

THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of Tuesday February 12th 2019,
7.30pm, at the Thorverton Memorial Hall

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

In attendance: the Clerk, D/Cllr Deed, C/Cllr Squires (part meeting), and 5 members of the public.

Standing Orders suspended.

Public Open Session: 2 member of the public wished to speak -

1. Hulk Lane – Councillors were asked whether they wished to raise any questions regarding the Hulk Lane Bridleway matter. Cllr Sims asked why the post at the Yellowford Farm end of the Lane was not locked and Cllr Lane asked why Hulk Lane had not yet been officially dedicated as a Public Bridleway. The resident was unable to answer either question. It was confirmed that the Chairman had received the residents e-mail on this matter, which had been circulated, but the fact that the e-mail clarified the Bridleway matter was refuted by Council members. Cllr Lane suggested that Hulk Lane was now in an unexpected state and that locally the finger was being pointed, incorrectly, at the Parish Council for this.

2. Hulk Lane – it was explained to all present that the use of the word 'lost' had caused problems during discussions between DCC Highways and the Parish Council. As this word does not appear in the Highways Act it is not relevant but the words 'stopped up', 'diverted', and 'obstructed' do appear within the Act and so could be relevant. She suggested that the old Highway is 'obstructed' and has been since the land slip. She added that costs and logistics would probably prevent the old Highway from ever being reinstated. If the old Highway was 'stopped up' or 'diverted' this would involve decisions by the Parish Council and a Magistrates Court. As this is not the case the planned Bridleway could still be achieved.

External Reports:

i) **D/Cllr Deed** – had met with members of the Boundary Commission and had discussed boundaries relating to Wards and not Constituencies or Parishes/Towns. The aim of the project is to establish electoral role numbers in 5 years' time to enable the correct number of Ward Councillors to be appointed and the Ward areas to be made even. On the local Elections, on 2nd May, Cllr Deed reported that nomination forms can be obtained from MDDC for existing Councillors, and members of the public, wishing to stand for Election. Forms need to be with MDDC by 12th April. On Hulk Lane Cllr Deed reported that the original line of the old Highway has been subject to land slip but that it still exists on the ground, and is still owned by DCC Highways, so it could be reinstated in the future. In the meantime a way round for the public had been created but not for traffic.

On the new GP Hub in Crediton Cllr Deed reported that two current surgeries will be merging and taking up a new premises in Crediton but that this will not affect the Thorverton GP Surgery in any way.

ii) **C/Cllr Squires** – no report.

iii) **Police statistics** for December 2018 show one crime of a 'violent and sexual nature' in the Broadlands area. The matter remains under investigation.

Standing Orders resumed.

18/175 Representative reports:

i) **TMGT** – Cllr Spivey reported that another working party would meet on Saturday to lay more hard core between the seats and on the paths. The School were to use the Green for an Easter Egg hunt. The working party had recently improved the paths on the Eastern side of the stream.

ii) **Memorial Hall** – Cllr Hodge reported that a fund raising event for the Helicopter Night Landing Site (DAAT) would take place on 2nd March. The Saturday market would take place in March as usual.

iii) **School** – Cllr Lane had no new developments to report and it was noted that next week is half term.

iv) **Focus** – Cllr Turner reported that the Focus AGM would take place on 6th March in the Baptist Chapel.

v) **Saturday Market** – Cllr Lane reported that a new Parish Council sign had been made and donated by Cllr Spivey and that the newly revamped documentation had been well received. Concern about the status of Hulk Lane had been raised by residents together with concern about the Ruffwell Planning Application which could cause problems with parking and traffic. Mud on the road and drainage issues along School Lane had also been raised and the Clerk confirmed that she had, on the advice of C/Cllr Squires had contacted the local PCSO who would be looking into getting the road cleared. It was noted that two residents had shown interest in becoming a Parish Councillor and the Clerk would issue nomination forms as appropriate. Cllr Spivey volunteered to attend the 9th March Saturday Market.

18/176 Apologies for absence were received from C/Cllr Squires, who would be late to the meeting, and Cllr Reygate, due to family matters.

D.F.B

18/177 Declarations of Interest: Cllr Lawson, personal interest, Hulk Lane matters due to being retained by the land owner on planning matters. Cllr Lawson, pecuniary interest, planning reference 19/00119/HOUSE as the Agent.

