint Burial Board -May 2020-2021

The last year has been fairly straightforward despite the coronavirus pandemic. In line with government guidelines, we closed the cemetery for several months but were able to reopen promptly when restrictions were lifted.

This past year we have undertaken several projects: we've installed a new notice board and have recently planted 50 hawthorn saplings along the southern boundary at the same time as cutting back the climbing ivy. Last year in response to comments from local residents, the burial board made a one-off charitable donation to the PCC (who own the old cemetery) in order for it to be cleared and mowed. It is hoped that the PCC will be able to continue to maintain their old cemetery now that it is in a manageable state. We've also been carrying out mandatory safety tests of the headstones, and repairs will be carried out as required although in some instances we are having problems tracing the persons responsible for some of the headstones.

In terms of on-going projects, we will be tidying and continuing to improve the southern boundary, completing the land registration, updating the constitution of the burial board (the current version is from 1963!) and arranging a new tree survey. We shall also be looking at the long-term use of the cemetery and begin to discuss the possibility of extending the burial grounds, although it is estimated that we currently have enough space for the next 20 years.