

**MINUTES of the THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019**  
**at the Thorverton Memorial Hall at 7.30pm**

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

**In attendance:** the Clerk, D/Cllr Deed and no members of the public.

Standing Orders suspended.

**Public Open Session:**

D/Cllr Deed spoke about the problems with car parking around the village centre, and on the village pavements, recently brought to his attention by residents. He suggested that such matters should be left to DCC Highways and the Police to deal with.

**External Reports:**

**i) D/Cllr Deed** reported that planning applications for new properties will have more difficulty in getting passed by District Councils in future following the Inspectors review. A report, in this connection, will be completed shortly.

**ii) C/Cllr Squires** – no report.

**iii) Police statistics** – in December 1 crime was reported being of a violent and sexual nature. The Police have been unable to prosecute the suspect and the case has been closed. In January 1 crime was reported under the heading of 'other', which includes forgery, perjury and miscellaneous matters. This crime is still under investigation.

**iv) Thorverton School** – the annual report had been received and circulated.

Standing Orders resumed.

**18/228 Representative reports:**

**i) TMGT** – Cllr Spivey reported that a March working party had cut down the excess growth on the Willows. The next working party will take place in April. The grass is in good condition this year.

**ii) Memorial Hall** – Cllr Hodge reported that Easter Bingo will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> April and the Hall AGM is pending.

**iii) Thorverton School** – Cllr Lane reported that everything appears to be running well currently. It was noted that the School was to use the Millennium Green for an Easter Egg Hunt but, due to lack of parental support, this had to be cancelled. The PTFA is looking for support and anyone interested should contact the School.

**iv) Focus** – nothing to report.

**v) Saturday Market** – Cllr Lane volunteered to attend the April Market and the Clerk volunteered to attend in May.

**18/229 Apologies** for absence: Cllr Crang due to work commitments.

**19/230 Declarations** of Interest: Cllr Lane - Broadlands Development due to being an allotment holder. Cllr Bright – Broadlands Development due to owning land bordering the building plot. Cllr Hodge – purchase of land at Silver Street due to being in discussions with the Church Commissioners on the same matter. Cllr Lawson - Hulk Lane due to involvement regarding the new Bridleway.

**18/231 Confirmation of Minutes:** it was RESOLVED to sign the Minutes, taken at the meeting of Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019, as a correct record (Cllrs Hodge and Lane).

**18/232 Helicopter Night Landing Site:** Cllr Bright reported that planning permission for the lighting pole had now been granted and that a site meeting would take place, at the Rec, tomorrow at the request of Toby Russell, DAAT, to move the project on towards completion. Cllrs Bright, Sims and Waldron volunteered to attend and to report back to Council at the May meeting. It was expected that the facility will be in operation by the summer.

**18/233 SWW – Installation of Event Date Monitoring:** the Clerk had instructed a local Agent to go ahead with the compensation claim after pending clarification to Council of the costs involved. It was confirmed that the Post Office and TCT did not wish to pursue a claim. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk write to SWW to report the poor state of the car park surface, where the tarmac meets the gravel near to the Post Office, due to the ground having sunk since being laid. A request to make good the surface, as soon as possible, would be made (Cllrs Lane and Turner).

**18/234 Highways matters:**

**a) Hulk Lane – dedication of Public Bridleway.** Tom Vaughan, DCC Highways, had agreed to a meeting with the Parish Council and Cllr Bright volunteered to arrange this. A response had been received from Meg Booth, Head of DCC Highways, advising that she was unable to help further with the matter.

**b) Clearing of the Brook at Stonebridge.** A quote had been received from a local Contractor and forwarded to DCC, as had been requested, and the Clerk was now preparing the funding application form to cover the cost of the agreed work.

**c) Clearing of the foot path along Silver Street.** The work had been requested of DCC Highways.

**d) Cobbles around the lamp post along Milford Lane.** The Contractor had confirmed that the work would be completed shortly. Cllr Spivey reported that cobbles were missing from the pavement at the front of Berry Dairy, causing a safety hazard, and it was agreed that the Clerk would report this to DCC Highways.

