

THURLASTON PARISH COUNCIL
THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

Introduction

The Parish Council was formed in 1894, following legislation setting up these smallest units of democracy throughout England. Before that time, local administration was undertaken by the Parish Overseers, who were responsible for levying local taxes, looking after the poor of the Parish and similar duties. The Overseers continued after the creation of Parish Councils, but were now appointed by the Council, and although they continued to be responsible for tax collection and apportionment, the Council took over all their other duties.

The complete Minute Books for Thurlaston Parish Council are kept by the Parish Clerk, but will eventually be deposited with the County Record Office. Parish Council meetings are open to the public, and discussions are private in the sense that only Councillors can contribute to the debate. Annual Parish Meetings, on the other hand, provide a platform for all villagers to bring their grievances and congratulations to the attention of the Parish Council, and minutes from these meetings are also held in the Parish.

The Parish Council “year” runs from the end of March, when it elects a Chairman at their Annual General Meeting. The format of this record reflects this “year”. Wherever possible the name of the current Chairman is noted and the main business for the year is summarised. The concerns of the Parish as expressed at the Parish Meeting are noted separately in the year under review.

We start with a full report of the first Parish Meeting, held on Tuesday 4th December 1894, when the first Parish Council was elected. Proceedings in subsequent years are summarised to give readers a flavour of the contemporary concerns of the Parish.

A personal note

As Chairman of the current Parish Council, I find it appropriate that I should be asked to summarise what was discussed in Thurlaston during the past hundred years, and am comforted to note that the concerns of the people in Thurlaston have not changed a great deal over that period.

R G Brooks

Chairman

THURLASTON PARISH COUNCIL

15 January 1995

1894

A Parish Meeting was held in the Schoolroom, Thurlaston on Tuesday 4th December at 7 o'clock p.m. for the Appointment of a Parish Council.

It was proposed by Mr J Frankton and seconded by Mr Chambers and carried unanimously that Mr J Johnson be appointed Chairman of the Meeting.

17 Nomination Papers handed in to the Chairman consisting of the following names:

John Frankton	Proposed by Samuel Chambers Seconded by Edward Patrick
Henry James Grocock	Proposed by Samuel Wilson Seconded by William Seeney
Edward Holt	Proposed by William Moxon Seconded by James Johnson
Edward Holt	Proposed by Joseph Ingram Seconded by Alfred Davis
Joseph Ingram	Proposed by James Johnson Seconded by Sarah Jane Sutton
Albert John Lissaman	Proposed by H J Colton Seconded by Samuel Wilson
Edward Patrick	Proposed by Henry Dunkley Seconded by William Moxon
William Moxon	Proposed by William John Shaw Seconded by Edward Holt
William Moxon	Proposed by James Johnson Seconded by Henry Dunkley
William Moxon	Proposed by Samuel Chambers Seconded by Edward Patrick
Charles James Ranor	Proposed by Edward Hewitt Seconded by Samuel Wilson
William Seeney	Proposed by William Pitton Seconded by Thomas Seeney
John Shaw	Proposed by William Moxon Seconded by Henry Dunkley
William John Shaw	Proposed by Edward Holt Seconded by Joseph Ingram
Sarah Jane Sutton	Proposed by J W Johnson Seconded by William Moxon
Samuel Wilson	Proposed by Edward Hewitt Seconded by H J Grocock
John Wing	Proposed by John Turrall Seconded by Ada Ranor

The nomination papers of John Shaw and John Wing were declared to be invalid on account of wrong description.

A show of hands was then taken with the following result:

No of votes	Name	
47	William John Shaw	Elected
45	William Moxon	Elected
41	Sarah Jane Sutton	Elected
33	Joseph Ingram	Elected
32	Edward Holt	Elected
28	Samuel Wilson	
28	Edward Patrick	
21	Henry James Grocock	
20	Charles James Ranor	
19	John Frankton	
15	Albert John Lissaman	
6	William Seeney	

The first five were declared to be elected.

A Poll was demanded by John Turrall, but the demand was subsequently withdrawn.

A Vote of Thanks to the Chairman concluded the business of the meeting.

(Signed)

J A Johnson

Chairman

December 1894 – March 1895

The first meeting of the new Parish Council took place in the Schoolroom on Friday 14th December 1894. All the elected members were present and all signed the Declaration Book – a process which still happens 100 years later. William Moxon was elected Chairman and Thomas Pickering, the Assistant Overseer, was appointed Parish Clerk.

No further business was transacted at this meeting.

At the next meeting, on 31st January 1895, Mr A Cox, Manager of Lloyds Bank, Rugby offered his services as Treasurer to the Council. He was accepted unanimously [*and Lloyds Bank continues to be the Council's banker 100 years later*]. Payment of 6/6d (33p) was authorised to G V Hefford for payment of his services as returning officer.

Year to March 1896

The first Parish Meeting was held on 26 March 1895. Additional trustees were appointed to the Allotments, but no other business was done.

The Council Meeting on April 15th appointed William Moxon to be Chairman and Mr Ingram to be Vice Chairman. Overseers to the Parish were appointed and Mr Pickering's appointment as Parish Clerk and Assistant Overseer was confirmed. His salary was to be £15 per year. Trustees to the Poor Plot Charity were appointed, as was the Secretary to the Trustees – William Barnwell – who was to receive a salary of £5 per annum. It was resolved that 1/6d (8p) be paid for preparing the schoolroom fire and light for meetings. Also:

"The question of admitting the public to the Council was considered – Mr Holt proposed and Mr Ingram seconded that they be not admitted – which was carried."

The Council Meeting of July 19th considered the matter of a tree lying across the footpath between Thurlaston and the railway station. The Clerk wrote to Mr Frankton, the occupier, requesting him to remove it. (*This is the first of many references to this path*). Trouble with drains in "Brickwood" was discussed, as was damage to the Town Pit fence caused by falling trees in a recent storm, and the repair of the Town pump, near the Post Office.

On the 17th October, the Council considered a tree obstructing the path to Dunchurch, the dirty state of William Mace's premises, and the provision of a light near the Post Office. The Parish Clerk offered to give a lamp for the Church gate.

At their meeting of January 2nd, it was reported that 13/- (65p) had been collected for the lamp near the Post Office. A rubber stamp for the use of the Parish Council was authorised and the Clerk was requested to write to Mr J Johnson about an obstruction to the drain leading to the Town Pit. Mr Mace would be asked to remove the (unspecified) nuisance in the rear of his premises.

Meetings were held on January 23rd and February 6th, at which little business of significance was done.

At the meeting on March 23rd, complaints were heard about the stoppage of many drains in the village, and they were to be opened and cleared out. Bills totalling £1/5/6d (£1.28p) were

authorised, including 3/6d for the Chairman's expenses and 8/6d for preparing the Schoolroom for meetings.

Year to March 1897

The Parish Meeting was held on March 23rd 1896 at 7 p.m. in the Schoolroom, about 20 persons attending.

The accounts of the Trustees for the Allotments were presented and Mr W Hirons objected to their Rent Audits being held at the Plough Inn. It was explained they had always been held there. Mr Holt proposed that no money be given for beer, and other complaints followed. A vote was taken with six people supporting the Trustees and three against.

A vote of thanks to the Trustees and Mr W D Barnwell, the Secretary to the allotments, then followed. The meeting was closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr W Moxon.

On March 30th a further meeting was held, to elect Parish Councillors, with the following result:

Elected	William Moxon	Farmer
	John Frankton	Post-master and Farmer
	Sarah Jane Sutton	Farmer and Overseer
	Joseph Ingram	Bricklayer
	William Hirons Junior	Labourer

Mr William Whiwell was the Returning Officer.

Parish Council Meetings in 1896/7 were held on April 18th, May 7th, July 2nd, October 3rd and January 9th.

Mr William Moxon was elected Chairman for the second year on April 18th. Matters raised at this meeting were the state of the footpaths in the village and the condition of the stile on the footpaths to the Station.

During the remainder of the year, stoppages to drains, and the lamp outside the Post Office occupied the mind of the Council, but in January it obviously became very agitated about the provision of an Isolation Hospital, 2/5ths of the cost having to be found by the Rural District Council, which was considered excessive. The Council recommended that Cottage Hospitals be built for groups of small villages in accordance with the recommendations of the Local Government Board. Representations were to be made to Warwickshire County Council in Leamington and a copy was sent to Bilton Parish Council.

Year to March 1898

The Parish Meeting was held on the 18 March 1897 at 7.30 p.m. in the Schoolroom. There were only five nominations for the five places on the Parish Council and they were all duly elected:

Sarah Jane Sutton, Joseph Ingram, Alfred Davis, John Frankton and William John Shaw

The Poores Plot accounts were read. It was suggested that instead of the poor being asked to contribute five shillings towards the second ton of coal, as much coal as the funds would allow should be given. This would be considered by the Trustees. The Chairman of the meeting expressed his regret that Mr William Moxon was leaving the neighbourhood. "There was no other business of any importance....."

Council Meetings were held on April 17th, May 15th, July 10th, October 9th, January 8th and March 26th.

In April, Mr J Ingram was elected Chairman. In May, consideration was being given as to the best way to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. It was proposed that a village schoolroom be erected in honour of the event, and Mr C G Bolam (Agent for the Duke of Buccleugh) had promised to see His Grace about what assistance could be given. His reply would be awaited until a meeting of parishioners was called. In July it was agreed that a notice board be made by Mr Ingram and affixed to the wall of Smith's shop. Further discussion about this noticeboard ensued in October, when it was also decided that the posts on the roads be painted white. The January meeting was still discussing the noticeboard, which will now be fixed to Mr Daniel's shop – the rent being 6d (2½p) per annum, payable to the Duke of Buccleugh. The provision of a map of the Parish was considered, but it was not deemed necessary.

Year to March 1899

The Parish Meeting was held on March 14th and, apart from the reading of the accounts of the Poores' Plot Charity, there was no other business.

Parish Councils met on March 26th, 16th April, July 2nd, October 8th, January 7th and March 25th.

On March 26th, Mr Joseph Ingram was elected Chairman. In July, work to the outlet of the drain from the Village Green was authorised and note was taken of the bad state of repair of the footpaths in the Village.

In October, the matter of the Spier's Charity was considered. This Charity is supposed to be for the poor of Dunchurch and Thurlaston, but Thurlaston's poor had not received any payment for over 30 years. It was noted that John Spier of Woolston (sic) by a Will dated 3rd March 1858, had bequeathed £50 to the poor of Dunchurch, which is secured on land belonging to the Almshouses, and the interest of £2.10.0d (£2.50) is annually distributed on the Festival of St John the Evangelist (2 days after Christmas). The land was sold and the money invested in Consols. A letter from the Charity Commissioners was read which showed that in their opinion the poor of the Parish or Township of Thurlaston were entitled to a one third share of the amount. Two trustees were then appointed to administer this share and the Parish Clerk was asked to write to the Trustees in Dunchurch asking for Thurlaston's share of the money, and informing them of the change. It was reported in January that 16/8d (34p) had been received and that 80 two pound loaves had been purchased on the 3rd January to be given to six widows, eight widowers and to 26 cottagers. [*In fact, the will of John Spier of Wolston was dated 30 March 1618, and proved on 25 January 1619. This is described in the Report from the Charities Commissioners Volume 21 Part 2 for the Session 19 February to 10 September 1835*]

In March, the Council was asked to decide if elections to the Parish Council should take place every three weeks or annually, as had been the case since 1894. It was decided to ask for elections every three years. It was also decided to buy a chest in which to keep Parish documents.

Year to March 1900

The Parish Meeting was held on 6th March 1899, and the following were elected to the Council:

Alfred Davis (Bricklayer), John Frankton (Farmer and Postmaster), William Hirons (Drainer), Joseph Ingrams (Builder etc.) and Sarah Jane Sutton (Farmer).

There was no other business.

Parish Meetings were held on April 15th, July 8th, September 25th, January 6th and March 26th.

Apart from the appointment of Joseph Ingram as Chairman in April, and the appointment of Trustees to various charities, the Council only received the accounts of the Rugby Union [*an organisation which supervised and operated the local workhouses for the poor and vagrants*] in this year.

Year to March 1901

The Parish Meeting was held on March 26th 1900, when the Allotment accounts were read and Mr William Barnwell reported that some allotments were unoccupied. It was agreed that the Trustees meet to decide what to do with them.

The Parish Council met on April 16th, July 7th, October 9th, January 6th and March 30th.

In April, Mr Joseph Ingram was appointed Chairman.

In July, the Clerk told the Council that proper account books should be used, and he was authorised to buy them.

The October meeting heard that the plank leading to the bridge over the railway was in a bad state, and that the Road Surveyor, Mr Harvey, should be advised.

A total of 16/8d had been received from the Spier's Charity in January and would be distributed in bread to the poor inhabitants.

Year to March 1902

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on March 4th, 1901, when the accounts of the Poor's Plot Charity were produced. The following were appointed to the Parochial committee for Technical (sic) Education:

Mr James Johnson
Mrs Johnson
Miss S J Sutton
Mr H Dunkley
Mr H Kidd

Parish Council meetings took place on April 15th, July 6th, October 5th, January 4th, February 20th and March 27th

Mr Joseph Ingram was again appointed Chairman on April 15th, before the Council resolved to write to Rugby Rural District Council about the state of Kiln Lane (about 60 yards long), the road from the Church to the footpath to Dunchurch, and the road leading to Pudding Bag, which all needed attention. Mr Henry Dunkley was asked to re-fix the noticeboard to Mr Daniel's house. A cheque for 6d (2½p) for the rent of this noticeboard was authorised.

The July meeting heard that Rugby RDC were not willing to repair the roads mentioned in April, but would mend the footpaths. The Parish Clerk reported that Mr Dunkley had told him that the noticeboard should not be affixed to Mr Daniel's house, as it was not on a drift road – there being a drift road to Biggin Hall, The Grange and Mr Florendine's house. [*The significance of this is not understood*]

In October, the Council asked Rugby RDC to repair the footpaths as promised, and also called their attention to the damaged fence at the Village Road, the dangerous footpath by the pond and sheepwash, it having no proper guard, and asking that a post or two be fixed near the public pump near the Post Office. Mr Daniels was asked to examine the pump and report on its condition.

