

Minutes of the Thorverton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday September 8th 2020, 7pm, by way of the on-line facility 'Zoom' (Coronavirus Act 2020)

Present: Cllrs S Fice, A Foster (Vice Chairman), J Hodge, N Lane (Chairman), G Sims, D Waldron and D Wells.

In attendance: Mrs A Marshall, Clerk, and 4 members of the public.

Standing Orders suspended.

Public Open Session:

One member of the public voiced his views on East Devon District Council (EDDC) planning application reference 20/1517/FUL relating to the construction of a digestate storage lagoon, with associated hardstanding and 2.4 metre high security fencing, at land off Rixenford Lane, Upton Pyne. He questioned the suitability of the proposal to use HGV's along the local narrow roads which were in need of resurfacing, subject to flooding and regularly used by walkers and cyclists. The proposal to transfer large amounts of material from Clyst St Mary to Upton Pyne, through Exeter and Thorverton, would seem inappropriate as it would increase vehicle movement and have a detrimental effect on the environment. The facility would store material pending further transportation, by HGV's, to other areas. Cllr Wells suggested that these comments be advised to EDDC by the resident and the Chairman confirmed that the matter would be considered by the Parish Council under 'planning matters' later in the evening.

External Reports:

i) **C/Cllr Squires** had advised that she would be contacting EDDC regarding the abovementioned application as several members of the public had raised concerns with her about it. She urged the Parish Council to consider the application, as a neighbouring parish, and to comment on any concerns.

ii) **D/Cllr Deed** had submitted a report stating that the District's Local Plan had been approved on 29th July. The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP), being a collaborative approach to large scale planning between East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council, Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) and Teignbridge District Council, is no longer following EDDC's vote to withdraw from it. A recent change in MDDC's Cabinet resulted in the Conservative Group join and the Liberal Democrats Group leave.

iii) **Police statistics** - 4 crimes were reported in June being 1 of criminal damage, 1 of burglary, 1 of 'other' theft and 1 of a violent/sexual nature. No crimes were reported in July.

Standing Orders resumed.

20/55 Declarations of interest: Cllr Sims declared an interest in the reimbursement of funds (see 'finance' below).

20/56 Apologies for absence: Cllr Crang (work commitment), C/Cllr Squires and D/Cllr Deed (other meetings).

20/57 Confirmation of Minutes: It was RESOLVED to sign the Minutes of July 14th 2020 as a correct record.

20/58 Co-option of Parish Councillors: Five applications had been received for the two vacancies with one application having been withdrawn prior to the meeting. The two applicants present were invited to speak and both introduced themselves to Council. It was RESOLVED to co-opt Trevor Sanders and Adam McKee onto the Parish Council. It was agreed that, due to the meeting taking place by Zoom, the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' forms would be signed prior to the next Parish Council meeting. The Chairman thanked all the applicants for their interest and Mr McKee joined the meeting in a non-voting capacity.

20/59 Councillor Training: It was RESOLVED that Cllrs Fice, McKee and Sanders would attend New Councillor training which the Clerk would organise and present, at a cost of £60.00

20/60 Silver Street Footpath: Cllr Wells referred to the circulated project documents, thanked those who had attended the recent site meeting and invited any questions or observations. Cllr Hodge asked for land ownership to be confirmed and, after Standing Orders were suspended, a member of the public confirmed that i) all the land in question was wholly owned by Devon County Council Highways, ii) that the proposed slope would be suitable for wheelchairs and mobility scooters, iii) that the Contractors would clear the path, as one of the first tasks should the project proceed, in order that any obstacles could be identified. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council support the creation of a footpath from the end of the slip road above Silver Street to the lay-by, using Section 106 funds if permissible. Cllr Wells thanked Mr Cashmore and Cllr Foster for their help to date. It was RESOLVED that residents

along the path should be consulted by way of letter which Cllr Foster volunteered to produce and deliver and any feedback would be considered at the October meeting. Cllr Wells left the meeting at this point.

