

**MINUTES of the THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 7.30pm, at the Thorverton Memorial Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Bright, Cllr Crang, Cllr Turner, Cllr Waldron, Cllr Lane, Cllr Spivey, Cllr Hodge and Cllr Sims.

**In attendance:** the Clerk.

**Standing Orders suspended.**

**Open Session:** one member of the public was present and wished to speak about the recently erected sign on the Jubilee Green, warning that Jericho Street is not suitable for HGV's, and suggested that the sign looks out of place. The Chairman thanked the member of public for his comments.

**Standing Orders resumed.**

**17/211 Reports:**

- i) **D/Cllr Deed** – no report submitted.
- ii) **C/Cllr Squires** – a report, regarding DCC responsibilities of Social Care, Childrens Services and Highways, had been received, circulated and noted.
- iii) **PCSO Roberts** – two crimes had been reported in January 1) malicious communications and ii) a burglary from a non-dwelling where tools had been stolen.
- iv) **TMGT** – Cllr Spivey reported that the field had recently been tidied up and that another gathering would take place this Saturday and anyone wishing to help strip the willow, some of which will be used to regenerate the edges of the path at the wildlife garden at the Recreation Ground, are welcome to join in.
- v) **Raddon Group** – Cllr Spivey reported that the minutes of the recent meeting had been circulated and it had been noted that interest was shown in the Handyman working in other parishes.
- vi) **Memorial Hall** – Cllr Hodge reported that the monthly Saturday Market and a Fashion Show had taken place and that the Easter Bingo, postponed Shakespeare Play, and a TADs production are coming up.
- vii) **School** – Cllr Lane reported that the recent bad weather had caused disruption at the School. He confirmed that the School is nearing capacity limits for pupils and that there are no current plans for an extension.
- viii) **Focus** – Cllr Turner reported that the AGM had taken place and that the same Focus committee remained in situ. Focus would be offering funding to local groups in the near future.
- ix) **Saturday Market** – Cllr Bright had attended the March Market and reported that 6 residents had commented on the MDDC Local Plan review enquiring as to what it was exactly (see 17/291 below). Cllr Lane volunteered to attend the April Market.

**17/212 Apologies** for absence were received from Cllr Reygate - holiday, Cllr Lawson – temporary house move, C/Cllr Squires – another meeting.

**17/213 Declarations** of Interest: none.

**17/214 Confirmation of Minutes:** it was proposed by Cllr Crang, seconded by Cllr Spivey and RESOLVED, that the minutes be signed as a correct record of the Extraordinary Meeting of Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 (5 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions).

**17/215 Annual Parish Meeting:** it was RESOLVED to amend the previously arranged date of 24<sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 due to issues with Hall availability (Cllrs Bright and Spivey).

**17/216 Development:**

**New Cemetery** – parts of a draft application form to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) were reviewed and it was RESOLVED that site of the whole document was required prior to any decision being made on whether the application was suitable for submission (Cllrs Waldron and Crang).

**Court Barton** – no update had been received from either MDDC or DCH.

**17/217 Highways:**

**a. Dark Lane** – the Chairman reported that a trench had been dug next to the wall, the Engineer had viewed the foundations, and that a report to Council was pending

**b. Lamp posts** – a letter to request support with the matter of replacement cobble work around the bases of the new village lamp posts had been sent to C/Cllr Squires and a reply was pending

**c. Traffic calming** – a letter to request support with the matter of obtaining information regarding the use of a mobile speed sign in the village had been sent to C/Cllr Squires and a response was pending

- d. School Lane verge work and zig zag lines** – no update regarding the zig zag lines. The matter of the verge work was discussed and Cllr Spivey proposed that the Parish Council (PC) does not proceed with the verge work due to the restricted benefits that this would appear to bring and the costs involved. This was seconded by Cllr Turner and RESOLVED (for Cllrs Bright, Spivey, Lane, Turner, Crang. Against Cllrs Sims and Waldron. Abstention Cllr Hodge). Earmarked funding of £500 for this project would be transferred to general reserves.
- e.** Cllr Crang reported that North Down Road, Ford Hill, and Ford (by Ford Meadow) are currently in a very muddy state leading to complaints from parishioners who had been asked to report such issues direct to DCC Highways, either on-line or by telephone, in order that the work can be reviewed and actioned.