The January meeting heard that Rugby RDC had promised that the work on the footpaths would be done, and that the public pump had been repaired. 16/8d had been received from the Rev. W R Jubb for bread and Mr Patrick had been ordered to "make same and deliver it to the poor of Thurlaston".

The meeting in February was called to consider the basis for the County Rate. This was compared to the Rate Book, and after consultation was approved.

In March, an objection was made to the cost of the fire and lighting for Council Meetings at 3/- (15p) which was payable to Mrs Burton. Payment was eventually approved. Also discussed were steps to be taken for a feast at the Coronation.

Year to March 1903

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on April 17th 1902, when an objection to the Allotments accounts was made by Mr Frankton and Mr J Johnson, who chaired this meeting. As the Secretary Mr Barnwell was not present, the accounts were not signed. The views of the meeting were sought about how to celebrate the Coronation and a feast was suggested – "something like we did before." The Chairman suggested that a Committee be formed to carry out the wishes of the meeting, and this was agreed. It was suggested that the Committee (which consisted of the Parish Council) ask Mrs Paget for the use of her barn for the feast.

A second Parish Meeting was held on May 16th to ascertain the feeling of the Parishioners as to what ought to be done to celebrate the Coronation of Edward 7th. About 20 people attended with the Parish Councillors. No one had anything to say and it was stated that it was impossible for the Committee to do anything until they knew what money was available – in some Parishes a rule had been made that if any man refused to subscribe, then he should not have any dinner.

The Chairman resigned in favour of Mr Ingram, who said that as no suggestions had been forthcoming, then a cold meat dinner be given if sufficient funds could be collected, and if not a tea for the women and children. This did not get a seconder, and the matter was left to the Committee, who would organize a house to house collection.

A third Parish Meeting was called on the 2nd June, on which date Peace was proclaimed at the end of the South African War. It was resolved that a dinner consisting of roast beef and plumb (sic) pudding be given to men and women, and a tea for children, and that no householder who was in a position to earn wages should partake unless he was a subscriber. Miss Sutton offered to make the puddings and Mr Kidd and Mr Edwards offered potatoes. It was suggested that the children be given a Coronation Cup on leaving.

[There was indeed a celebration, which resulted in a surplus of £2/11/6d used for village purposes, such as keeping oil lamps lit in the village streets]

Parish Council meetings were held on April 17th, July 5th, October 4th, January 10th and March 28th.

In April, Mr Joseph Ingram was elected Chairman. The October meeting resolved that the surplus from the Coronation celebration be used for lighting the village, at a cost of 10/- (50p) and the rest be used to buy "Outdoor tickets for parishioners to the Rugby Hospital". In January, it was reported that the footpath to Dunchurch was in a bad state, as were the Parish roads generally. Rugby RDC were to be advised.

In March the Council had to elect a new Chairman – Mr Frankton – in place of Mr Ingram, who had died.

Year to March 1904

The annual Parish Meeting was held on April 18th 1903, when the Poor's Plot accounts were read and it was reported that 16/8d had been received from the Spier's Charity and distributed.

Parish Council meetings were held on April 18th, April 25th, July 4th, October 10th, January 9th and March 26th.

Mr John Frankton was elected Chairman on April 18th, and the meeting on April 25th was to appoint Trustees to various charities, which had obviously been forgotten a week earlier. In October, the Council was preoccupied with a path from the Church to the "first field", which the RDC had promised to gravel. They were also asked to repair a broken fence at the village pond, and to paint it. The stile at the allotments was broken. In March, a letter was received from the County Council about the Bond for the Treasurer which should be for £60.

Year to March 1905

At the annual Parish Meeting held on March 8th 1904, the election of a new Council took place:

Elected:

Sarah Jane Sutton
John Frankton
Edwin Daniels
Alfred Davis
Frederick Steele

The accounts for the Poor's Plot Charity showed that receipts were £75/1/11d and expenses £54/14/5d, with a balance of £20/8/6d in the Bank. 46 tons of coal had been delivered to the poor at 17/- per ton (85p).

Parish Councils were held on April 16th July 9th, July 30th, October 8th, January 7th, February 20th and March 18th.

Mr John Frankton was elected Chairman. The next two meetings were concerned with selecting School Managers, and the meeting held on October 8th was abandoned for lack of a quorum. The January meeting heard that there had been no bread distribution this year as no money had been received from the Spier's Charity. The Vicar, Rev Rigby Jubb and the Churchwarden, Mr G Whiteman had been written to. Two Trustees to the Spier's Charity were appointed on February 20th. As usual, the last meeting of the year was devoted to settlement of the accounts.

Year to March 1906

The annual Parish Meeting which was held on March 30th 1905, looked at the accounts of the Allotments, which showed a balance of £25/18/3d, and heard that 40 loaves had been distributed to the poor with money from the Spier's Charity.

Parish Council meetings were held on April 15th, July 17th, August 18th, December 22nd and March 24th.

Mr J Frankton continued as Chairman. In July it was resolved that the pond near Mr J Johnson's house be cleared out, and a letter from Warwickshire Highway Protection League in respect of "motor nuisance" was received. The action taken by them was approved. [*The record does not state what the action was.*] By October, the Village Pit had been cleaned out and Mr Charles Walton was paid 9/- (45p) for this service. The usual bills were paid in March.

Year to March 1907

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 30th March 1906. The usual accounts were read, and then followed a complaint about the bad state of Kiln Lane. A second complaint was heard about a card road being made by the pump near the Plough, which endangered the pump and grating.

Parish Council meetings were held on April 17th, July 6th, August 10th, October 5th, March 4th and March 22nd.

Mr J Frankton continued as Chairman. In July, the Council heard that Alfred Davis had died, and elected Henry Davis to fill the vacancy. There was no business to discuss on October 5th, or March 4th, but on March 25th (?) the Council considered a request by Mr Vernon, made to Rugby RDC, to enclose an open space in front of his house. An inspection was made of the place, and the Council were unanimous in recommending that the enclosure be not allowed.

Year to March 1908

At the Parish Meeting, held on March 4th 1907, Sarah Jane Sutton, John Mitchell, Frederick Steele, Henry Davis and Edwin Daniels were elected for three years as Councillors. There were no other candidates. The usual accounts were read.

Parish Council meetings were held on April 15th, October 10th, 22nd November, January 3rd and March 27th. The meeting in November and subsequent meetings were held in the Plough Coffee Tavern.

Mr John Mitchell was elected Chairman. In October, it was proposed that future meetings be held at the Working Men's Club and that 2/- (10p) be paid for each meeting. The bad state of the footpath from the Post Office to the railway station was reported to Rugby RDC. The November meeting learned that the RDC refused to repair this footpath, and the Council resolved to make repairs "as far as Five Pounds would go"; Mr Mitchell and Mr Daniels would carry out the work. In January, a letter from the RDC commented on Motor Cars, Education and Allotments. The Council was against excessive speed by motor cars because it damaged roads, could not comment on the new Education Act as they had not read it, and that there were no urgent demands for allotments. Mr Johnson would be asked to cut his high hedge at the top end of his field near the corner so that motors coming from Dunchurch could be seen. In March, the Chairman reported that repairs had been done to the path to the railway station at a cost of £4/19/8d.

Year to March 1909

The annual Parish Meeting was held at the Plough Inn on the 27th March 1908. The usual accounts were read and Mr E Daniels (Trustee of the Spier's Charity) reported that 40 loaves at 5d (2p) each were delivered to the poor.

Parish Councils were held on April 16th, October 8th, February 26th and March 25th.

Mr John Mitchell continued as Chairman. Both the Parish Council and Church notice boards were to be renewed, with protective wire covers and, once again, the path to the railway station was discussed – this time it was overgrown with grass. In February, the bill for the new noticeboard of £1/5/- (£1.25p) was paid. Mr Pickering announced his retirement from the post of Parish Clerk at the end of March after twenty years in office – ten years as Assistant Overseer and ten years as Parish Clerk and Assistant Overseer. As he was the Assistant Overseer [*effectively the Overseer's Clerk*], it was suggested that the two Overseers be asked to attend the next meeting.

At the meeting in March, Mr Pickering's resignation was accepted, and [Mrs or Miss] M A Pickering was appointed in his place. Mr Cox, Manager of Lloyds Bank in Rugby having also retired, the Council appointed his successor Mr G H Duncan to be Treasurer.

Year to March 1910

The annual Parish Meeting was held on March 25th 1909. The Allotment Trustees had spent £66/6/0d on 78 tons of coal at 17/- (85p) per ton. The money from the Spier's charity would be used to buy bread when it was received, although the 40 loaves would not be quite as large as before, owing to a rise in the price of bread.

Parish Council meetings were held on April 15th, May 20th, November 2nd and March 14th.

Mr John Mitchell was reappointed Chairman. After a long discussion, it was resolved that the Clerk write to the Educational Committee of Dunchurch asking that an infants' school be built in Thurlaston. In November, the Council heard that building a new school would be impossible, but that Dunchurch had written to Warwick asking that a waggon be provided to convey infants to school. The state of the footpath to the railway station was again considered, as it needed repair. This would be done.

Year to March 1911

The Parish Meeting was held in the Plough Inn at 6.30 on March 14th 1910, when the triennial election of Councillors was made. The Council remained as before. Coal was now 16/6d (83p) per ton.

Only two meetings of the Council were minuted in this year – on April 18th 1910 and March 23rd 1911. Apart from the appointment of Overseers and Trustees, the April meeting discussed the path to the railway station. Mr John Mitchell was reappointed Chairman. In March, the state of the wash pit was discussed, and it decided to write to Mr Bolam (the Duke of Buccleugh's Agent) asking that it be put right and a fence put round it. Kiln Lane was in a bad state and the Allotment's stile needed a new footboard.

Year to March 1912

At the annual Parish Meeting on March 23rd 1911, the accounts for the Allotments were presented. Coal was now 15/5d (77p) per ton, and 40 loaves had been distributed as usual.

Council meetings were held on April 20th, when Mr John Mitchell was reappointed Chairman, October 5th, October 19th and March 21st.

In April it was decided to call a public meeting to discuss the forthcoming Coronation festivities and Mr Mitchell (again) promised to keep the path to the railway station in repair. In October, the Council considered the new scheme to amalgamate the Thomas Newcombe and John Spier Charities, and several members objected strongly to the clause allowing a person to enter an almshouse after only two years' residence in the Parish. The Council had to appoint one Trustee, and Mr John Mitchell was appointed. In March, the Council accounts were paid as usual – they amounted to £1/13/0d (£1.65)

Year to March 1913

At the annual Parish Meeting held on March 21st 1912 it was noted that coal had increased in price to 17/8d (89p) per ton – this is a 16% increase.

The Parish Council met on April 18th, July 8th and March 17th.

Mr John Mitchell was reappointed as Chairman, and discussion ensued about the missing footboard on the Allotment stile, and the path to the railway station, which was again in a poor state. In July the Council considered the County Rate and advised the County that if it went on increasing they would have to protest. The request to Mr Bolam about the fence around the wash pit was renewed, and a vote of thanks was passed to Mr Davis, who had replaced the footboard on the Allotments stile. Mr Walton had agreed to keep the path to the railway station in order for 10/- (50p) per annum, to which the Council agreed.

Year to March 1914

The annual Parish Meeting was held on March 17th 1913 at 18.30 when the triennial election of Councillors was the main business.

Elected:

Mr Mitchell
Mr Daniels
Mr Shaw
Mr Heap
Mr Nicholas

The allotment accounts were received, but as they were not correct, they were returned to the Secretary with instructions to present them to the next Parish Council Meeting. Comments were passed on the state of Kiln Lane and the footpath to Dunchurch.

The Council met on April 17th, May 22nd and March 12th.

Mr John Mitchell was re-appointed Chairman in April, and in May the Council were asked if a Mission van could stand on the Village Green for a week in July. It was decided that this would be a "good thing". The Clerk would enquire if Mr Johnson had been able to make any arrangements for the repair of Kiln Lane.

Year to March 1915

The annual Parish Meeting was held on March 12th 1914. Only the usual accounts were presented at this meeting.

Councils were held on April 20th, July 2nd, October 15th and March 25th.

In April, the Council heard from Mr Heap that the allotments were very badly kept. After a long discussion, it was decided to write to the Trustees to ask them if they could do anything "to remedy the evil." In July the proposed scheme of the old National School Foundation in Thurlaston was discussed at length. It was proposed that the Clerk write to the Board of Education to say that as there is a Sunday School in Thurlaston, it was unanimously proposed that the income from the Thurlaston Old School Fund be applied for the benefit of children attending the Sunday School. The Council protested strongly about the money going out of Thurlaston Parish. A letter was received

from Mr Bolam, the Duke's Agent asking that the temporary caretaker of the room where the Council met be given a small fee for dusting, etc. It was agreed to continue the payment of 2/- (10p).

In October, detailed plans were received from the Board of Education and a copy was given to each member. The Clerk was asked to write to the Board of Agriculture for some leaflets about chicken keeping, etc. The March meeting saw Mr F C Walton appointed a Councillor in place of Mr Nicholas who had left the Parish.

[There was no mention of the outbreak of war in August]

Year to March 1916

The annual Parish Meeting was held on March 25th at 8 pm. The Allotment accounts were presented and considered "most satisfactory". They were returned with the request that the Secretary be present in person at the next Parish Council meeting – this was later done and the accounts approved. Coal was now up to 19/- (95p) per ton.

Council meetings were held on April 20th, October 21st, December 28th and March 30th.

Mr John Mitchell was reappointed Chairman in April, and a letter was received about the sale of cottages in Thurlaston belonging to the Willoughby Charity. The footpath from the village pump to Pudding Bag Lane was in a bad state, caused by a drain which had been improperly filled in. In October, the attention of the Council was drawn to the posts by the village pump, the stocks and the rails by the pit, etc. which couldn't be seen in the dark. Rugby RDC would be asked to paint them white. In December, a leaflet was received about the revival of sparrow clubs.

