

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

Present: Cllrs S Crang, S Fice, A Foster (Vice Chair), J Hodge, N Lane (Chair), A McKee, T Sanders, G Sims, D Waldron and K Wells. **In attendance:** Mrs A Marshall (Clerk), C/Cllr Squires, D/Cllr Deed and 2 members of the public.

Standing Orders suspended.

Public Open Session: None.

External Reports:

i) C/Cllr Squires reported current delays in pothole filling on Devon's Highways due to the continuing Covid situation and also the recent wet weather. It is expected that the delays will improve in the short term and the public are urged to report any Highways issues on-line at www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem

Exeter's new Nightingale Hospital is now open and is predominantly treating patients with Covid.

With regards to the Parish Council's request for a mirror opposite the School Lane/Bullen Street junction, C/Cllr Squires advised that she had passed the request onto DCC Highways but had not yet received a response.

ii) D/Cllr Deed reported that MDDC is currently looking at budget figures for the next financial year and that a £3million shortfall is apparent which will result in funding cuts to some services. This year, due to Covid, income from car parking charges and leisure centre fees had been drastically reduced which has impacted on the budget and which, for certain, will mean an increase in Council Tax. On the matter of the Silver Street footpath project Cllr Deed reported that the matter had been reviewed by the Capital Assets team and that MDDC is now looking into the legalities of what can and cannot happen, due to ownership issues, on the slip road. Once these matters have been sorted out it is expected that a public consultation will be arranged in order that the way forward for the project can be considered.

iii) Police statistics – one local crime had been reported in October being a theft in the Lynch Road area.

Standing Orders resumed.

20/114 Declarations of interest: None.

20/115 Apologies for absence: None.

20/116 Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2020: It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.

20/117 Action Plan: Following a review of the document the following updates were made A) Silver Street footpath project – as reported by D/Cllr Deed above. B) New defibrillator – see item 20/123 iii below. C) New Mower – the machine had been ordered and delivery was expected in March next year.

20/118 Planning:

i) 20/01890/FULL erection of an agricultural store and retention of access track and vehicle hardstanding at the rear of 9, Silver Street, Thorverton. Reference was made to an email from a resident which raised concerns about the possibility of increased traffic should this application be granted. Standing Orders suspended. D/Cllr Deed suggested that residents living at Court Barton Close would not be affected by this application as the Close is not adjacent to the proposed planning site. Standing Orders resumed. Comments as to why an agricultural building would be required at this site were considered. It was confirmed that the intended building would be some 30 metres square in size with no defined agricultural purpose attached to it, other than a nearby orchard. Following discussion it was RESOLVED to object to the application and to submit the following comment; 'MDDC is requested to ask the applicant to scale down the size of the building to something more appropriate to house the type of garden machinery required for the orchard site or, alternatively, to reject the application.

ii) 20/00168/FULL retention of a garden room at Thorverton School, Thorverton. Following discussion it was RESOLVED to support the application.

iii) **20/02000/HOUSE** erection of a 3 bay garage following removal of existing garage at Orchard House, Thorverton. Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the Clerk write to MDDC to request that further information, such as site plans, be made available on the website in order that the matter could be further considered by the Parish Council and that a comment can be submitted, if felt appropriate.

iv) **20/02014/FULL** change of use from office to dwelling at Durneford Court, The Bury, Thorverton. Following discussion it was RESOLVED to make 'no comment' on this application.

v) **20/01989/HOUSE** erection of single storey side extension linking garage to house, raising of garage roof to create room and insertion of dormer in front and enlargement of front porch and first floor extension above at Northfields, Jericho Street, Thorverton. Following discussion it was RESOLVED to make 'no comment' on this application.

20/119 Handyman: It was RESOLVED to pay the salary claim of £289.50 gross. The monthly report and duty list was considered and it was RESOLVED to add nothing further to the duty list at the current time.

20/120 Finances:

i) **Bank balance** – the bank balance of £66,968.62 as at 1st December 2020 was noted.

ii) **Banked receipts** – the credits for November were noted as being a) £250.00 DCC - new defibrillator b) DCC £1,250.00 – Dark Lane wall repairs c) Bank interest £0.43p.

iii) **Payments** – Cllrs Fice, Hodge and Lane declared an interest. It was RESOLVED to use on-line banking with immediate effect and for the following payments to be made with Cllrs Crang and Waldron overseeing the transactions for this month:

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|------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| A Marshall - Clerk salary | Salary £534.36 gross, less tax due | £526.96 net |
| N Matthews – Handyman salary | Salary £289.50 gross, less tax due | £240.50 net |
| HMRC | Tax due October – December 2020 | £105.00 (VAT n/a) |
| A Fice | Jubilee Green gardening - reimbursement | £23.97 (VAT n/a) |
| N Lane | Zoom subscription May-November 2020 | £100.73 (incl VAT) |
| | Survey Monkey subscription - reimbursement | £99.00 (VAT n/a) |
| J Hodge | Christmas Tree purchase - reimbursement | £80.00 (VAT n/a) |
| S Fice | Transformer plug for Jubilee Green -reimbursement | £19.99 (incl VAT) |
| Hayes Machinery | New mower deposit | £729.90 (incl VAT) |
| MDDC | Garage rental – monthly direct debit | £55.68 (incl VAT) |

20/121 Recreation Ground: Cllr Sims reported that the Football Club had purchased the net to be installed along the boundary of a resident's property to stop footballs entering the garden. Cllr Wells reported that several comments had been seen on local social media regarding dog mess in the Rec. All present agreed that this was very disappointing especially as it was confirmed that 'no dogs at any time' signs were clearly visible at every entrance to the site.

