

# THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the **Thorverton Annual Parish Meeting** held at the Memorial Hall, Silver St, Thorverton on Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 6:30pm.

## 1 Village Reports

### 1.1 Thorverton Cricket Club

Two representatives of TCC presented details of the clubs plans for a new pavilion.

#### Background

The club has now owned the freehold of the ground for about 7 years and the club has been growing, particularly since gaining accreditation for junior members. Thanks to the enthusiasm and patience of the great team of volunteers There are around 50 5- to 8-year-olds, around 35 9- to 11-year-olds and explained that the club, a women's section, 3 all-age teams in the Saturday league as well as 20-over evening games, friendlies and Sunday fixtures. The 1<sup>st</sup> Team plays in the A Division, which is one below the top division in Devon.

Since gaining the freehold the club has made continuous improvements with new nets, scoreboard & scoring hut and a re-laid wicket.

TCC has long planned to redevelop the clubhouse which pre-dates its current location having been moved from the field next door where cricket was played years ago. The current structure has woodworm and is now far short of the standards set by the ECB. A sub-committee of members and local non-members has been formed, an architect chosen and plans developed, which were displayed, and copies provided, at the meeting. The design is single-storey, sloping green roof in an elevated position to avoid floods and will probably be timber-framed. It will be constructed alongside the existing clubhouse. Carbon neutrality should be achieved and better use of space will allow for social events as well. Members re being consulted and consideration given to the 50+ year life of the facility, as well as engaging with the community via the Saturday Market and fundraising events.

The club is the gateway to the village and the new clubhouse will provide a great first impression.

The next step is to commit to planning and looking for support from the Parish Council.

Questions from the floor were answered as follows:

- Funding is not in place as yet, planning is fundamental to gaining grants. Sports England/National Lottery funding will be sought and expert advice from the local cricket authorities is available. Overall cost will be £500k.
- Many varied and some ramshackle changing arrangements around Devon. Current changing rooms were made for much less kit than is currently used.
- Just about at capacity for Juniors and 3rd team play at Clyst Hydon.
- Have had Devon Women's side using the pitch and hope to host more representational matches.

Council offered full support to the Club and wished them every success with their plans.

### 1.2 Thorverton Community Speed Watch Group (TCSWG)

TCSWG is always appreciative of the interest and support given to us by the Parish Council.

TCSWG has been working as a group of volunteers established by the Police in 2017 to monitor and report traffic speeds at 3 sites on roads that approach the village from different directions.

In the last 12 months, despite some poor weather that caused cancellations, we have counted 2261 vehicles travelling into the village during 35 hours of surveys spread throughout the year (an average of 65

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vehicles per hour in one direction only). Of the total counted we have reported 166 vehicles to the Police as excessive speeders significantly exceeding 30 mph (31 of those reported were travelling at 40 mph or greater with a maximum speed reported of 53 mph). Following our reports to the Police staged letters are sent by them to reported offenders and visits may be made to repeat offenders. There have been delays in receiving reports from the Police but I understand that the staged letters routine has not been affected. In the period 9 May 2023 to 31 March 2024 TCSWG reported 137 speeders to the Police who, after performing their checks, issued 115 stage 1 letters, 6 stage 2 and 2 stage 3 letters (stages 2 & 3 reflect multiple offenders).

Data protection rules prevent TCSWG from storing details of offenders but we can provide dates, car makes and colours of multiple offenders if required, which could be used as a "shame" list. As can be seen from the numbers, the numbers of repeat offenders is pleasingly small.

It is difficult to be precise, but the group feels that traffic speeds and the number of speeders have somewhat reduced in the village but we would like to do more.

I write particularly at this time because TCSWG has not been able to recruit new volunteers to replace those who are no longer able to assist us; as a result we are now a group of only 3 volunteers. Whilst we can continue in the short term we need more volunteers to be able to schedule an effective spread of surveys. With this in mind I ask whether the Parish Council will agree to allow TCSWG to have a presence at the next Saturday Market by making partial use of the table/stand that I understand is routinely used by the Council.

The Chairman gave the TCSWG the Council's full support to come along to the Saturday Market and wished the group well with the recruitment drive.

