

THURGARTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 20th APRIL 2011

Present: Councillors I Edwards (Chair)
B Brady
K Pritchard
T Monaghan
T Sheil

Cllr Stewart (NCC)

Apologies: Cllr Blaney (N&SDC)
Cllr Waine

Three members of the public attended the meeting, which commenced at 19.30hrs.

ACTION

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| 1. The minutes of the meeting of 2nd March 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman. | |
| 2. Matters arising from the previous minutes: | |
| a. The replacement interactive sign opposite the Red Lion promised by NCC Highways was now installed and appeared to be having the desired effect on traffic speed. | |
| b. Cllr Stewart agreed that areas of the new footpath between Thurgarton and Goverton that were unsatisfactory and that NCC Highways had agreed to rectify the problem. | Cllr Stewart |
| c. The clerk had previously reported the Council's concern regarding the overhanging trees on A612 opposite the Red Lion. As no action had apparently been taken, he would contact NCC Highways again regarding the issue. | Clerk |
| d. The issue of repairs to the footpath on Priory Road had been brought to the attention of NCC Highways by Cllr Stewart. They had agreed to rectify the poor surfacing. | |
| e. The clerk would again contact N&SDC Planning regarding the permitted working hours on the Bell & Webster site. | Clerk |
| f. There would be a Parish Council Election on 5 May (see para 4 below). | |
| 3. The meeting was closed at 19.38hrs to allow questions/statements from the public. | |
| a. A new street light had been installed in Bleasby Road. There had been no prior consultation with the Council. | |
| b. The planning application for Woodside Farm (11/00050/FUL) had been withdrawn. No reason had been given for the action. | |

- c. Cllr Stewart advised that the bill for provision of the two salt/grit bins supplied by NCC Highways had been cleared. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Council to Cllr Stewart for his assistance with this issue.
- d. Cllr Stewart advised that budget reductions by NCC would have little effect on Thurgarton.
- e. It was noted that the quality of grass cutting at Corner Croft was inadequate and that residents' parking remained an issue.
- f. Mr Bows expressed concern at the excessive numbers of dandelions in the verges and asked if NCC Highways planned to do anything to control them. Cllr Stewart advised that there would be two cuts by NCC (probably May and September). He also advised that in house NCC services, such as landscaping and school buses, would not be privatised as a result of budget issues.

The meeting was re-opened at 19.54 hrs.

4. Future of the Council

The Chairman advised that 10 potential candidates had put themselves forward for the 7 places available on the Parish Council. There would therefore be an election on 5 May 11, integrated with the District Council Election and National Referendum. It was noted that such an election had not been held for more than ten years and that it did offer the opportunity for the Council to be re-energised. The Chairman offered the thanks of the Council to Councillors Brady and Pritchard, who were not standing for re-election, for their efforts and years of service.

5. Annual Meeting

The Chairman advised that the Annual Meeting would be held in the Village hall on 11th May, commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman reiterated his intention to stand down from the post but confirmed that, if elected, he would continue as interim chairman to allow the new Council to settle into the job.

6. Correspondence

- a. Cllr Waine had attended the Trent Safety Meeting on 22 Mar and provided a brief to the council in his absence. Crime trends were reportedly down with a reported 53% drop in crime figures. Issues of note were obstructive parking on Bleasby Road (noted by police), and speeding motorcycles (there was an admitted inability to catch offenders by the police).

7. Planning

- a. 11/00405/FUL – 2 Priory Park - erection of a two-story side extension. The Council voted unanimously to support the application.
- b. 11/00314/FUL – Thornwood, Bleasby Road - installation of dormer window and the erection of 2 porches to front. The Council voted unanimously to support the application.

8. Finance

The account balances as at 20/04/11 were:

Current Account:	£	5933.51
(Parish Plan element)	£	1358.97
CS Account:	£	1186.31

The Council approved the following payments:

N&SDC Dog waste bin emptying.	£	24.18
CPRE Best Kept Village 2011	£	5.00

The Council approved the appointment of Mr Andrew Blyth as internal auditor for 2011 at a fee of £50.

The Clerk had received the necessary paperwork from the External Auditors (Clement Keys). The accounts would be prepared in accordance with the Financial Regulations & Standing Orders adopted by the Council at its meeting of 7 Jul 04 (para7 refers). The Council agreed to the following statement being included in the minutes to satisfy these regulations:

“The Council, having regard to the standing requirement of the external auditor to provide documentary evidence to comply with section 4 of the Account & Audit Regulations (2003), confirmed that, for the current FY, the Council had complied with these requirements and were satisfied that the financial management of the Council was effective and that there was in place a sound system of internal control which facilitated the effective exercise of that body's functions and which included arrangements for the management of risk. The Council also confirmed that the Council's insurance, as a specialist policy provided through N&SDC, covered its legal requirements and provided adequate cover against any foreseeable risks. The Council noted that it complied in all respects with the Guide to Councillors published by HMSO.”

The Clerk advised the Council of his intention to retire in the autumn.

9. Any Other Business

- a. The Chairman expressed his thanks to the current Council and retiring members.
- b. The Council agreed to a trim of the verges.

10. Arrangements for the next meeting

- a. There would be an extraordinary meeting in the Village Hall immediately following the Annual Meeting on 11th May 2011.
- b. The next ordinary meeting will be held at the Methodist Schoolroom on Wednesday, 22nd June 2011, commencing at 19.30 hours.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.35 hrs.