

**Present:** Cllrs S.Crang, J.Spivey, N.Lane, H.Lawson, D.Reygate, R.Turner and J.Hodge.

**In attendance:** the Clerk and for part of the meeting C/Cllr M.Squires and PCSO A.Roberts

Standing Orders suspended.

**Public Open Session:** One member of the public was present to update the Parish Council (PC) on the Hulk Lane project and to confirm that DCC Highways had cleared the lane of mud and that the drains are due to be jetted shortly. This project has been set up under the name of 'Thorverton and Brampford Speke Community Access Project' (T&BSCAP) in partnership with DCC Highways. Funding pledges have been received, so far, from C/Cllr Squires and Brampford Speke Parish Council. The PC was asked to consider supporting the project by way of up to £8,000 from the 2017/18 Precept due to be set at this evenings meeting.

**Reports from -**

- 1) D/Cllr Deed:** the Chairman reported, on behalf of D/Cllr Deed, that the third and last Director had now been appointed at MDDC as had the Head of MDDC's Legal Department who will also cover the role of MDDC Monitoring Officer.
- 2) C/Cllr Squires:** reported that the Thorverton Bridge is in need of substantial repair which would result in the need for traffic lights and diversions. Cllr Spivey had heard that the work would start in April and take several weeks to complete. See 'Highways' below for the report on Hulk Lane.
- 3) PCSO Roberts:** the Chairman welcomed PCSO Roberts back to the role following her maternity leave. PCSO Roberts reported that the 'Speedwatch' project had not, unfortunately, progressed while she had been away and that three local volunteers had been secured to take this forward but that three further volunteers were required. She would put an advert in Focus and asked for word to be spread. Clerk to also highlight in FOCUS. In December there had been one fraud reported in the Parish, involving a resident being contacted by a fake bank, and no crimes had been reported this year to date. It was agreed that PCSO Roberts, or a colleague, should attend a future PC meeting to explain 'Smartwater' in more detail in order that the PC could decide if and how to take this security marking forward. It was noted that the 'no parking on the pavement' leaflets, as requested from PCSO Goodier, were on their way to the Clerk for distribution along Silver Street.

PCSO Roberts left the meeting.

Standing Orders resumed.

**16/280 Apologies** for absence were received from Cllrs Bright and Waldron (Theatre), Cllr Sims (ill), and D/Cllr Deed.

**16/281 Declarations** of Interest: Cllrs Hodge and Reygate declared an interest in the Memorial Hall Grant Funding due to being members of the Hall Committee.

**16/282 Dispensation** requests: none

**16/283 Confirmation of Minutes:** It was proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Hodge and RESOLVED, that the meeting minutes of December 13<sup>th</sup> 2016 be signed as a true record of the meeting.

Due to C/Cllr Squires needing to attend a further meeting the Chairman brought the 'Highways' and 'Parish Plan' agenda items forward at this stage.

**16/284 Highways:**

Hulk Lane – the open session matter, regarding Hulk Lane, was discussed at length and C/Cllr Squires report was noted in that the Hulk Lane project was progressing well and that the plans for the bridleway had been received favourably by DCC Highways. A pledge of £1,500 had been made to T&BSCAP from C/Cllr Squires, for survey work, and would be paid upon the opening of a bank account. The PC discussed the newly available Community Enhancement Fund as being a possible way to raise funding for T&BSCAP. Cllr Lawson offered to join T&BSCAP, on behalf of the PC, and to help with any funding applications and it was noted that Cllr Spivey was already a member

and PC Representative. Cllr Lawson proposed that T&BSCAP be approached to complete a PC Grant Funding application form to enable further information to be gained and, when received, the PC could then discuss funding further. This was seconded by Cllr Spivey and RESOLVED.

School Lane – MDDC had confirmed in writing that the matter of hedge removal along School Lane was being looked into. It was reported that C/Cllr Squires will be meeting with Steve Tucker, DCC Highways, shortly regarding the moving of the zig zag lines outside the School. The Chairman had met with a local contractor regarding the removal of the verge outside the School and it was estimated that it would cost £500 to take the verge back to the existing stone wall which would provide the benefit of around 2.5 feet of extra space to allow for safer car parking. This would also provide protection for the walls on the opposite side of the road. It was noted that this action could affect the existing wall and after discussion Cllr Lane volunteered to ask the School if it could encourage car owners to park next to the wall, as an alternative to the hedge, and that if the PC were to undertake the verge work would the School be prepared to make good any defects in the wall.