**18/235 Dark Lane Wall:** Cllr Lawson, who had liaised with the MDDC Conservation Officer, had created and circulated a plan of a proposed metal work fence to replace the fallen wall. All present agreed that the plan was acceptable and thanked Cllr Lawson for her work. Planning permission would be required, together with an estimate of the cost of the work, prior to going ahead with the plan and obtaining quotes. Cllr Lawson volunteered to obtain some costings for consideration at the May meeting.

**18/236 New Cemetery:** the Heritage Lottery Fund grant application had been submitted, and acknowledged, and an outcome was now awaited. It was confirmed by those present that AC Archaeology had been engaged following a review of four quotes. Cllr Lawson proposed that if HLF required further quotes then these should be obtained prior to the May meeting to avoid further time delays. Seconded by Cllr Waldron and RESOLVED. It was noted that grant funding of £2,500 had been confirmed by MDDC towards the communal dig.

**18/237 Recreation Ground:** Cllr Sims reported that the old strimmer had been serviced and is now in the shed, with relevant safety equipment, for Football Club use. A meeting is to take place in May, at the Rec, with the DCC Football Association in order that grant funding towards a new mower can be discussed. It was noted that £1,250. of grant funding had been confirmed by MDDC towards the a mower.

**18/238 Assets of Community Value:** the 5 year listing of the Thorverton Arms expires on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and the question arising was as to whether the listing should be renewed for a further 5 years. Council referred to the circulated document created by Cllr Lane, explaining the situation, and due to the impending change of both the Parish Council members, and the tenancy at the Thorverton Arms, it was RESOLVED to leave the decision to the new Parish Council at the May meeting (Cllrs Bright and Spivey).

**18/239 Correspondence Handing and Publishing Policy:** Cllr Lane and the Clerk had met to review how the existing policy was working. Both were in agreement that, with the addition of a flow-chat and some minor amendments, the policy was fit for purpose. Council was asked to review the proposed amendments and it was RESOLVED to adopt the revisions (Cllrs Waldron and Spivey). It was noted that the Council has no legal obligation to publish any meeting documentation but had resolved to do so in the interest of the public.

**18/240 S106 Court Barton funding:** MDDC had confirmed that the two projects suggested by the Parish Council for the spending of this funding being a) the purchase of the Sheep Dip and costs and b) the purchase of 'open space' land along Silver Street, would both be suitable. The Clerk would now submit the two project application forms to MDDC as requested. Thanks went to D/Cllr Deed for his help on getting a response from MDDC.

**18/241 Church Commissioner matters:**

**a) Purchase of the Sheep Dip** – no response had been received, to date, regarding the offer to purchase this site.

**b) Purchase of land along Silver Street** – the Clerk had met with the Church Commissioners Agent and had enquired as to whether any land along Silver Street, owned by the Church Commissioners, would be made available for the Parish Council to purchase by way of S106 funds from the Court Barton development. It was suggested that an offer could be made for any land of interest, except for the land opposite Court Barton Close. The area with the fallen tree, having potential for being an ideal play park site with possible direct access to the Millennium Green, was discussed and the Agent did not dissuade an offer being made to purchase this land. Cllr Hodge asked for the land in question to be clarified, with a map, as he had been in discussion with the Church Commissioners regarding the purchase of land in this area for some time. It was agreed that the Clerk would look into this matter further, for clarification, and obtain a map. Moving on to the possible purchase of land within, or alongside, the attenuation pond opposite Court Barton Close the Chairman reported that the tenant farmer had refused permission for a Parish Council site visit on his land. The Church Commissioners had, however, agreed to access onto its land, being on the other side of the pond, and so it was RESOLVED that a working group be set up to conduct the site visit to assess whether a footpath could be a possibility, from Silver Street to the Millennium field, along this route or in this vicinity. It was noted that a bridge would be required over the stream should this project go ahead. Cllrs Spivey, Lane and Hodge volunteered to be on the working group and to report back at the May meeting (Cllrs Bright and Lane).

