

MINUTES of the THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 9th October 2018
at 7.30pm in the Thorverton W.I. Hut

Present: Cllr N Bright (Chairman), Cllr S Crang (Vice Chairman), Cllr D Waldron, Cllr R Turner, Cllr D Reygate, Cllr N Lane, Cllr G Sims, Cllr J Spivey.

In attendance: the Clerk, D/Cllr Deed and C/Cllr Squires for part of the meeting. No members of the public.

Standing Orders suspended

External Repots:

D/Cllr Deed reported that **1)** the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Consultation (AONB) had gone to Cabinet and had now been deferred due to Government plans to review its policy on National Parks and AONB. **2)** The Court Barton Close development had won an award. **3)** The Parish Council (PC) may wish to look into a Community Land Trust although with the proposed new development at Broadlands local needs would seem to be satisfied. **4)** As the Ward Cllr for Silverton had been taken ill D/Cllr Deed would be covering the area for now.

C/Cllr Squires reported that **1)** Devon County is the 4th best area in the Country for recycling waste but investigations had shown that more could be recycled by residents. A focus on improving results is to be launched. **2)** There is an overspend on Social Care for Children - 700 children are currently being looked after in Devon – and there seems to be little that can be done to cut costs.

Police Statistics: one local crime was reported in July involving a theft from the Exe Valley Farm Shop where tools were stolen. The matter continues to be investigated.

Representative reports:

TMGT – Cllr Spivey reported that the regular working party slot had been moved to the 3rd Saturday monthly going forward. Anyone interesting in helping was welcome to attend, at the field, between 10am and 12pm.

Memorial Hall – Cllr Reygate reported that a 50/50 sale would take place at the Hall on 27th October – contact him or Colin Marshall for collection of bulk items. A Flu Clinic would take place on 24th October and a family Halloween Party would take place on 2nd November. **School** – Cllr Lane had nothing to report.

Focus – Cllr Lane announced that a 2019 Calendar had been produced, featuring local photographs, and would be available to purchase, for approximately £5, by the end of October.

Saturday Market volunteers for 13/10/2018 and 10/11/2018 were agreed as the Clerk and Cllr Lane respectively.

Standing Orders resumed

18/85 Apologies for absence: Cllr Hodge due to a holiday, Cllr Lawson due to work commitments.

18/86 Declarations of Interest: None.

18/87 Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 11th September 2018: following a discussion led by Cllr Lane, regarding the recording of votes, it was RESOLVED that the Minutes should be signed as a correct record of the meeting (Cllrs Spivey and Turner).

18/88 Devon Air Ambulance Trust: Cllr Lawson had volunteered to apply for the required planning permission on behalf of the Clerk. Local band, Stay Lucky, had volunteered to play at the Memorial Hall free of charge as part of a fund raising event and the Memorial Hall had agreed not to charge for the venue. Other funding had been secured from C/Cllr Squires and an anonymous donation. The result of the MDDC grant funding application was pending. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should clarify the funding situation regarding the electricity supply installation.

18/89 Development:

New Cemetery –

a) It was RESOLVED that the working group should meet with John Valintin, AC Archaeology, in order that the HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund) application could be completed and submitted (Cllrs Bright and Waldron).

b) 'Matched funding', as required by the HLF application, was considered and it was RESOLVED that John Valintin be asked to move forward with the template letter and to liaise with the Clerk in this regard (Cllrs Bright and Waldron).

Court Barton Deed of Variation amendment: it was noted that the amended document is nearing completion.

18/90 S106 Court Barton funding:

a) Land along Silver Street - Cllr Crang he had spoken to three owners of land along Silver Street, regarding the possible purchase of land by the PC for 'open space', and that two land owners were considering the possibility although both would wish to retain access to the rest of their land.

b) Sheep Dip - The Church Commissioners had invited the PC to enter into negotiations regarding the transfer of the site and Council were reminded that the request to purchase the Sheep Dip had come from several residents

following public consultation. It was noted that both sets of Solicitors fees would need to be covered by the PC should the transfer go ahead and that maintenance costs would need to be considered, together with costs for tidying up the site, prior to an offer being made. It was RESOLVED that the Handyman and Cllr Turner put together costings for new fencing along the stream, strimming and tidying up of the site, repairing the wall where necessary, together with any other areas such as the grill and its fixings (Cllrs Bright and Crang).

c) Other - It was RESOLVED that other ideas for the spending of the S106 funds should include the Handyman and Cllr Turner looking into costings for pic-nic tables for both Jubilee Green and Leigh Gardens and that the Clerk would contact the Court Barton Close Management Company regarding the possible purchase of land around the attenuation pond (Cllrs Crang and Waldron).