### 1.3 Road Warden Report

- We have a team in place Paul Uglow and Colin Wardle and myself.
- I have successfully completed DCC's online Highway Safety Awareness Course.
- I have attended in person (and passed) DCC's SWQR Unit 2 Signing, Lighting and Guarding Qualification (Chapter 8) qualification.
- I have made online applications to DCC's Highways and Traffic Management Team in both April and May for tools and materials in order that we can commence works.
- Until now due to a lack of budget, DCC's Highways and Traffic Management Team have been unable to provide any tools and materials, and we have therefore been unable to undertake any works to date.
- I am advised that there was a Road Warden Board Meeting on 3 May 2024, where my application for tools and materials was put forward for approval.
- As of the date of this email, have received no feedback from the Highways and Traffic Management Team about my application.

I hope that this is of assistance.

Council is very pleased to have the Road Team in place and asked C/Cllr Squires to help with supply of materials if possible.

## 2 Thorverton Parish Council

The Chairman reported:

Sitting down to write this report on the Parish Council's activities over the last twelve months gave me cause to consider how much is owed to parishioners who volunteer for jobs around the village.

For the last few years we have been fortunate to have Alex Fice and his band of helpers mowing the Jubilee Green and keeping that space in good order. We have been joined by more volunteers this year - Harriet Lampard and her party have planted wild flower seeds in one of the verges near The Glebe; this involved stripping back barrow loads of turf; I

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can confirm it was back breaking work to move the part that I helped with, so goodness knows how they must have felt at the end of the day.

Anne Parkinson and Felicity Cashmore have started looking after the plants and flower beds in Leigh Gardens and are doing the sensible thing by waiting to see what grows during their first year; we look forward to this area prospering as they bring in new planting during in the future.

We shouldn't forget the volunteer litter pickers as well. I only recently saw Judy Moss in Silver St collecting a bag full of other people's rubbish.

We have a new Road Warden; Rob Flatt has volunteered for the role and being the newly qualified operations manager will be easily identifiable by his clipboard. His glamorous assistants include Ern Wardle, who has assumed the title of Transport Manager as he will be pushing the wheel barrow. The third volunteer is Paul Uglow, who tells me that he is going to drive the steam roller. I may have misunderstood that last bit.

Volunteers are to the fore again in creating a new Open Space at Barliabins and trying to find sponsors for new equipment at the Rec Ground. We have hit some problems with one of the main sponsors used during the last refurbishment about ten years ago having been bought out, just as we were getting close to negotiating a new deal with them, but I know the team will persevere.

Even the biggest project that has been undertaken by the PC in years, the Affordable Housing scheme, is being run by volunteers; a special mention should be made of Andrew Wiles, the only member of the original team that was not a Councillor. A new Steering Group has been formed made up of many of the great and the good from the Parish.

Finally I should mention the work done by my colleagues, your Councillors. We can see the tangible work undertaken by the likes of Colin Marshall and Graham Sims but being handy with a shovel and paint brush is not all that is required. One of our merry band spent hours of his life battling with the Nat West Bank over the last few months as he tried to persuade them that Alison Marshall had left more than two years ago and a new Clerk was in position.

We have been joined by two new recruits this year in Steph and Shirley, both of whom are absent on leave tonight. The third recruit this year, Claire, has resigned to concentrate on the Devon Show, so we are looking for a new Councillor.

Speaking of the Council, I should also offer my personal thanks to our Clerk, Jim Roberts. You will have seen him keeping me in check during our meetings and I can confirm he does exactly the same when we discuss matters at other times. Whatever I might raise with him he always manages to answer in a polite and cheerful manner, so thank you, Jim, on behalf of all of us here, for your service with a smile.

### 3 Public Questions and Comments

There were no further questions from the floor.

**MINUTES** of the **Annual Council Meeting** of **Thorverton Parish Council** held at the Memorial Hall, Silver St, Thorverton on Tuesday 14th May 2024 after the APM.

#### **PRESENT**

Cllr Andrew Foster (Chairman)  
Cllr Andy Price (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr John Hodge  
Cllr Stuart Crang  
Cllr Colin Marshall  
Cllr Bryanna Uglow

#### **ABSENT**

Cllr Shirley Nightingale  
Cllr Stephanie Shelton  
Cllr Graham Sims

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**IN ATTENDANCE:** One member of the public County Cllr Squires  
Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)

**1 Election of Chair**

Council **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Andrew Foster as Chairman for the coming year.