20/61 Planning matters:

- i) 20/01223/FULL** retention of access track and hard standing at 9 Silver Street, Thorverton. Noted.
- ii) 20/01049/FULL** variation of Condition 13 18/02000/FULL to extend opening hours at Exe Valley Farm Shop, Thorverton. Noted.
- iii) 20/01394/FULL** removal of conditions 7 and 8 of planning permission 06/02077/FULL live/work units to allow for residential use at Crosses Barn, Thorverton. Following discussion it was RESOLVED to object to the application and to submit the following comment 'the Parish Council is concerned at losing a potential work area which could provide employment opportunity in the area'.
- iv) 20/01356/FULL** removal of condition 5 of planning permission 07/00886/FULL to allow annex to be used as separate dwelling at Lee Cross Farm, Thorverton. It was agreed to submit no comment.
- v) 20/01375/CAT** notification of intention to lift the crown of 1 Lawson Cypress tree by up to 2 metres and remove 2 primary branches of 1 Lime tree within the Conservation Area at Mar Lodge, Dinneford Street, Thorverton. It was agreed to submit no comment.
- vi) Rull Orchard, Bickleigh** application for a new premises licence. It was agreed to submit no comment.
- vii) 20/1517/FUL (EDDC)** construction of digestate storage lagoon with associated hardstanding and 2.4 metre high security fencing at land off Rixenford Lane, Upton Pyne. Further to discussion it was RESOLVED to object to this application and to submit the comment 'due to concerns about the proposed increase of traffic movement, the need to use HGV's on the local roads which are narrow, poorly maintained and without passing places, the Parish Council would suggest that the application is unsuitable for the proposed area'.
- viii) 20/01413/FULL** erection of an agricultural storage building and stables at Tallets Barn, Heathfield, Thorverton. It was RESOLVED to submit the comment 'the Parish Council requests that the size of the building, in comparison with the size of the land, be queried'.
- ix) 17/01752/FULL** retention of widening of two existing farm gateways, one to include associated engineering works at Junction of Hulk Lane and School Lane. Approved.
- x) 20/00812/LBC** replacement of door joinery in porch extensions and timber windows, Higher Dunsaller, Thorverton. Granted.
- X1) 20/00019/FULL** siting of 5 holiday lodges and change of use from agricultural building to a non-residential clinic to allow use as holistic retreat at Kitlake Farm, Stockliegh Pomeroy. Granted.

20/62 Handyman:

- i) Handyman salary** – it was RESOLVED to pay both the July and August salaries.
- ii) Handyman reports** – the July and August reports were considered and it was RESOLVED to add the mending of a hinge on the gate at Barliabins to the work list and that further small tasks raised by the Handyman could be agreed by the Clerk if appropriate.
- iii) New equipment store** – D/Cllr Deed had confirmed that planning permission would be required for any storage container situated in the Quarry Car Park. Cllr Hodge reported that the gathering of information on the proposed container was ongoing and that he would be in a position to make recommendations at the next meeting.

20/63 Village Tidy Up Day: It was RESOLVED that due to current gathering restrictions, and as the village was currently looking tidy, this annual community event should be postponed until next spring. It was agreed, however, that the wild life garden at the Recreation Ground was in need of attention. Three residents had shown an interest in helping with this project and it was RESOLVED that Cllr McKee would ask the School if they would get involved. A review would follow next month when advertising the project would be considered. Cllr Hodge reported the blocking of water channels and a manhole along Silver Street, due to brambles, and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk, with the support of Cllr Hodge, would report this to DCC Highways and C/Cllr Squires.

20/64 Recreation Ground: It was RESOLVED to reimburse the sum of £35.50 to Cllr Sims for materials to mend broken benches and printer ink for the weekly equipment check forms. The Clerk and Cllr Sims were to meet with a representative from Viridor Credits shortly in connection with grant funding for the new mower. The required tree work would be arranged, completed and paid for by the Football Club by September end. The annual inspection of play equipment falls due in October and Cllr Sims warned that some wooden play equipment may need replacing.