Year to March 1917

The annual Parish Meeting was held on 30th March 1916. "There was nothing to do at the meeting as the Secretary didn't arrive with the Balance Sheet of the Allotments."

Parish Council meetings were held on April 20th and March 29th (1917). John Mitchell was reappointed Chairman in April, and the path to the station was again discussed, although it was agreed that nothing could be done during the summer months. In March, the Council were asked if they could collect waste paper and cardboard, but felt that they could not. The high edge at the corner of Coventry Road and Thurlaston Lane was discussed and it was agreed that Mr Walton be asked to do something about the path to the station.

Year to March 1918

The Parish Meeting was held on 29th March 1917 [dated 1918 in the Minute book]. The usual accounts were received – coal was not 27/6d (£1.38) per ton.

Parish Council meeting on April 19th, October 25th and March 28th, heard of the high hedge, and appointed a new Trustee for the Newcombe and Spier Charity. Mr John Mitchell was chairman.

Year to March 1919

The Parish Meeting on March 28th 1918 received the usual accounts.

Council meetings held only on April 18th and March 17th (1919), reappointed John Mitchell as Chairman, asked Rugby RDC to build some cottages in Thurlaston “as they are badly needed”, heard of the bad state of the footpath to Dunchurch in Mrs Hammond’s field (a drain was blocked), and were asked by Rugby RDC if they could do anything about the sparrows and rats. The Parish Council “didn’t see their way to do anything in the matter”.

[The Armistice brought to an end the First World War on November 11th 1918 – unremarked by “official” Thurlaston]

Year to March 1920

The Parish Meeting on March 17th 1919 elected five new Councillors: Mr Mitchell, Mr Shaw, Mr Heap, Mr T C Walton and Mr T S Stanley. A complaint was heard that the new tenant of a Poor’s Plot Cottage was not a resident of Thurlaston, and it was not thought right. The Trustees, however, averred that they had acted for the best. Again the allotments were not correct, and were presented to the Council Meeting in April. £1.2.- (£1.10) was given to 40 poor persons in lieu of coal this year.

Council Meetings were held on April 21st, October 27th, December 22nd and March 29th. Mr John Mitchell was again reappointed Chairman. Mr Walton complained that for several weeks a heap of night soil had been lying by Walton’s Row on the side of the footpath. It was decided to write to Mr Henry Walton, asking him to remove it. Mr Walton also complained that the children were digging up the grass on the Lower Village Green and making the road very untidy. The Clerk would post an appropriate notice. In December, Dr Powell attended the Council to explain why a collection for the local hospital was necessary. The Parish Council will leave an envelope at every house and collect it on Christmas Day. £9/7/10d was paid to the Treasurer of the hospital on Boxing Day. In March, Mr Walton asked for an increase in pay to keep up the footpath to the station – he said that recently, he and his father had spent four full days working on it. His pay was increased to 30/- (£1.50). The supply of stones to repair this footpath was also discussed.

Year to March 1921

The Parish Meeting held on March 29th 1920 received the accounts of the Poor’s Plot Charity (formerly the “Allotments”). Rents were £70/0/8d and 49 persons were given £1. The Secretary’s salary was £5. There was a waiting list for allotments.

Parish Council were held on April 19th, July 5th, November 1st and March 24th. Mr Mitchell was reappointed Chairman and the Parish Clerk’s salary was increased to £20 – a rise of £5 per annum. The footpath to the station was discussed, and the Council agreed to inspect it before deciding what to do. In July, it was stated that Moat Close ditch was blocked by a tree, and discussion ensued about the ownership of the tree by the stocks as it needed cutting. After the meeting, the councillors inspected the tree. In November the bridle road through Mr Frankton’s field came up for attention as it was almost impassable because rails had been erected where there was once a gate. Rugby RDC would be asked to put it right. The bad condition of the sewerage drains was discussed and they should be put right for the health of the village, as should the rails around the dump. In fact, there was so much wrong that Rugby RDC were invited to come to Thurlaston to be shown around. In March there were complaints about stones being put down by the stocks and left very rough. The roadman would be asked to attend to this.

Year to March 1922

The annual Parish Meeting was held on March 24th 1921. It received and approved the accounts of the Poor's Plot Charity.

Council meetings were held on April 18th, August 1st, October 17th and March 13th. Mr Mitchell was elected chairman. Mr Heap resigned, and Mr G Daniels was appointed to the vacancy. The footpath to the station was again discussed, and Mr Shaw agreed to mow it for 15/- per annum. Mr Heap was asked to have his fence repaired by the footpath, as it was considered a danger to the public. In August the Council wrote to the Traffic Manager, to ask if the bus that arrives in Dunchurch at 1 pm and 4.36 pm could run down Thurlaston Lane and it would be a great convenience if there was a bus to Rugby about 6 o'clock in the evening, especially on Saturday. It was also reported that the pump at the bottom of the village was "useless", and that a new gate was required on the footpath through Hammond's field. Rugby RDC would be asked to repair the pump, and clean out the well, as villagers at the bottom end had to carry their water from the stocks. Mr Hopp's hedge in the lane opposite the Post Office needed "doing", as did the hedge at the corner of London Road and Thurlaston Lane – this was a danger to motor traffic. The hedges in Kiln Lane also needed attention, and all the stiles needed footboards.

The Clerk asked if she could write out the notices of meetings in future, but it was decided that they should be printed as before. A new assessment had recently been done for the whole Parish by the Clerk, and it was agreed that she receive an extra £3 for this.

In October of this very busy year, the dangerous corner at Thurlaston Turn was again discussed because the hedge had not been cut. The bus now ran to Thurlaston Turn, but the Council wrote to ask if it could run into the village – there was plenty of room for it to turn round. Hedges at Kiln Lane were still giving trouble and the Clerk would write to Messrs Bates, Cluny and Ash asking them to cut them down. The sewerage was discussed, and a completely new system was recommended, when the effluent could be carried right away from the village. As there is so much unemployment, this would seem to be a good time to get the job done. March was devoted to paying the annual bills, although a note makes it obvious that Mr Mitchell had not been elected at the Parish Meeting.

Year to March 1923

The Parish Meeting was held on March 13th 1922 and John Shaw, Mr Frankton, Mr Adkins, Mr Heap and Mr Edward Shaw were elected to serve a three year term as Parish Councillors. Regret was expressed that Mr John Mitchell had not been nominated for the Council, after serving 15 years (14 of them as Chairman).

Parish Councils met on April 18th, January 11th and March 26th. In April, Mr Heap was proposed as Chairman, but in the absence of a seconder, Mr Shaw was elected. The bad state of the footpath between Church Lane and the Pudding Bag across the top village green was discussed – it was apparently due to vehicles using it. The meeting on January 11th was called to discuss the footpaths to the station and to the church. Mr Shaw agreed to mow the station footpath twice annually for 12/- (60p). A stile by the gate on the station footpath was recommended, and landowners would be consulted. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council about the reopening of the school

and, failing that, transport to Dunchurch. Mr Appleby, County Councillor, would be asked to support this letter.

On January 18th, it was reported that Mr Appleby had inspected the footpaths and would try to get them repaired by the County, but the purpose of this meeting was the resignation of the Secretary to the Poor's Plot charity, whose work had been unsatisfactory. The Council thought that they should have a say in both the acceptance of the resignation of the Secretary and any new appointment. After consulting the correspondence with the Charity Commission since 1895, the Clerk will write to them asking for guidance. It was reported that money from the Spier's Charity is now added to the income from the Almshouses. In March letters from the Charity Commission and the County Council were read, but their content was not minuted. Instead the hedge bordering the footpath across the Top Village green preoccupied the thoughts of the Council. Rugby RDC would be asked to get Mr Hopps to get it cut. [*Is this Councillor Hopps?*]

Year to March 1924

At the Parish Meeting on March 26th 1923, the Poor's Plot Charity accounts were once again not quite correct, and Mr Barnwell was asked to present them, corrected, to the Chairman later. When they were presented, they showed income of £72/16/4d and expenditure of £72/5/0d.

Council meetings were held on April 21st, November 1st and March 27th. Mr Shaw was reappointed Chairman. Rubbish left by Mr Frankton's pond from the mending of the footpath, and the bad state of the drain from the cottages near the Church were discussed. In November, the hedge on the footpath to the station needed cutting, and Mr Bowie would be asked to attend to this. The British Legion wrote to ask the Council to sell poppies on Remembrance Day – it was thought that Mr Walton had arranged that already. The hedge still worried the Council in March and they decided that they would inspect it when the Chairman, Mr Shaw, had recovered from his illness. Mr R Wooley was appointed as Councillor to fill a casual vacancy caused by Mr Heap leaving the village.

Year to March 1925

The Parish Meeting on March 27th 1924 received the usual accounts. Only three Councillors and the Clerk attended.

Council meetings on April 15th, September 24th and March 16th first re-elected Mr Shaw as Chairman, and then appointed Mr Lindop as Treasurer, Mr Coleman having moved on or retired. The hedge on Bowie's land was again discussed, and in view of the rubbish which was being tipped at the roadside, the Council determined that a rubbish tip was needed "very badly". If the Parish could provide a tip, it would be less expensive than asking Rugby RDC to remove the rubbish. The Council resolved to ask Mr Gray if they could have a pit in his field. In September it was revealed that Mr Gray was willing, but thought Mr Bowie and Mr Wooley might object. This was to be dealt with. Mr E Shaw resigned from both the Council and as Trustee of the Poor's Plot charity. Mr Lane was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council and Mr George Mascold White would be appointed a Trustee. In March the usual accounts were approved – a total of £1/18/10d

Year to March 1926

At the Parish Meeting on March 16th 1925, T W Atkins, J Bowie, J T Franklin, T Gray and A W Lane were elected for three years. Twelve people attended. The Poor's Plot accounts were presented, and the village rubbish tip was discussed at length. Mr Gray's offer was discussed, and Mr Appleby proposed that Rugby RDC be asked to provide one, which was objected to as it might "run the Parish to a great expense". The ratepayers at the meeting agreed. Mr Shaw, who chaired the meeting, was thanked for his past services as Chairman.

Council meetings were held on April 20th, May 18th, September 25th, October 24th, February 26th and March 25th. T W Adkins was elected Chairman in April, when the village pit was again discussed, as was the ditch by Mr Frankton's orchard. In May it was reported that a collection of materials to make the pit had raised £5/5/6d, with a further £2 promised from Miss Stanley and Mr Appleby. The ditch from the cottages by the Church was in a bad state, and Rugby RDC would be asked to clean it out. September saw the tip ready for use although further fencing was still required. Rent of 15/- (75p) per annum would be paid to Mr Gray. The village would be told with a notice on the notice board. A bill of 12/- (60p) was presented for mowing the path to the Railway Station and this was paid. In October the Council met to consider whether it should sign a petition about the new Rating and Valuation bill. It was decided to do so. The February meeting was called to accept Miss Pickering's resignation as Parish Clerk and Assistant Overseer, owing to her sister's serious illness. After the promise of help, she promised to carry on for at least six months. The March meeting was devoted to the payment of the regular Parish accounts amounting to £1/7/8d plus £2/2/0d for extra work done on making and collecting the Rate by Miss Pickering.

Year to March 1927

The Parish Meeting was held on 25th March 1926 and apart from the presentation of the Poor's Plot accounts not business was done.

Council meetings were on April 16th, when Mr Adkins was reappointed Chairman, September 23rd and March 28th. In September the pump on the green was reported out of order, and the rails protecting the ditch at the top of Thurlaston Lane had gone. In March the usual small bills were paid (14/6 – 73p) and the Council expressed disappointment that so much rubbish was still being thrown into the street. The roads in the village were very badly neglected. The Clerk to Rugby RDC had apparently asked if Thurlaston would like the use of the fire engine, if necessary, and it was agreed that the Council would, although some doubts were expressed about the availability of water.

Year to March 1928

The Parish Meeting was on March 28th 1927, and the minutes are an exact copy of the previous year, except for the figures presented by the Poor's Plot.

Council meetings were held on April 22nd, September 23rd, January 19th and March 12th. Mr Gray was elected Chairman. The Ratings and Valuation Act had done away with Parish Overseers and the Parish Clerk, who was also Assistant Overseer, will not have to be paid by the Parish Council. Her salary was fixed at £5 per annum. The electricity supply for Thurlaston was also discussed and Mrs Adkins was asked to find out who would have it. Following the decision to have the services of the Fire Brigade, the Council were now advised it would cost the village £3 annually. This was agreed. Ms

Pickering again resigned, but was persuaded to stay on. In March, the Council were asked to nominate two Electors to serve on the new Rating Authority; Mr Bowie and Mr Watson were appointed.

Year to March 1929

The Parish Meeting was held on March 12th 1928, and was attended by 14 persons. In the election of Councillors for the next three years, Mr Bowie, Mr Cockerill, Mr Frankton, Mr Gray and Mr Lane were elected, although Mr Cockerill did not accept the office. The Poor's Plot accounts were received, and Mrs Adkins presented the account for the rubbish tip on behalf of her husband, who was ill.

The Council met on April 12th, September 24th, January 28th and March 25th.

At the first meeting, Mr Gray was re-elected Chairman. In September, Mr Frankton was appointed a Governor to the new school in Dunchurch, and the ditch in Mr Daniel's field was reported to be in a "very bad state". This was reported to Rugby RDC as their road men use it to water the road. Cheques were signed for the rent off the pit and for the mowing of the path to the railway station. [*The problems of this path seem to have been solved at last*] In January, it was again reported that rubbish was being tipped into the road instead of into the tip, and a notice would be put up warning people that they must use the tip. A rail over the brook on the bridle road to Draycote was broken, and Rugby RDC was asked to repair it. As Mr Cockerill had not accepted his election as Parish Councillor, John Hart Champion was appointed in his place. The March meeting heard that ashes had been put on the roadside near the tip, and that posts had been broken off on the footpath by the stocks. The usual small bills were paid.

Year to March 1930

The annual Parish Meeting was on March 25th 1929, when the Poor's Plot accounts were read, and Mr Bowie suggested that it would be better if they were audited before being presented in future.

