

THORNGUMBALD, CAMERTON AND RYEHILL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 2025

PRESENT: Cllrs Cone, Hardcastle, Huckstep, Lickiss, Melia-Craven, Steel, Twidal

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: - None

APOLOGIES: None

It was agreed that the outgoing Chairman would read his report before standing down.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

CHAIRMAN	Cllr E Twidal	RESOLVED
VICE CHAIRMAN	Cllr D Kirlew-Morris	RESOLVED

PERSONELL COMMITTEE:

Cllr S Steel
Cllr Melia-Craven

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of the AGM held on 29 May 2024 were agreed as being a correct record of the proceedings thereat.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The Internal Auditor submitted a ½ year report which was brought to the February 2025 meeting. He is returning to complete the Audit in June 2025, the final report will be available for the June 2025 meeting.

SILVER SALVER:

The Silver Salver is presented annually by Thorngumbald Parish Council to a person or group of people who go that extra mile in the community. This year's winner, Brian Russell, received many nominations, Brian is a well-respected member of our community, and for many years was a valued member of staff for the Parish Council who always went over and above what was needed or expected. Brian retired in March 2025 and is now enjoying spending time with his family.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

My report in May 2024 highlighted some of the many changes we had experienced in the previous year. When reviewing Parish Council meeting minutes for this report I noticed that rather than change, this year, it has been more of the same, again and again. Some things were successfully resolved and some are ongoing. Issues with road safety were mentioned in well over half of our meetings and, sadly, despite our best efforts and promises of support there has been no change. Inconsiderate parking has been another recurring problem, as has complaints about overgrown shrubbery. We did better with the public footpath between Camerton and Ryehill, a feature for many months and now back in regular use, a handy short cut to the Crooked Billet.

Again this year, we struggle to attract more Parish Councillors to join us and Councillors Ferrier, Forrester and Rogers all stood down for personal reasons, reducing our numbers further.

Again, this year, we had the retirement of a maintenance person after many years of dedicated service, although, I notice that he keeps popping up to help out, again going beyond the call of duty. Thankfully, our Personnel Committee were on hand to recruit a replacement who is settling in nicely and, I hope, not due for retirement anytime soon.

Again this year, as with every year, we set the Precept; the amount of Council Tax added to our Parishioners' bills to run the Parish. With the help of our four hard working employees, we fulfil our legal obligations, oversee the allotments, amenity area, cemetery and playing fields. Mostly this is routine, fixed, governed by laws and regulations, although, this year boilers, barriers, bus shelters and Barrons have all caused extra work for our team, not budgeted for. We have to deal with the Parish 'must do' list first and foremost. This might leave little room for the things that may be 'nice to have'. It can be frustrating as we do not have the authority or the resources to deliver some of the activities and services enjoyed at Town, City or County Council level. Then again, there wasn't much demand when we asked our Parishioners to suggest what they might want. That doesn't mean that we can't try to improve our community spirit and the success of our DDay and VE Day 80 Anniversary commemorations show that we can deliver events that are well supported, on time and within a tight budget.

Still not quite like Ambridge in the Archers but it's a start.

Signed

Dated