20/65 Finances:

i) Bank balance – the bank balance, as at 1st September 2020, stood at £66,971.19

ii) Banked receipts during July and August were noted as being garage rent £210.00, Football Club grant £270.00

iii) Budget document – the half year budget document was considered and it was reported that spending is on track, year to date, and that a small surplus over the budget expectation might be seen at year end depending on the result of grant funding from DCC Highways towards the Dark Lane wall repairs.

iv) Clerk's annual pay rise – it was RESOLVED to increase the Clerks hourly pay from £11.91 to £12.24, in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils recommendation, back dated to 01/04/2020.

v) Payments – it was reported that the setting up of on-line banking is ongoing. The payments made in August were noted and it was RESOLVED to make the following payments for September:

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|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| A Marshall - Clerk salary | Salary £490.86 gross, plus salary increase backdated to 01/04/2020, less tax due | £552.05 net |
| N Matthews - Handyman salary | Salary £108.38 gross, less tax due | £91.18 net |
| HMRC PAYE | Quarter end tax due | £170.60 |
| GX Accounts and Bookkeeping | Quarterly Payroll | £22.50 (VAT incl) |
| G Sims | Reimbursement – bench repairs & printer ink | £35.50 (VAT incl) |
| Holmes Building Contractors | Dark Lane wall repairs, as per quote | £7,398.77 (VAT incl) |
| MDDC | Garage rental – monthly direct debit | £55.68 (VAT incl) |
| Payments made in August 2020: | | |
| A Marshall - Clerk salary | Salary £477.99 gross, no tax due | £477.99 net |
| N Matthews - Handyman salary | Salary £490.88 gross, less tax due of £93.80 | £397.08 net |
| Strutt and Parker (Church Comm.) | Allotment field half year rent | £90.00 (VAT n/a) |
| PKF Littlejohn LLP | Annual external Audit payment | £360.00 (VAT incl) |
| Veitch Penny Solicitors | Legal fees – security of tenure allotment field | £504.00 (VAT incl) |
| A Marshall – Clerks expenses | Stationery and brown bin (1) annual renewal | £65.79 (VAT n/a) |
| MDDC | Garage rental – direct debit | £55.68 (VAT incl) |

20/66 New Cemetery: John Valentine (AC Archaeology) had confirmed to Cllr Waldron that should a larger parcel of land be purchased at the proposed new Cemetery site a further archaeological dig would be required. Due to the costs involved with a further dig it was RESOLVED to discount the purchase of additional land. It was further RESOLVED that Cllrs Waldron and Fice, with input from Cllr Crang, would now open negotiations for the original parcel of land on behalf of the Parish Council with the new land owner. Costings regarding the type and length of fencing required for the plot, together with an estimate of legal costs, would be investigated.

20/67 Christmas Trees: It was agreed to move agenda item 18 to this point. It was RESOLVED to purchase Christmas trees for both the Jubilee Green and the Memorial Hall field again this year with a budget of £100 in total. It was RESOLVED that Cllrs Hodge and Fice would form the working group. Cllr Hodge left the meeting at this point.

20/68 Representative reports:

i) Footpaths: Cllr Foster reported that agreement had been gained from the land owners to signpost the path between Parliament Cottage and the County Road, adjacent to Armour Wood, and that Sam Jeffcoat, Devon County Council (DCC), had visited the site. A new gate and signage would be installed. Several complaints had been received

regarding the crop growing across the footpath between Rosepark and Hulk Lane, which had eventually been cleared by DCC contractors. The cost of this work would not be passed to the landowner, however, due to the costs associated with such prosecutions. A complaint regarding the encroachment of footpath number 3, running alongside Berrysbridge Lodge, had been passed to DCC and the site would be inspected. A review of the 'Definitive Rights of Way' for Thorverton Parish remains open and will be noted for discussion on a future meeting agenda. Cllr Foster was thanked for his work on all these matters.