30mph signage – C/Cllr Squires reported that she had not yet received confirmation regarding the PC's request to include the village Traffic Order, to move the current 30mph signs, within the annual DCC Highways Traffic Order to save on funding.

Wall in Dark Lane – Cllr Crang summarised a report from Cllr Bright's site meeting with Steve Tucker (DCC Highways) on 20<sup>th</sup> December regarding the ownership of the wall – which had still not been determined - and the work required on it. Further information was pending from Mr Tucker which would then allow the PC to determine the way forward regarding the repairs. Mr Tucker and C/Cllr Squires had advised that funding from DCC for the wall repairs, even if DCC did own the wall, was very unlikely. The Clerk suggested the PC applied to the new Community Enhancement Fund and it was agreed to consider this further next month.

**16/285 Parish Plan (2008) revisited – 20mph signs:** The Clerk had e-mailed Nigel Flower, DCC, as requested, and was awaiting a response regarding 20mph speed limit signs in the village. It was noted from C/Cllr Squires that 20mph speed limits are not legally enforceable, unlike 30mph speed limits, and that it would be difficult to get this proposed action sanctioned by DCC. Due to this update Cllr Turner proposed that 20mph signs are not discussed further by the PC and this was seconded by Cllr Spivey and RESOLVED. Cllr Lane requested a recorded vote: Cllrs Turner, Spivey, Lawson, Reygate and Hodge voted for, Cllr Lane voted against, Cllr Crang abstained. C/Cllr Squires left the meeting at this stage.

**16/286 Planning Applications** received to the date of the meeting –

- a) 16/01956/HRN Hedgerow Removal Notice for the relocation of 52m of hedgerow at land South of Willhaven, Thorverton. Cllr Turner proposed that, as the PC is unaware of any history of accidents and due to the lack of justification as to why such a large volume of hedge needs to be removed for 'safety reasons', the application should NOT be supported by the PC. This was seconded by Cllr Lane and RESOLVED.
- b) 16/01985/FULL (neighbouring parish) Retention of change of use for car sales at Speedway Garage, Thorverton. The PC RESOLVED to make 'no comment' on this application.

**Planning decisions** received to the date of this meeting –

- 16/01828/CAT Notification of intention to fell 1 Beech and 1 Pear tree within the Conservation Area at 7 Silver Street, Thorverton. No objections raised.

**16/287 Thorverton Parish budget review and Precept demand for 2017/2018:** Following an in depth review of the 2017/18 Predicted Spending Report, prepared by the Clerk and circulated prior to the meeting, the following amendments were made:

- 1) Parish Council maintenance budget recommended at £2,500. It was RESOLVED that this figure be reduced to £1,500.

- 2) Recreation Ground maintenance budget recommended at £1,400. It was RESOLVED that this figure be reduced to £1,200. as proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded Cllr Hodge
- 3) Grant funding budget recommended at £2,950. It was RESOLVED that this be increased to £4,000. as proposed Cllr Lawson and seconded Cllr Reygate. Cllr Lane requested a recorded vote: Cllr Crang abstained from voting, Cllr Lane voted against, Cllrs Hodge, Spivey, Turner, Reygate and Lawson voted for the proposal.
- 4) Chairman's Allowance budget recommended at £200. It was RESOLVED that this allowance be removed from the budget as no longer required, following the gaining of the General Power of Competence, proposed Cllr Crang, seconded Cllr Hodge
- 5) Insurance budget recommended at £1,000. It was RESOLVED that this amount be reduced to £900. as proposed by Cllr Spivey and seconded by Cllr Lane
- 6) General Reserve budget recommended at £2000. It was proposed that this amount be reduced to zero by Cllr Lawson, seconded by Cllr Lane, but this motion was not carried. It was RESOLVED that the amount remain at £2,000, as recommended, proposed Cllr Turner and seconded Cllr Hodge
- 7) Income: It was RESOLVED that the TAP Funding application amount of £1,711. be included as income although this funding is not guaranteed. Proposed by Cllr Lane and seconded by Cllr Lawson.

