**Draft minutes of the Thorverton Parish Council meeting held at 7:00pm**

**on Tuesday 19th October 2021, at Thorverton WI Hut.**

**Present: Cllrs A Foster (Chairman), S Crang, J Hodge, N Lane, T Sanders, G Sims and B Uglow.**

**In attendance: C/Cllr Squires and D/Cllr Deed.**

21/78 **Public Open Session**

No member of the public attended the meeting.

**External Reports**

i) C/Cllr Squires explained that the County Council was under pressure at the moment over staff shortages in children’s services in particular.

She also confirmed that the Exeter to Okehampton railway was to resume as a regular service from next month.

ii) D/Cllr Deed said that housing policy was currently under discussion within MDDC, with the District Council having to look inventively at ways to increase the provision of social housing.

He asked councillors to consider and feed back to him on what they wanted from him at future meetings.

iii) There was no police update.

21/79 **Highways**

This item was brought forward so that C/Cllr Squires could hear discussion before she had to leave the meeting.

* The “20 is Plenty” project was awaiting more affordable prices of materials for the signs; the new Raddon signpost was being reviewed by Cllr McKee, with both of these items to be brought back to a future meeting.
* Cllr Lane asked if C/Cllr Squires could chase up a response to the Council’s suggestion for an improvement to the School Lane junction.
* Cllr Sims asked if white lines on Thorverton’s roads could be re-marked as they were very faded. C/Cllr Squires said that she would put this forward for consideration by Highways, but emphasised that budget for works was very limited.

C/Cllr Squires and D/Cllr Deed left the meeting at this point.

21/80 **Part 2 (Private Session)**

Council RESOLVED that due to the sensitive nature of the business to be discussed the following item should 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.

**The probation of the Parish Clerk**

Following discussion, Council RESOLVED to terminate the contract for the clerk as the probation period had not been satisfactorily completed.

Council RESOLVED that Cllr McKee should be added to the Staffing Working Group and that the Group should advertise and interview for a new clerk (spending up to £100 on advertising).

Council RESOLVED to cease Part 2 business and returned to the open meeting.

21/81 **Declarations of interest**

None

21/82 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Marshall (holiday), McKee (work) and Price (sickness).

21/83 **Confirmation of minutes**

It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on September 14th as a correct record.

21/84 **Outstanding resolutions**

There were no updates other than under items which appeared elsewhere on the agenda.

21/85 **Planning Matters**

Council considered the following applications:

* 21/02035/CAT Notification of intention to fell one Norway Spruce within the Conservation Area at 15 Silver Street. Council RESOLVED to make no comment.
* 21/01661/FULL Erection of an agricultural glasshouse and greenhouse in Dinneford Street. Council RESOLVED to make no comment.
* 21/01851/CLP Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed erection of a single storey side extension at Willowpark, Thorverton, Exeter, EX5 5JL. Council RESOLVED to make no comment.

Council also noted the following decisions:

* 21/01327/FULL Permission granted for erection of a dwelling following demolition of existing building at Kerikeri, Thorverton.
* 21/01226/HOUSE Permission granted for erection of a garden shed at Hannabusses, Thorverton.

Council also agreed to provide Hilary Lawson with a copy of the Sheep Dip toxicological report, which she had requested.

21/86 **Payments**

Council RESOLVED to make the following payments:

* WE Johns Ltd Stones for weir (£850.74+VAT) £1,020.89
* Mrs A Marshall Refund of TPC brown bin payment £50.00
* MDDC Garage rental (monthly direct debit) £55.72
* N Lane Bulbs for planting £50.00
* C Marshall Refreshments for Tidy-Up Day workers £74.40

Council RESOLVED that Mr Wyer should be asked for a record of hours worked in September and October before any payment be authorised.

21/87 **Existing Projects**

* Council was pleased to note that the stones were now in place at the weir and it was hoped that this would allow water to flow along the leats again.
* On improvements to equipment in the Recreation Ground, Council asked the Recreation Ground Working Group to consider how best s.106 funding might be used.
* Council considered applications for the role of handyperson and RESOLVED to appoint Ben Fitch on a zero hours contract (to be paid at an hourly rate of £15 per hour). Regarding grass cutting, Council may want to review the areas cut and the frequency of cuts before next spring. Council felt that it should suspend any action to purchase a container for its equipment until such time as it had seen what equipment should be retained.

21/88 **Saturday Markets**

Councillors agreed that there was value in having representation at the monthly Saturday Markets in the Memorial Hall as this gave parishioners the opportunity to raise any concerns. Council RESOLVED that Cllr Uglow would cover the November market and that Cllr Marshall would be asked to draw up a rota for future markets.

21/89 **Litter** **Picker**

Lorraine Colebrook had been Council’s litter picker for the past several years, but she now wished to pass on this role on. Council RESOLVED to thank her for her work and to advertise for one or more litter pickers (this role might best be carried out by three or four people in different parts of the village).

21/90 **Satisfaction Survey**

Council felt that the recent communication difficulties could adversely affect this survey. Nevertheless, it RESOLVED to hold a third annual survey in November, with parishioners able to take part either in hard copy or electronically.

21/91 **Grant Request**

Council considered a request from the Baby and Toddler Group for funding to allow them to keep their charges affordable in the face of some recent increases. Council felt that this was worth supporting and RESOLVED to provide £300, preferably with at least part of the funding for a particular piece of equipment.

21/92 **Correspondence**

Council considered correspondence as below:

* The Royal British Legion had requested permission to put a new lamp at the Jubilee Green. Council approved the design and RESOLVED that this should be given the go-ahead.
* The RBL had invited the Council to lay a wreath at this year’s Remembrance Day Service, given that it marked the centenary of the British Legion. Council RESOLVED that this invitation should be accepted, with the Chairman to lay the wreath.
* A resident had raised concern over the unsuitability of the southern part of Dark Lane for anything other than very light traffic. Council had reviewed this with Highways more than once over the past few years and had not been able to find a solution, however, it was RESOLVED that the correspondence should be referred to Highways for their consideration.

21/93 **Representative Reports**

Cllr Lane reported back from the Raddon Hills Group meeting, which had taken place the previous evening. The Group was aware that its impact was not as great as it might be and that there was potential for greater sharing of ideas and good practice. The Group will now move to quarterly meetings (previously it had only bi-annual meetings), with greater networking encouraged between members in between meetings.

21/94 **Date of Next Meeting**

This was confirmed as 7pm on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at the Memorial Hall.