Council meetings were held on April 15th, September 23rd and March 25th. Mr Gray was reappointed Chairman. It was reported during the year that several motorists had run into the gate at the bottom of Thurlaston Lane, and a notice saying that this was a bridle road was requested – the request was refused.

Year to March 1931

The Parish Meeting was held on March 25th 1930. Only four people attended – three Councillors and the Clerk – and the only business was the presentation of the Poor's Plot accounts.

Meetings were held on April 15th, May 19th, September 23rd and March 25th. The Council reappointed Mr Gray as Chairman. The Ministry of Health advised that some dividends from Consols would be paid to the Council. In May it was decided to ask the County Council to send a certified copy of the date of Incorporation of Thurlaston Parish Council [Why?] The Council was also asked by Rugby RDC what open spaces or pleasure grounds had been provided in Thurlaston. The Clerk was instructed to write and say nothing had been done. In September the first dividend from the Consols investment had been received and, to the Council's obvious horror, Income Tax had been deducted. The Clerk

had already written to the Inspector of Taxes saying that this was unfair, but was told that there was not exemption for Parish Councils.

The Parish Clerk resigned for the third time, which was accepted this time with regret, and Mr Frankton, who was not now living in the Parish, gave notice of his retirement in March next.

So, the March meeting concentrated on appointing a new Clerk. There was no-one in the Parish to take on the job, but Mr Frankton offered his services and, as he had helped the Clerk in the past, his offer was accepted.

Year to March 1932

The annual Parish Meeting was held on March 9th 1931 and elected Messrs Bowie, Champion, Gray, Lane and White as Councillors for the ensuing three years. The accounts for the Poor's Plot charity were received.

Meeting of the Council were held on 21st April, September 18th, January 27th and March 30th. Mr Gray was re-elected Chairman, and the pound pit and the state of the bridle road to Toft were discussed in April, which was repeated in September, Rugby RDC not having carried out the work requested. In January, it was reported that the work to the pound pit had been carried out, but that nothing had been done to the bridle way. Mr Lane resigned as he was leaving the district. March saw the usual small bills being paid, and a man hired to clear up the village rubbish tip.

Year to March 1933

The Parish Meeting, held on March 30th 1932, received the usual accounts and appointed Mr Watson in place of Mr Lane.

Council Meetings were held on April 13th, October 11th and March 24th. Mr Gray was re-elected Chairman. In October, Rugby RDC asked what means of protection against fire there was in the village, and the Council agreed that they would support "whatever scheme the District Council might thought the best for the villages". The hedge near Thurlaston Turn was again considered, as was a deep ditch on the opposite side of the road which the Council considered ought to be piped, as it was a danger to traffic. In March, the Council asked Rugby RDC to pipe the watercourse in the road leading into the village, so as to make the road a little wider.

Year to March 1934

The Parish Meeting on March 24th 1933 was held at Mr G Daniel's and received the accounts for the Poor's Plot Charity, as usual. No parishioners were present, except three members of the Council and the Clerk.

The Council met on April 6th, October 3rd and March 21st. In April the Parish Council head that so many Parish Councils had not replied to Rugby RDC's letter about fire protection that nothing would be done by them. It appears that Mr Watson had been ill since being appointed to the Council, as the Clerk was instructed to send him their condolences. All meetings this year were held at Mr G Daniel's.

Year to March 1935

The Parish Meeting on March 5th 1934 received nominations for five people for Parish Councillors, and duly elected Messrs Gray, Cockerill, Bowie, G White and J White. A note to the minutes says that the meeting was so poorly attended, it was terminated and re-held on April 13th 1934. There were no minutes for this meeting, which presumably was not held.

Council meetings were held on April 15th, June 8th, December 4th and March 19th. Mr Gray was again elected Chairman. In June, the footpath for the railway discussed yet again. In June, the council were advised that the District Auditor required the Clerk to have a "Bondsman" and the Council agreed to take its own risk, and the village pump needed repairs. In March the usual accounts were paid in the amount of £6/4/10d. The Silver Jubilee was discussed as was a letter from the Ministry of Health about the collection of refuse.

Year to March 1936

The Parish Meeting was held on March 19th 1935 at 7 o'clock in Mr G Daniel's house. Only four Parish Councillors and the Clerk were present, and the only business done was the usual receipt of accounts.

Meetings were held on April 2nd, June 24th (which was adjourned because only two Councillors turned up) October 18th and March 24th. Mr Gray was elected Chairman. In October, Rugby RDC enquired about open spaces and playing fields in the village, and the Council replied that there was none and none had been asked for. An appeal would be made for funds to maintain the village tip. It was nine years since the last one, which had raised £6/2/2d (£6.11) and the fund was now exhausted. In March, after paying the usual small accounts, the Clerk was instructed to ask Rugby RDC how much it would cost the village to have their ashes etc. collected weekly. The footpath to Dunchurch was again in need of attention.

Year to March 1937

The Parish Meeting on March 24th 1936 received the accounts for the Poor's Plot and did no further business. Coal, which was still being distributed to the poor, now cost 52/6d (£2.63) per ton, compared with £1.38 per ton in 1918, although 40 tons were still given, rents having gone up proportionately.

Parish Council meetings were held on November 24th and March 15th. The Council heard that it would cost £52 to have household refuse collected in the village – meaning a rate of 1/2d (6p) in the £ per annum. This matter would be put to the Parish Meeting.

Year to March 1938

At the Parish Meeting on March 15th 1937, "a good company of the village were present", who saw Messrs Gray, Bowie, Cockerill, White and Smith elected for a three year term. A long discussion followed about the collection of house refuse, and the meeting agreed to pay £52 per annum for this service. An amendment that the matter be left on the table was defeated. There was a long discussion about the fact that the Parish Clerk now lives out of the Parish, which ended with the

Clerk giving in his resignation “as his services will no longer be required”. The state of nearly all the footpaths in the village was also criticised. [*A lively meeting!*]

Meetings were held on April 30th, May 19th, February 22nd and March 22nd. Mr Gray was elected Chairman for the tenth year running, and the Clerk was asked to carry on as usual – which he agreed to do [!] Matters discussed during the year were the watercourse, the services of the Fire Brigade, which would not attend the village unless money was received, refuse collection (complaints had been received that it was not made regularly) and the fact that the Parish had not adopted the Lighting and Watching Act of 1833 [*What did that mean?*]. In February, the Council resolved that Rugby RDC be the fire-fighting authority for the village and that a precept of £5 be signed.

Year to March 1939

There was a poor attendance at the Parish Meeting on the 28th March 1938, which received the Poor’s Plot accounts. They showed an income of just under £70 - £4/4/0d from shooting rights, £59/17/0d from rents and £3/1/6d from investments – and expenditure which included 4/6d (23p) for insurance and £64/15/- for coal. The meeting heard that refuse had not been collected from Mr T White’s or Mr Dorrien’s house since Christmas and had not been collected from Mr J Dimpleby’s at all. Rugby RDC would be advised.

The Council met on April 27th, June 27th, September 23rd and March 21st. Mr Gray was elected Chairman. The telephone numbers for emergency services were noted: Fire Service – Rugby 2222 and the Police – Rugby 2033. The village was offered mains water, which would cost 4d on the normal rate, and each householder 2/- in the £ water rate. The Council were cautious and decided to make the decision when further information was forthcoming. In June, the Council considered Air Raid Precautions and were told that the village would require 2 Air Raid Wardens, 1 Runner, 2 First Aid Women and a Village Emergency Party of 4 – a total of 7 men and 2 women. The Council undertook to get volunteers. September saw the Council discussing a proposed by-pass and a Parish Meeting was proposed for September 26th. This was held and a protest was sent to the Ministry of Transport about the cost of the proposals and the danger to children. There were sixteen people present. In March, the village pump and the provision of a telephone box in the village came under discussion.

Year to March 1940

The annual Parish Meeting was held on March 28th 1939, when the Poor’s Plot accounts were presented. Only two members of the public attended.

The Council met on April 20th and March 27th only [*There were probably other, more pressing, matters occupying the mind of the village during the year in which the Second World War started*]. Mr Gray was re-elected Chairman in April, and the usual accounts were paid in March. The Council were advised that Thurlaston children had nowhere to eat their dinners at Dunchurch school – the Director of Education would be asked to comment.

Year to March 1941

The annual Parish Meeting was held on March 27th 1940, when the usual accounts were read.

During the War, Parish Council Meetings were held only sporadically, and there are no records of any annual Parish Meetings (with the exception of the one in 1945, detailed below) until they were resumed on an annual basis in 1952. What follows is a synopsis of the meetings that were held during this time.

April 18th 1940 The complaint about dinner for village children was being dealt with

March 21st 1941 Called only to authorise a cheque for £8/11/0d to clear the Clerk's books

March 26th 1942 Called to make the usual payments

May 24th 1943 A meeting was called but no Councillors could attend

March 22nd 1944 The Clerk was too ill to attend but the usual payments were made

March 26th 1945 The usual payments having been made, the Council called a Parish Meeting, at which Mrs Stanley's offer of land on which to build a Village Hall was discussed. A Committee was formed and Mrs Stanley thanked.

All through this period Mr Gray served as Chairman.

It was now 50 years since the first Parish Council met in Thurlaston. The War had changed the village irrevocably and the post-War story will be quite different. The Village Hall, fifty years later, is the only amenity left in the village.

The Second Fifty Years

During the Second World War, the Parish Council met infrequently, as other more pressing matters occupied the minds of the village. But, on the 10th March 1946, a Parish Meeting was called which elected five Councillors for a three year term. They were Mr T Grey, Mr T White, Mr A Cockerel (sic) Mr A Lee and Mrs G Spittle. Twelve parishioners attended the meeting and no other business was done.

The Council met on July 18th only, when Mr A Lee was elected Secretary to the Council and Mr Grey was elected Chairman. Various members were elected to serve on the Rating Committee, the Boughton School Management Committee and as Trustees to the Almshouses.

It would appear that no more Parish Meetings were called until 1952, and Council meetings were held only infrequently. On December 13th 1948, for instance, the Council met only to sign the cheque for the Clerk's salary of £5/5/- (£5.25) and at the next meeting, on 2nd March 1949, it was decided not to ask for a precept from the Borough Council because no money was required. Another meeting, on 21st March, 1949 discussed a letter from the District Audit Officer about the Clerk's salary, and fencing the tip. On September 29th Mr Grey was elected Chairman, it was decided to close the village tip from the 25th March 1949 (six months before the meeting) and the Clerk was instructed to get an estimate to have street lights put in the village. On the 23rd January 1950 the Council met, but apart from approving the books to go to audit, no business was transacted – although the meeting lasted an hour. The next meeting, on 24th March 1951, which lasted two hours, received a letter from Warwickshire Council about a survey of footpaths in the village.

The next meeting was on 29th March 1952, when the survey of the footpaths had been completed by the Clerk.

Year to end March 1953

At a meeting on 11th June 1952, there was a new Council: Mr Grey, Mr White, Mr Duffin, Mr Crowhurst, Mr Boyd and the Clerk was Mr A Lee.

Mr Grey was elected Chairman. A letter was sent to Warwickshire County Council about the untidiness of the roads in the village, and to Rugby Rural District Council about the drains and the seat in the centre of the village. Street lighting was discussed. It was proposed that the Council meet every two months, and that the Clerk notify the members at least a week beforehand. (It would seem that "normal service" had been resumed).

On 16th July a representative from the East Midlands Electricity Board attended to help the Council with street lighting and it was agreed that seven lights be installed at a cost of £8/10/- each. Rugby RDC would be asked to adopt them.

On the 11th November, street lighting was again discussed, and the ownership of the elm in Stocks Lane was also talked about. The Midland Red Bus Company advised the Council of extra buses into the village, and it was resolved to have a Parish Meeting to discuss the Coronation.

The Parish Meeting was held on 25th November 1952, which was rewarded with a “good attendance”. Matters discussed were letters from the Midland Red Bus Co. (which were accepted as favourable), the tree in Stocks Lane, and suggestions about how to celebrate the Coronation.

Street lighting was again the main item on the agenda for the meeting held on 12th January, when it was proposed to ask the EMEB to move the light in Main Street to shine down Church Lane.

On the 18th February, it was stated that the street lighting interfered with radio sets, but this was deferred to the next meeting, as was the question of footpaths. Also discussed was the town pit, and the “grass strips” in the village. The meeting held on 8th April heard about the speed of motor cycles, but action was deferred.

Year to March 1954

The Parish Meeting held on 8th April 1953 heard of sports being arranged for the Coronation, the price of the bus fare to Dunchurch (which was now 3d (1½p)), and about the defunct Air Rifle Club which still had funds.

Parish Council meetings were held on 8th April, 22nd September, 20th October, 16th November, 5th January and 4th March.

In April, more help was requested for the Coronation Sports Committee and Mr Rees, Mr J Lee, Mr Noon and Mr A Lee’s names were put forward. In September, it was resolved that the Warwickshire County Council be asked if a “Slow” sign could be erected in the village to reduce the speed of cars and motor cycles. It was also proposed that a bus shelter be erected in the village. In October, the light at the corner of Church Lane was discussed, with a view to altering its position to shine down the lane. The Council wrote to Rugby RDC about the drain at the end of Stocks Lane, and the type of bus shelter to be erected was decided – it was to be a Batley Concrete Shelter.

The November meeting heard that the Church Lane light had been altered, and the question of a further street light by the Town Pit was left until the next meeting. The Council was advised by Warwickshire County Council that a Batley Concrete bus shelter would be out of keeping in the village. This was emphasized at the next meeting following a meeting in the village of the Parish Councillors, representatives of the County Council, the police and the Midland Red Bus Company. The drain at the end of Stocks Lane would be replaced with a tank and a filter, and the Council heard a request for another street light in the lane between the main road and Miss Haslam’s house. They decided to defer a decision in view of the expense. Miss Haslam had written to the Council about a Church window which had been broken – this was referred to the police.