ii) Thorverton Millennium Green Trust (TMGT): The Green continues to provide a safe meeting place for walkers and dogs. The Trustees are investigating sources of finance to replace the borrowed tractor and mower.

iii) Allotments: A further complaint had been received about debris being left on allotment plot 1 and it was RESOLVED not to take any further action on this matter at present due to the impending water pipe work. An enquiry had been received asking why some private gardens have gates leading onto the allotment field and, after discussion, the answer was not known and it was RESOLVED not to take any further action in this regard at the present time. It was confirmed that Legal documentation, regarding the water pipe work, was still pending. It was RESOLVED that, in order to save time, any documents received between meetings could be signed on behalf of the Parish Council by the Clerk/Chairman following circulation to Council and should no queries be raised.

20/69 Correspondence:

i) Removal of the grain dryer in School Lane – an email had been received requesting support from the Parish Council regarding the removal of the unsightly grain dryer in a Conservation Area. It was RESOLVED to respond to the resident confirming support and requesting details of where the letter should be sent.

ii) Footballs entering a residents garden - 'phone calls and emails had been received from a resident and the Football Club regarding this issue. Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would give permission to the Football Club for the purchase and installation a net at the end of the resident's garden, being behind the goal posts, as long as costs were covered by the Football Club and that it was made known that this was a one-off due to the siting of the garden.

iii) Planting of wild flowers - emails had been received requesting the planting of wild flowers along the grass verge near the Memorial Hall. Following discussion it was RESOLVED not to take this matter forward due to the land not being owned by the Parish Council and as such planting could encourage flooding/the seeds could be washed away.

20/70 PART 2 (private session): It was RESOLVED that, due to the sensitive nature of the business to be discussed, the following items be dealt with as Part 2 business and, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be asked to leave the meeting:

i) New Cemetery – no costings had yet been put forward for consideration.

ii) Allotment field – no update had been received from the Church Commissioners regarding the possible purchase of this site.

20/71 Business at the Chairman's discretion:

i) Legal Representation - Cllr Waldron queried the recent invoice from Veitch Penny Solicitors as it seemed quite high for the work completed. It was agreed to put the matter of the Council's legal representation on a future meeting agenda and prior to setting the next budget.

ii) Thorverton Football Club - Cllr Waldron requested that, due to continuous bad press relating to the Football Club, its players and the Clubs relationship with the village, an open debate take place to ascertain the way forward. It was agreed to put this matter on the October meeting agenda.

iii) Speedwatch - Cllr Sims reported that Speedwatch had resumed and reminded residents to watch their speed.

20/72 Next meeting: October 13th 2020, 7.00pm, by way of Zoom unless otherwise advised.

This meeting closed at 21.02 and the annual meeting of the Recreation Ground Trustees followed.

Chairman13/10/2020

Annual meeting of the Trustees of Thorverton Recreation Ground,
8th September 2020, by way of Zoom.

1. **Appointment of Officers for 2020/2021:** It was RESOLVED that all Parish Councillors be appointed as Trustees of Thorverton Recreation Ground and that the Parish Council Chairman, currently Cllr Lane, should hold the same position ex officio for the Trustees.
2. **To approve the Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th May 2019:** It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes as a correct record of the meeting.
3. **To approve the income and expenditure for 2019/2020:** It was RESOLVED to approve the expenditure as detailed -
Expenditure

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| a) Ride on mower service and parts | £ 318.12 |
| b) Play equipment general maintenance | £ 171.16 |
| Total expenditure (excluding VAT) | £ 489.28 |
| <u>Income received from Thorverton Parish Council</u> | <u>£ 489.28</u> |
4. **Business at the Chairman's discretion:** This annual meeting had been delayed from May this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. It was agreed that future annual meetings would revert to the month of May.

The meeting closed at 21.07

Chairman Date