

Minutes of the Thorverton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday April 13th 2021, 7pm, by way of the on-line facility 'Zoom' (Coronavirus Act 2020)

Present: Cllrs A Foster, J Hodge, A McKee, G Sims and D Waldron.

In attendance: Mrs A Marshall (Clerk), C/Cllr Squires, D/Cllr Deed and no members of the public.

Due to the absence of Chairman Cllr Lane, Vice Chairman Cllr Foster took the Chair for the duration of the meeting.

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh: The Chairman acknowledged the death of Prince Philip and offered his condolences to the Queen and the royal family on behalf of the Parish Council.

Standing Orders suspended.

Public Open Session: None.

External Reports:

i) C/Cllr Squires reported on Children's Services and said that more children were now in care than a year ago and that lockdown had caused an increase in problems with young people. Due to a shortage in Social Workers a lot of agency staff were being used and so a drive to recruit more in-house workers, for stability, is in place.

ii) D/Cllr Deed reported that virtual council meetings would need to end on May 6th 2021 due to legislation expiring, Government was being lobbied for an extension, however. He gave his apologies for not being able to attend the planned Annual Parish Meeting due to needing to attend the MDDC Annual Meeting on the same evening. It was confirmed that news from MDDC with regards to the public consultation on the Silver Street footpath project was still pending.

iii) Police statistics – two cases of anti-social behaviour were reported to the Police from the parish in February.

Standing Orders resumed.

20/191 Declarations of interest relating to items on this agenda: None.

20/192 Apologies: Cllr Fice, family matters. Cllr Lane, illness. Cllrs Crang and Sanders, work commitments.

20/193 Confirmation of Minutes: It was RESOLVED to sign the meeting minutes of 9/3/21 as a correct record.

20/194 Outstanding Resolutions: Standing Orders Suspended. D/Cllr Deed agreed to research item H, the Deed of Variation relating to the Court Barton development giving priority to local people with regards to social housing, as it was understood that the document was still with MDDC for final sign off.

20/195 Highways matters:

i) DCC meeting/School Lane junction safety and buses turning at Broadlands – Cllr Waldron reported back on the remote meeting he had attended with Cllr Lane, Steve Tucker of DCC Highways and C/Cllr Squires. The meeting notes taken by Cllr Lane had been circulated. Steve had suggested white lines, or double yellow lines, at the School Lane junction but this was considered by Council to be not practical as neither would solve the current issues. On the idea of a mini-roundabout, Council was told that there may be insufficient room for this but that a request for further investigation into the matter, and for alternative solutions, could be made to higher management at DCC Highways. On the different matter of buses turning at Broadlands, DCC said that they had no influence over this and so could not help. It was RESOLVED that a letter be sent to higher management at DCC Highways suggesting that a solution to the School Lane junction issue is forthcoming and that a mini-roundabout is considered. Cllr Waldron agreed to take the lead on this agenda item going forward.

ii) '20 is Plenty' project – Cllr McKee was thanked for his input on this matter to date and he reported that pricing, sponsorship and positioning for the display boards was currently being finalised and that he would have more news for Council next month.

iii) Raddon directional sign – requests had been received for a sign to be put in place at the Raddon Road junction. It was confirmed that the last sign had been vandalised and that the previous sign had been taken down due to its poor condition. Both signs has been 'unofficial' and not to DCC Highways standards. It was thought that an 'official' sign, to DCC Highways standards, would cost in the region of £400 and that funding for this would fall to the Parish

Council. It was noted that a finger post pointing to Berrysbridge was also be useful. It was RESOLVED to obtain quotes from DCC Highways and elsewhere for consideration at a future meeting.

20/196 Planning Matters:

- i) **21/00616/FULL** erection of a roof over existing cattle feed yard 615 sq m at Yellowford Farm, Thorverton. It was RESOLVED to submit no comment on this application.
- ii) **21/00620/FULL** erection of a roof over existing silage clamp 765 sq m at Yellowford Farm, Thorverton. It was RESOLVED to submit no comment on this application.
- iii) **21/00509/HOUSE and LBC** installation of flue for gas boiler on NW elevation to include a surface mounted gas meter box and installation of flue for gas fire on SE elevation at 4 The Glebe, Thorverton. It was RESOLVED to submit no comment on this application.

20/197 Handyman:

It was RESOLVED to pay the salary request of £393.25 and expenses of £47.65. The monthly report was considered and it was RESOLVED to add to the duty list replacing of the broken dog hooks outside the post office, repairing the gate at the end of the Barliabins footpath and putting in place the new Viridor Credits plaque at the Rec. It was RESOLVED not to purchase a chainsaw, due to the official certification needed, but to go ahead with the purchase of a petrol hedge trimmer at a cost of up to £150 net of VAT which the Clerk would organise. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact South West Water with regards to the broken concrete ground markers around the village.

D/Cllr Deed and C/Cllr Squires left the meeting.

20/198 Recreation Ground:

- i) **Rubble left on site** - it was reported that a new fence had been erected by a resident living in Bullens Close and that rubble from the work had been left in the Rec. It was RESOLVED to write a letter to the resident asking for the rubble to be removed.
- ii) **Football nets** - residents had made enquiries with regards to why the nets on the goals and boundary were being left in place when no football matches were taking place. It was RESOLVED to ask the Football Club to raise and lower the boundary nets, and to remove the goal nets and pins, before and after games going forward.
- iii) **Updating existing play equipment** - it was RESOLVED that Cllr Sims, and possibly Cllr Fice, would put together a written report for Council recommending repairs to existing equipment and possible replacements and additions. Cllr McKee would gauge public interest and the matter would be further reviewed at a future meeting.
- iv) **Section 106 funds** - the Football Club had suggested a meeting with the Parish Council’s S106 working group to discuss the spending of pending Section 106 funds due from the new development off Broadlands. It was confirmed that the funding had to be spent in the vicinity of the Rec. It was RESOLVED that the S106 working group would take up the matter with the Football Club and that Cllr Foster would lead on this. The Clerk would make the contact.

Cllr McKee left the meeting temporarily.

20/199 Finances:

- i) **Bank balance** – noted as being £43,321.84 as at 31/03/2021
- ii) **Banked receipts for March** – noted as being bank interest of £0.33p, mower funds £1,356.00, allotments £25.00
- iii) **End of year Accounts** – it was RESOLVED to approve the document.
- iv) **End of year Bank Reconciliation** – it was RESOLVED to approve the document.
- v) **Asset Register** – it was RESOLVED to approve the updated document.
- vi) **Statement of Internal Control** – it was RESOLVED to approve the updated document.
- vii) **DALC annual subscription** – it was RESOLVED to make the payment of £224.72 to renew the subscription.
- vii) **HL Architecture Ltd** – it was RESOLVED to make the payment in retrospect and Council noted the need to consider payment terms on future contracts.
- viii) **Payments** – it was RESOLVED to make the following on-line payments:

A Marshall – salary	£529.86 gross, less tax due	£526.26 net
N Matthews – salary	£393.25 gross, less tax due	£317.85 net
N Matthews – expenses	Equipment fuel and fuel can	£47.65 (incl VAT)

A Marshall - expenses	Stationery £18.04, MDDC new Cemetery planning application fee £256.00,	£274.04 (incl VAT)
GX Accounts	Payroll to 5 th April 2021	£22.50 (incl VAT)
HL Architecture Ltd	Cemetery planning application work (paid 7/4/2021)	£774.72 (incl VAT)
DALC	Annual subscription renewal	£224.72 (incl VAT)
HMRC	Tax due January – March 2021	£77.00 (VAT n/a)
MDDC	Garage rental – monthly direct debit	£55.72 (incl VAT)
Vision ICT	Website annual management fee	£150.00 (incl VAT)

20/200 Existing Projects:

i) New Cemetery – Cllr Waldron reported that the planning application had been submitted to MDDC and that an ecological survey was now required at a cost of £450. It was RESOLVED to go ahead with the survey and not investigate further quotes due to the tight timescales involved. It was noted that the working group was in need of additional members and it was agreed that this should be discussed further at the May meeting.