18/91 Highways:

i) Dark Lane wall

a) The working group reported that four local contractors had been invited to quote for the work on the wall and that tenders should be available for consideration at the November meeting. MDDC had confirmed that building regulations are not required. Planning Permission had been applied for by Cllr Lawson on behalf of the PC.

b) DCC Highways had advised that Dark Lane had recently been re-opened in error and it was noted that the Lane was now closed again to enable the required wall work to go ahead.

ii) Lamp post cobble work – the Clerk had spoken to the new Conservation Officer, Mr A Marsh, who confirmed that he was willing to look in to the matter and advise on the way forward.

iii) Hulk Lane – dedication of Public Bridleway – no further news had been received to date.

iv) School Lane junction – it was agreed to postpone this item until the November meeting due to the absence of Cllr Lawson. C/Cllr Squires had reported that DCC Highways is not in favour of the use of mirrors on Highways and suggested that a speed check may be appropriate. Cllr Sims advised that the Police had ruled out Bullen Street for Speedwatch due to the road not being suitable.

v) Raddon sign post – DCC Highways had advised that it had no record of an official Raddon sign ever being in place at this junction and that funding is not currently available for one. It accepts no responsibility for the illegal sign now in place which could be removed during a future inspection. If the PC wished to pay for a new sign this could be arranged through DCC Highways. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk write to DCC Highways for a quote for an official sign (Cllrs Bright and Crang).

18/92 Recreation Ground:

a) Mower - The working group reported that funding of approximately £4000 upwards (plus VAT) would be required for a new 48 inch cut ride-on-mower to replace the current smaller mower. It was confirmed that no 'lease hire' was available. Cllr Waldron suggested a jointly owned mower may be appropriate and more economical. It was agreed that the Budget for the new financial year should reflect this proposed spend (Cllrs Turner and Sims).

b) Use of the Rec - Cllr Waldron was keen for the PC to encourage an uplift in use of the Rec and suggested a trim trail or boules pitch or, out of football season, a tennis court. Cllr Crang confirmed that as the land had been given under the 'open spaces' Act no-one had exclusivity of the ground meaning it remains available for all to use at any time. It was RESOLVED to advertise the facility with a request for public feedback as to how the Rec could be better used to fit around Football Club and to include local events (Cllr Waldron and Crang). Cllrs Lane and Waldron volunteered to create a poster and to arrange for the advertising to appear in Focus and on local social media.

c) Past Mower Storage - It was RESOLVED that a thank you letter should be sent to the local resident who had been kindly housing the ride-on-mower for the past few years (Cllr Bright and Turner).

d) Grass Cutting Agreement – The Football Club had amended the suggested Agreement and it was RESOLVED to accept the amendments (Cllrs Crang and Turner). It was noted that the Agreement included the supplying of a strimmer for Football Club use and it was agreed to put the purchase of a second strimmer on the next agenda.

e) Body Twister gym equipment – Cllr Sims reported that the equipment was in need of repair around the handle bar due to paint peeling off. The Clerk had sent a photo to Wicksteed who were now dealing with the matter.

18/93 Handyman: It was RESOLVED to pay the Handyman £87.50 gross for hours worked and £87.70 (incl VAT) for materials purchased (Cllrs Bright and Waldron). A resident had donated four safety barriers and it was RESOLVED that a thank you note be sent in this regard (Cllrs Bright and Turner).

18/94 Finance:

1) The bank balance as at 01/10/2018 was noted as being £45,407.88 with Earmarked/Ring-fenced funds standing at £4,553.00 and £29,565.00 respectively. Cllr Bright signed the latest bank reconciliation dated 01/10/2018.

2) It was noted that the final half of the Precept funding of £9,835.13 had been received on 03/10/2018.

