

Thorverton Parish Council May 2019

Parish Councillors:

Stuart Crang, Bidwell Barton, Thorverton, EX5 5LJ	Stuart.crang@btopenworld.com	T. 01392 860263
Robert Deed, 18 Court Barton Close, Thorverton, EX5 5BQ	robertraddon@waitrose.com	T. 01392 861258
Robert Flatt, Golly Cottage, The Bury, Thorverton, EX5 5NT	Robert.Flatt@eu.jll.com	T. 01392 860676
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John Hodge, 10 Silver Street, Thorverton, EX5 5LT	John.wjhodge@btopenworld.com	T. 01392 860088
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Graham Sims, 9 Cleves Close, Thorverton, EX5 5NN	SIMS.GI@sky.com	T. 01392 860381
David Waldron, Kibby Yew, School Lane, Thorverton, EX5 5NR	Waldron_david@msn.com	T. 01392 861185
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County Councillor - Margaret Squires, Frostlands Farm, Copplestone, Crediton, EX17 5NY
Margaret.squires@devon.gov.uk

District Councillor - Robert Deed, 18 Court Barton Close, Thorverton, EX5 5BQ
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Member of Parliament - Mel Stride, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk www.melstridemp.com

Clerk to the Council - Alison Marshall, Dinneford House, Dinneford Street, Thorverton, Devon EX5 5NU.
thorvertonpc@gmail.com T. 01392 861228 www.thorvertonparishcouncil.org.uk

Councillor Responsibilities:

Appointment of Representatives:

Focus – Cllr Wells	School – Cllr Lane	TMGT – Cllr Waldron
Raddon Group – Cllr Deed	Memorial Hall – Cllr Flatt	Recreation Ground – Cllr Sims
Highways / Footpaths – Cllr Foster	Speedwatch – Cllr Hodge	Allotments – Cllr Crang
Snow Warden – Cllr Sims		

Appointment of Working Groups:

New Cemetery – Cllrs Hodge, Lawson, Flatt, Waldron and Mr N. Bright
Section 106 funding – Cllrs Lawson, Lane, Flatt and Foster
Hulk Lane – Cllrs Crang, Hodge, Waldron, Lawson and Flatt
Grant Giving – Cllrs Waldron, Hodge, Wells
Staffing – Cllrs Deed, Lane, Flatt

Improving our Efficiency

(item 8 on the agenda for the 11 June 2019 meeting)

Purpose

1. This paper sets out a proposed approach aimed at improving the efficiency of Thorverton Parish Council and also easing some of the clerk's workload.

Background

2. A new Council gives the opportunity to consider the way in which we work. There has been criticism in the past of the length of our Council meetings and the clerk has been unable to carry out all of her work for us within her scheduled hours. There may also be scope to make our workings more transparent to parishioners. The Council has several policies which it should follow to ensure consistency of approach.
3. At the May Council meeting we expanded our list of representatives, adding highways and footpaths, Speedwatch, and the allotments to the previous list. We also set up working groups for the proposed new cemetery; section 106 funding; grant giving; and staffing.

Discussion

4. The increased areas covered by representatives or working groups gives us scope to give more responsibility to these representatives and working groups, thus potentially easing some of the pressure on the clerk and reducing some of the meeting time spent updating councillors. Representatives or working groups could present update papers before a Council meeting so that councillors simply had to take note; or where a decision was needed the appropriate representative or working group could present a paper before a meeting, making discussion at a meeting more focused with councillors having a better background to the issues. This would, of course, necessitate some extra work by those preparing papers, but should benefit other councillors and would make our consideration more transparent to parishioners. It is suggested that papers should be circulated with the agenda and should give councillors some background, present any arguments and make clear what decisions are sought.
5. While representatives or working groups might take on more responsibility, both in preparing papers for meetings and also in arranging and noting any meetings of the groups, it is important that decisions should only be taken in Council meetings. Therefore, representatives or working groups would need to look ahead at what they might need to do and seek Council agreement before acting.
6. In the past some actions agreed in a Council meeting have not always been acted on in a sufficiently timely manner, sometimes being overlooked until just before a meeting. In order to try to avoid this, the Chairman, using an action pad to help keep track, might give a reminder to those with actions a couple of weeks before a meeting. This would also give them an opportunity to discuss any concerns with the Chairman.
7. There are other things that the Council might consider, such as setting out and publishing a clear strategy; and giving parishioners the chance to feed back through an annual satisfaction survey. Councillors might also wish to find a partner councillor to give one another feedback on their impact and effectiveness.

Proposal

8. It is recommended that we should ask representatives or working groups to produce updates or papers for decision for Council.
9. Councillors should review the Council's policies (on the website) and suggest any amendments to them before the July meeting, when it is intended that they should otherwise be re-adopted and then followed. Councillors are invited to consider the other suggestions mentioned in paragraph 7 above and give feedback to the Chairman, who, in the light of that feedback may decide to propose one or more at a later date.