The January meeting heard about flooding at the marl pit on the footpath to Dunchurch. As this was within Dunchurch’s boundary, their Council was advised. In March, Old Northampton Lane was discussed, with a request that it be cleared “enough for single line horse and passenger traffic” to Rugby RDC.

A Parish Meeting was held on 14th January, which had a “fair” attendance. The disbanded Rifle Club, which had a balance of £8 was discussed, it was reported that there were too many difficulties to enable the Council to erect a bus shelter and a notice board would be erected at a cost of £10.

Proposals defeated were one to spend the balance of the Coronation festivities on a party for the children, and another to send £5 to the Westminster Fund.

Year to March 1955

The annual Parish Meeting was held on 30th March 1954, with only about fourteen people present. Complaints were heard about the bus fare to Dunchurch which had gone up to 3d (1½p), the damage done to hedges by British Road Services lorries, and the poor state of cleanliness in the village.

Meetings were held on 19th August, 1st December, 22nd February, and the 17th March.

In August it was proposed that the Town Pit be filled in because of the smell in summer time. At other meetings in the year, the grass verges in the village were discussed – mainly the difficulty in mowing them.

Year to March 1956

Councils were convened on 6th June, 30th August, 24th November and the 28th March.

Mr Gray was elected Chairman, and it was not until November that business other than purely financial or formal was done, when the drain in Stocks Lane was discussed, and when it was decided to call a Parish Meeting to discuss the proposed bypass.

The Parish Meeting on 1st December was well attended, by thirty four people and was called to discuss the proposed Dunchurch Bypass. The Chairman, Mr Duffin, drew the plan on the blackboard, and a representative from the County Council made a presentation. Mr Footit and Miss Grey proposed that letters be sent to all official bodies concerned, and this was passed. The content of these letters was not recorded. Other matters discussed were the drain at the end of Stocks Lane, the school bus, and the purchase of a gate and railings for the village hall.

Year to March 1957

The Parish Meeting was held on 28th March 1956, when only eight members of the Parish were present. The ditch at the bottom of Stocks Len was discussed, as was the proposed Dunchurch Bypass, and the ditch in Mr Gray's field near the church, which should be piped. It was also proposed that the ditch in Stocks Lane be piped "for a further 60 yards".

The Parish Council met on the 10th October, 26th November, 2nd January and 29th January.

The Council received a letter about the common lands of Warwickshire, asking if the Thurlaston Allotments came under the Act of Common Land in October, and in November the Clerk was instructed to ascertain detailed plans for the Motorway, and how traffic was to get in and out of the village. A letter from Rugby RDC about the Hungarian Relief Fund was deferred to the next meeting. In early January a letter from the Ministry of Transport about the Motorway was read to the Council [*The contents were not minuted*]. On the 29th January, the Council had the plans for the Motorway and it was proposed that the footpath marked R185 across Mr Gray's field from Stocks Lane to Middle Gate on the Main Road be taken out of use. Concern was expressed about the surface of the roads and footpaths in the village.

A Parish Meeting was held on the 2nd January which had a very poor attendance. The Dunchurch Bypass was discussed and the Meeting agreed to object to the line it was to take. This meeting was adjourned until 30th January, when there was a fair attendance. The Meeting discussed the Motorway and concern was expressed that the Ministry of Transport had not replied to the objections from the village. It was also proposed and seconded that footpath R185 be closed. A further Parish Meeting was held on 28th February 1957 when the Motorway was again discussed and it was reported that Mr Footit write a letter asking that consideration be given to the Motorway being sited to the north of Dunchurch.

The roads and pavements had been resurfaced.

Year to March 1958

The Council called a Parish Meeting on the 28th May 1957 to discuss the Motorway again. It was decided to let letters lay dormant until notices of the Motorway were published. The drain in the centre of the village, although recently "done", was unsatisfactory and needed further attention.

The Parish Council met on 6th June, 1st October and 17th December.

In June, a representative from the East Midlands Electricity Board explained the new charges for street lighting – 12/6d (63p) per light per annum. Plans for the Motorway were presented to the Council and a Parish Meeting was called. This was cancelled as there were only two villagers present. In December only financial matters were discussed.

Year to March 1959

Although there is no record of a Parish Meeting at the beginning of the session, Council meetings were held on 2nd April, 15th May, 30th June (when Mr Duffin was made Chairman), 24th October, 26th November and 29th January. A Parish Meeting was held on 9th February 1959.

The cost of street lighting, the gates on the footpath leading from Kiln Lane through Mr Nutt's field and the ditch in Mr Gray's field were discussed in April.

In May, Mr Lee submitted his resignation as Parish Clerk, but agreed to carry on until a replacement was found and in June, when offered the Chairmanship, Mr Gray refused. Mr Duffin then took it on and thanked Mr Gray for his 31 years service to the Council [*all as Chairman*].

Also in June, the County Council Was advised that the Parish wished to keep the footpath in Mr Turner's field open.

The October meeting discussed the new road in Thurlaston Lane, which was considered too narrow, and the footpath to Dunchurch via the marl pit.

The November meeting heard that Thurlaston Lane was the correct width of 16 feet – as all unclassified roads were. Plans by Mr Gray to divert the Dunchurch footpath from fields 174 to fields 175 and 87 – which would take the bridle way to the new underpass – were discussed. They were supported with some provisos.

The January meeting started with a speech of welcome to the new Clerk – Mr S Ray. Matters arising included Mr Gray's proposed footpath diversion, a Review of Local Government Boundaries, and a letter of appreciation for Mr Lee's services as Parish Clerk.

At the Parish Meeting, 16 villagers were present. The meeting discussed the closure of the railway line from Rugby to Leamington Spa, which was strongly deprecated, the condition of Biggin Hall Lane, the excessive mud and dirt allowed to remain on the access to the village by A Monk Limited [*contractors for the motorway?*], and the diversion of the footpath in Mr Gray's field. This latter was approved by the meeting. Other matters raised were street lighting in Daniel's Lane, and the flooding caused by the roadworks.

Year to March 1960

The Parish Meeting was held on 1st April 1959 and discussed the withdrawal of passenger train services from Dunchurch Station, the state of village roads, a street light at the junction of Thurlaston Lane and the main road, and the provision of a notice "Please drive slowly through the village", because of the danger to children. The accounts for the Poor's Plot Charity were presented, which showed an income of £85/5/-, administration charges of £7/5/6d and disbursements of £74/10/-. The balance remaining was £49/5/5d.

Council meetings were held on 1st April, 2nd July, 9th October and 9th February.

In July, the closure of footpath R180 by Warwickshire County Council was discussed and strongly opposed; it was agreed to pay the Electricity Board £5 towards the cost of erecting a pole for the proposed new street light at the access road to the village; an objection was registered to the refusal of the County Council to erect a warning sign at the entrance to the village; and the inadequacy of the entrance to the village was mentioned. The road contractors were dumping tree roots and other rubbish everywhere and a close watch should be kept that they removed it all before finishing their job, and a letter was sent to the County Surveyor asking when the underpass on the footpath to Dunchurch would be opened, as "it was getting difficult to cross the Motorway".

The October meeting again discussed the closure of footpath R180 and the refusal of the County Council to erect a warning sign. Other matters discussed were the siting of bus stops in the village and the forthcoming Coventry Cathedral Festival.

The February meeting was concerned with financial matters.

Year to March 1961

The Parish Meeting was held on 4th April 1960 when the warning sign "No waiting" on the bridge, and the positioning of the "No through road" signs, were discussed. Midland Red were asked to advise the Parish Council if they intended to move their bus stops, as a matter of courtesy. The meeting deplored the mess that the motorway contractors had left. When a letter from Mr Duffin about World Refugee Year was read to the meeting, it was agreed that parishioners were already contributing through other organizations and that there was "some danger of the whole thing getting out of hand".

Only one Parish Council meeting was held, on 4th April, when the re-routeing of footpath R185a was discussed. It was stated that the arrangements for Coventry Cathedral Festival were a church matter.

Year to March 1962

The Parish Meeting was held on 18th April 1961, when 25 people attended. It was reported that Mr Ray, the Parish Clerk, had resigned due to pressure of work. The failure of the County Council to erect a notice about speed in the village was noted. Mr Cox was asked to be the Parish "Secretary" and accepted. The question of the provision of playing fields was discussed, although they were not considered necessary as the children played in the fields. It was decided not to enter the Best Kept Village competition as "the village looks well in its natural state". The seat at the bus stop was broken as was the village notice board, and there would be a collection in the village to get money to repair them. It was also decided to erect a wooden bus stop and have the open sewer at the foot of Mr Coles' garden piped. The meeting also discussed the advisability of applying for a sewerage scheme for the whole village, and it was decided to do so. A footpath on the south side of the main road was also discussed and a letter would be sent to the County Council.

Council meetings were held on 18 April, 10 August and 30 January.

In August, Mr Duffin was elected Chairman, and Declarations of Acceptance were signed by all the new Councillors, who were: Mr J Duffin, Mr H Crowhurst, Mr R B Mitchell, Mr T White and Mr J Gray. Mr C Cox was Parish Clerk, but he reported that he would be resigning because he was leaving the district. Mr T B Wood would be the new Parish Clerk. The Coventry Cathedral Appeal and the bad state of the roads in the Parish were also discussed.

In January it was decided that the question of any festivities to mark the consecration of the new Cathedral in Coventry should be put to the Parish Meeting. Drains in the village were again causing concern, especially at the bottom of Stocks Lane, which flooded regularly. The question of whether the Council could pay for a new bus shelter would be clarified.

Meetings of the Council had been held in Thurlaston House for some years, but now they moved to the Village Hall.

Year to March 1963

The Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall at 20.00 on 15 May 1962. It was resolved to go ahead with a bus shelter, and that Thurlaston should join the festivities arranged in Dunchurch for the consecration of Coventry Cathedral. 17 parishioners attended this meeting.

The Council met on 15 May, 19 July (when there was another Parish Meeting) and the 25 January. The bad state of the footpath outside "Beaconsfield", Main Street, because it had been taken up to provide access to a garage was noted in May, but in July it was reported as "nearly repaired". Also in July, the poor state of the grass verges was the subject of comment. At the Parish Meeting on the same day, the Outline Planning Permission for five houses in Pudding Bag Lane was reported, which prompted Mr Noon to complain that no Council Houses were available in Thurlaston. It was agreed that people needing Council Houses should be housed in Dunchurch, and Rugby Rural District Council be asked to provide for this in any new housing scheme. The general state of the village was

commented on, including the untidiness of the grass verges, the bushes at Thurlaston Turn, which obscured the view, and vehicles parked there and on the bridge. "No Waiting" signs were called for.

In January, the Council received a letter from Rugby RDC about accommodation for the Royal Agricultural Show, but it was agreed that no action be taken. A decision on the bus shelter would be deferred.

Year to March 1964

The Parish Meeting held on 02 April 1963 was attended by over 40 people. It was decided to donate one third of the proceeds of the Fete and Rummage Sale to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. In answer to a question from Miss Haslam, the Chairman (Mr Duffin) stated that the refuse collection in Thurlaston was one of the best in the country, and a certain amount of litter left in the dustbin was unavoidable. Thurlaston would be included in the Dunchurch sewerage scheme and the meeting considered that it should include all the village, not excluding Thurlaston Lane End. It was requested that the lane from Thurlaston to Kites Hardwick be cleared and that the seat in the village be repaired.

The Council met on 02 April, 12 November and 04 February.

In April the Council considered entering the Best Kept Village competition, and decided to ask the Parish Meeting held later that night. [*There is no mention in the minutes of that meeting that they did so*]. The Gospel Hall, Rugby, were given permission to held an Open Air Meeting in Thurlaston, and it was noted that water from the pond in Mr Nutt's field was running over the Dunchurch footpath. The ditch behind the houses in Stocks Lane was badly silted up.

In November, the Council received a letter from Rugby RDC about the Stocks Lane ditch, the bridle path to Kites Hardwick and the extension of the sewer to the houses on Thurlaston Turn. No record was made of what the letter actually said. The meeting also considered footpaths in the village (which were considered dangerous) and the new sewerage scheme. This meeting made the first reference to the proposed reservoir, which had been reported in the Press. No further information was available, but it would obviously "submerge" the bridle path to Kites Hardwick. A Parish Meeting to discuss this development was suggested, but it was decided to defer the matter until more information became available.

The February meeting heard about pollution in the Stocks Lane ditch and the involvement of the Public Health Inspector, and expressed satisfaction that the village footpaths had been repaired. A map of the sewerage scheme was displayed to the general approval of the Council. The Council was so concerned by the water overflowing Mr Nutt's pond that they advised Mr Douty, County Councillor, who had written offering help "on an matter".

Year to March 1965

The annual Parish Meeting was on 03 March 1964 and was attended by 27 people. The delay in erecting a bus shelter was raised and the Council explained the difficulties. A Committee was appointed to hasten the matter consisting of Mr Back, Mr Mitchell and Mr Lee. Details of the sewerage scheme were given to the meeting, and there was a discussion about the proposed reservoir, but such was the lack of detail available, no action could be taken. The meeting then

welcomed Mr G R Shepherd who gave an interesting talk on Rates and how they benefitted the community as a whole.

Further Parish Meetings were held on 17 November and 26 January – the first to discuss the bus shelter and the proposed reservoir, and the second to discuss the application by Mr J Duffin and Mr R Tyler for the conversion of Thurlaston House to a Residential Hotel (*These meetings will be dealt with in chronological order below*)

Council meetings were held on 03 March, 28 May, 14 August, 04 November, 27 November, 17 December, 26 January and 26 March.

The meeting in March was concerned mainly with accounts, but a letter was received from Leamington Hastings Parish Council that the stile near Leam Bridge at Kytes Hardwick needed repair. In May, the newly elected Councillors signed their forms of acceptance – J Airey, S G Back, A R Evetts, T Gray and R C Mitchell. Mr Wood handed in a letter of resignation, and plans for the bus shelter were discussed. The ditch behind the houses in Stocks Lane needed attention, and Rugby RDC was advised that the Parish Council wanted to retain existing boundaries.