**c) Broadlands Development** – Cllr Bright declared an interest, as noted above, and after reporting the situation to Council did not enter into further discussion or vote. Council was advised that the Church Commissioners are looking to move the current overhead cables on the development site underground, and through the allotment field, to allow the proposed development to move forward. Also, due to an issue with surface water, the Church Commissioners are looking to lay pipes through the allotment field to join up with a ditch on neighbouring land. Both these matters involve digging up of part of the allotment field and as the current Agreement does not appear to allow the laying of services a

Deed of Variation would be required. It was anticipated that four allotments could be affected and so compensation to these tenants would be considered by the Church Commissioners. The Council was asked to respond as to its thoughts on these matters and Cllr Waldron proposed that any response should be considered at the May meeting by the new Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Lawson and RESOLVED. It was suggested that, prior to a response being submitted, the new Council should consider i) the purchase of land for the new Cemetery ii) the purchase of the Sheep Dip site and iii) the purchase of land along Silver Street, all of which involve Church Commissioner owned land.

**18/242 Handyman Report:** it was RESOLVED that the salary payment of £175.00 gross, including work completed for Newton St Cyres Parish Council, be paid together with expenses/materials/mileage at £186.16 (Cllrs Bright and Turner). The report was considered and it was RESOLVED to add the clearing of glass and pottery from the footpath from Dark Lane to Lynch Road, filling a pot hole near the Broadlands entrance, and replacing the orange safety netting along Dark Lane to the list of duties (Cllrs Bright and Lane). It was RESOLVED that the clearing of the leat, in front of the Church, prior to Church week should be completed (Cllrs Turner and Bright).

**18/243 Devon Association of Local Councils:** it was RESOLVED (Cllrs Bright and Lawson) to renew the annual subscription at £220.46 (incl VAT).

**18/244 Finance:**

- 1) Bank balance as at 31/03/2019: noted as being £54,294.36 prior to deduction of reserves.
- 2) Banked receipts for March: noted as being £167, £120, £165, £25, all for the Night Landing Site, £85.95 NSC PC re. Handyman work, £33, allotments, £6.35 bank interest.
- 3) Accounts: it was RESOLVED to sign off the year-end Accounts, to 31/03/2019, along with the bank reconciliation of the same date (Cllrs Hodge and Turner).
- 4) Statement of Internal Control dated 01/04/2019: it was RESOLVED to adopt this document (Cllrs Waldron and Lawson).
- 5) Section 1 of the annual Audit Accounting Statement: it was RESOLVED to approve and sign this document (Cllrs Turner and Hodge).
- 6) Section 2 of the annual Audit Accounting Statement: it was RESOLVED to approve and sign this document (Cllrs Turner and Hodge).
- 7) Cancelled cheque no. 001451, destroyed in error, replaced by cheque no. 001461. Noted.
- 8) It was RESOLVED to make the following payments (Cllrs Waldron and Lane):

A Marshall - Clerk salary	Gross salary, tax details pending £358.29 gross. No tax due.	£358.29 net
A Marshall - Clerk expenses	Ink, stationery, stamps, heating, fuel and fuel container for Jubilee Green mower	£ 53.77 (incl VAT)
C Marshall – Handyman salary	Gross salary, tax details pending £175.00 gross	£140.00 net
HMRC (C Marshall)	Tax due, details pending	£ 35.00
C Marshall – Handyman expenses	Petrol for machinery, strimmer service, mileage, safety equipment	£186.16 (incl VAT)
DALC	Annual Membership	£220.46 (incl VAT)

**18/245 Planning Applications:**

- i) **19/00371/FULL** change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden and erection of replacement outbuilding for maintenance of cars and storage, Fordy Bridge, Raddon, Thorverton. Cllr Turner proposed 'no comment'. Seconded by Cllr Spivey and RESOLVED.
- ii) **19/00287/LBC** for the insertion of a cast iron downpipe to front at Brookside, 5 Silver Street, Thorverton. Cllr Turner proposed that the Council 'supports' this application. Seconded by Cllr Spivey and RESOLVED.