Recreation Ground equipment replacement reserve (sink) fund budget. It was RESOLVED, as recommended, that a new reserve fund for the replacement of Recreation Ground play and general equipment be set up as proposed by Cllr Crang and seconded Cllr Turner. It was then RESOLVED, as recommended, that a budget of £2,000. be set for the new reserve fund for the tax year 2017/18 as proposed by Cllr Hodge and seconded by Cllr Reygate.

Taking into account the above amendments and the new Rec replacement reserve fund it was RESOLVED to set the 2017/18 annual Precept demand for Thorverton Parish at £19,941.00 as proposed by Cllr Spivey and seconded by Cllr Hodge. (Cllr Lane voted against, Cllrs Crang, Hodge, Reygate, Lawson, Spivey and Turner voted for the proposal). The Chairman and Clerk would produce a report for Focus, the PC noticeboard and website, explaining the rise in the Precept demand.

It was RESOLVED to take the Devon Association of Local Council (DALC) annual membership directly from the Precept demand as proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Hodge.

**16/288 Village Handyman/Road Warden:** The PC reviewed the Handyman's monthly report (circulated) and RESOLVED to pay the hours claimed as proposed by Cllr Spivey and seconded by Cllr Hodge. Handyman duties for next month were agreed as follows - cut back the hedge and bank along the boundary behind the post office in the car park, clear all village drains of leaves, unblock the pipe under the road at Bell House, clear the drain at Broadlands, clear the branches from the street light, and the mud in the gully, at the path between The Glebe and School Lane, see to the School Lane road verge as directed by the PC. The Handyman's three month employment review is pending.

**16/289 TAP Funding application:** It was proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Lane and RESOLVED, that the TAP Funding application for £1,711. to purchase Handyman tools and equipment be submitted to MDDC by the Clerk after amendment of the project start date.

**16/290 Quarry Car Park CCTV:** Cllr Hodge reported that CCVT was to be installed both inside and outside at the Post Office and that this would not encroach on members of the public using the car park. The Clerk would request copies of the proposed plans for the PC records and would check compliance with Data Protection rules.

**16/291 Grant Funding Application – Thorverton Memorial Hall:** Cllr Turner reported to Council on behalf of the Working Party, who had reviewed the application, and after discussion proposed that a grant of £650 be made

towards the £800 requested for the purchase of chairs. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Spivey and RESOLVED. (Cllrs Turner and Spivey voted for, Cllr Lane voted against, Cllrs Crang and Lawson abstained and Cllrs Reygate and Hodge declared a personal interest, due to being on the Hall Committee, and did not enter the discussion or vote).

**16/292 Recreation Ground:** The Clerk reported that the educational wildlife garden sign was still being looked into. A member of the public had offered to supply materials and to run a family bird box making morning at the February Saturday Market and it was agreed that they could share the PC table. The Clerk would advertise this.

**16/293 Financial matters -**

	tax/vat:
• Payment to the Clerk – December salary net of 20% tax	£256.12 net
• Payment to HMRC of tax – Clerks salary	£ 59.52
• Payment of Clerks expenses (stamps, cards, ink, cups, annual data protection ICO)	£ 71.37 incl.
• Payment to C Marshall for Handyman duties (Dec 7 – Jan 4) net of 20% tax	£ 60.00 net
• Payment to HMRC of tax – Handyman salary	£ 15.00

It was RESOLVED that these payments be made. Proposed Cllr Turner and seconded Cllr Hodge.

• Payment to Cllr Waldron – reimbursement for the Christmas tree	£ 40.00 n/a
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It was RESOLVED that this payment be made. Proposed Cllr Spivey and seconded Cllr Hodge.

The bank balance, as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017, was noted at £44,238.53 (earmarked reserves of £30,000 for the new Cemetery, £1,515 for Defibrillator maintenance and £5,000 for general reserves).