3) It was RESOLVED to make the following payments (Cllrs Bright and Waldron):

October 2018	Clerk salary	October basic pay gross	£335.00	
		Less tax due	£ 6.80	
		Net payment =	£328.20	£328.20
	HMRC	Tax due Clerk		£ 6.80
	Clerk expenses	Planning Application Dark Lane	£137.00	
		Stamps	£1.77	£138.77 (VAT n/a)
	Handyman salary	October basic pay gross	£ 87.50	
		Less tax due	£ 2.00	
		Net payment =	£ 85.50	£ 85.50
	HMRC	Tax due Handyman		£ 2.00
	Handyman expenses	Beach Brothers cork for notice boards		£ 87.70 (incl VAT)
	D May	Secure store rental (6 months)		£130.00 (VAT n/a)
	DALC	New Cemetery Training (Clerk)		£ 80.00 (incl VAT)
	L Ashworth	Plants for Leigh Gardens		£ 41.67 (VAT n/a)

4) Banked Receipts for September were noted as being: £200 returned grant funding cheque from the local WW1 Commemoration Group due to the event being cancelled.

18/95 SWW – installation of Event Date Monitoring: It was noted that the request for a dry sewer connection had been turned down due to the planned work being unable to accommodate this. A request from Openreach, on behalf of SWW, to install a telephone line to the monitoring cabinet had been received and a wayleave for this had been confirmed. It was RESOLVED to agree to the work and for the Clerk to enquire of SWW as to when negotiations would be open regarding compensation (Cllrs Bright and Crang).

18/96 Exe Valley Area of Outstanding natural Beauty: It was agreed to postpone this overview until the November meeting due to the absence of Cllr Lawson.

18/97 Communication Process: Two documents had been presented to Council for consideration and after discussion Cllr Lane proposed that the policy he had created (v.Oct 2nd) be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Waldron and RESOLVED (6 for, 2 against). The Clerk reported that she would not be able to comply with the Policy until clarification as to its lawfulness had been obtained from DALC and/or SLCC.

18/98 Communications:

- a) E-mails from a resident regarding the opening of Dark Lane. Noted. See item 18/91 i b above
- b) MDDC Chairman - Cllr Peter Heal to attend the November PC meeting. Noted.
- c) E-mail and phone call regarding weed-killing at Bullens Close. Noted.

18/99 Planning:

- 1. Planning Applications received to the date of the agenda – none.
- 2. Planning Applications received after the issue of the agenda and up to the date of this meeting: none
- 3. Planning Decisions received to the date of this meeting: none

18/100 Jubilee Green Christmas Tree and lights: Cllr Turner proposed a donation of up to £60 towards the Memorial Hall's Christmas tree, in recognition of the Christmas event put on by the Hall Committee for the community, which was seconded by Cllr Waldron and RESOLVED. It was RESOLVED to purchase a tree for Jubilee Green, up to £60, with Cllr Waldron arranging purchase and delivery. The erection, decoration and dismantling of the tree would be overseen by Cllrs Turner, Reygate, Waldron and the Handyman (Cllrs Crang and Bright). Cllr Turner proposed that the Clerk be given delegated authority to spend up to £100 on further lights either for this year or in the January sales for next year. Seconded by Cllr Bright and RESOLVED.

18/101 Clerk and Handyman Employee Annual Reviews: It was RESOLVED that Cllr Bright would make the meeting arrangements and that the working group of Cllrs Bright, Crang and Turner would oversee the reviews and report back to full Council at the November meeting.

18/102 Welcome Pack for new residents: Cllr Bright proposed that a welcome letter/pack be given to new parish residents advising of local organisations and current PC projects which was seconded by Cllr Waldron and RESOLVED. It was agreed that Cllr Bright, with the Clerk, would put together an example pack to share with Council at a future meeting and that the Clerk should ask for support of the local Postman regarding delivery.

18/103 Remembrance Day Wreath: It was RESOLVED to purchase a Wreath this year, being the Centenary, at a cost of up to £50 (Cllrs Bright and Waldron). Cllr Bright volunteered to oversee the matter.

18/104 Business at the Chairman's discretion:

1) Cllr Waldron enquired as to why 'matters arising' is no longer used during PC meetings and Cllr Crang replied that this is now considered 'poor practice' in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils advice due to the subject heading encouraging unlawful decisions.

18/105 The next meeting of the Parish Council: November 13th 2018, 7.30pm, at the Thorverton Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.51

Chairman 13th November 2018