

MINUTES of the THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL meeting of 12th March 2019
at the Thorverton Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr N Bright (Chairman), Cllr S Crang (Vice Chairman), Cllr N Lane, Cllr G Sims and Cllr J Hodge.
In attendance: the Clerk, D/Cllr Deed, C/Cllr Squires and 1 member of the public.

Standing Orders suspended.

Public Open Session: no member of the public wished to speak.

External Reports:

- i) D/Cllr Deed** reported that the Inspector of the Local Plan had deliberated and that the Plan would be finalised shortly. The review result aims to make it more difficult for speculative planning applications to get approved.
- ii) C/Cllr Squires** reported that the Devon County Council (DCC) budget had been agreed resulting in an increase in Council Tax of 3.99%. The parish council was delighted to receive news that the recently applied for funding, from the Communities Together Funding pot, for the new Cemetery 'dig' and the new ride-on-mower for the Recreation Ground had, unofficially, been agreed at £2,000. and £1,250 respectively. Official notification is pending.
- iii) Police statistics** – no update since the last meeting.
- iv) Thorverton School Field** – the annual report had been requested.

18/203 Representative reports:

- i) TMGT** – no report. **ii) Memorial Hall** – Cllr Hodge reported that the March 2nd fund raising event, for the helicopter night landing site, had been successful and that a cheque, covering the profits, would be with the parish council shortly. The projector screen had been fitted above the stage in the main Hall and the ceiling projector would be fitted next week. A coffee morning, for the Greyhound Trust, is due to take place at the end of March and the Easter Bingo date is 16th April 2019. **iii) School** – Cllr Lane reported that children from Class 3 will be taking part in the 'Celebrate in Style' event, at the University Great Hall, at 7pm on April 3rd 2019. **iv) Focus** – Cllr Lane reported that the Annual General Meeting had taken place and that the same officers had been appointed. The financial position of Focus is sound and funding is available for any local organisation wishing to apply. **v) Saturday Market** – there had been no enquiries put forward but 2 further members of the public had asked to be added to the new Cemetery 'dig' volunteer listing. Cllr Lane volunteered to attend the April Market.

Standing Orders resumed.

18/204 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Waldron, holiday. Cllr Lawson, family matters. Cllrs Spivey and Turner, prior engagements.

18/205 Declarations of Interest: Cllr Bright declared an interest regarding the removal of a tree from the Churchyard due to being a member of the Parochial Church Council.

18/206 Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 12th February 2019: Cllr Lane queried reference 18/198 regarding 'Operation London Bridge' and the website procedure upon the death of the Queen. He suggested that the proposal voted on did not include the Duke of Edinburgh. It was RESOLVED to amend the Minutes accordingly and prior to being signed off as a correct record of the meeting (Cllrs Lane and Sims).

18/207 Annual Parish Meeting: due to a double booking at the Hall it was RESOLVED to change the date of the meeting from 16th April to Wednesday 17th April 2019 (Cllrs Bright and Hodge).

18/208 Speedwatch Annual Meeting: Cllr Lane reported that attendees included the Speedwatch Team and 4 members of the parish council. No Police representative was available. Cllr Lane said it was encouraging to know that the Team are working together to make the village a safer place, for both pedestrians and drivers, by pointing out the speed limit along Silver Street. The Team had undertaken 44 sessions throughout the year and a large number of first incident letters had been sent to drivers by the Police. It was noted that Lynch Road may be added to the rota later this year. It was RESOLVED that the parish council should continue to support the project thank the Speedwatch Team for its ongoing commitment (Cllrs Bright and Crang).

18/209 Helicopter Night Landing Site (DAAT): several members of the parish council had attended the successful March 2nd fund raising event at the Memorial Hall. It was RESOLVED to send 'thank you' cards to local band 'Stay Lucky', who had played for no fee, the Memorial Hall Committee, and any other volunteers that had helped (Cllrs Bright and Sims). Planning permission for the lighting pole was still awaited and once gained the project could now be finalised due to sufficient funding being in place. The overall cost of the project was noted as being £6,223.00, the parish council's liability is £3,227.00, and the remainder would be paid through Devon Air Ambulance Trust. To date parish council funding towards this project stands at £3,536.00 with a cheque from the Memorial Hall pending. Cllr Bright proposed that, once the planning permission had been granted, DAAT be instructed to complete the project. Cllr

Crang seconded this which was RESOLVED. Cllr Sims asked what would happen if the electricity supply from the WI was no longer available and it was decided that a near-by alternative source would need to be found. It was confirmed to Cllr Lane that any funding in excess of the project requirements would be ring-fenced to future associated costs.