*[The Chairman called forward item 12.1 as C/Cllr Squires had 2 other meetings to attend.]*

**12.1 County Councillor Report**

C/Cllr Squires reported:

The Highways Portfolio owner has reported that the recent bad weather has exposed the fragility of the road network. Up to 42 gangs have been out at the same time mending the record number of potholes that the winter weather has created.

The welcome recent additional funds allocated to Highways are going to be added to the capital projects patching carriageways, dealing with drainage and renewing road markings. Council's questions were answered as follows:

- Potholes do need to be reported even if it was recently repaired. C/Cllr Squires hopes this will have the effect of identifying the section of highway as defective leading to a more permanent repair.
- Only the potholes that are reported get repaired. All holes need to be reported no matter how near they are to others that have already been reported.
- C/Cllr Squires is frustrated by the repeating potholes and firmly believes that if the drains were kept clearer there would be fewer potholes. She has asked this question often.
- C/Cllr Squires noted the issue The Millenium Green to the Footpath Rookery (no. 11) is blocked again as the landowner has planted it with crops. Footpath no. 10 has a similar issue.
- C/Cllr Squires was aware of the posts that were inserted in the cobbles in Dinneford St outside Abbotsford. The Neighbourhood Highways Officer had visited the site and arranged for an acceptable solution for all parties with some posts removed.

*[C/Cllr Squires and one member of the public left at 7:23pm]*

**2 Apologies**

Cllr Sims is unwell, Cllrs Nightingale & Shelton are away. All sent their apologies.

**3 Election of Vice-Chair and Allocation of Working Party Roles**

Council **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Andy Price for the coming year.

Working Party Roles will be identified at the next meeting when more Cllrs are present.

**4 Councillor Administration**

**4.1 Resignation of Cllr Heaven-Roberts**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Heaven-Roberts for her efforts and contributions during her time as a Councillor. It was a shame to lose her after such a brief stay but her decision to prioritise her work for the Devon County Show was entirely understandable. Council asked the clerk to process the vacancy in the usual way.

**4.2 Registers of Interests**

No changes to current Registers of Interest.

**4.3 Contact Details**

Councillors updated their contact details for the coming year.

**5 Review of Council Orders and Policies**

The clerk advised that he would present the policies for Council approval throughout the year ensuring all were reviewed on an annual basis.

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**6 Financial Authorisation & Banking**

Council and the clerk are increasingly irritated by the woeful service provided by NatWest who have taken nearly a full year to process the clerk’s change of address and provide statements. This is after two years without fully changing the details from the previous clerk and still sending emails to her.

The Council asked the clerk to investigate other providers due to the terrible service received from the NatWest.

Council needs to update the cheque signatories with NatWest although this is a daunting prospect given the unavailability of human beings who work there who can do this.

Council **RESOLVED** to set the threshold level for purchases requiring 3 quotes at £2,000.

**7 Risk Management**

Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the document submitted for 2024-25.

**8 Dates and Times of Meetings**

Council adopted the dates for the coming year as follows:

- 7pm Tues 14th May 2024
- 7pm Tues 11th June 2024
- 7pm Tues 9th July 2024
- 7pm Tues 10th Sept 2024 (This meeting will probably be moved to a different date due to Chairman & Councillor unavailability)
- 7pm Tues 8th Oct 2024
- 7pm Tues 12th Nov 2024
- 7pm Tues 10th Dec 2024
- 7pm Tues 14th Jan 2025
- 7pm Tues 11th Feb 2025
- 7pm Tues 11th March 2025
- 7pm Tues 8th April 2025
- 6:30pm Tues 13th May 2025

**9 Public Open Session**

No issues raised.

**10 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**11 Minutes**

Council noted the meeting minutes of 9th April 2024 which will be approved at the next meeting.

**12 External Reports**

**12.1 County Councillor**

See after para 1 above.

**12.2 District Councillor**

No report this month.

