

**Present:** Cllrs Crang, Hodge, Lane, Turner, Sims, Spivey, Waldron, Bright, Lawson, Wills.  
**In attendance:** The Clerk.

**Open Session:** 5 members of the public were present but none wished to speak at this time.

**Apologies:** D/Cllr Deed. Cllr Hodge to leave at 8.15pm due to a prior arrangement.

**16/124 Declarations of Interest:** None.

**16/125 Confirmation of Minutes** of the last meeting (circulated) of Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016 – it was proposed by Cllr Bright, seconded by Cllr Hodge and RESOLVED, that the minutes be signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**16/126 Dispensations:** None.

16/127 The meeting was closed at this point and standing orders suspended for the next item:

**Meeting between the Parish Council (PC) and Parochial Church Council (PCC) in connection with the existing graveyard and pending new cemetery.**

Apologies had been received from S Toogood and Mr and Mrs M Ayre. 5 members of the PCC were present together with 5 members of the public.

Cllr Crang gave an overview of the current situation in that the existing churchyard is getting full and a new cemetery is being planned in order to facilitate burials for the foreseeable future.

The PCC representative, Andrew Crossley, had received a reply from the Church Commissioners (CC) advising that it would sell the PC some land for a new cemetery (area not specified) at paddock prices of £20,000 per acre with, it was assumed, legal costs on top. Comparisons of such land had been provided to Mr Crossley from the CC. Mr Crossley explained that the PC had the following options regarding the land 1) to consider purchasing a large site off Dark Lane, away from the Drill Hall, for £10,750 or 2) purchasing an even larger area for £12/13k or 3) purchasing a smaller area of 0.22 of an acre – as resolved by the PC previously – at a cost of £4600. The PC would need to consider responsibility for any existing boundary wall if applicable.

Peter Colebrook confirmed that the PCC does not wish to be part of the new cemetery and that it wished to close the existing churchyard when full. Royston Kershaw reported that there are currently 12 burial plots left in the existing churchyard which, it is anticipated, will take up to 6 years to fill at 2 per year. The full churchyard would then be transferred to MDDC, via the PC, who would maintain it.

Cllr Crang enquired as to who would be the future burial authority as whilst the PC could take this on it may not be best placed to do so. Peter Colebrook advised that the PCC, longer term, was not in a position to take on any responsibility in this regard and that currently Royston Kershaw had the responsibility of the burial ground in the absence of a Rector.

It was confirmed by the PCC in general that grass cutting in the churchyard costs £1500 per year of which £600 is paid, by grant funding, by the PC.

A discussion then took place on the re-using of graves and the moving of headstones to provide more space for burials but Peter Colebrook stated that the PCC did not feel that this was appropriate for Thorverton.

Nick Herd, the current farmer tenant of the preferred new cemetery site, was present and said that he approved of the new cemetery, and a site off Dark Lane, but that he had not been approached by anyone regarding giving up the land as yet but would be willing to do so.

Cllr Crang enquired as to space on the North side of the existing churchyard which, the PC had heard, could accommodate additional graves. Peter Colebrook said that whilst space here does exist it is not an attractive area and people do not like to be buried on the North side of a churchyard.

In response to an enquiry from a member of the public, Roger Cashmore, it was confirmed that the CC were not in a position to gift land for this purpose.

Cllr Crang suggested that a decision was required on how a new cemetery would be managed and that the solution would be to extend the existing graveyard or open a new cemetery. He confirmed that if the old graveyard was closed then it could pass to MDDC, via the PC, who would then be responsible for maintenance costs.

Cllr Lawson suggested that the PC could purchase and maintain the land for the cemetery and the PCC could act as the burial authority. The PC could then take the burial income, to pay towards the Clerks time, or share it with the PCC. Peter Colebrook confirmed that the PCC was open to considering a joint venture and suggested that the new Rector would need to be involved on any final decisions. Rev Cross would be in situ by September.