18/210 SWW – Installation of Event Date Monitoring (Quarry Car Park): the Chairman reported that the works had now been completed, and the site left in good order, although the duct route may have been varied slightly from the plan provided. Cllr Crang reported that, as he understands it, due to the 'powers' used by SWW to complete this work it now owned part of the Freehold interest in the land and that the parish council would be unable to move the cables. Due to this compensation for the loss of Freehold value, and a request to amend the 'powers' used, was discussed. It was RESOLVED that the local Agent appointed to this matter by the parish council be asked to negotiate with SWW, on behalf of the parish council, for compensation for the loss of the Freehold value of the land, plus costs (Cllrs Crang and Hodge). It was also RESOLVED that the Post Office and TCT be asked as to whether a claim, for loss of business during the works, was felt appropriate and, should this be the case, that they liaise with the parish councils appointed Agent (Cllrs Crang and Hodge).

18/211 Highways matters:

a) Lamp post cobble work – the cobbles around the bases of two lamp posts in The Bury had been replaced to a good standard. A third lamp post, at the entrance to the Millennium Green, had been missed and the Clerk had advised the Contractors accordingly. Cllr Sims reported that the bollard at the entrance to School Lane had been knocked over again, displacing the cobbles, and the Clerk agreed to ask Cllr Turner to report this as he had been successful in doing so previously.

b) Hulk Lane dedication of Public Bridleway – C/Cllr Squires had agreed to arrange a meeting between the parish council and DCC to discuss the way forward on this matter. DCC had, however, responded in that it was not prepared to meet with the parish council. C/Cllr Squires had again tried to arrange a meeting but had received no response. The Chairman clarified the position in that the parish council is only looking to see the agreed Public Bridleway put in place, instead of the suggested Permissive Bridleway, to ensure that the Lane remains open to the public and could not be closed by the land owner at any time. Cllr Bright proposed that the Clerk write to Tom Vaughan of DCC, his Manager, and C/Cllr Squires to again request a meeting but this was not carried. Cllr Crang proposed that the Clerk write to Meg Booth, Head of DCC Highways, copying in C/Cllr Squires, supplying previous correspondence on the matter and asking that a meeting be arranged so that the situation can be resolved. Seconded and RESOLVED.

c) Clearing of the Brook at Stonebridge – Cllr Crang had spoken to the Contractors and would chase the quote.

d) Bullen Hill sinking manhole cover – it was reported that the work had been completed.

18/212 Dark Lane Wall: in the absence of Cllr Lawson it was agreed to postpone this matter until the April meeting.

18/213 New Cemetery: the working group had met with Mr Valentin, AC Archaeology, and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application had now been, more or less, completed. The 'unofficial' notification from C/Cllr Squires in that £2,000. of grant funding had been agreed by MDDC towards the 'dig' was noted. It was RESOLVED that the Chairman and Clerk check, finalise, and submit the application as soon as possible (Cllrs Bright and Hodge). It was expected that a response to the application would be forthcoming within the next six weeks and this would allow the required Geophysical Survey to go ahead in June/July and the community based 'dig' to be arranged for August/September of this year. It was confirmed that the sum requested of HLF was to be £29,250. less any confirmed contributions received prior to submission of the application. Donations towards the Geophysical Survey, which needed to be spent prior to the end of this tax year, were queried and Cllr Bright confirmed that DCC had been asked whether the funding could be carried over into the next tax year and that a response was pending.

18/214 Recreation Ground: Cllr Sims reported that the mole traps have worked well with three moles having been caught to date. It was noted that C/Cllr Squires had advised of 'unofficial' grant funding of £1,250. from MDDC towards the new ride-on-mower for the Rec. The Clerk had submitted a mower funding application to the Football Federation but had not yet received a response. It was RESOLVED to reimburse Cllr Sims for the two mole traps costing £9.90 (Cllrs Bright and Crang).

18/215 S106 Court Barton funding:

a) MDDC confirmation regarding S106 funding projects: no response had been received from MDDC, to date, despite numerous e-mails and phone calls. It was, therefore, agreed to request support from D/Cllr Deed on the matter of gaining an answer from MDDC regarding whether these funds can be used for the Sheep Dip purchase and the purchase of land off Silver Street projects.

b) Sheep Dip site purchase – no response had yet been received from the Church Commissioners regarding the parish council's offer to purchase the site for a nominal £1.00

c) Silver Street to Millennium Green land purchase – assuming a positive answer from MDDC it was agreed that a site meeting would be a good idea, in order to assess the situation, and that permission from the tenant farmer to enter onto the land should first be requested. Cllr Bright proposed that a working group be set up, after confirmation from both the tenant farmer and MDDC had been gained, in order to take this project forward. This was seconded by Cllr Crang and RESOLVED.