18/178 Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 09th January 2018: it was RESOLVED to sign the Minutes as a correct record of the meeting (Cllrs Turner and Spivey).

18/179 Assets of Community Value: MDDC had given notification that the current listing of the Thorverton Arms expires on the 20th May. Cllr Lane reported that any property listed would provide the opportunity, upon notification of sale, for the Parish Council to have first choice to raise funds to purchase it. Cllr Crang suggested that any further decision on this matter should be left for the new Parish Council following the May Elections. Cllr Bright proposed that this matter be left until the April meeting when a 'steer' by the existing Council could be Minuted for the new Council to take forward. Seconded by Cllr Waldron and RESOLVED.

18/180 Welcome Pack: the Welcome Letter had already been agreed and it was proposed by Cllr Bright that this, together with a copy of Focus, the latest meeting Minutes, contact details of Councillors and notification that the Parish Council is represented at monthly Saturday Markets, should be delivered to all new residents of the Parish with immediate effect. Seconded by Cllr Spivey and RESOLVED.

18/181 Annual Parish Meeting: it was RESOLVED to hold this meeting on Tuesday 16th April 2019, 7.30pm, in the Memorial Hall and that light refreshments be supplied by the Parish Council. (Cllrs Bright and Lawson).

18/182 Highways:

a) Lamp post cobble work – the Contractors had been in touch with Cllr Lawson and the work is pending.

b) Hulk Lane – dedication of Public Bridleway. Cllr Lawson left the room. The Chairman referred to the map and information supplied by DCC and reminded all present that no response had been received to the list of queries sent to DCC regarding this matter and that Tom Vaughan, DCC, had been invited to this evenings meeting but was not able to attend. The Parish Council had recently been advised that Hulk Lane would have to become a Permissive Bridleway, and not a Public Bridleway, which meant that the land owner had the right to close part of the Lane to the public which the Parish Council considered unacceptable. C/Cllr Squires had offered to contact DCC to arrange a meeting, between members of the Parish Council and DCC, in order to discuss the way forward. This offer was accepted. It was confirmed that everyone involved was in favour of a Public Bridleway being put in place, as had originally been promised, and so this was the expected outcome. It was noted that the original line of the Highway is now 'obstructed' and that a solution to the matter would be for this route to be diverted to that of the new Bridleway. It was also noted that bollards had been placed at both ends of Hulk Lane, to stop vehicles, which would indicate that the Bridleway was already in place but not yet declared. Cllr Spivey enquired about maintenance of the Lane and it was confirmed that this is now a DCC matter. Cllr Bright proposed that a working group be put in place in readiness for a meeting with DCC. It was RESOLVED that Cllrs Bright, Crang, Spivey, Hodge, Turner and Waldron would form this group and that a minimum of two Councillors should attend any meeting so as to report back to the Parish Council in order that any required decision(s) could be made. Seconded by Cllr Crang and RESOLVED. Cllr Lawson re-joined the meeting.

c) School Lane/Bullen Street junction safety – the suggestion of a mirror at this junction was rejected by DCC Highways due to safety issues as they are known to make drivers less cautious. As there was no other viable option put forward Cllr Bright proposed that this matter be taken off the agenda. Seconded Cllr Turner and RESOLVED.

d) Raddon sign post quote – a quote for a finger post, at £298 plus VAT, had been received. Cllr Bright reminded all present that the current sign, which had been broken, and the previous sign were not in accordance with DCC Highways regulations. It was RESOLVED not to spend public funds on a new sign (Cllrs Lane and Waldron).

e) Clearing of the Brook at Stonebridge and Hazel Cottage – Cllr Crang reported that DCC Highways had asked the Parish Council to obtain a quote to clear the Brook and also the leat at Hazel Cottage but as a resident had reported that the latter had already been cleared there seemed little point in the additional quote. Cllr Bright proposed that a quote to clear the Book only be sourced. Seconded by Cllr Crang and RESOLVED. Cllr Crang would source the quote and the Clerk would advise Hock Lee, DCC, accordingly. It would seem that although DCC would be paying for the work to be completed grant funding may need to be applied for by the Clerk.

