

## **THORNLEY WITH WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL 7 AUGUST 2023**

### **CLERK'S REPORT**

1. I have received notification from Voice who hosts/supports our website to say that they are changing the theme that the PC currently uses. Switching to a different theme will give us more layout options, a more accessible and readable site, faster page loads and a better search engine ranking. There are 3 themes to choose from, Fresh, Clarity and Bootstrap, I am in the process of looking at them to see which best suits our needs. There is no cost for this upgrade.
2. A copy of the New Policing Model was circulated to Councillors on 3 July. This had been presented to the PCLC on 22 June and was coming into force in June 2023.
3. Notification has been received from RVBC regarding the Concurrent Function Grants 2023/24. The grant is available to support expenditure on burial grounds, bus shelters, CCTV, footpaths, footway lighting, litter collection, dog waste bins, parks and play areas and Parish Lengthsman. The grant is paid on a reimbursement basis and claims must be submitted by 31 July 2023.
4. Details regarding the consultation on the establishment of a new Primary School at Whittingham Hospital, Goosnargh had been circulated to Councillors on 19 June. Councillors had not submitted any comments in response to the consultation.
5. We have received an email from the External Auditors confirming receipt of our PC's notification of exempt status for the year ended 31 March 2023. By notifying them that Thornley with Wheatley Parish Council has claimed exemption there is no review to be performed and consequently no auditor certificate and report, or any other closure documentation, will be issued by them for this reporting year.
6. The period of Public Rights in respect of the AGAR and the PC's accounts ran from 5 June to 14 July. No requests to inspect documentation were received from Members of the Public.
7. NALC's president has spearheaded a campaign in Parliament to give all councils the flexibility to hold council meetings remotely. She has spoken out strongly since the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill was introduced, tabling several amendments, including on remote meetings. While the vote on the amendment was agreed by 169 to 156 votes, there was government opposition so it is likely to be overturned when the Bill returns to the House of Commons. NALC will continue to work to lobby Members of Parliament to retain the clause in the Bill.

**C Ansbro Clerk to Parish Council**