In August, it was minuted that Mr G E Geeson of “The Latch” was prepared to be the new Parish Clerk. The ditch in Stocks Lane received further attention, and some discussion took place about the waste ground at the bottom of this lane. A letter about residential development in Main Street by Miss E C Haslam was considered – the Council did not favour any development at present. The footpath between Biggin Lane (sic) and Main Street was reported to be overgrown. On 4th November, it was reported that permission had been granted for the bus shelter and insurance for it was considered. Other matters considered were membership of the Warwickshire Association of Parish Councils, lighting in the Main Street and the tree at the top of Stocks Lane, which was shading nearby houses from daylight.

The primary object of the Parish Meeting on 17 November was the bus stop and approval was obtained from the 20 people attending to go ahead. The proposed takeover of Rugby RDC by the County Council was explained, and a letter of protest will be sent. Other matters discussed were the reservoir – it was considered that the Parish did not have an argument against it – the notice board, lighting, and the proposed sewerage scheme. Volunteers were requested to help Mrs Cleaver run the Village Hall, and the piece of land at the end of Stocks Lane was discussed.

At their meeting on 27 November, the Council dealt with the points raised at the Parish Meeting, and decided to have a collection to meet the cost of the bus shelter. An application by Mr Nutt to turn Thurlaston House into a residential hotel was put before the council and was strongly rejected. In December, street lighting, the tree in Stock’s Lane, and insurance of the bus shelter were discussed. The Council received an objection from Mr J Turner about the siting of the bus shelter, which “might attract children and damage will be caused”. The objection was rejected.

The meeting on 26 January preceded the Parish Meeting and had time to discuss only the lack of street lighting in the village in view of the new developments. At the Parish Meeting, which was attended by 40 members of the Parish, the conversion of Thurlaston House to an hotel was the main business. Mr Duffin stated that he and Mr Tyler would run the hotel and did not intend to sell it on after permission had been granted; the narrow approach road was quoted as an objection;

insufficient sewerage was raised. A vote was taken and the proposed development was approved with only two dissenting votes. Other matters discussed were the Best Kept Village competition (the village would not be entering), the bus shelter, and the junction of Biggin Hall Lane and Main Street, which was considered dangerous.

The Council Meeting in March heard that a Justices Licence to sell intoxicating drinks at Thurlaston House had been applied for, despite assurances at the Parish Meeting that only a residential licence would be needed (allowing drinks to be served with meals only). The Council considered themselves misled and disapproved the application. The Council decided not to be involved in raising money for the Winston Churchill Fund.

Year to March 1966

The Parish Meeting was held on 19 May 1965, when the junction of Biggin Hall Lane and Main Street, the Churchill Memorial Fund (no collection had been made, but Miss Worrall suggested that some of the Fete money be donated), the proposed sewerage scheme, refuse collection (particularly in Stocks Lane), motorists coming into the village expecting to find the motorway, and the extension of the 7 am bus from Dunchurch to Rugby to start from Thurlaston came under discussion.

Council meetings were held on 19 May, 28 July and 19 November.

In May, the Council heard that the bus shelter would cost £80 and that the collection had raised £74, the balance being contributed by the Councillors.

In July the cost of street lamps in Biggin Hall Lane and at the entrance to the Orchard were discussed, and at £71 were considered too high. Sight lines from Stocks Lane were considered and Rugby RDC proposed to build a fence towards the motorway, if Mr Cockerill would agree.

November saw the Council discussing street lighting again (alternative, but no less costly alternatives having been put forward by the East Midlands Electricity Board) and the decision was taken to go ahead at a cost of £82/10/0d. Horses in Mr Turner's field, known as Moat Close, were "closing in" on pedestrians using the footpath and frightening them. Mr Turner would be asked to take action to prevent this. Widening Main Street by the Post Office and near the Orchards was considered by cutting back on the very wide grass verges. The County Surveyor would be asked for a report.

Year to March 1967

The Parish Meeting was held on 07 April 1966, when complaints were received about the District Council using the old road near the motorway bridge for dumping rubbish. It was suggested that the memorial seat be moved, and a further complaint was received about the poor condition of the road near the village pump and the water at the bottom of Stocks Lane. The blind spot at the corner of Stocks Lane and Main Street was again raised, and the installation of a sewage scheme was discussed. Mr McVinnie would be contacted about the continual flooding of the ditch in Mrs Hookin's field.

The Council met on 07 April, 21 April, 25 May, 19 August, 28 September, 13 December and 24 January.

The first April meeting heard that a new lamp had been erected in Biggin Hall Lane, and the one in Orchard Lane was being erected. It was decided not to reply to Mr Turner's letter about the horses in the field – had stated that people fed them, which encouraged them to be a nuisance. The Council heard that Main Street would be widened, and that Pudding Bag Lane had been re-surfaced. Mr Back resigned as Councillor. A definitive map of footpaths and bridleways in the Parish was exhibited.

The meeting on 21 April was called to put in hand the registration of Common Land and Greens. There were 42.66 acres of Common Land within the Parish, of which 2 acres was represented by Northampton Lane. There was approximately 1/10 acre of Village Green in Church Lane; this was not marked on the particular maps displayed, although it was so marked on earlier Ordnance Survey maps. It was resolved to write to the Direction General of the Ordnance Survey, pointing out the mistake.

Also discussed was a proposal to close the gaps in the central reservation of the A45 between Thurlaston Island and the Blue Boar, to which the Council objected. Parking for residents in Stocks Lane was discussed, and the patch of waste land at the end of the lane would be designated a turning area.

In May, the Council heard that Thurlaston House was to be extended by building general purpose rooms accommodating 150-200 people, and an extensive car parking area, together with a two storey extension on the wing fronting Main Street. This was far in excess of those described at the Parish Meeting and would have to be put to another meeting to be held on 08 June. Mr Back withdrew his resignation as Councillor. The sewage scheme had been approved in principle, subject to further details being received.

At the Parish Meeting held on 08 June, comprehensive objections to the extensions proposed to Thurlaston House Hotel were raised, and passed to the District Council. Other matters raised were car parking on the motorway bridge, and high speed of traffic in the village.

The Council meeting in August heard from the Director of Ordnance Survey that he recognized the existence of a village green in Church Lane, but that he had some doubt about the eastern boundary of it. There was some discussion about the Council's investment in 2 ½% Consolidated Stock, and about the ditch in Mrs. Hookin's field, which was flooded again.

In September, footpaths came under discussion because the definitive map had omitted R179 (Mr Footit's), R180 (Lambcot Lane) and the one from Main Street across Mr Nutt's field to R175. Further (drastically reduced) proposals for the extension at Thurlaston House were also discussed. No objection was raised, but a further Parish Meeting would be called for 11 October to explain them to everyone.

The Parish Meeting of 11 October heard that the police would be watching for vehicles parked on the motorway bridge. The proposed new site for the village seat was objected to by Mr Lee and Mr Wagstaffe, because anyone sitting on it would look straight into their windows. It will now be sited opposite Pudding Bag Lane. The plans for Thurlaston House were generally approved. There was trouble with drains in Church Lane, caused by work on the new lamp post.

The December meeting of the Council considered potholes in Main Street, a 50 mph speed limit between Dunchurch and Thurlaston, the condition of the village stocks. The Clerk was authorised to purchase two new minute books. In January, the Council heard that the gap in the central reservation on the A45 at Bridle Lane, opposite Dunchurch station would be closed and they objected as it would be a great inconvenience to local farmers. They were advised that permission had been granted for the demolition of the Chapel on the A45, which was to be replaced by a concrete building set back from the road. A new definitive footpath map was studied, and the Council asked that footpath R180 from Lambcot Lane to the main road at the south end of Main Street be reinstated. R175a was shown as a footpath instead of a bridleway, and R175 across Mr Nutt's field had been omitted. Complaints about water running over Stocks Lane were heard, and the Council would ask for the water to be piped under the road at the end of the lane.

Year to March 1968

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 04 April 1967, and heard that the new drain by the church was not efficient, and in view of the concrete road which will be built to the new pumping station, it should be revisited. A discussion took place about the reservoir, work on which started on 01 April. Mr Duffin, the local Councillor on Rugby Rural District Council, gave some information about this and the new sewage system, work on which will be started shortly. The re-routing of the footpath to Grandborough (which will be under water) was discussed. Other matters raised included levelling the grass verges and planting bulbs and flowering trees in them, and entering the Best Kept Village Competition. The latter was not considered wise in view of the imminent work on the sewer.

Parish Council meetings were held on 20 June, 18 July, 05 September, 11 January and 29 February.

In June, Mr R C Mitchell was elected Chairman, from a newly elected Council of Mr Gray, Mr Back, Mr Airey, Mr Davies and Mr Mitchell. A complaint was received from Mr Wood of Thurlaston Turn, about the noise of motorcycles travelling on Northampton Lane and the Barn Field on Sundays. The Council considered that they had no jurisdiction in the matter, and so advised the complainant. The Councillors discussed the benefits to be derived from the existence of Parish Councils.

July saw the Council receive notice that the owners of Thurlaston House Hotel had applied for permission to build 24 houses at the rear of the hotel. This was merely noted. The Council resolved to ask Rugby Rural District Council to install toilets at the Thurlaston island.

In September, they heard that the County Council intended to close the old road each side of the motorway bridge and convert it back to agricultural land. Various complaints were made to Rugby about footpaths, among them the tunnel under the M45, which was overgrown, the field on the other side, which had been ploughed and the path not re-instated, and a broken gate on the bridleway between Mr Nutt's field and Church Lane.

The January meeting considered the provision of toilets by the Ministry of Transport in the layby at Thurlaston island, the M45 bridge road and rails (which needed repair) and the potholes which had still not been repaired in Church Lane.

In February, it was reported that sewage was causing a nuisance in Biggin Hall Lane, and that a Mr Willis (the engineer of Rugby Water Board) would be speaking at the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting.

Year to March 1969

The Parish Meeting on 21 March 1968 welcomed Mr W Tylor, Chairman of Rugby Rural District Council, Mr J Duffin, Rural District Councillor and Mr Lambert of Draycote and Bourton Parish Council. It was stated that the mains sewer would be started in mid-summer although work on the pumping station was already well advanced. Connection to individual houses would be free up to a cost of £400, over that figure a charge would be made. Mr J S M Willis, Chief Engineer and Manager of the Rugby and South Warwickshire Water Board was then introduced. He gave a progress report on the reservoir where work was well up to schedule and that the reservoir would take three winters of pumping from the River Leam before it was full. He answered questions for 40 minutes on subjects as diverse as boating, fishing and public access – none to be permitted. Doubts were raised about congestion in Thurlaston and Dunchurch as people tried to see what was going on. After the meeting finished at 21.15, Mr Willis answered further questions with the aid of plans for a further 30 minutes.

Council meetings were held on 02 May, 16 July, 21 January and 04 March. Councillors were R C Mitchell (Chairman) S T Back, T Gray, G Davies and J Airey. R M Rees was Parish Clerk.

In May, the Council were concerned about the increase in traffic in the village due to sightseers to the reservoir, heavy lorries using an illegal entrance for dumping rubble, trees destroyed by vandals on the sides of the M45 bridge and work which was taking place behind Thurlaston House Hotel.

The July meeting was concerned with bus service, street lighting, the removal of some services at St Cross Hospital, and the footpath from Biggin Hall Lane to Stocks Lane which was overgrown.

In January, the Council resolved to meet once every two months in future. The street lighting outside No 122 Main Street was discussed, as was the sign to discourage people coming into the village after seeing Draycote Water, and the nuisance caused by cars being parked outside Thurlaston House Hotel, which blocked the road to through traffic.

The March meeting heard that the bridge was dangerous and almost impassable in snowy weather, that the reservoir was one-third filled (1,200 M gallons of water) and that the sewer contractors had destroyed the "Coronation" seat. They were worried about the stocks.

Year to March 1970

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 25 March 1969 in the presence of the Council and 28 members of the public. Mrs Edna Mitchell suggested that the stocks be removed and renovated whilst there was a danger of them from the sewerage contractors. This was approved. Mr Hossak suggested that money be collected to plant bulbs in the grass verges. This was approved with the proviso that it be delayed until the verges were put right. He also proposed that something be done about the sightseers' cars in the village. Apparently 72 cars were counted parked in the village on one Sunday afternoon in the south end of the village, a further 35 near the church and numerous others in Biggin Hall Lane. His proposal received unanimous support. Proposals to put electricity cables underground were discussed and after the meeting Mr Gilks gave an interesting talk on the work of the County Council.

The Parish Council met on 06 May, 15 July, 03 September, 09 September, 18 November and 05 February.

In May it was suggested that Dunchurch Council apply to keep the path open from Draycote to the Southam Road, which would enable Thurlaston people to walk round the reservoir. The seat destroyed by the sewer contractors will cost £22/10/- to replace, and Bryants have been given the bill. They have been asked to put right the grass verges by the church in advance of the village fete. Steps were being taken to have Thurlaston made into a Conservation Area.

July saw the Council discussing putting electricity cables underground, protection for the stocks, the footpath along the northern edge of Draycote Water, which was overgrown, permits for residents to use the reservoir roads. It was noted that the village fete, held on 05 July, raised £132, shared between the church and the village hall.

On 03 September, each Councillor was given a summary of the Maud Report on Local Government, and the County's proposals for a Conservation Area were noted.

A further meeting in September was held to study these matters. The Council largely agreed with the Maud Report, especially that part which dealt with costs and the right of Parish Councils to have some say in the affairs of their community. The County proposals for a Conservation Area did not find approval, as they did not cover an extensive enough area. The area round the church and the whole of Stocks Lane should be included.

In September, the Council heard that the local Rural District Councillor had offered to attend every Parish Council. A counter suggestion that he be invited to attend only when he had something to say was adopted. Further complaints had been received about Thurlaston House Hotel, because cars were being parked on the pavement, obstructing pedestrians.

In February the Council received plans for the new flyover at Blue Boar corner, work on which would start in April 1971.