f) Dark Lane - width restrictions. Cllrs Bright and Lawson had met with D/Cllr Deed, MDDC Conservation Officer Alex Marsh, Steve Tucker of DCC Highways, and C/Cllr Squires to discuss this matter. Steve Tucker advised that the width of the current bollards could not be altered, due to regulation, and that he would be liaising with the member of the public who had originally brought this topic to the Parish Councils attention. Cllr Bright reported that a road width sign could be put on the Barliabins site, owned by the Parish Council, to warn drivers. Cllr Lawson reported that if the road was closed at the Bullen St end a turning circle would be required which was not possible. Cllr Turner proposed that this matter be taken off the agenda. Seconded Cllr Crang and RESOLVED.

N. F. B

- g) **Bullen Hill - sinking manhole cover.** Cllrs Turner and Hodge had both reported this matter to DCC Highways.
- h) **School Lane – muddy road.** This matter had been reported to the Police, due to contact from concerned members of the public, as the road was becoming slippery and dangerous when wet. Council was reminded that DCC Highways had agreed to replace the broken pipe under the footpath leading from the Glebe, which would help towards the drainage problems, but that no timescale had been given for this work to be done.

18/183 Dark Lane Wall: due to the high cost of replacing the wall like for like a meeting had taken place involving the working group and the MDDC Conservation Officer to explore alternatives. The MDDC Conservation Office had suggested that tidying up the two ends of the wall and building a low plinth on which to stand fencing, for safety reasons, may be acceptable. The building of steps was discussed but, due to safety implications and cost, this was discounted at this stage and a hedge had been discussed but was not a favourable option. Cllr Lawson suggested that the way forward was to take advice from a Structural Engineer on the minimum height of the stonework required across the base of the gap. A sketch of a railing design could then be produced and presented to DCC Highways for consideration. If accepted the plans could then be submitted to MDDC Planning for approval. Cllr Waldron reported a long crack in the wall towards the Barliabins plantation which could be cause for concern. Cllr Crang proposed that a fencing design be produced, to include a plinth wall, and that planning permission be applied for, as necessary, and that quotes be invited to complete the work thereafter. Seconded Cllr Waldron and RESOLVED. Cllr Lawson volunteered to provide the sketch.

18/184 Devon Air Ambulance Trust: Cllr Waldron reported that plans for the fund raising event on March 2nd at the Memorial Hall were well under way. He gave thanks to the organisers and those selling the tickets. The planning application for the lighting pole was awaiting a decision by MDDC Planning.

18/185 Local Elections on 2nd May 2019: all Council members had been provided with the May 2nd process together with an e-mail link to the MDDC website in case they wished to stand for election. Four current members, including the current Chairman, had indicated their intention to stand down. The Clerk would provide nomination forms to residents who had shown interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. Any resident wishing to know more about this process could contact MDDC or the Clerk.

18/186 New Cemetery: the working group reported that the funding application to the Heritage Lotter Fund (HLF) was nearing completion and that approximately £4,100. in funding had been received from various sources towards the project to date. Mr Valentin, AC Archaeology, would contact RAMM, as no response had been received, and the Clerk would check to ensure that MDDC had been contacted. Cllr Bright reported that the HLF decision would take up to 6 weeks and that should this be agreed the next step would be to organise the required Geophysical Survey. The further 'dig' would then follow and it was expected that this would take place in September this year. Cllr Bright proposed that the working party, with the Clerk, continue to liaise with Mr Valentin in order to finalise the HLF application. Seconded by Cllr Waldron and RESOLVED.

18/187 S106 Court Barton funding:

a) **MDDC confirmation:** the Clerk had submitted project plans to MDDC regarding the Sheep Dip, and the purchasing of land from Silver Street to the Millennium Green, in order to gain confirmation that the Court Barton Close S106 funds could be used against these purchases. A response is pending.

b) **Sheep Dip site purchase** – after discussion Cllr Lane proposed that a letter, based on the free advice received from a local Land Agent, be sent to the Church Commissioners with an initial offer to purchase the site for £1.00. Seconded by Cllr Waldron and RESOLVED.

c) **Silver Street to Millennium Green land purchase** – the land in question was currently being transferred from the Developers to the new Management Company meaning that any proposal from the Parish Council would need to be delayed until the transaction had been completed.

