

THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Thorverton Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Silver St, Thorverton on Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 7pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Andrew Foster (Chairman)
Cllr John Hodge
Cllr Stuart Crang
Cllr Colin Marshall
Cllr Graham Sims
Cllr Bryanna Uglow
Cllr Steph Shelton (from item 3)

ABSENT

Cllr Andy Price (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Claire Heaven-Roberts
Cllr Shirley Nightingale

IN ATTENDANCE: 2 members of the public, District Cllr Rhys Roberts
Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)
One additional member of the public arrived at 8:05pm

1. Public Open Session

No members of the public wished to speak.

2 Co-option of New Councillor

A member of the public gave the reasons she would like to be considered for co-option on to the Council.

Council **RESOLVED** to co-opt Stephanie Shelton as a member of the Council. She duly completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3 Declarations of Interest

None

4 Apologies

Cllr Nightingale was unwell, Cllr Heaven-Roberts had a meeting clash and Cllr Price is away.

5 Minutes

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of 12th March 2024 as a true and correct record. The Chairman duly signed them.

6 External Reports

6.1 County Cllr Squires

No report this month.

6.2 District Cllr Roberts

D/Cllr Rhys Roberts reported the following:

- He is involved with the Millenium Green Trust to help them obtain a larger dog waste bin.
- Deputy MDDC CEO Andrew Jarrett had advised him that he was already supporting the Affordable Housing project in Thorverton and he was happy to meet the CLT with D/Cllr Roberts to discuss further.
- The first half of the precept has now been received for all MDDC

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Chairman
Initials

- Parishes including Thorverton.
- Silverton's Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted by Cabinet at their next meeting.
- A proposed new body will have £50m from Government which wants to devolve decision-making to the regions where possible. Net-Zero & Green Strategy spend are foremost from the long list of spending possibilities. Planning Strategy will be shared across DCC, Torbay, North Devon, East Devon, Teignbridge & MDDC. Final planning decisions remain with Districts.
- Flytipping is an increasing problem across MDDC and fines (£400- £1000) are being enforced.
- ThreeRivers will now close and the financial position is getting clearer. The loss will be £5-6million that will not affect day-to-day spending as it is being taken from reserves. The reserves will have to be built back up over time.

6.3 Saturday Market

Cllr Marshall will represent the Parish Council at the April event and Cllr Price is due to attend the May event.

7 Projects

7.1 Affordable Housing

The Chairman gave an update on the project as follows:

There will be an important Open Meeting on Thursday 11th April at 7.00pm. At that time the AH group will update the village on the progress being made on the project. There will be a discussion over the various CLT models and which is the most suitable for Thorverton; the various site options will be outlined; the progress that has been made in sourcing funds will also be explained.

Once the Memorandum of Understanding is signed with the landowners the Technical group advised the following costs will be incurred:

Topographic Survey	£ 500
Infrastructure Survey	£ 2,000

(Infrastructure survey will cover two sites, normally £ 1,500 a site.)

Council **RESOLVED** to underwrite these costs in anticipation of a Stage 2 grant from MDDC. *[One member of the public & D/Cllr Rhys left the meeting at 7:33pm]*

7.2 Road Warden

The Road Warden has been fully trained. Council **RESOLVED** to spend £40 for delivery of materials (supplied free of charge by DCC). This will save having to accommodate and use a full pallet of road repair material.

8 Recreation Ground

8.1 Financial Report

No spend this month.

8.2 Memorial Bench request

The family of Jack Andrews have requested permission to site a Memorial Bench to him in the Rec as a fitting tribute to his years of voluntary work looking after the Rec. Council **RESOLVED** to agree to the memorial bench. The Council considered that - one deserved a memorial in the Rec more than Mr Andrews. The clerk will advise the family that the bench will need a concrete base and Cllr Sims will liaise with them to finalise the exact position of the bench.

8.3 Lottery Funding bid

Council **RESOLVED** to pursue a National Lottery funding bid which the clerk will complete. This will need to show funding from the s106 agreement that the clerk will also chase (along with the Barliabins s106 funding).

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Chairman
Initials

8.4 Football Club 'Next Fixture' Sign

The sign was blown down in the recent storm. The clerk will chase the Club to confirm the plans for a more permanent solution that is not on the fence for next season.