Year to March 1971

The Parish Meeting was held on 19 March 1970, when 32 members of the public were present. Road signs in the village, and taking electricity cables underground were discussed, and it was proposed that telephone cables be buried also. There was a long discussion about grass verges, and a lay-by near the village shop was proposed. The fact that Main Street was not subject to a 30 mph limit was criticised, and an enclosure for the village stocks received attention. During an address by Commander Dunn, Warden of Draycote Water, the "controversial" subject of permits to use the reservoir by Thurlaston residents was raised. It was reported that Thurlaston Main Street from the Hotel to Pudding Bag Lane entrance was now a Conservation Area and a map was exhibited to the meeting.

The Parish Council met on 24 April, 16 June, 14 July, 18 September, 01 November, 25 November, 04 January and 01 March.

The S G Back was elected Chairman in June, and during a busy year the Council discussed the state of the roads and footpaths in the village, representation on the Governing Body of Dunchurch School

and the Almshouses, footpaths, a large concentration of flies emanating from Draycote Water (which were to be dealt with by the Water Board by spraying the shores) and permits for Draycote Water.

In September, it was noted that the Water Board land was so neglected that thistles were rife and their seeds were infecting all other land in Thurlaston, and a complaint was noted about the high fence on the cottage garden at the corner of Stocks Lane which caused a traffic hazard.

In November, it was noted that everyone was shelving responsibility for clearing the footpath near the reservoir, and that the former grass verge outside the Hotel had been tarmacked contrary to the agreement made between the Parish Council and the Rural District Council. Sherriff Construction, who were developing part of the Hotel land advised that the road would be called "Georgina's Way". The Council objected and suggested "Pipewell Close/Drive/Way" or "Beech Drive/Close/Way". The latter was agreed by the builders.

The meeting on November 25th again discussed the grass verges near the Hotel, and heard that roadworks and kerbing in the rest of the village were satisfactory. The main item for discussion was the bad state of the footpath alongside the reservoir and the swarms of flies and thistle seed plaguing the village. The request for access had been treated "with scorn and derision", despite the fact that other Water Boards allowed free access for local people – Graffham Water and Farmoor were quoted as examples. *[Twenty five years later, access had still not been granted and requests were still being treated in much the same way]*

In January, the Council agreed to pay rent for using the Village Hall as it had been fitted with modern sanitation at great expense - £3 per annum being agreed.

The March meeting heard that the Water Board will put the controversial footpath right, and it will then be taken over by the County Council. Plans to surround the stocks with a protective fence were heard and it was confirmed that Mr W Price MP would speak at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Year to March 1972

The Parish Meeting was held on 26 March 1971, when 38 residents were present.

Mr S G Back (Chairman) gave his report, which concerned the tidying of the village, kerbs, verges, etc. planting daffodil bulbs and trees, the "fly nuisance" and direct access to the reservoir.

Mr Price addressed the meeting about the duties of an MP and answered questions before the meeting was opened up generally.

Subjects then raised included the "fly nuisance", the lack of a stile on the reservoir footpath, noise from the Hotel disco, the installation of street names in the village. In reply to a direct question, the Chairman advised the meeting that 7 properties were to be built by the hotel, three more in Pudding Bag Lane and three in other parts of the village. No more development was contemplated. The meeting closed at 21.50, having opened at 19.30 – a long meeting.

Parish Council meetings were held on 03 May, 14 July, 13 September, 15 November, 17 January and 06 March

In May the final plans for the stocks were produced, which included a wall round the tree which could be infilled and bulbs planted. The “fly nuisance” was again debated as was the missing grass verge outside the Hotel.

The July meeting heard that the stocks enclosure would cost £409 and decided that further estimates should be obtained. An objection had been received from the solicitors acting for Mrs Williams of Church Lane about the registration of land in Church Lane as a Village Green. Advice would be taken.

In September the Council heard that this land is grass verge and therefore belonged to the County Council. The restoration of the village pump near the stocks was mooted.

The November meeting reported that the bus shelter had been treated with preservative (which cost £3.20) by Mr W Worrall of Church Lane, who was thanked by letter.

In January, a representative from the Electricity Board attended the meeting to acquaint the Council with new arrangements concerning street lighting. Difficulties with large puddles at Gray’s Orchard, and in front of Old Forge cottage were reported, as were the problems with the School Bus which had become unreliable. The tree by the stocks had been condemned and would be replaced.

In March, notification was received of planning permission for two housing developments. The first involved the demolition of the hotel and all its outbuildings, and in its place (approximately 2 acres) 8 houses will be built. The second is for 5 houses to be built opposite the hotel site. The Council thought that 4 houses would be better, and that the first houses seen on the entrance to the village should be approximately at right angles. Preservation of some trees was also requested. The Council recommended that the road near Gray’s Orchard be widened, and that the school bus service be improved.

Year to March 1973

The annual Parish Meeting was on 16 March 1972, when 34 residents attended. Complaints were heard about foul tasting water coming through the mains and about access to the reservoir – a petition was suggested – and about the horses in Mr Nutt’s field, one of which was alleged to bite all and sundry.

Parish Council meetings were held on 08 March, 03 July, 11 September, 07 November, 19 December, 30 January and 04 March.

In May the Council heard that Main Street would be widened as requested, if funds permitted, that the village had been allocated 10 wooden public right of way notices, and that the Water Board would spray to alleviate the “fly nuisance”.

In July the Council consulted with Mr and Mrs Pannel about the stocks and the tree, and in September this was taken further with news that the Rural District Council would contribute materials. There was sewer trouble at the bottom of Stocks Lane.

The November meeting objected to the proposed closure of the footpath from the end of Halfway Lane to Dunchurch (R174 and R174a) which would mean that pedestrians would have to divert along the busy A45. A petition was received which had been organized by Mrs Airey asking for a playing

field. The Rural District Council would be asked if land near the entrance to the village could be used. Further complaints would be made to the Hotel about car parking which was causing congestion.

In December, the Council heard that their objection to the closure of the footpaths to Dunchurch had been successful, and reminded the developers of Moat Close of the need to preserve the footpath through to Biggin Hall Lane. The tunnel underneath the M45 was overgrown and almost impassable.

The January meeting objected to the plan to introduce stock car racing at Lawford Health aerodrome on the grounds of noise, and approved a new plan for 7 houses to be built on the Hotel site, although still objecting to five houses being built opposite.

In March it was reported that Thurlaston House Hotel was being demolished, and that electric central heating was being installed in the Dunchurch almshouses.

Year to March 1974

22 residents attended the annual Parish Meeting which was held on 29 March 1973. They heard that Mrs Hookins, late of the Old Forge had left £200 to the Village Hall, and that £41 had been raised in Thurlaston towards the expenses of the Almshouses in Dunchurch. Despite the efforts of the local MP access to the reservoir was still denied to villagers, and a playing field was demanded by the meeting in view of the speed of motor cars in the village. A slip road on the A45 was proposed and the Ladies Club announced that they would be holding a series of 7 walks to keep the footpaths open.

Council meetings were held on 17 April, 02 July, 18 July, 26 September, 08 January, 29 January and 12 March.

Among matters discussed during the year were a litter bin by the bus stop, a report from the Ladies Club about the state of the village footpaths, streetlighting in the new "hotel" estate, a dumped car in Stocks Lane, plans to build two houses at the entrance to Pudding Bag Lane, the naming of the "hotel" estate (the suggestion of "Thurlaston House" was rejected and "The Gardens" suggested [successfully]), purchase of some land from the Manor for a playing field, a new notice board, the extension of Dunsmore Garage by the building of a showroom, and the withdrawal of the bus service from the village.

Year to March 1975

The Parish Meeting held on 21 March 1974 was attended by 17 residents. Principal matters attended to were the way funds were distributed to the Poor Plots Charity, which had been instructed to adhere strictly to terms of the original instrument of 1865, and the lack of a bus service into the village, which caused a "very strong protest".

Council meetings were held on 01 May, 09 July, 30 September, 25 November, 20 January and 11 March.

The Council heard that the buses had stopped coming into the village because they were now all one man operated, and could not be turned round safely any more. It also noted a very low water pressure in the village mains. Several footpaths were obstructed and compulsory purchase of land in Biggin Hall Lane for a playing field was suggested. In November, complaints were noted about the bad state of the bridle way from the church to the entrance to Mr Nutt's fields, and Mr Davies gave notice of his retirement from the Council having served for many years – he was leaving the district. The January meeting was advised that the water pipes had been descaled, and in March Mrs Jean Airey was co-opted as a Parish Councillor in place of the retired Mr Davies.

Year to March 1976

The annual Parish Meeting was on 26 March 1975 and was attended by 17 parishioners. The meeting was told that Midland Red buses could not enter the village until a suitable turning point could be established. The owner of Forge Cottage asked if a bollard or kerb could be placed on the corner of Biggin Hall Lane to protect his house, and the "annual" complaint about a footpath round the reservoir was heard. There were many complaints about the large increase in the general rate.

Parish Councils met on 06 May, 08 July, 06 January and 17 March. A planning application for 5 houses opposite The Gardens was objected to on the same grounds as in February 1973 – too many on the site. Sympathy was expressed to Mr Poyner on the death of his wife, who was Chair of the Ladies Club, and planning applications for developments in Church Lane and Biggin Hall Lane were disapproved. In January it was reported that a new water main would be installed in Biggin Hall Lane and appeals from residents for help combatting Dutch Elm disease were refused – the trees were all on private property. The March meeting heard that the exit from Stocks Lane to Main Street was now even more hazardous, due to a shed which had been built in the corner house garden.

Year to March 1977

The annual Parish Meeting was on 25 March 1976, and was attended by 16 residents. The Chairman, Mr Stan Back, asked for people to put their names forward for the election in May and announced his retirement. The question of a playing field was raised, but no suitable land was available, except at the bottom of Stocks Lane which would be levelled and cleared. "Sleeping policemen" were requested in Main Street.

The Council met on 17 May, 14 July, 29 September, 15 December under the Chairmanship of Mr D A Kirk. R C Mitchell, Mrs J Airey, B L Pannell and Mrs P Birch were the newly elected Councillors and Mrs E Cooke was the new Clerk to the Council.

Matters discussed at the first meeting of the Council were street lighting, provision of a children's play area (the field between Biggin Hall Lane and Stocks Lane was suggested and the solicitors of the late Mrs Hoskins would be contacted) the bus shelter, and a proposal that the village be circulated with the names of the new Parish Council.

In July, street lighting was again discussed (it was agreed that it should be kept on during the summer months) as was a play area. Dutch Elm disease was killing many trees in the village and it was decided to replant some at a future date. The Council objected to an application to build 4 houses on Stocks Lane and received a complaint about the footpaths. Street lighting was discussed at the next meeting and it was decided not to extend the facility. Public footpaths, the Best Kept

Village competition (it was decided to enter) and celebrations for the forthcoming Silver Jubilee were also discussed. A sub-committee of Mr and Mrs Cumming, Mrs G Cooke, Mrs Pannell and Mr Hammond was set up to put forward ideas.

A play area was discussed again in December when Mr Pond objected to a provision in the Biggin Hall/Stocks Lane field. Other matters considered were the Best Kept Village competition, the Silver Jubilee celebrations and the bus shelter. The access to the footpath to Popes Spinney was difficult, and the Council would inspect it and report back.

Year to March 1978

The Parish Meeting was held on 23 March 1977 when the Chairman reported progress about the play area and the sub-committee reported that various functions had been organized for the Jubilee including a barbeque and dance in Cockerill's barn. There were complaints about Mr Wilson's barn, which was a "danger to the public" and the overgrown hedge in Biggin Hall Lane. It was also suggested that a barn on the other side of the reservoir be disguised, and the question of traffic in Stocks Lane corner was considered again. The village had entered the Best Kept Village competition for the first time and some discussion ensued about how to tackle a "tidy up".

The Council met on 21 April, 14 June, 14 September, 18 October and 18 January.

Planning applications for Stocks Len, Rose Cottage, Beaconsfield (both in Main Street) a stable block in Biggin Hall Lane, the Manor House, land South of Pudding Bag Lane were considered during the year. The Jubilee celebrations had been a great success, the bus shelter had been repaired, and the play area came into use at the end of Stocks Lane. Mrs Birch resigned in September on leaving the district. 16 trees were being supplied by Warwickshire County Council and a new Parish Path Plan was presented to the Council. In October, Mrs A Coles was co-opted in place of Mrs Birch and in January it was reported by Mr Baugh that a burglary had taken place in the village. The bus no longer came into the village, and rubbish had been dumped on the village side of the motorway bridge.

Year to March 1979

The Parish Meeting was held on 16 March 1978. Matters discussed included the "Slow" sign painted on the road near Stocks Lane, fouling of the stream near the pumping station, the hedge at the Manor House, low hanging telephone cables and the size of poultry sheds being erected in Biggin Hall Lane.

Council meetings were held on 31 May 04 October and 13 December.

Planning applications were considered for 7 bungalows at Manor House, conversion of the outbuildings to residences at the Manor House, conversion of Stocks Farm into two houses, extensions to 3 Moat Close and Grange Farm Cottage were considered during the year.

Other matters considered during the year were the chicken houses in Biggin Hall Lane (as an agricultural development no objection could be raised, trees outside the Manor House, use of heavy vehicles on the bridle way to Dunchurch, the de-trunking of the A45 (a footpath on the Thurlaston side of the A45 was requested), the overgrown reservoir footpath to Toft, and a fallen tree and standing water in Biggin Hall Lane.

Year to March 1980

The Parish Meeting was held on 22 March 1979. Among matter discussed was the need to raise £1000 for essential repairs to the Village Hall, bus services, de-trunking the A45, the appointment of Mrs Judy Brooks as Parish Clerk, Parish Council elections on 03 May, lighting at the junction of the A45 and Main Street, the desirability of a regular newsletter and the speed of traffic in the village.

The Council met on 30 May, 22 August, 18 October, 18 December, 25 February and 12 March.

The newly elected Council of Mrs Airey, Mrs Coles, Mrs Binney, Mr Cook and Mr Mitchell met for the first time in May, when Mrs Binney was elected Chair. Mrs Judy Brooks was Parish Clerk. Mrs Coles resigned during the summer, and Mr David Kirk was co-opted.