**12.3 Saturday Market**

Issues raised were:

- One parishioner urged the council “get on with them” as many of the projects had been open for some time.
- Affordable Housing project ~ fact finding from some residents who could not attend the open meeting. Positive feedback from multiple

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Thorverton residents. Information given on the now live website for up-to-date information ( thorvertonclt.co.uk )

- There was a request for a 20mph thought the village request.
- A parishioner wanted to know what the large red agricultural vehicles going back and forward through the village are doing and for how long.
- Council could only make educated guesses but would remind the Parish that it is in the middle of an active farming area and these commercial vehicles are working on farm production.
- A local resident came forward to tell the council that he has been informed that the BT pole will be replaced near his home and was concerned for the piece of land and plant damage and wanted the PC to know. He also volunteered to help if needed to help look after this land, known locally as Dorothy's Triangle.
- The Council was invited to take part in Scarefest but, busy with other projects, the Council will look forward to seeing all the scarecrows on display.

### 13 Bullens Close

Council asked the clerk to explain that the pothole should be reported to DCC. The road volunteer will get on with potholes as soon as materials and tools are supplied.

### 14 Projects

#### 14.1 Affordable Housing

The Chairman reported the following:

An Open Meeting was held on 11 April and was well attended, with more than 50 members of the public coming along. A presentation was made by several of the AH group who gave more details on the type of Community Land Trust that would be most suitable for Thorverton, which potential sites had been assessed and how funding could be achieved. As a result of this Thorverton CLT has been incorporated as a Community Benefits Society. On the same day as the meeting the new Thorverton CLT website was launched [www.thorvertonclt.co.uk](http://www.thorvertonclt.co.uk) and is being updated on a regular basis; the Steering Group expect that this will be the main source of information for the parish in the future.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the AH Group, but is waiting for counter signing by the Church Commissioners' agents.

At the last PC meeting it was agreed that Council would bridge payments for items such as website costs, consultancy fees and surveys while grants from MDDC were sought.

Further progress has been made in the interim between the AH Group and MDDC, so this arrangement is not expected to last for a long time.

Council noted the payment for registration of the CLT with the Financial Conduct Authority.

### 15 Handyman

The handyman has been very ill and thus no grass has been cut. Cllr Marshall will be cutting some grass. Weeding on the cobbles will take place once Environment Agency approval has been gained for working near a watercourse.

### 16 Planning and Consultations

**16.1 24/00503/LBC Higher Dunsaller** 23 windows 3 int & 1 external door replacement  
Council **RESOLVED** to make no comment on this application.

**16.2 24/00150/FULL Lynch Farm** Roof to cover yard  
Council **RESOLVED** to make no comment on this application.

### 17 Accounts and Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

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**19.2** There is no update on the new cemetery and the Council's solicitor confirmed no action was required for this meeting.

**19.3** The Rec Working Group is considering applying for a National Lottery grant for Play Equipment.

**19.4** The claim for release of the s106 funds has been submitted to MDDC.

**19.5** Allotment rent demands have all been issued and most tenants have paid.

## **20 Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th June 2024.

**MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of The Thorverton Recreation Ground Trust** held at the Memorial Hall, Silver St, Thorverton on Tuesday 14th May 2024 after the APM & Annual Council Meeting .

### **1 Annual Report**

The Chairman was pleased with the continued regular use of the Rec by so many residents and visitors both on an ad hoc basis and by the Thorverton Football Club. He expressed the Trustees' hopes that the plans for new play equipment will come to fruition.

He closed by offering the thanks of the whole community to Cllr Graham Sims who gives so freely and enthusiastically of his time to maintain the Rec and the equipment as he has done for so many years.

### **2 Annual Financial Report**

The Trustees approved the report as follows:

April 2023	£ 596.45	Nov 2023	£ 25.73
May 2023	£ 31.58	Dec 2023	£ nil
June 2023	£ nil	Jan 2024	£ nil
July 2023	£ 26.00	Feb 2024	£ nil
Aug 2023	£ nil	March 2024	£ nil
Sept 2023	£ nil	Total	£ 679.76
Oct 2023	£ nil		

All expenditure is borne by the Parish Council who insure the Rec and the equipment.

### **3 April 2024 Financial Report**

Nil

### **4 Work for 2024-25**

The Trustees asked the clerk to submit the funding bid for £55,000 towards the Play Equipment costs to the National Lottery as prepared.

Signed ..... Date .....  
Cllr Andrew Foster, Chairman of Trustees