

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of Thorley Parish  
held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**Subject to change when approved**

<b>Present:</b>	Mr R Lumsden	Chairman
	Mr R Lavender	Vice Chairman
	Mrs M Read	Councillor
	Mrs J Rolph	Councillor
	Mrs E Eldred	Councillor
	Mr R Cox	Clerk

**1. Chairman's welcome.**

The Chairman R Lumsden welcomed members of the public and Parish Councillors Mrs J Rolph, Mrs L Eldred, Mrs M Read, R Lavender and R Cox

**2. Apologies**

Councillor Robins sent his apologies. Councillor Wyllie, County Councillor and East Herts Councillor. and Councillor Devonshire East Herts Councillor attended. Ms Barkley of the Bishops Stortford Independent Newspaper and Colin Nicholls, Prospective Councillor were also present.

**3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Chairman's Report 2018**

The Chairman began by reporting the sad news that John Davies, who served as Parish Clerk for over 21 years, had passed away. The Chairman paid tribute to John as a dedicated man who served Thorley exceptionally well over such a long period of time. John will be remembered with affection by all who knew him.

The District Plan and the Boundary Review were outlined as the dominant issues. The Parish Council had been active in putting forward the views of parishioners in submissions to the Planning Inspector both before the hearing (at which the Chairman gave evidence) , and in response to the Main Modifications Consultation. The Parish Council and the Parish had clearly rejected the proposed changes.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had been active during the first consultation of the Boundary Review. A successful public meeting was held.

The attendees of the meeting had mandated the Parish Council to fight the proposed boundary changes and asked for a petition and a letter to be prepared. The efforts of the Parish Council, supported by local people, were successful and resulted in a combined total of nearly 1500 petition signatures and letters.

### **Open Discussion**

The discussion explored the absolute opposition of the Parish to the proposal to build hundreds of houses on Thorley Green Belt land. Councillors Wyllie and Devonshire were left in no doubt as to the strength of feeling. In reply, they pointed out that the District Plan was the result of years of work and had been subject to a democratic process.