Royston Kershaw confirmed that the PCC does not wish to extend the churchyard or take ownership of a new cemetery as this could prevent the closure of the churchyard. Andrew Crossley said that the PC was in a better position, funding wise, to take on this matter as funding could be raised through precept and income could be retained through burial charges to pay administration costs.

Roger Cashmore suggested the PC contact MDDC to discuss CIL payments for the village.

A member of the public, Elspeth Holmes, expressed concern about the proposed new cemetery boundary which could affect her property causing security issues. The PC confirmed that this would be considered prior to any final proposals being submitted to planning.

Cllr Wills asked for a copy of the burial plots spreadsheet to be provided to the PC and Royston Kershaw agreed that he would arrange this.

Cllr Wills expressed concern about the proposed cost of the land and it was agreed that the District Valuer should be consulted in order that a mid-price could be negotiated as this land was not 'paddock' land but agricultural land with no planning permission and so the purchase price should be well below the £20,000 per acre suggested by the CC.

Cllr Crang noted that the proposed land is subject to an agricultural tenancy which would also affect the sale price.

Jean Brown asked whether a trust could be set up to run the burial authority and Cllr Crang confirmed that this was possible and another option to consider which he would investigate further.

Cllr Hodge left the meeting at 8.20pm.

Cllr Crang re-opened the main PC meeting at this stage and standing orders were re-instated.

**16/128 Recreation Ground 'Open Day' 10.07.2016** – Cllr Crang's 'opening notes' were agreed and he confirmed that Mr David Fursdon, Lord Lieutenant of Devon, would open the event. Cllr Sims would personally invite Mr Andrews on behalf of the PC and collect the gazebo kindly being lent by a resident. Cllr Lane proposed that the PC pay the WI for the cakes being made, which could then be given away, and this was seconded by Cllr Wills and RESOLVED.

Wicksteed had provided 40 free goody bags for children and Cllr Wills would supply sweets. Viridor would be invited by Cllr Lawson and she had completed a leaflet drop around the village. Cllr Lane had advised the press - an article had appeared in the Express and Echo – and Cllr Spivey would take photos on the day for further press releases. Cllr Wills agreed to cover First Aid. The event would be free and run from 11am.

**16/129 Court Barton Development** – Cllr Crang reported that the developers had rejected the PC's suggested site name of 'Rack Park' as they had considered it 'too harsh' and that they were favouring 'Barton Meadows', or similar, which the PC had rejected due to there being no local or historical connection in the name(s). Due to this MDDC had invited the PC to suggest an alternative name and after discussion Cllr Wills proposed that the name of 'Rack Park' be re-submitted as the PC's final and only choice. This name reflects the history of the site and is the 400 year old name of the field and so would be appropriate and meet MDDC's road naming criteria. This was seconded by Cllr Turner and RESOLVED. Cllr Turner would investigate local history books for further information and Cllr Crang would provide a copy of the old tithe map for the Clerk to submit to MDDC together with an article on the use of 'racks' in farming already supplied by Cllr Crang. It was noted that MDDC would make the final decision on the name should the PC and developers continue to disagree.

### **16/130 Planning matters**

- i) 16/00663/LBC Alterations at Harefields/Crimmond, Jericho Street, Thorverton. Granted. Noted.

ii) 16/00754/CAT Removal of 1 oak tree in a conservation area at 19 Silver Street. Granted. Noted.