The Clerk reported that only three Councillors were currently bank signatories and called for additional names. Cllr Lane volunteered to be added, as did Cllr Waldron outside of the meeting, and the Clerk would arrange this. The Clerk was also looking into bank interest rates.

**16/294 Development:**

- New Cemetery – all Councillors had been invited to attend a PCC meeting – date pending – to receive a briefing from the new Reverend regarding her views on the existing graveyard and proposed new Cemetery. It was then hoped that the PC could plan a way forward regarding the proposed new Cemetery.
- Court Barton Close – an update had been received from Westhaven Homes advising that contracts will shortly be signed with Devon and Cornwall Housing for the ten affordable homes being plots 1–4 and 15-20. Open Market plots 6 and 13 had already been reserved. Plots 1–4, 5 and 6 were now being roofed. Foundation work was now completed for plots 1–18. Drainage works on site, and offsite in the field opposite, were due to be completed this month which would involve traffic lights. All work continues with attention given to causing as little disruption as possible for local residents.

**16/295 Communications** received to the date of this meeting:

- a) To note: **Christmas tree lights** - letter from a resident donating £20 – letter of thanks sent.
- b) To note: **Christmas tree lights** - box of tree lights donated by a former resident – letter of thanks sent.
- c) To note: **Council tax referendum** – DALC advised that the need for a referendum to approve tax increases has not been extended to PC's this year.
- d) To note: **Local Welfare Assistance Scheme** - from MDDC. Clerk to put in FOCUS
- e) **Hedge removal along School Lane** – the Chairman read out an e-mail response from MDDC.
- f) **Local Plan Review Consultation** – it was noted that the Plan now shows the correct Millennium Green boundaries. Public comments on the review invited by 14<sup>th</sup> February and the Clerk would advertise this in FOCUS, on the notice board, on the website, on the village Face Book and Next Door.
- g) **Hulk Lane** – the Chairman read out an e-mail from a member of the public (circulated) regarding Parish Council support with funding of up to £8,000 towards the Hulk Lane plans - as discussed in the open session. See the Highways section above for the PC's response.

**16/296 Tough Choices meeting 05.12.2016:** Cllr Crang summarised the meeting (report circulated) and it was noted that MDDC had now re-written its Street Naming Policy partly due to the Rack Park/Barton Meadows issues.

**16/297 Vodafone Signal:** Cllr Crang summarised the current situation (circulated) in that the three units are up and running around the village and that usage numbers, provided by Vodafone, evidence that residents are now benefitting from the service.

**16/298 Representative reports:**

TMGT – Cllr Spivey reported that negotiations are slow regarding the purchase of the extra land in the Millennium Green and that the AVIVA grant fund application had not, unfortunately, been successful.

Focus – Cllr Turner – no meeting. Memorial Hall – Cllr Hodge reported that wi fi installation for the Hall had been investigated but as hirers are not requesting it, currently, it does not seem a viable proposition. The PC was thanked, on behalf of the Hall, for the grant funding agreed earlier this evening. School – Cllr Lane – no meeting.

Raddon Group – Cllr Spivey - no meeting

**16/299 Monthly Market:** Cllr Crang reported that at the December market a resident had commented on the clean and tidy state of the Court Barton Close Development and that the Clerk had passed this on to the builders. Cllr Lawson would attend the January market. Cllr Lane volunteered to attend the February market. It was noted that PCSO Roberts would attend markets when on duty.

**16/300 Business at the Chairman's discretion:**

- i) Cllr Hodge asked for a storage container, to be placed in the car park for Handyman tools and equipment, to be considered and it was agreed to put this on the agenda. Cllr Turner enquired as to any Quarry Car Park garages being available but none were known of
- ii) Cllr Spivey asked for an update on the Post Office to be put on the next Agenda which was agreed
- iii) Cllr Lawson enquired about the dog bin Jericho Street and the Clerk was asked to chase this up
- iv) Cllr Reygate gave his apologies for February and March meetings as he would be on holiday
- v) Cllr Hodge enquired after the salt bin for the Quarry Car Park - it was confirmed that this was on order.

**16/301 The next Parish Council Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup> 2017** at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Thorverton. All are welcome to attend.

The meeting closed at 10.24pm