**18/246 Planning Decisions:**

- i) **19/00162/TPO** application to pollard one Lime tree at 16 The Glebe, Thorverton. Granted.
- ii) **19/00289/NMA** non material amendment to allow a change to the ridge height of storage building and gates to boundary wall to be amended to 2 leaf hinged gate, the Old Post Office, Thorverton. Granted.
- iii) **19/00376/NMA** non material amendment to allow a change to the size and position of the bungalow at Berrysbridge Lodge, Thorverton. Granted.
- iv) **19/00068/FULL** erection of a 10m height lighting column with LED floodlights to provide emergency lighting for Devon Air Ambulance, the Recreation Ground, Thorverton. Granted.
- v) **19/00074/PNCOU** prior notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling under Class Q at Charolles, Thorverton. Prior approval not required.

vi) **19/00199/HOUSE** erection of a first floor extension and external alterations at Lyndale, Dinneford Street, Thorverton. Granted.

viii) **19/00393/CAT** notification of intention to remove one Ilex Aquifolium tree at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Thorverton. No objection.

It was noted that decisions remain pending on both the Ruffwell Inn and Exe Valley Farm Shop planning applications, commented on by the Parish Council last month, and that the latter will be discussed at a MDDC Planning Committee meeting, on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, due to the District Councils intentions to refuse the application on the grounds of scale.

**18/247 Elections May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019:** it was noted that local elections will take place on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to elect a District Councillor, 2 candidates are standing, and a new Parish Council due to 11 candidates standing for 10 places.

**18/248 Communications:**

a) Telephone calls, and a letter, regarding car parking at the bottom of Jericho Street, along Silver Street, on the highway and on the cobbled pavements. The Chairman reminded Council of its resolution not to get involved in village parking matters and also the Parish Council's lack of statutory power in this regard. After discussion it was RESOLVED to pass the letter onto the Police with the writer's permission (Cllrs Turner and Spivey).

b) E-mail regarding the new front garden wall at Court Barton Close. Cllr Spivey proposed a reply be sent to the member of the public confirming that the Parish Council has been consistent in all its replies in such situations and that the person be referred to MDDC Planning Department. Seconded by Cllr Waldron and RESOLVED.

c) Keep Britain Tidy information – noted.

d) E-mail from Speedwatch – noted. It was agreed that the new Parish Council should decide on any advertising for new recruits for Speedwatch.

e) MDDC – new Duty Planning Services. Noted.

f) DCC Roadmap Information. Noted.

**18/249 Court Barton Deed of Variation:** no update received.

**18/250 Business at the Chairman's discretion:**

a) Cllr Lane suggested that a village tidy up day be put on the next agenda which was agreed. Cllr Spivey volunteered to oversee the refreshments on the day.

b) Cllr Turner thanked the Chairman for all his work over the past few years on the Parish Council and passed on his best wishes to the new Parish Council which would be in situ at the May meeting.

c) Cllr Sims suggested that the person writing to the Parish Council on parking issues should be invited to join the Speedwatch group.

d) Cllr Spivey reported that this would be his last Parish Council meeting as a Parish Councillor and suggested that the new Council should focus on being more pro-active towards the happiness of the village, planting trees and flowers, for example. He volunteered to help with such projects and added that he would continue to provide a monthly report on behalf of TMGT. He thanked the Chairman for his work over the past few years.

e) Cllr Bright thanked those who had given him support, especially in his role as Chairman, during his time on the Parish Council. He also thanked all the Parish Councillors for their time and effort over the past 4 year term of office. He advised that he will be present at the May meeting to cover the first item on the agenda, the election of a new Chairman, and that he will remain a Parish Councillor until that time. He thanked D/Cllr Deed and C/Cllr Squires for their continued support to the Parish Council.

f) Cllr Lawson thanked Cllr Spivey for all his work over the years as a Parish Councillor.

**18/251 Future Meetings:** the Thorverton Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm, in the Thorverton Memorial Hall. Light refreshments will be available and all members of the parish are welcome to attend. The next monthly Parish Council Meeting, which will be the Annual Council Meeting and the first meeting of the newly elected Parish Council, will take place on May 14<sup>th</sup> 2019, 7.30pm, at the Thorverton Memorial Hall. All are welcome to attend.

**The meeting closed at 21.35**

**Chairman ..... Date 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019**