D/Cllr Deed left the meeting at this point.

20/122 Representative reports:

i) **Footpaths** – Cllr Foster reported that the way posts on the Armour Wood path had yet to be installed. The owner of the land used for footpath number 3 will not be taking the matter of encroachment of the boundary any further. The national review of the Definitive Rights of Way had been raised with the Ramblers (Association) and although the 2026 deadline was approaching there was no further news on the matter. The matter would be brought to the Parish Council's attention once a clearer picture emerged. Cllr Foster would look into the matter of footpath 11, and the footpath from School Lane to Hulk Lane, not being re-marked by the land owner.

ii) **Thorverton Millennium Green Trust (TMGT)** - the Viridor grant funding application for the new mower had been submitted and a response was pending. A new noticeboard had been installed at the entrance to the field.

iii) **Focus** – a new Editor would be in place for the February 2021 edition of Focus.

C/Cllr Squires left the meeting at this point.

20/123 Correspondence:

i) Jubilee Green - an email from the Royal British Legion had been received advising that the upkeep of the green project would cease at year end. The information was noted and it was agreed by all present that the green was looking fantastic. It was RESOLVED that a letter to thank all those involved be sent. It was further RESOLVED to put the matter of a donation to the RBL on the January meeting agenda for consideration.

ii) Grass verges opposite the Broadlands entrance - a resident had submitted photographs evidencing some grass verge damage by a large vehicle, suspected as being the Stagecoach bus, and also a water hydrant displacement. Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Stagecoach pointing out the damage and requesting that greater care be taken by bus drivers when turning vehicles in the vicinity in future.

iii) New defibrillator – a report received from the local fund raiser was referred to and Council was delighted to hear that sufficient funding was now in place to purchase and install the new machine. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk liaise with the fund raiser in order to confirm the process for the purchase of the equipment from Parish Council funds in order to adhere with VAT requirements.

20/124 Satisfaction Survey: The Chairman reported that 73 survey results had been received this year, up on the 22 received last year, and the results were considered. Following discussion it was RESOLVED not to publish the results at this stage but to thank members of the public who had participated and to set up a working group, consisting of Cllrs Sanders, Wells and McKee, to review the feedback and make recommendations to Council at the January meeting for any future improvements to processes and procedures.

20/125 Aims of Thorverton Parish Council: It was RESOLVED that the new Satisfaction Survey Working Group would review this document in order to make recommendations to Council for any amendments at the January meeting.

20/126 Citizens Advice: A request for a donation had been received and reviewed by the Grant Funding Working Group. Due to the support given to local residents over the past year it was RESOLVED to donate of £400 to this cause.

20/127 Snow Plan: The draft plan was considered, along with suggestions to purchase a hand held gritter and brooms, and it was RESOLVED to adopt the plan subject to amendment following a meeting with the Snow Warden. The Snow Warden (Handyman) plus 2 residents and Cllr Fice were currently in place to help clear village roads in snowy conditions but as more help would be needed it was RESOLVED that Cllr Wells would advertise for volunteers on local social media. It was noted that DCC Highways had last week delivered 2 snow shovels and some fluorescent jackets. It was RESOLVED that a decision to purchase a hand held gritter and brooms would be postponed until the January meeting with Cllr McKee looking into suitable models in the meantime.

20/128 Climate Emergency: Following consideration it was RESOLVED not to have a Parish Council Climate Action plan at this stage but to seek to comment on the Devon Carbon Plan Consultation at the January meeting.

20/129 Part 2: 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) Garage transfer: It was RESOLVED that the transfer of garage 2a, Quarry Car Park, should proceed and that the Clerk, under delegated authority, should deal with the paperwork.

ii) New Cemetery land purchase: The land owner had accepted the Parish Council's offer to purchase a section of land, off Dark Lane, for the new Cemetery. The purchase would be subject to the gaining of planning permission for the new Cemetery and it was RESOLVED that a letter to the land owner should be sent to confirm this point. The cost

of the land would be £8,000 and it was noted that legal fees and fencing costs would also need to be paid. It was RESOLVED to approach a local architect, familiar with the new Cemetery project, with regards to taking on the planning permission documentation on behalf of the Parish Council. Any costs involved would need to be considered at the January meeting.

iii) Community Archaeology Dig: The up to date position on costings had been received from AC Archaeology and a final invoice was pending. It was RESOLVED to put any remaining grant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards information leaflets on the archaeological dig. The audit document was still awaited and it was hoped that the final project report, for publication on the Parish Council's website, would be received shortly.

iv) Allotments: It was confirmed that there were currently no vacant allotments, that the allotment renewal letters would be delivered by December end and that there had been no update with regards to the start date for the water pipe work. It was RESOLVED, once more information on the works are known, to offer a refund of the annual allotment fee to any tenant with a plot affected by the works.

20/130 Business at the Chairman's discretion:

i) It was suggested that the Zoom meeting facilities currently used by the Parish Council could be of benefit to local organisations.

ii) It was agreed to put the matter of speeding along the road to Raddon, past the Recreation Ground, on the next meeting agenda.

20/131 Next meeting: The next meeting will take place will take place on January 12th 2021, 7pm, by Zoom.
The meeting closed at 20.59

Chairman 12/01/2021