Neville Lane, 6 June 2019



Communications

alison marshall <thorvertonpc@gmail.com>

Press Release: Local Plan Review examination update 20th May 2019

1 message

Communications <communications@middevon.gov.uk>
To: Communications <communications@middevon.gov.uk>

Thu, May 23, 2019 at 6:10 PM

Local Plan Review examination update 20th May 2019

Planning Inspector content with J27 but has requested information on projected housing delivery and land supply

The Council has received the Inspector, Mr Griffith's, post-hearings advice note for the examination of the Mid Devon Local Plan Review.

This comes three months after the close of four days of public main hearings, at which evidence was heard from the council and other participants in relation to a range of matters raised by the Inspector.

Read the full press release at:

<https://www.middevonnewscentre.info/local-plan-review-examination-update-20th-may-2019/>

Communications

Mid Devon District Council

Email: communications@middevon.gov.uk

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Save time and do it online www.middevon.gov.uk

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Thorverton Parish Council

Copy
Clerk: Mrs A J Marshall
Dinneford House
Dinneford Street
Thorverton
Devon EX5 5NU

Mr I Walton
The Eastern Close
Lynch Road
Thorverton
EX5 5PS

20th May 2019

Dear Mr Walton,

Thank you for your letter of 4th May which was referred to at last week's Parish Council meeting during further consideration of the re-building of the Dark Lane wall.

You may already know that part of the wall had to be taken down due to safety reasons and that consultations have taken place, between the Parish Council and the East Devon District Council's Conservation Officer, regarding the best and most cost effective way to repair the wall. The quotes received to repair the wall in stone have not been published, until now, and you may be surprised to learn that they ranged from £16,779 plus VAT to £20,422 plus VAT. As these amounts were higher than expected the Parish Council felt that alternative ways of rebuilding the wall should be considered, especially as other parts of the wall will need attention in future. Unfortunately, the Section 106 funds from the Court Barton Close development cannot be used in this connection.

The plan for the wrought iron uprights had been produced as an alternative to the very high costs of rebuilding the wall in stone and, as the plan was considered to be an appropriate alternative, costings are now being sourced. The matter will be considered further at the June Parish Council meeting and your comments will, again, be taken into account.

In your letter you also refer to the state of the cobbled footpaths around the village and I can confirm that the Parish Council has taken this matter up with Mid Devon District Council and Devon County Highways.

If you require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Marshall
Clerk to Thorverton Parish Council
tel. 01392 861228 e-mail. thorvertonpc@gmail.com

Memorial Hall Update – 7 June 2019.

The following is a Summary of the minutes of the meeting was held on Wednesday 08 May 2019.

- 1 The Committee member's Roles have been clarified.
- 2 Cllr Hodges offered thanks for his gift following his resignation.
- 3 Within the AGM financial report, the Secretary considered that the finances were in good order. Other financial matters were discussed.
- 4 A sub-group is being formed to review the benefits of showing monthly children's films based on the anticipated receipt of a Viridor Credit grant for the purchase of audio-visual equipment. A press release has also been drafted with will be issued through various channels in due course.
- 5 Forthcoming Events: -
 - Beach Party Saturday 22 June.
 - Fun Day Saturday 13 July.
 - Family Halloween Party Friday 01 November.
 - Christmas Ceilidh/Barn Dance Saturday 30 November.
 - Tree Lighting Ceremony Sunday 1 December.
 - Christmas Bingo Tuesday 10 December.
- 6 The Committee rejected a request that a small number of parking spaces within the Hall car park be let to residents of Jericho Street and the Jubilee Green.
- 7 A new deposit safe is being acquired to deal with hire monies.
- 8 The external lighting to the footpath is to be improved for Health and Safety reasons.
- 9 The Committee members are meeting representatives from the new Kiddies Club.
- 10 It was agreed that a wedding information leaflet would be beneficial, and this is being explored.
- 11 The Saturday market is sufficiently staffed.
- 12 The mower has been serviced.
- 13 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 4 June 2019, (minutes of this meeting are not yet available).

ENDS

**Brampford Speke, Upton Pyne & Cowley
Community Land Trust**

Stewart Wass
Chair, BSUPC CLT
stewart@upec.co.uk

Andrew Wiles
Secretary, BSUPC CLT
andrew@apwiles.co.uk

The Chairman
Thorverton Parish Council
thorvertonpc@gmail.com

May 2019

Dear Chairman

**Could your Parish make use of
a Community Land Trust (CLT)?**

I am writing to ask whether your Parish, as one of our 'neighbours', might possibly see some benefit from having an active Community Land Trust to pursue projects in your area.

You may be aware that, with the support of both our Parish Councils, our CLT was established in 2012, with the aim of providing some new affordable housing for local people. We have so far been successful in one parish, with the development of 7 rented homes in Lake's Down, Upton Pyne. The homes are prioritised for locally-connected people, through a well-respected 's106' Planning Agreement; the definition of 'locally-connected' starts with our two parishes, and then extends to contiguous ones. The homes are let at sub-market rents, and are managed by a housing association (Hastoe).