18/216 Finance:

1. The bank balance as at 01/03/2019 was noted as being £54,766.11 prior to deduction of reserves.
2. Banked receipts for February were noted as being: Cemetery 'dig' £500, Night Landing Site £525, Allotments £10
3. It was RESOLVED to pay the required ICO (Information Commissioners Office) annual fee by direct debit, with immediate effect, so as to reduce the fee from £40pa to £35pa (Cllrs Bright and Hodge).
4. It was RESOLVED to make the following payments (Cllrs Bright and Hodge):

A Marshall – Clerk salary	Salary	£358.29 gross	
	Less tax due –	£ 11.40	£346.89 net pay
HMRC (A Marshall)	Tax due Clerk		£11.40
A Marshall – Clerk expenses	Hall heating, Ink, Card		£36.99 (VAT n/a)
A Cleave	Allotment tidy up work		£25.00 (VAT n/a)
Strut & Parker	Half yearly allotment field rent		£90.00 (VAT n/a)
Vision ICT	Annual Website Management payment		£150.00 (incl VAT)
	Operation London Bridge		£42.00 (incl VAT)
GX Accounts	Outsourcing of PAYE – quarterly invoice		£18.75 (VAT n/a)
G Sims	Reimbursement for 2 mole traps		£9.90 (VAT n/a)
ICO (Information Commissioners Office)	Annual renewal		£35.00 (VAT n/a)

18/217 Planning Applications:

a) 19/00280/HOUSE & LBC alterations to dwelling and demolition of existing outbuildings at The Meads, Thorverton. It was RESOLVED to submit 'no comment' on this application (Cllrs Bright and Hodge).

b) 19/00393/CAT notification of intention to remove one Ilex tree within a Conservation Area at St Thomas of Canterbury Churchyard, The Bury, Thorverton. Cllr Bright declared an interest due to being a member of the PCC. It was RESOLVED to support this application (Cllrs Hodge and Lane).

18/218 Planning Decisions:

a) 19/00037/HOUSE formation of a hardstanding at Stone Bungalow, Thorverton. Granted.

b) 18/01944/LBC listed building consent to install railings and balustrade to existing steps at Court Barton, 19 Silver Street, Thorverton. Granted.

c) 18/01904/FULL erection of a dwelling and associated parking off Jericho Street, Thorverton. Granted.

18/219 Elections May 2nd 2019: Purdah requirements had been circulated to all council members. All present were reminded that the deadline for all Nomination Forms to be personally delivered to MDDC is 4pm on April 3rd 2019. Any member of the public interested in becoming a Councillor, or wishing to obtain a Nomination Form, can contact the Clerk or MDDC or further information can be found on the MDDC website.

18/220 Communications:

a) Thank you letter from Mid Devon Mobility regarding recent grant funding. Noted.

b) E-mail and 3 verbal enquiries regarding the building of a garden wall along Silver Street at Court Barton Close. The enquirers had been referred to MDDC Planning Department. Noted.

c) DCC Re-use credit scheme consultation. Noted.

d) Devon Communities re. Community Led Planning (Parish Plans). Noted.

e) CPRE Devon's New Housing Needs meeting. Noted.

18/221 Operation London Bridge: see item 18/206 for clarification on this matter.

18/222 Defibrillator: the Chairman reported that the flashing light on the cabinet had recently stopped working but that the machine itself had not been affected. A local electrician had kindly fixed the problem and no invoice had yet been received for this work. The Clerk was asked to pass on thanks to those who had helped fix the problem. It was

suggested that a training event should be organised and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk liaise with the resident overseeing the training in order that an event could be arranged (Cllrs Lane and Bright).

18/223 Court Barton Deed of Variation: correspondence had been received advising that the Deed was due to be finalised within the next week.

18/224 Volunteer Litter Picker: the parish council was saddened to hear that the current volunteer litter picker was unable to continue in the role, at the current time, due to ill health. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk pass on thanks for his years of support. It was also RESOLVED that an advert for a further litter picker be placed in Focus, on the notice board and website, due to the increase in litter being seen around the village of late. Safety equipment would be provided (Cllrs Bright and Hodge).

18/225 PART 2 (private session): it was RESOLVED (Cllrs Bright and Crang) that, due to the sensitive nature of the business to be discussed, the following items are dealt with as Part 2 business and, in accord with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be requested to leave the meeting:

- 1) **Clerk's salary:** it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should receive the automatic annual pay-rise, with effect from 01/04/2019, at static level SPC15 (to £11.91 per hour) in accordance with the National Joint Council for Local Government Services recommendations and her Contract of Employment (Cllrs Bright, Crang).
- 2) **Handyman's salary:** after discussion it was RESOLVED that the Handyman's hourly pay rate should increase to £12.75 from 01/04/2019 and that further rises should be determined by the parish council in November, annually, to come into effect from the following April 1st annually (Cllrs Crang and Lane).

18/226 Business at the Chairman's discretion:

1. Handyman's Report – nothing to report this month.
2. Cllr Sims reported that the path along Silver Street, from Court Barton Close to Exe View, had not yet been cleared by MDDC which the Clerk would follow up.
3. Cllr Hodge reported that the ditches along Silver Street had not yet been cleared by the Handyman and the Clerk confirmed that the work had been put on his work schedule.

18/227 Next meetings: it was confirmed that the **Annual Parish Meeting would take place on 17th April 2019**, in the Thorverton Memorial Hall, at 7.30pm. It was also confirmed that the next monthly Parish Council meeting would take place on Tuesday April 9th, also at the Thorverton Memorial Hall, at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at **9.20pm**

If you require this document in large print please contact the Clerk, Alison Marshall, on t. 01392 861228 or e. thorvertonpc@gmail.com