**17/218 Getting best value from our District and County Councillors:**

following a letter to D/Cllr Deed from the clerk, on behalf of the PC, the Chairman had received a reply. In it D/Cllr Deed said that he is not disposed to attend future PC meetings for reasons disclosed at a personal meeting with the Chairman at the end of 2017 and that the MDDC Monitoring Officer (MO) was aware of this decision. D/Cllr Deed advised that he would only communicate through the Chairman but Cllr Bright, as Chairman, reported that he was not happy with this. Cllr Bright reported that the meeting referred to was a personal matter and so the details of it would remain private. It was reported that D/Cllr Deed did not appear to be happy with way the Council was being conducted. Cllr Crang proposed that a Chairman should not conduct private meetings with anyone if he/she is acting ex officio and that any PC matters should be made the business of the whole PC. This was seconded by Cllr Spivey and RESOLVED. Cllr Waldron proposed that the Clerk contact the MDDC MO, sending a copy of the letter recently sent to D/Cllr Deed, to enquire as to who may be able to help the PC in resolving this matter and as to whether any concerns about how Thorverton PC is conducted are held on record. The reason for this action is to positively improve the relationship of the PC with the D/Cllr to the benefit of the parish and the community. This was seconded by Cllr Hodge and RESOLVED.

**17/291 Mid Devon Local Plan – Sustainability Appraisal 2018:**

**Standing Orders suspended.** The member of public present reported that he knew nothing of this consultation and the proposal for approximately 51 new homes to be built within the parish.

**Standing Orders resumed.**

It was confirmed that the Consultation had been advertised on the PC noticeboard and website, in the previous meeting minutes, on the village Face Book and Next Door facilities and that it will be printed in the April Focus. Cllr Bright proposed that Cllrs put forward their suggestions regarding the Consultation and that a working party be set up to collate a report for submission to MDDC for consideration by the PC at the April meeting. He suggested that Cllr Lawson be invited to join the working party and Cllrs Spivey and Crang volunteered. This was seconded by Cllr Turner and RESOLVED.

**17/220 Handyman report:** the monthly report was reviewed and it was RESOLVED to agree payment for the hours worked (Cllrs Turner and Hodge). The Chairman explained that the pipe under the footpath leading from The Glebe to School Lane had collapsed causing a regular excess of road surface water. He proposed that C/Cllr Squires be contacted in this respect which was seconded by Cllr Turner and RESOLVED. Cllr Spivey reported a blockage between the damn and overflow which feeds Dinneford Leat which the Handyman would try to clear. Cllr Crang reported surface water on roads to the North of the parish – towards Fursdon and Higher Trey Mill – together with pot holes along the Fursdon road and asked that the Handyman look at these and, if unable to deal with them, report them to DCC Highways. Cllr Lane reported potholes in The Glebe for the Handyman to investigate. The Clerk mentioned that three wheels/tyres had been found in the Quarry Car Park, following the cutting back of the bank, and it was agreed that the Handyman should take them to the local tip.

**17/221 Finance:**

- 1) Further to an e-mail from the previous tenant of Allotment number 11, regarding the £25.00 refundable deposit, Cllr Lane proposed that the resolution from the last meeting be changed and that the £25 be refunded. This was seconded by Cllr Waldron and RESOLVED. The reason for this change of resolution was due to confirmation that the Allotment was not in a good state when taken over by the tenant.
- 2) The Chairman reported that the Clerk had accumulated 7 hours of overtime between October 2017 and February 2018 and asked the PC to consider paying the amount of £74.41 gross. This was proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded Cllr Crang, and RESOLVED. Payment would appear on the April agenda.
- 3) It was RESOLVED to agree the following payments where an amount is showing (Cllrs Bright and Crang). Cllr Hodge declared an interest in the reimbursement of shed base materials. It was RESOLVED that P Marshall be paid, up to the previously agreed amount, upon receipt of his invoice (Cllrs Bright and Crang).

February	Clerks salary (no tax due)	February 2018	£328.62 (no VAT)
	Handyman's salary (net of tax)	February 2018	£228.85 (no VAT)
	HMRC	Handyman tax due	£ 52.40 (no VAT)
	Clerks expenses	Spare notice board key, stationery	£ 69.33 (no VAT)
	P Marshall	Shed base work	£invoice pending
	Reimbursement Cllr Hodge	Shed base materials	£208.88 (incl VAT)
	Vision ICT	Annual website fee	£150.00 (incl VAT)
	Strutt & Parker	Half yearly rent for Allotment field	£ 90.00 (no VAT)
	GX Accountancy	Quarter 4 payroll	£ 42.50 (no VAT)
	Ken White Signs	Jericho Street road sign (to be reimbursed by DCC)	£158.40 (incl VAT)
	Luxton Contractor	Dark Lane digger work	£100.00 (incl VAT)

- 4) It was noted that the bank balance, as at 01/03/2018, stood at £45,371.18 prior to the deduction of earmarked funds and the above payments. Cllr Crang signed the bank reconciliation.
- 5) It was RESOLVED to approve the 2018 Statement of Internal Control (Cllrs Bright and Turner).

#### **17/222 Section 106 Funding:**

**A)** Cllr Lane circulated the final version of the poster asking for public feedback regarding the spending of S106 funding from the Court Barton development.