Matters discussed during the year were the speed limit on the A45, the school bus, poor street lighting, the supply of gas into the village, low flying military aircraft, provision of a newsletter, Thurlaston Turn (the kerbs would be painted white), access to Draycote Water, the provision of a bus shelter on the A45, the play area, dead elms belonging to the Manor House, the question "village green" status for land in Church Lane.

Planning applications were received for Mill Cottage, Church Lane, erection of a house in Stocks Lane, conversion of a stable at Thurlaston Grange, a porch at Holmeleigh, Church Lane, a double garage at Camden, Biggin Hall Lane, and extensions at 140, Stocks Lane, and Trevek, Church Lane.

Year to March 1981

The Parish Meeting was held on 20 March 1980, when 26 villagers were present. It was decided not to enter the Best Kept Village competition, complaints were heard about the irregularity of waste collection and the state of the wall around the Manor House. A streetlight was requested for Pudding Bag Lane.

The Council met on 23 April, 26 June, 26 September, 03 December, 14 January and 11 March.

Amongst matters discussed during the year were:

An estimate of £696 for seeding and tarmacking the play area, supply of gas to the village, the unpleasant smell from the chicken houses in Biggin Hall Lane, the ditch in the play area, the merger of Rugby and Coventry Health Authorities (which was deeply regretted), further trees in the village, the second edition of "Thurlaston Chronicle", a decrepit shed at the end of Stocks Lane, the presence of a bull in Church Lane field (now moved), the deposit of Parish Council minutes at the Record Office, new street lighting in Biggin Hall Lane and Pudding Bag Lane, and permits to walk round Draycote Water.

In March, concern was expressed about burglaries in Thurlaston, and the provision of a street light in Pudding Bag Lane. This matter would be discussed at a subsequent Council Meeting after consulting the residents.

Year to March 1982

The annual Parish Meeting, held on 19 March 1981, attended by 32 villagers, discussed new street lights, the nearly completed play area, Mrs Cavan's offer of the grounds of the Manor House for the Royal Wedding celebrations (if any), refuse collection (which would be fortnightly instead of weekly in future) and access to Draycote Water.

The Council met on 06 May, 15 July, 09 September, 11 November, 13 January and 10 March.

Amongst matters discussed during the year were:

The high level of rates in Thurlaston, the street lighting in Pudding Bag Lane (a decision would be taken at the next annual Parish Meeting), security of premises in the village, the planting of an oak tree to commemorate the Royal Wedding, grass verge cutting, a new street light outside the village hall, a survey of all wells in the area in connection with County Emergency Plan, the inadequate water supply in Biggin Hall Lane, the provision of a bridle path around Draycote Water (disallowed by Severn Trent Water Authority), the Pope's visit to Coventry, the disputed village green in Church Lane, the telephone kiosk, which had been vandalised.

Year to March 1983

The Parish Meeting was held on 18 March 1982, attended by 18 villagers. Matters of concern were the effect on the village of the Pope's visit, dogs fouling the footpaths, and the provision of street lighting for Pudding Bag Lane. A final decision about this would be made at the AGM of the Council in May 1982, as previously agreed and minuted.

Council meetings were held on 12 May, 08 June, 14 July, 08 September, 17 November, 19 January and 10 March.

Mrs Mary Binney was elected Chair in May, and the main subject for discussion at that meeting was the proposed streetlight for Pudding Bag Lane. After hearing from the Police, it was agreed unanimously that a light should be erected and quote from the East Midlands Electricity Board would be requested. In July, it was decided to ask the householders where they wanted the light, but in September some residents at the meeting showed so much opposition to the light that a decision was again deferred.

Among other subjects under review in the year were the grass verge in Church Lane, the speed limit on the A45, purchase of a photograph album for posterity, a planning application for a new house in Stocks Lane (opposed by the Council, and later refused), road safety, horse riders permits for the Draycote Water perimeter road, the state of footpaths to Toft, Church Walk, and Stocks Lane, a planning application for extensive works at the Manor House, which was opposed by many villagers present at the meeting. Mrs Brooks, the Parish Clerk, announced her decision to retire on 31 March 1983.

Year to March 1984

The annual Parish Meeting was held on 17 March 1983 in the presence of 17 villagers. It was announced that the provision of a street lighting in Pudding Bag Lane had been postponed for an indefinite period. A list of 35 old wells had been made. After an enquiry, it appeared that coal mining

from the recently discovered Warwickshire seam would not take place in, or near, Thurlaston. The Deputy Chief Constable, Peter Joslin, addressed the meeting.

Council meetings were held on 21 April, 04 July, 22 September, 24 November and 26 January

Mrs Lucy May was welcomed as the new Parish Clerk and an inscribed tankard was presented to Bob Mitchell in recognition of his long service to the Council. A new Council was elected in May, and acceptances were signed in July by Mrs Jess Cumming, Mrs Anne Boulton, Mrs Heather Tebbutt (daughter of Bob Mitchell), Mr Geoff Cook and Mr Bob Brooks (who was elected Chairman).

Subjects discussed during the year were the high rating in Thurlaston (it was up to residents to appeal if they thought fit), the Thurlaston Chronicle (which will now be edited by Mrs May, the effect on the village of the use of the reservoir road in the construction of a new pumping station, the celebration of 90 years of Thurlaston Parish Council with a small exhibition of memorabilia at the Parish Meeting, the renaming of Church Walk to its original Kiln Lane, and the state of virtually all the footpaths in the village.

Year to March 1985

The Parish Meeting was held on 15 March 1984 when 24 residents were present. The Chairman explained that the Parish rate had been increased to pay for the election after 5 candidates had been nominated for 4 places. He paid tribute to his predecessor, Mrs Mary Binney, and stated that the Council had the local environment very much in mind. Complaints were heard about speed of traffic in the village.

The Council met on 22 March, 24 May, 27 September, 29 November and 31 January, and discussed footpaths, the Thurlaston Chronicle, a regular Newsletter, coming second in the Best Kept Village competition, bonfires, standardizing street lights, the renaming of Church Walk as Kiln Lane (subject to any resident's objection).

Year to March 1986

The Parish Meeting on 28 March 1985 discussed road safety, bringing gas into the village, and entering the Best Kept Village competition.

The Annual General Meeting of the council was scheduled for 30 May, but as there was not a quorum, it was delayed until 06 June. The Council also met on 11 July, 17 September, 26 November and 04 March.

Following objections from some residents, Church Walk will not be re-named, a proposal to be twinned with a community in Europe was discussed, the provision of a playing field, and the winning of the Best Kept Village award in the Rugby Area, and later placed in the County of Warwickshire (a party was held in the Village Hall, financed by a progressive supper organized by Mrs Jess Cumming). Later it was decided not to pursue a twinning arrangement.

Year to March 1987

The annual Parish Meeting was held on 27 March 1986 when the Chairman congratulated the village on winning the Best Kept Village Competition, and the Ladies' Club on its 21st anniversary.

Complaints were heard about the drainage in Stocks Lane, the state of Main Street, the condition of the Manor House wall, and speed in the village. It was suggested that the village instigate a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

The Council met on 06 May, 24 July, 03 November, 05 January and 23 February.

Amongst matters discussed during the year were the purchase of salt bins to be placed on the bridge, the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, the "Chronicle" (which Dr John Sparks would edit in future), dog fouling, the provision of "Please Drive Carefully" sign at the entrance to the village, the possible rebuilding of the village hall, and the possible provision of a cycle path on the A45.

Year to March 1988

The annual Parish Meeting was held on 23 March 1987 and was attended by the Parish Council of Mr R Brooks (Chairman) Mr G Cook, and Mesdames J Cumming, H Tebbutt, and A Boulton with 27 residents.

It was reported that the Neighbourhood Watch was working well and that a "Drive Carefully" sign would be installed soon. Comment was made about the non-political nature of the Council, the speed limit on the A45, dumping of garden rubbish beside the bridge and the damage done by heavy lorries to the verges in Biggin Hall Lane.

The Council met on 18 May, 20 July, 21 September, 23 November and 25 January.

At the Annual General Meeting on 18 May, Dr John Sparks was welcomed, after the election. The Council was Mr Brooks, Dr Sparks, Mr Cook, Mrs Cumming and Mrs Tebbutt (co-opted). Mrs Lucy May was the Clerk and Mr Brooks was elected Chairman.

Matters discussed at the meetings were access to Draycote Water, objection to a new superstore proposed by Sainsbury's, support for a smoking ban in the Village Hall, Tidy Rugby Year, white lines on the bridge, a scheme to "twin" with a European village, stiles on footpaths, a new typewriter for the Parish Clerk, village tree planting, the inception of the "Thurlaston Ramblers" and dogs running loose in the village.

Year to March 1989

The annual Parish Meeting was held on 24 March 1988, when 32 residents attended. Dog fouling, grass verges and speed of traffic in the village were mentioned, and the meeting was advised that the Post Office could not continue unless more people used it.

The Council met on 14 April, 09 June, 18 August, 10 October, 12 December and 27 February.

Mr Brooks was elected Chairman in May, when the Council also discussed the viability of the Post office, and the play area, which was not used at all. Other matters concerned speed in the village, a footpath along the A45, and the exclusion of "Any Other Business" from agendas in the future. During the year, the blocked drain in Stocks Lane, repainting the street signs, tree planting, the role of the councillor in the community, and the circulation of a questionnaire to ascertain what residents wanted. At the August meeting Mr Brooks resigned from the Council due to other commitments, and Dr John Sparks was elected Chairman in his place. Mrs Claire Jinks was co-opted as a Councillor.

Dog fouling, an obtrusive new brick wall at 129 Main Street (which the owner was unwilling to move) and a new access to the reservoir near Half Way Lane were also discussed.

Year to March 1990

The Parish Meeting on 21 March 1989 heard that the response to the questionnaire had been very disappointing, and no conclusion could be reached. Dog fouling was complained of, and the imposition of a bye law against it was considered.

Council meetings were held on 08 May, 24 July, 25 September, 27 November and 26 February.

Among matters discussed were the footpaths (which were overgrown), noise from drum playing in Pudding Bag Lane, obstructive hawthorns in front of Cornerways, Main Street, the setting up of a Parish Archive, the re-naming of Church Walk to the original Kiln Lane, and the requested footpath from Main Street to Halfway Lane on the A45.

Year to March 1991

The annual Parish Meeting was held on 22 March 1990, and was attended by 33 residents. There was, unusually, a ballot for the three places on the Village Hall Committee, but nothing of import was raised, although it was announced that there would be a Public Meeting on 21 April to discuss the implications of the proposed new golf course which was to be built on land at the end of Biggin Hall Lane.

The Parish Council met on 24 May, 23 July, 24 September, 26 November and 25 February.

Matters discussed during the year were street cleansing (which was unsatisfactory), the footpath along the A45 (which was considered unnecessary by Rugby Borough Council), the possibility of making a Village Map, dead trees in the Parish, tipping of rubbish near the motorway bridge, the financing of a village archive, the reinstatement of the name Kiln Lane and speed of traffic in the village.

Year to March 1992

The Parish Meeting was held on 21 March 1991 and was attended by 21 residents. It received reports from the Village Hall, the Poor Plots Charity, elected an unchanged Village Hall Committee and heard a report from the Chairman. There was no other business.

The Council met on 20 May, 22 July, 30 September, 25 November and 24 February. After the election, Declarations of Acceptance were signed by the new councillors – Miss Joan Sullivan, Mr Bob Brooks, Mrs Heather Tebbutt, Mrs Claire Jinks and Mrs Jess Cumming. Mr Brooks was elected Chairman.

Amongst items pre-occupying the Council during the year were the new golf course, the re-naming of Church Walk to Kiln Walk (the residents were not in favour), low flying aircraft, the imminence of a gas supply in the village, access to Draycote Water, a planting scheme for the end of Stocks Lane and the new finance scheme under which street lighting would be the responsibility of the Parish rather than the Borough. A four year rolling plan was started to ensure that improvements were done as they could be afforded in some sort of prioritised order.

Year to March 1993

The Parish meeting was held on 19 March 1992, and the Chairman welcomed 30 residents. He paid tribute to Dr John Sparks, his predecessor, who had died earlier in the month. The usual reports were received, and congratulations were made to those responsible for the Village Map which had won first prize in the Borough competition. The golf course would be open in July. Contributions were requested for the "Thurlaston Chronicle" which is published annually, and the meeting heard complaints about the speed of traffic in the village.

Parish Council meetings were held on 12 May, 20 July, 28 September, 23 November and 11 February.

Among matters discussed during the year were changing the boundary of the Parish to exclude houses near Kites Hardwick, isolated from Thurlaston by the reservoir, the powers of the Dog Warden, resurfacing the M45 with non-porous asphalt to reduce the noise, and the village shop, which was in danger of closing. A working party was formed to explore possibilities for keeping a retail shop in the village.

Year to March 1994

The Parish Meeting was held on 18 March 1993. The village had, once again, won the Best Kept Small Village Competition in the Rugby Area. Reports were received from the Village Hall, the Poores Plot Charity, the Dunchurch Almshouses, and the Dunchurch Boughton C of E Middle School. A report was also received from the working party set up to investigate the viability of the village shop.

Council meetings were held on 10 May, 19 July, 27 September, 22 November and 21 February.

The Council authorized expenditure on a Quarterly Newsletter, discussed joining the Parish Paths Partnership, congratulated those responsible for winning prizes for the village in the Village Ventures competition (for the Village Analysis and the Chronicle) and heard that the village shop would be closing at the end of February 1994, as the new owner could not make it pay due to lack of support.

At the February meeting, the Council heard that a volunteer had come forward to operate the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme, they considered a request for a streetlight at Thurlaston Turn, and the provision of a passing place in Biggin Hall Lane to prevent damage to the verges by heavy vehicles and, once again, the provision of a footpath from Thurlaston Turn to Half Way Lane – a petition will be organized. Northampton County Council were also asked if they will plant trees to ameliorate the noise levels emanating from the M45, now it acts as a by-pass for Dunchurch.