18/188 Allotment renewals: it was reported that the annual renewals had now been completed and that three plots had changed hands. One resident remained on the waiting list. The pending new tenant of plot 11 had asked for the site to be weeded and rotivated due to the poor state it had been left in. After consideration it was RESOLVED to get the plot cleared to the value of £25.00 only and that the deposit from the previous tenant be used to cover these costs and that, if necessary, the new tenant be asked to pay any excess. It was RESOLVED not to refund the £25 deposit to the previous tenant (Cllrs Crang and Lawson). It was confirmed that the Parish Council would not supply tools and sheds to tenants as had been requested by a resident.

18/189 Community Together Grant Funding Application: it was RESOLVED to submit the application for £2,500 to MDDC towards a new ride-on-mower for the Recreation Ground (Cllrs Bright and Crang). The Clerk had also submitted a request for funding towards the mower to the Football Foundation and a response was pending.

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18/190 Recreation Ground: Cllr Sims reported that the Rec had been invaded by moles and requested that consideration be given to him purchasing two further mole traps at a cost of £10.00. This was RESOLVED (Cllrs Hodge and Spivey).

18/191 Handyman's Report: the report was considered and it was RESOLVED to pay the requested salary and expenses payments. It was RESOLVED to add the following duties to the work list – a) add the new path between Courbet Close and Dark Lane to the spraying route b) clear the debris and vegetation at the Dark Lane reservoir site c) clear the debris blocking drains at the bottom of Silver Street. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should contact DCC Highways to request that the old hedge trimmings along Silver Street, which are narrowing the footpath, be removed (Cllrs Bright and Waldron).

18/192 Finance:

- 1) **The bank balance**, as at 01/02/2019, was noted as being £54,877.81 prior to deduction of reserves.
- 2) **Banked receipts** for January were noted as being Allotment funds of £195.00 and new Cemetery donations of 500.00 from Thorverton PCC and £100.00 from an anonymous donor.
- 3) **Employee annual pay increases:** it was RESOLVED to postpone this item until the March meeting and to place it under Part 2 (Cllrs Bright and Crang).
- 4) **Replacement cheque:** it was RESOLVED to issue a replacement cheque to the Thorverton WI, and to cancel the original cheque, due to it having been lost (Cllrs Bright and Crang).
- 5) **Payments:** it was RESOLVED to make the following payments (Cllrs Bright and Turner):

	A Marshall - Clerk salary	Salary £358.29 gross Overtime Nov to January £139.68 gross Less tax due – £ 39.40	£458.57 net pay
	HMRC (A Marshall)	Tax due Clerk	£ 39.40
	A Marshall - Clerk expenses	McAfee annual laptop security £25.00, MDDC/DAAT Planning Fees £137.00 & £114.00, Asgard shed keys £29.98, Viking printer ink £18.59, Hall heating £3.00, card £1.69, Argos laminator and mouse £27.98.	£357.24 (incl VAT)
	Mid Devon Mobility	Grant Funding (agreed Dec meeting)	£200.00
	MDDC	Play/Gym Equipment Inspection	£ 68.40 (incl VAT)
	H Lawson	OS Map (DAAT)	£ 30.43
	Thorverton Memorial Hall	Speedwatch meeting – hall hire	£ 25.00
	C Marshall – Handyman salary	Salary £81.25 gross Plus tax rebate + £46.40	£127.65 net pay
	C Marshall – Handyman expenses	Cork and oil for noticeboard	£134.84 (incl VAT)

18/193 Planning Applications and Decisions received to the date of the meeting:

a) 18/01840/FULL change of use of land for the siting of permanent and touring pitches for tents and caravans the Ruffwell Inn, Thorverton. After discussion the Parish Council RESOLVED to object to this application due to the following reasons: 'this site is inappropriate for the planned development, this site is not adjacent to a settlement limit, such a development should be limited to the edge of a town as the current situation does not respect the appearance and character of the countryside, permission for residential units on this site would be unacceptable especially as it is understood that the site operates on a septic tank system and not mains drainage, vehicles towing caravans / motorhomes pulling out of or turning into the car park onto/from the busy road would cause safety issues and the entrance to this site is on a cross road and has a bus stop opposite and next to it all of which restricts visibility'. (Cllrs Lawson and Waldron).