### 16/131 Financial matters

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| • Payment to Cllr Sims for grass seed for the Rec (re-imburement)                  | £8.24     | (incl) |
| • Payment of Clerks nett salary for June   | £185.84   |        |
| • Payment to HMRC re Clerks salary for June  | £46.46    |        |
| • Payment to the Clerk (re-imburement) for a scan-disk for backup purposes and ink | £20.00    | (incl) |
| • Payment to the Football Club for the use of its facilities at the Rec.           | £25.00    |        |
| • Payment of VAT (to be re-claimed) for the Recreation Ground play/gym equipment   | £5,000.00 |        |
| • Payment to Came and Company for adding the new Rec equipment to the Insurance    | £90.30    |        |
- To note a credit of £35.00 received from the CC regarding the Clerks time (£27.60 gross) and PC expenses in organising the public meeting.
  - It was noted that the Clerk had requested payment of £2000 from Viridor to Caloo Ltd for the table tennis table and that a cheque for the VAT on this, plus the matting and VAT as previously agreed by the PC, was being presented for signature today totalling £727.60

Cllr Wills proposed that all the above payments be authorised, Cllr Bright seconded this which was RESOLVED. Cllr Lane proposed that the Clerk be paid the £27.60 gross for the work completed regarding the recent public meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Waldron and RESOLVED. This would be added to the Clerks salary for next month and the hours removed from the monthly timesheet.

Cllr Sims reported that Wicksteed should not be paid as yet due to one disk on the Twister in the Rec not working. The Clerk had reported this to Wicksteed. Also he had paid out £14 on turf, and had laid it at no cost to the PC, due to the roundabout surround being left unfinished and muddy. The Clerk was asked to request a reduction from Wicksteed in this respect and not to pay the bill until the Twister had been sorted out. This was proposed by Cllr Sims, seconded by Cllr Waldron and RESOLVED. The Clerk reported that the S106 funding request had been submitted to MDDC to cover the see-saw and strength wheel outlay as previously resolved.

### 16/132 Committee Representative reports:

Memorial Hall – no report, Focus – no report, Raddon Group – no report, School – no report, TMGT – Cllr Spivey reported that the new steps and hand rail were now in place.

### 16/133 PCPR and Saturday Market:

Cllr Spivey reported that at the May market a resident had offered support with the new cemetery process, he was made aware of a bus damaging a property in Bullen Street and received a request for the rubbish by the Glebe wall to be removed (see 16/137 iv below).

At the June market Cllr Lawson had received 7 comments from residents with 5 being about insufficient affordable housing at the proposed Broadlands development site, 1 on drainage at the same site and 1 comment complimenting the Court Barton site manager for being helpful and friendly. It was noted that the percentage of affordable housing at the proposed Broadlands site (30%) was out of the PC's hands.

**16/134 Grant Giving Policy** – after discussion and suggestions from Cllr Lane it was agreed that the Clerk would amend the document and present it for adoption at the next meeting.

**16/135 Complaints Policy** – after discussion and suggestions from Cllr Lane it was agreed that the Clerk would amend the document and present it for adoption at the next meeting.

69

**16/136 Clerks 6 monthly review (due 01/07/2016)** – the review panel was confirmed as Cllrs Crang, Turner and Wills (to be re-visited prior to the next review) and Cllr Crang would circulate dates for consideration.

### 16/137 Business at the Chairman's discretion

- i) Cllr Crang reminded the PC that individual Cllrs do not have the power to make decisions as an individual and that all decisions must be made at a full PC meeting.
- ii) Cllr Lane requested that the revised Parish Plan be placed on the next agenda as he now had an update to report. This was agreed.
- iii) Cllr Sims advised he had been given £25 from the old Jubilee Committee and said that he would like to spend this on a new tree for the Rec. It was agreed to put this on the next agenda and it was confirmed that these funds were Cllr Sims and not the PC's.
- iv) Cllr Spivey suggested that a place in the Rec to tie up dogs be considered and it was agreed to put this on the next agenda.
- v) Cllr Waldron enquired as to when the shop/lorry would be removed from the Quarry Car Park and it was reported that the owners had pledged to remove it by mid-July.
- vi) Cllr Crang agreed to clear the rubbish by the wall of The Glebe if the Hedgehogs had now moved out.

**16/138 The next Parish Council Meeting** will take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30pm  
at Thorverton Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm