

Thorverton Parish Council

Minutes of the Thorverton Parish Council meeting held at 7:00pm on Tuesday 14th September 2021, at Thorverton Memorial Hall,

Present: Cllrs A Foster (Chairman), S Crang, J Hodge, C Marshall, A McKee (part), A Price and G Sims.
In attendance: Mrs. B Uglow, C/Cllr Squires and Mr A Wyer (Clerk).

21/78 **Public Open Session** (15 minutes)

External Reports

- i) Cllr. Squires (DCC) reported Children Services were under increased strain due to a COVID related increase in their workload. She also reported that she was representing MDDC at CHAT.
- ii) Cllr. Deed (MDDC) had sent his apologies so was not available to present a report.
- iii) There was 1 x "other theft" reported in June and 1 burglary reported in July.

21/79 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Sims declared an interest in agenda item 9.4 (minute 21/87d)

21/80 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Lane, Cllr. Sanders, and Cllr. Deed (MDDC).
Late apologies were received from Cllr. McKee.

21/81 **Confirmation of Minutes**

It was resolved to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on July 20th as a correct record.

21/82 **Outstanding Resolutions**

The planning application for the container had been submitted but the Clerk was requested not to pay for this application yet in case the handyman situation was resolved in a way which meant the council didn't need the additional storage.

21/83 It was RESOLVED to change the order of business, with Item 7, Highways being deferred to later in the meeting.

21/84 **Planning Matters**

21/84a **Applications**

21/00840/HOUSE

It was RESOLVED to support the erection of a side extension and alterations to roof to include the installation of a dormer window at Ascough, Dinneford St. Thorverton, provided the Conservation Area Officer was happy that the development was in keeping with the Conservation Area.

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21/01725/HOUSE

It was RESOLVED to offer no comment to the application for the removal of the lean to roof to courtyard outbuildings: erection of single storey rear extension and alterations to fenestration (revised scheme) at Bridge House, Thorverton

21/01726/LBC

It was RESOLVED to offer no comment to the listed building consent for the removal of the lean to roof to courtyard outbuildings: erection of single storey rear extension and alterations to fenestration (revised scheme) at Bridge House, Thorverton

21/84b Decisions

It was RESOLVED to note the following Decisions:

21/01440/NMA - Approved

21/01131/TPO - Approved

21/01096/FULL - Approved

21/85 It was RESOLVED to change the order of business, with Item 19, Co-Option being brought forward.

21/86 Co-Option

Mrs. Bryanna Uglow introduced herself and explained why she would like to join the Council. It was RESOLVED to co-opt her onto the Council. Cllr. Uglow signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and she participated in the rest of the meeting.

21/87 Finance

21/87a Bank Balance

It was RESOLVED to note the bank balance as at 01/09/21 of £52,232.06.

21/87b Banked Receipts

It was RESOLVED to note the receipts for July and August, being 6 x £70 garage rent, £50 contribution to the Raddon Sign and 62p interest.

21/87c Payments

The payments below (pre-approved at the July meeting) were noted:

Mr. A. Wyer	Salary (July)	£533.22
Mr. N. Matthews	Salary (June & July)	£286.00
Mr. N. Matthews	Expenses (June & July)	£91.20
HMRC	PAYE	£152.20
MDDC	Garage rental (monthly DD)	£55.72

21/87d Payments

It was RESOLVED to make the following on-line payments:

Mr. A. Wyer	Salary (August)	£418.52
HMRC	PAYE	£101.20
Strutt & Parker	Allotment field rent (6 months)	£90.00
Cllr. Sims	Expenses (Mower engine oil)	£14.28

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GX Accountancy	Payroll Services to July	£22.50
GX Accountancy	Payroll Services to October	£49.46
PKF Littlejohn LLP	AGAR external Audit	£360.00
Cllr. Lane	Expenses (Zoom)	£86.34
Lucy's Larder	Food Bank supplies	£100.00
MDDC	Garage rental (monthly DD)	£55.72

