

**Present:** Cllrs: McGill (in the Chair), Bundred, Fonseca, Hawkins and Roberts

**Also in attendance:** V Swift (Clerk & RFO), 1 Members of the Public

**APM24/1. Welcome**  
The Chairman of Thornton Parish Council presided at the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**APM24/2. Apologies for absence**  
An apology was received from Cllr Francis.

**APM24/3. Minutes of the previous meeting**  
The minutes of the last Annual Parish of Thornton meeting held on 17 May 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman of Thornton Parish Council.

**APM24/4. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting**  
No matters were raised.

**APM24/5. Annual Report from the Chairman of Thornton Parish Council**  
The Chairman, Cllr Bob McGill delivered a report detailing the activities of the Parish Council for the year civic year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, see report attached.

**APM24/6. Other Reports**  
No other reports were received.

**APM24/7. Open Forum**  
The opportunity for electors to raise any matters of importance to the Parish was provided. No matters were raised.

**APM24/8.** The meeting closed at 19:10PM.



Signed .....

7 May 2025

Date .....

## **2023-24 Chairman's Annual Report**

It's been a turbulent and challenging year, more of which I will speak of later.

Many of the actions of the Parish Council have now become almost a tradition. Starting with the Remembrance day ceremony in November, the Christmas lights switch on and festivities at the Nags Head pub in December and the monthly community litter picks, to name but a few.

We can now begin to add our success with the RHS NW in bloom as we received a certificate of merit on our first attempt at entering the competition. And building on that success we now have plans to add several planters around the Thornton Parish boundaries.

Talking about the Thornton Parish boundary brings us nicely onto the Community Governance Review, which you would have believed was started nearly two years ago, progress was halted by the LGBC Review into Sefton's internal Ward boundaries. The final recommendations of the LGBC are due to be published somewhere between June and July this year.

We have started a new Facebook page after we had received a number of complaints about the old one. The new page is called Thornton Parish Community and has been running for just over a month. It has a greater focus upon the community and is developing well and can be considered to be a success.

New signage is in place along the stretch of Edge Lane from the LSFA to the Fire Station and is guiding and informing pedestrians and cyclists of the dual function of the pavement and we have Cllr Hawkins to thank for this.

We come back to Cllr Hawkins on the long planned memorials at the Stocks and Sundial which are now approaching approval by Sefton Council and should be in place soon.

We have been included in and kept up to date on the National Trust's (NT) plans for the 78 Hectares in Lunt. The NT recently had an open day at St William of York to outline their plans to the public.

More recently, David Wilson/Barratt homes, both of whom are currently building in Thornton have approached the Parish Council with a desire to assist in our efforts in cleaning the area. With their expertise and equipment we hope this support might include help in developing the area around the ancient monument which is Broom's Cross.

We have re-established contact with Rufford Old Hall (NT). This is significant as it is 76 years since our sampler and chest were loaned to the hall on a permanent basis. The Parish Council's records show this occurred in July 1948 and it is planned that members of the Parish Council revisit the Hall this July to record the passing of time.

On a less than positive note we can report that our second defibrillator at The Crescent has once again been stolen. This follows on from small acts of vandalism and general anti-social behaviour

observed locally. It is considered that any replacement will need a new location as it is clear that its present one is significantly vulnerable.

During the year we sadly said farewell to four councillors, Kevin Rathbone, James O’Keeffe, George Pennington and Jim White.

Kevin is still active in and around Thornton and carries out his philanthropic duties regularly, James steps in on occasions such as Remembrance Day, Christmas lights switch on, etc. to MC the event and is also our local historian.

George stepped down after 20+ years on the Council and remains our expert on all things water related, riparian rights, flooding etc. He was also the recipient of the Honorary Freedom of Thornton Parish, which was bestowed upon him by the Mayor of Sefton, Cllr June Burns, at a reception at the Nags Head pub.

During the year we welcomed four new councillors, Jay Francis, Rosemary Roberts, Ricardo Fonseca and Harry Bundred and I am pleased to report they are all settling in really well.

Cllr Bob McGill  
1 May 2024