9 Grounds Maintenance

9.1 Contractor Work for the month

The contractor has contacted the Environment Agency for permission to spray near the watercourses. Council will need to obtain a locked bunded cabinet to comply with legislation re storing the pesticides. Pruning will take place in Barliabins. Grass cutting & spraying will begin when the weather is clement.

The clerk was reminded to supply maps to Cllrs Marshall & Sims for the Tree Survey.

9.2 Village Tidy-Up Day

Postponed from March due to rain and no date will be set until the weather is set fair.

9.3 Managed Biodiversity Council **RESOLVED** to thank Harriet Lampard and her small group of helpers for their hard work in preparing the verge near The Glebe and planting the wildflower seeds.

10 Planning & Consultations

10.1 [24/00465/HOUSE](#) Higher Dunsaller 16 Solar panels on two frames

Council **RESOLVED** to make no comment on this application.

10.2 DALC Annual Fees

Council will continue to be a member of DALC as they are used several times a year for advice on various matters.

The Council and the clerk had sought advice from DALC several times this year and Cllrs and the Clerk had benefitted from the training offered too, attending several events in the last 12 months. If the Council were to cease membership there would be no source of expert advice other than a solicitor which would be much more expensive.

Council asked the clerk to complete the Annual Membership survey.

11 Correspondence

11.1 Allotments

Renewals will be out by 15th April 2024 and issued in December this year for next year. The clerk will pursue the overgrown plots with a view to reducing the waiting list.

12 Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the beginning of the meeting in May.

13 Finance

13.1 Bank balance

Thanks to the excellent efforts of Alison Marshall the clerk has received a chequebook and the statement for one of the two accounts. Cllr Crang will attempt to get a statement for both accounts for 28th March 2023 – 4th April 2024 so the clerk can complete the AGAR. *[One member of the public left the meeting at 8:33pm]*

13.2 AGAR External Audit Exemption for 2023-24

Council **RESOLVED** to exempt the Parish Council from the limited assurance review element of the Annual Governance and Accountability Review process.

..... Chairman Initials

13.3 Payments

Council **RESOLVED** to make the following payments:

13.3.1 G Foster CLT Website development (inv185) & hosting May-Oct (inv186)	£	527.94
13.3.2 BRN Fitch Grounds Maintenance for March (inv BF20240044)	£	216.04
13.3.3 GX Accountancy & Bookkeeping Services Payroll qtr to 5 Apr	£	54.00
13.3.4 DALC Annual service charge and affiliations (inv 5743)	£	390.14
13.3.5 Strutt & Parker Allotment field rent (½ year)	£	90.00
13.3.6 HMRC PAYE for clerk Jan-Mach 2024	£	428.49
13.3.7 CLT Network Annual membership (inv 3547)	£	90.00
13.3.8 J P Roberts - clerk pay, (March)	£	470.39
Reimbursement for MDDC Play Area Inspection	£	100.80
Reimbursement for Compost for Rec (B&M receipt)	£	11.98
Reimbursement for Postage stamps (ThrvPO receipt)	£	32.00
	£	615.17
13.3.9 J P Roberts – clerk pay (Feb)		
This was not paid at March meeting due to lack of cheques.		
Clerk pay, (Feb, incl. backpay)	£	755.19
Reimbursement for Green Waste Bin Permit	£	65.00
Reimbursement for Timber for play item repairs	£	16.42
Reimbursement for Printer Cartridges	£	27.00
	£	863.61

14 Business at the Chairman's Discretion

Items for Information Only No decision making during this item.

14.1 Recreation Ground The working group will get quotes for the basketball area.

14.2 New Cemetery The solicitor who was conveying this purchase has left and a new solicitor will be allocated. The clerk has not received the name yet.

14.3 Affordable Housing Project Parish Council involvement once the CLT is formed needs to be clear and consideration given to any liabilities and risks should the unforeseen leave the Parish Council in debt.

14.4 The Council has been unable to establish what areas of grass MDDC does and doesn't cut, despite several requests. Recently they cut the Cleaves Close circle and then left having not cut the verge areas.

14.5 No-one will be available to attend the MDDC 80th Anniversary D-Day Peace Flag event at 9am on Thursday 6th June.

15 Next Meeting

Tuesday 14th May 2024 - This will include the Annual Parish Meeting, the Annual Council Meeting and the Annual General Meeting of the Recreation Ground Trust.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.04pm .

Signed Date

Cllr Andrew Foster, Chairman