b) 18/02000/Full erection of extensions to the existing farm shop at Exe Valley Farm Shop, Thorverton. After discussion the Parish Council RESOLVED to submit the following neutral comment 'no comment regarding this application but questions about whether there is actually mains drainage have been raised'. (Cllrs Turner and Sims).

c) 19/00037/HOUSE formation of hardstanding at Stone Bungalow, Thorverton. The Parish Council RESOLVED to make no comment on this application. (Cllrs Turner and Bright).

d) 19/00068/FULL erection of a 10m high lighting column with two 150 watt LED floodlights to provide emergency lighting for Devon Air Ambulance, Recreation Ground, Thorverton. Due to this application being in the name of the Parish Council it RESOLVED to make no comment.

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- e) **19/00162/TPO** application to pollard one Lime Tree at 16 The Glebe, Thorverton. The Parish Council RESOLVED to make no comment on this application. (Cllrs Crang and Turner).
- f) **19/00199/HOUSE** erection of a first floor extension and external alterations at Lyndale, Dinneford Street, Thorverton. Cllr Lawson left the room due to declaring a pecuniary interest. After consideration the Parish Council RESOLVED to make no comment on this application. (Cllrs Crang and Waldron). Cllr Lawson re-joined the meeting.
- g) **18/01589/HOUSE** erection of two storey side extension, single storey side and rear extensions and front porch after demolition of existing garage and conservatory including works to access. Laburnum Cottage, Bullen Street, Thorverton. Granted.
- h) **18/02018/FULL** conversion of barn to dwelling (revised scheme) at Pitt Farm, Thorverton. Granted.

C/Cllr Squires joined the meeting.

18/194 SWW – Installation of Event Date Monitoring (Quarry Car Park): the work was due to take place from 18th February and Cllr Spivey had taken photographs of the area prior to work starting. SWW had been advised regarding the PCs representation for compensation purposes.

18/195 Communications:

- a) Local Government Boundary Commission for Mid Devon. Noted.
- b) 2015-17 Mid Devon Local Plan examination. Noted.
- c) E-mail from a member of the public voicing concern about the possible width restrictions in Dark Lane. Noted and dealt with above.
- d) Communication from a member of the public concerned about planning application 18/01840/FULL. Noted and dealt with above.
- e) Gilbert Stephens Solicitors – transfer of garage 2A. It was RESOLVED that the transfer go ahead and Cllr Turner had inspected the garage and reported that it was in good order (Cllrs Turner and Waldron).
- f) RBL re thank you letter for the recent donation. Noted.

18/196 New Valley Practice: Cllr Hodge reported that a concerned resident had contacted him thinking that the local Doctors Surgery was going to close. As mentioned by D/Cllr Deed in his report this is not the case and the changes at Crediton would not affect the Thorverton practice at all.

18/197 Annual Review – Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations: it was RESOLVED to mark these documents on for a further year, after some minor amendments to the standing orders as suggested by Cllr Lane (Cllrs Bright and Crang).

18/198 Operation London Bridge – website payment: after consideration it was RESOLVED to pay the £35.00 plus VAT to the Website provider in order to implement the recommended website process upon the death of both the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh (Cllrs Bright and Lawson).

18/199 Thorverton School Report: the annual report had been requested but had not yet been received.

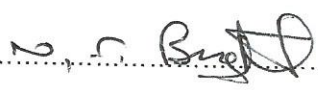
19/200 Court Barton Deed of Variation: no further update had been received.

18/201 Business at the Chairman's discretion:

- 1) Cllr Sims asked C/Cllr Squires about funding for Speedwatch signs and she agreed to look into the matter. It was confirmed that S106 funding cannot be used to purchase flashing speed signs.
- 2) Cllr Hodge enquired as to who is responsible for putting up the flags at the Church and on the Jubilee Green.
- 3) Cllr Lane requested that feedback from the recent Speedwatch meeting be a March agenda item - agreed.

18/202 The next Parish Council meeting: March 12th 2019, 7.30pm, at the Thorverton Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.58

Chairman  Date 12 March 2019,