21/88 **Defibrillator Trust**

The Clerk explained that the recent defibrillator purchase had been made with Council funds and that the Council had (correctly) claimed the VAT back on this purchase. Subsequently the ownership of the defibrillator and the earmarked defibrillator funds had been transferred to the newly formed defibrillator trust. Had the defibrillator and the funds remained in Council ownership, the reclaimed VAT would have been returned to the earmarked (for the defibrillator) fund. The reclaimed VAT should have been included in the total funds donated to the defibrillator trust. As the transfer of ownership to the Trust did not involve payment and was not a transaction, the Council wouldn't be guilty of VAT avoidance. It was therefore RESOLVED to transfer the £291 (reclaimed VAT) to the Trust. The Trust had also applied for a grant towards the cost of insurance. The Council RESOLVED to approve the grant of £150 pending the successful clarification of a gaps on the application form. The Council confirmed that ownership had passed to the Trust on the same day as the transfer of funds, approved at the Council meeting held 20th July 2021.

21/88 **Existing Projects**

21/88a **New Cemetery**

The Clerk reported that he had been unable to speak to the landowner as he was away. Given the importance of this issue, the Clerk was asked to copy Councillors into all correspondence regarding it.

21/89 **Lamp**

Following a request for a lamp to be fitted to the lamppost on Jubilee Green, the Clerk was asked to contact the Conservation Area Officer, to see what was possible.

21/90 **Memorial Bench**

Two applications for memorial benches had been received. The Council felt that a policy for memorial benches would be a good idea. The first request was APPROVED, pending confirmation of the exact location and that the bench would match the photo provided. The second request was going to be deferred but given the timescale it was RESOLVED to approve the bench if Cllrs. Price and Marshall felt there was enough space after doing a site visit.

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21/91 **Floral Thorverton**

Councillors considered the report and requested additional clarification on point 7.a. They RESOLVED to approve the other proposals.

21/92 **Tidy Up Day**

With the handyman position still vacant, Cllr. Marshall agreed to run the Tidy Up Day. This would be held on Saturday 9th October, with volunteers meeting at 10am on Jubilee Green. Council RESOLVED to allow Cllr. Marshall to claim back expenses relating to providing refreshments for the volunteers.

21/93 **Website**

The Clerk identified certain pages on the website which he felt could do with refreshing. Council asked him to bring back page design / draft content to the next meeting for approval.

21/94 **Correspondence**

Correspondence had been received about flooding on Leecross Lane. Cllr. Foster agreed to report this to DCC as it was a PROW issue. DCC had also distributed a leaflet about driving courses for older drivers. This could be shared on the website and to Focus. The final item was a request for a dropped curb onto Jubilee Green. Councillors decided to hold a site visit at 6:45 before the next Council meeting.

21/95 **Representative Reports**

Cllr. Foster reported that the footpath definitive review group had completed their work. Cllr. Crang declared an interest in this item. Leecross Lane will be added to the official footpath map. It was noted that there are plenty of unofficial footpaths within the Parish where access was permitted by the landowner.

Cllr. Marshall reported that the hall was looking at investing in electrical works and relandscaping the outside area.

Cllr. Lane had provided a report on the allotments which was circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr. Sims praised the actions of several young people who were on the recreation ground recently when the Air Ambulance tried to land. The goal nets had been left in the middle of the field and were obstructing the landing zone, realising this, the children pulled the nets out of the way. While the Air Ambulance was then able to land, it did raise the issue of users of the recreation ground not leaving the area clear when they finished.

Cllr. Crang reported that work on restoring the leat water supply should start soon.

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Highways

'20 is Plenty' project

Cllr. McKee reported that the cost of the materials required had increased sharply, jeopardising the viability of the project. A decision on how to proceed would be made at the next meeting.

School Lane junction safety

There was no update on this issue.

Raddon directional sign

The Clerk agreed to talk to the NHO to see if we would have to contribute to a "heritage" style sign.

21/97

Business at the Chairman's Discretion.

Following her Co-option, Cllr. Uglow agreed to consider which working groups she wished to join.

There was a discussion around the potential suppliers of Christmas Trees.

21/98

Next Meeting

Scheduled for 7:00pm on Tuesday 12th October 2021

Councillors are reminded to meet at 6:45pm at the Jubilee Green.