Cllr McKee re-joined the meeting.

ii) Silver Street Footpath – D/Cllr Deed had reported earlier in the meeting that an update was still pending from the MDDC public consultation with those residents living along the proposed footpath.

iii) Wild flower/bulb planting/Thorverton in Bloom competition - Cllr McKee had received 7 positive posts on social media with regards to the competition. Due to confusion as to who was to run the competition, it was RESOLVED to await the return of Cllr Lane before discussing the item further. It was agreed to add the planting of some new trees around the parish to this item.

20/201 Correspondence:

i) Draft Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay consultation. Noted.

ii) Bonfires in Thorverton – following complaints about a recent Parish Council bonfire at the Barliabins site, it was RESOLVED to discourage future bonfires in the village and to set an example by instructing the Handyman to stop having them until further notice. It was RESOLVED to look into hiring or purchasing a chipper, and to look into contractors costs for the clearing of similar debris in the future. The Handyman would be asked whether any similar work would fall due in the short term.

iii) Parish Council precept demand – a resident had queried the increase in the Parish Council precept this year, equivalent to £7 for the year for a band D home, and it was confirmed that this was primarily due to the costs of keeping the parish looking neat and tidy. It was agreed that the percentage rise looked out of kilter when compared to other figures on the Council Tax bill and Cllr Waldron asked for this to be considered in future years.

iv) Nightingales in Thorverton - a resident had reported that Nightingales might be nesting in the scrub of the car park banks, and also in Silver Street, and requested that the scrub was not cut back too short so as to encourage the birds. This was noted.

v) Viridor Credits – the mower project had now been completed and a plaque had been received for installation on the Rec gate which the Handyman would see to.

vi) Neighbourhood Plan – a resident had suggested that such a plan would be a good idea for Thorverton. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the existing Parish Plan document and update together with information on Neighbourhood Plans for Council consideration. It was suggested that the resident could be invited to a future meeting public open session to provide an overview on the matter.

20/202 Councillor Exit Survey: Cllr Sanders had circulated a draft document for consideration and it was agreed to postpone further discussion and adoption on this until the May meeting.

20/203 Representative reports:

- i) Thorverton Millennium Green Trust (TMGT)** - the new mower was now in situ, the main bridge had been dismantled for repairs and the new fruit trees were showing signs of spring growth. Unfortunately, it was thought that vandalism had caused the recent tree and bridge damage.
- ii) Memorial Hall** – events: July 10th Picnic in the park, July 23rd - 25th Action Challenge, September hope to re-start film nights, October 9th Big Breakfast start up, October 29th Family Halloween Party, November 13th Craft Fair, December 7th Christmas Bingo. Two weddings had been booked for the summer.
- iii) Footpaths** – Cllr Foster confirmed that the new local footpath leaflet would be available in the village shop in the near future. It was agreed that reference to the leaflet should feature on the Parish Council website and on local social media.

20/204 Meetings:

- i) Annual Parish Meeting on 28th April 2021:** It was RESOLVED that the Zoom meeting should start at 7.30pm and that the suggested agenda circulated by Cllr Lane should be taken up. The Clerk would arrange the advertising.
- ii) May and June monthly Parish Council meetings:** All present were advised of the current need, due to Government legislation, for council's to meet face to face, and no longer remotely, with effect from 7th May 2021. Following discussion, and on recommendation from D/Cllr Deed, it was RESOLVED to hold the May meeting on Tuesday 4th May 2021, 7pm, by way of Zoom this being a week earlier than usual. It was further RESOLVED to consider the date of the June meeting at the May meeting.

20/205 Business at the Chairman's discretion:

- i)** Cllr Hodge confirmed that he would choose the Christmas trees for the Jubilee Green and Memorial Hall in advance this year.
 - ii)** Cllr McKee enquired as to whether a WhatsApp group might be useful for basic Council messaging and it was agreed to put this on a future agenda for consideration.
 - iii)** Cllr Sims reported overgrown hedges at the cobbled site near Bridge House it was confirmed that ownership of the land is unknown.
- The meeting ended at 20.56

Chairman 4/5/2021