CLTs are able to do other things than deliver affordable housing. For example, we also own & manage a small area of community land – available to all - next to the affordable housing.

It has occurred to us that our neighbouring parishes might be able to make use of a CLT, and that we could facilitate this by changing our remit to cover projects in these parishes. We would also change our governance arrangements, to make membership of the CLT a level playing field between all the parishes concerned.

We are making this approach not because we have self-aggrandising ambitions to expand but because we think that our experience and our governance infrastructure could help, could short-cut, the delivery of locally-supported projects for which a CLT is a suitable vehicle. We also think that it would strengthen our CLT for there to be a larger population from which to draw its members & directors.

If you think that your parish might possibly be interested, we would be happy to meet you to talk about – and to answer questions about - what a CLT could offer, either by attending a Parish Council meeting or by having an informal meeting with some councillors if you would prefer that as a first step.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours

Stewart Wass
Chair, BSUPC CLT

PS Could you please reply to both me & Andrew Wiles

June 2019

To the Thorverton Parish Council Chairman.

Mr Arthur Risdon died in 1894 and 125 years ago to commemorate his death, the village raised a sum of money. The monies were split between, two new bells for the Church tower and five new oil street lamps for the village.

There is still one original oil lamp stand remaining, it is supporting the road sign (Exeter/Tiverton) adjacent to the village green next to the old butcher's shop.

If you look carefully at the base of the sign you can see Arthur Risdon memorial cast in the column.

The Thorverton Royal British Legion branch, as our community project for 2019, would like to repaint the old street lamp stand and the adjacent safety rails surrounding the village brook to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the first street lights in Thorverton.

We would prepare and use Hammerite paint, black and white in colour, at no cost to the village or Councils and propose that we would like to complete the project in August of this year.

If you agree, would you kindly seek permission if needed from the appropriate authorities?

Alex Fice



Chairman, Thorverton Royal British Legion.





alison marshall <thorvertonpc@gmail.com>

TMGT report for June meeting

1 message

john spivey <jfspivey@yahoo.com>
To: thorvertonpc@gmail.com

Sat, Jun 8, 2019 at 2:01 PM

The 1 June working party attracted 10 volunteers, who did excellent work on the footpaths, mending the steps by the dual seats, strimming the rough vegetation by the stream and adding another wooden bar to the bridge railing. The Memorial Hall have mowed a clear patch of grass at the western end ready for the archery on the Fun Day. We will have another working party at the end of the month.

John Spivey TMGT

John

John Spivey  
Dinneford Spring
Thorverton
EXETER EX5 5NU
44(0)1392 861324

To: GRIMWOOD Victoria 16464 <Victoria.GRIMWOOD@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk>

Dear Victoria,

Thank you very much for your e-mail which I will share with the Parish Council. I see that the vehicles that were causing Mrs Lowry a problem in getting in and out of her drive are no longer parking opposite her home.

We are lucky enough to have a 'Speedwatch' group set up in Thorverton, which works with the Police to regularly monitor the speed of vehicles through the village, but if you have any other suggestions then the Parish Council would be more than happy to consider them. Speeding, and the number of vehicles passing through the village, is, unfortunately, a problem which is on the increase.

Kind regards,

Alison

Alison Marshall

Clerk to Thorverton Parish Council

thorvertonpc@gmail.com

On Wed, May 22, 2019 at 12:29 PM GRIMWOOD Victoria 16464 <Victoria.GRIMWOOD@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk> wrote:

Dear Alison

I have been passed a copy of the letter you forwarded onto the Police on behalf of Mrs Lowry, relating to her concerns over parking and speeding.

Since parking was decriminalised in 2008 the Police have limited powers to be able deal with these matters, unless there are aggravating factors making it unsafe, in those instances the Police should be called to make an assessment and will deal accordingly.

Demands on the Police are ever increasing and whilst we would sincerely like to be of assistance in all scenarios we very much do have to prioritise our response based on threat, risk and harm. I regularly drive through Thorverton and will continue to monitor this situation as I do so.

Mrs Lowry has been updated in person with this information, however she did mention that she would like to see some measures to reduce the speed of traffic and general parking, is this something you could collaborate with Highways over?

Kind regards

Vicky Grimwood

Neighbourhood Sergeant 6464

Cullompton Police Station

May I thank all of you who came out to vote in the District Council Election on May 2nd, however you voted.

After a campaign lasting some two months, in which residents were treated to visits on the door from both myself and Gavin Donovan, I was re-elected for a fourth term to represent Cadbury Ward.

Of the 42 District Councillors elected this time, 18 were Conservative, 12 Liberal Democrats, 10 Independents and two from the Green Party. I have been elected Leader of the Independent Group.

At the first meeting of the Full Council, on 22nd May, I had the honour of being elected the Leader of Mid Devon District Council.

Notwithstanding, I remain available to be contacted by email – bdeed@middevon.gov.uk – or telephone – 01392 861258

Cllr Bob Deed