

THURGARTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 22nd JUNE 2011

Present: Councillors I Edwards (Chair)
N Butler
C Day
T Monaghan
E Morgan
T Smith
D Waine

Cllr Stewart (NCC)
Cllr Blaney (N&SDC)

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

ACTION

1. The Chairman welcomed the new councillors and gave a brief on the format of the meeting. The minutes of the meetings of 20th April and 15th May (extraordinary) were unanimously approved and duly signed by the Chairman.
2. Matters arising from the previous minutes:
 - a. Cllr Stewart again stated that areas of the new footpath between Thurgarton and Goverton that were totally unsatisfactory. He advised that NCC Highways were currently involved in an internal inquiry regarding expenditure. However, he believed that remedial work would be undertaken at the beginning of September. He would continue to monitor the situation. Cllr Stewart
 - b. The clerk had again reported the Council's concern regarding the overhanging trees on A612 opposite the Red Lion to NCC Highways. No action had apparently been taken. Cllr Stewart would investigate further. Cllr Stewart
 - c. The clerk would again contact N&SDC Planning regarding the permitted working hours on the Bell & Webster site. Mr Bows offered to provide the clerk with details of the working hours currently pertaining according to his records. Clerk
3. The meeting was closed at 19.42hrs to allow questions/statements from the public.
 - a. Mr Bows advised the Council that the fly infestation in the area of The Park that occurred last year had not reoccurred this year.
 - b. Mr Bows expressed the view that some signage of the recent Charity Cycle Event had been poor. Cllr Stewart advised that concerns should be notified to Peter Goode at Trent Bridge House, who was in charge of debriefing for the event.
 - c. Cllr Blaney advised that N&SDC was currently being restructured as a result of financial restraints.

- d. Mr Pritchard commented that the recent verge strim by NCC Highways was of a poor standard, that the warning sign on Bleasby Road was unlit, and that trees on A612 opposite the Red Lion were in need of attention.
- e. It was noted that the seat on the road to Hill Farm was overgrown. It was noted that this was on private land (Thoresby's), but that previously the area had been tidied as the seat was a memorial to the dogs that died in R91. The clerk would advise Thorsby of the position.
- f. In answer to questions, Cllr Stewart stated that only one new interactive traffic sign would be provided at this time It was hoped that a second would be provided at a later date if funds became available.
- g. Concern was expressed that the position regarding site working hours for the Invicta site needed to be clarified before the site was vacated by Bell & Webster. Enquiries were in hand with N&SDC Planning on the issue (see para 2c above)
- h. Several complaints had been received regarding Hill Farm College pupils. Cllr Blaney was aware of the issue and had spoken to the Principal. Two youths, thought to be the cause of the trouble, had been expelled. There were currently only 3 resident students (2 male, 1 female) and the staff pupil ratio was currently 1:1. It was noted that access to the college was now via Priory Road as Thoresby had stopped use of the other access for Health & Safety reasons.
- i. The view was expressed that money needed to be spent by the council to justify the entry into the Best Kept Village Competition.
- j. East Midlands trains would be issuing a new timetable in December. Two additional trains would stop at Thurgarton (circa 07.20 & 19.20). It had been noted that actual usage by Thurgarton was 0.4 passengers/train, which had put the service under review as being underused. There was a possibility of creating a rail "hub" at Lowdham and discontinuing the use of some other stations.
- k. It was noted that the fare for local buses had recentled increased by a factor of four. It was accepted that fares had been halved previously due to local competition which had now ceased.

Clerk

The meeting was re-opened at 20.15 hrs.

4. Correspondence

- a. Notification had been received of an application to erect a wind turbine at Gunthorpe Lock. A trial mast of 70metres was to be erected as part of a feasibility study, which would also include consultation with local residents. It was also understood that Brackenhurst College had made a similar application.

5. Planning

- a. It was understood that there was an intention to revive the lapsed planning approval for the erection of two bungalows on the plot to the rear of the Red Lion car park, and to sell the plot upon planning approval being obtained. To this end the site had been recently cleared, although it was believed that there may be an issue with access.

6. Finance

The account balances as at 22/06/11 were:

Current Account:	£	5719.33
(Parish Plan element)	£	1358.97
CS Account:	£	1186.31

The Council approved the following payments:

Gill & Sons (War Memorial balance)	£	707.76
N&SDC Insurance Premium .	£	171.74
Internal Audit (Andrew Blyth)	£	50.00
Village Hall (Annual Meeting)	£	20.00

TAG had provided a cheque for £1500 towards the cost of the War Memorial refurbishment. TAG Funds exclusive of that cheque currently stood at £5600.

The Internal Auditor had completed his audit satisfactorily. He had noted that resolution of the issue of remaining funds from the Parish Plan grant needed to be addressed. The Council agreed that some form of formal adoption of the residual monies needed to take place, and that this would require a written deposition by the Chairman of the now dissolved Parish Plan Committee. The Council voted unanimously to approve the accounts, which were then signed by the Chairman.

7. Any Other Business

- a. A complaint from Mrs Wanless (Corner Croft) regarding skateboarders was noted.
- b. Cllr Monaghan agreed to organise work parties to carry out gardening and tidying work in the public areas of the village, including the “island” at Beck Street and the area around the resources shed. It was also decided to relocate the newly delivered grit bins to more appropriate locations. The Council voted unanimously to allow Cllr Monaghan to spend up to £100 on the project.
- c. It was noted that some of the fir trees outside Priory Farm appeared to be dying. The clerk would seek specialist advice from N&SDC on the matter.
- d. A possible volunteer had been identified for Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. Cllr Waine would contact the person and confirm the position at the next meeting.

Cllr Monaghan

Clerk

Cllr Waine

ACTION

- e. It was suggested that there should be some form of Village Newsletter to disseminate information to those without internet access. The possibility of including it as part of the Church Newsletter would be explored.

Cllr Morgan

- f. The clerk would contact Newark Drainage Board to advise them that the Beck was in need of cleaning.

Clerk

8. Matters for inclusion on the next Agenda

The following items were noted: Footpaths, replacement of Chairman & Clerk

9. Arrangements for the next meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Methodist Schoolroom on Wednesday, 27th July 2011, commencing at 19.30 hours.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21.25 hrs.