#### **Standing Orders suspended.**

Cllr Turner asked the member of the public where he would expect to see such a poster and the response was in Focus, the two Pubs, the PC notice boards and by word of mouth.

#### **Standing Orders resumed.**

**B)** the S106 project working party put forward a plan to rejuvenate the Barliabins Plantation, off Dark Lane, with suggestions of landscaping (£1,000), benches and pic-nic tables (£2,000), a barbeque (£500), disabled access (£5,000), fruit trees (£500), hedge layering (£500), grassing out the area (£1000) removing dead trees and debris (£500), a bug hotel and bird boxes (£500). It was RESOLVED to submit this project, with costings, to MDDC for the direction of future S106 funding (Cllrs Spivey and Turner).

**C)** MDDC had advised that the proposed Broadlands Development S106 Agreement was currently receiving legal attention and that it may now be too late for the PC to make an amendment to redirect funds from the Football Club/Rec project. The Barliabins Project would be considered, should funding be able to be re-directed, but if it was not the PC would need to put forward suggested projects in the vicinity of the Recreation Ground, after liaising with the Football Club, for the spending of these funds.

**17/123 Post Office permanent site:** Cllr Lane declared an interest in this matter due to his wife being an employee of the Post Office. Cllr Waldron reported that the working party had met with TCT, regarding the financing of a permanent site for the Post Office, and it had been confirmed by TCT that the business would not be able to pay rent for a permanent building owned by, for example, the PC. It was discussed as to whether a building could be funded from grants so that rent would not be required. A secondary consideration was that the PC may be able to provide a permanent site to enable TCT to fundraise for itself to enable a permanent building to be sourced and erected. Cllr Bright proposed that this complex matter be considered further by the PC and be placed on a future agenda when more time was available to put to it. This was seconded by Cllr Spivey and RESOLVED.

**17/124 Village Tidy Up Day:** it was RESOLVED that the next village tidy up day would take place on the morning of Saturday 7th July 2018. All volunteers to meet at 10am at Leigh Gardens (Cllrs Bright and Turner). Cllr Spivey volunteered to provide refreshments.

#### **17/125 Communications:**

- a) A thank you e-mail had been sent to the Ayres family for helping to clear the Car Park debris. Noted.
- b) MDDC 2018 parish grass cutting schedule received and dates for cutting to follow.
- c) MDDC updated parish electorate and household figures. Noted as electorate 788 and households 448.
- d) A thank you card had been received from a parishioner (plus 4 positive verbal comments since the last PC meeting) regarding the good work of the PC and Handyman. Noted.

**17/126 Planning meetings:**

- i) Cllr Bright had attended the MDDC Planning Committee, on behalf of the PC, on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 regarding Planning Application 17/01716/FUL and reported that the decision on this application had been deferred to enable a MDDC site visit. It was agreed that a PC representative would attend the site visit when notified.
- ii) Cllr Hodge had attended the MDDC Planning training on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and had learnt, for example, about planning applications being 'called in' and resulting site visits. Meeting documents were pending and will be circulated in due course. It was noted that CIL 'may or may not be' adopted and that if it is current S106 funding would then allocate to the CIL funds.

**17/127 Planning Applications:**

- i) **18/00310/FULL** installation of solar PV panels on existing sheds rear of Pynes House, Silver Street, Thorverton. After discussion Cllr Turner proposed that the PC relies on the observations of the Conservation Officer which was seconded by Cllr Crang and RESOLVED.
- ii) **18/00381/CAT** notification of intention to fell 1 Hornbeam tree within the Conservation Area at Harefields, Jericho Street, Thorverton. Cllr Turner proposed that this application be supported, due to the current state of the tree, which was seconded by Cllr Crang and RESOLVED.

**17/128 Planning Decisions:**

- i) **18/00036/CAT** notification of tree work at The Garden House, Thorverton. No objection.

**17/129 Devon Air Ambulance:** Cllr Spivey reported that a meeting, regarding parish landing sites, is pending.

**17/130 Business at the Chairman's discretion:**

- 1) Cllr Waldron congratulated the Chair due to the meeting finishing earlier than usual.
- 2) Cllr Lane thanked Cllr Sims, and all other volunteers, for clearing the snow/gritting the roads recently.
- 3) Cllr Crang was thanked for delivering salt to the village during the recent bad weather.
- 4) Cllr Sims reported that the tree work at the Rec had been postponed due to bad weather. He also reported that as the Multiplay Tunnel, which needs repair, is over 12 years old parts are no longer available and so it was agreed to put this matter on the next agenda for consideration.

**17/131 The next Parish Council meeting will take place on: Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup> 2018, at 7.30pm, the Thorverton Memorial Hall.**

**The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on: Wednesday April 25<sup>th</sup> 2018, at 7.30pm, the Thorverton Memorial Hall and all are welcome to attend both meetings.**

**The meeting closed at 21.41**