

HEMINGTON, LUDDINGTON & THURNING PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Chairman to the Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 14th May 2026

This was my first year as Chairman of this Parish Council and as such a period of learning. During the year, we have had some changes in membership: Alan Whitehall retired as a Thurning councillor and we thank him for his valuable contribution and years of service to the Council. We welcomed Rosemary Drewery in his stead. During the year the Clerk attended workshops on Common Land and Procurement processes, and Councillor Drewery undertook the introductory course 'Off to a Flying Start'.

We reviewed two planning applications which were supported with some minor conditions. There remains an application under consideration by the Minerals and Waste section of North Northamptonshire Council, and by Cambridgeshire County Council for an anaerobic digester plant at Rectory Farm, Luddington – we have just received further consultations on proposed highway improvements and some amendments (positive we believe) to the proposed feedstock for the plant. The North Northants website for these applications anticipates a decision in June of this year.

We continue to pursue a resolution to the application to divert footpath NK3 near Luddington which has been held up due to staffing issues at North Northants Council.

We are also pursuing the possibility of restoring a footpath to the Definitive Map from Luddington up to the Winwick road, but are seeking further documentation on the reasons it was not included on the Map in 1956 even though it was on early versions. This may indicate good reasons why the path may not be restored.

The Council applied to The Land Registry to be recognised as the owner of Thurning Weir (aka Pocket Park), but during the year we have heard that this was unsuccessful. We are seeking further information from Huntingdonshire Archives which may clarify where the ownership lies. Further work on the area has been put in abeyance pending the outcome of these investigations.

Our plans for introducing a Speed Indicator Device (SID) came to fruition during the year, made possible by grant funding from the Police Crime and Fire Commissioner's office. Three sites have been implemented initially and the sign will be moved round every few weeks. It has spent some time in Hemington by the village hall and is now in Luddington. Our thanks to Councillors Gibson and Harkness who have taken the lead on learning how to instal the device and how to download the statistics that it captures. Our thanks also to two residents of Luddington who are taking on the management of the unit whilst it is in their village. We anticipate similar arrangements for Thurning and we shall then be in a position to decide whether additional devices should be considered.

Gavin Paskell. May 2026