

THURGARTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 27th JULY 2011

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

Cllr Stewart (NCC)

Apologies: Cllr Blaney (N&SDC)
Cllr Monaghan

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

ACTION

1. The minutes of the meetings of 22nd June were unanimously approved and duly signed by the Chairman.
2. Matters arising from the previous minutes:
 - a. The clerk had had discussions with N&DC Planning regarding the working hours on the Invicta (Bell & Webster) site if a new tenant were to be found. A subsequent email stating the Council's understanding of the position as explained by the Planning Enforcement Officer was sent to N&SDC. As there had been no further response, it is assumed that the Council understood the position correctly. The relevant text of the email was as follows:

The site and premises shall not be open for business, nor shall any business activity be carried on, other than between the hours of 7.00am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday and 7.00am and 12noon Saturdays and the site and premise shall not be open for business at all on Sundays and Bank Holidays (Oct 1988 Consent) and that the specific relaxation on working hours to accommodate Westpile's working requirements, granted under Application FUL/981141 (Nov 98), being for a limited period (to Mar 2002), no longer applies.
 - 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 (see para 3d below).
 - c. The clerk had contacted Thoresby Estates manager regarding the clearance of the area around the commemorative seat.
 - d. In the absence of Cllr Monaghan, no progress had been made with regard to the Parish Plan funds.
 - e. The working party organised by Cllr Monaghan had achieved most of its objectives. Special mention was made of the efforts of Cllr Morgan in this regard. It was noted that the original budget of £100 had been exceeded, but the Council agreed that it would meet the bills presented (see para 6 below).

ACTION

- f. N&SDC had abolished the post of trees officer held by Mr Catchpole, who had since retired. Consequently they were unable to advise on the fir trees outside Priory Farm. It would be necessary for the Council to obtain expert advice at their expense if they wished to pursue the matter further.
 - g. Ms Sparham had agreed to take on the position of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.
 - h. Cllr Morgan advised that an input from the Council could be included in future Church & Village Newsletters. These were published bi-monthly, the next being the Aug/Sep edition. The same input could also be circulated by the village email system. The Council agreed to initiate an appropriate input following this meeting.
 - i. The Newark IDB had cleared the Beck.
3. The meeting was closed at 19.45hrs to allow questions/statements from the public.
- a. Mr Bows had received a positive response from the organisers regarding signage of the recent Charity Cycle Event.
 - b. Mr Bows advised the Council that the fly infestation in the area of The Park that occurred last year had still not reoccurred this year.
 - c. Cllr Stewart advised that NCC Highways had sent an email (not received) suggesting dates for an on-site meeting to discuss rectification work to the Thurgarton/Goverton footpath. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged on 4 Aug at 9.30 (Cllrs Edwards & Smith to attend).
 - d. Cllr Stewart advised that he had spoken with Cllr Monaghan regarding the upkeep of the banks on A612 in the village. Given the issue of the overhanging trees, it was believed that a site meeting was required. NCC Highways was keen to introduce an element of localism whereby the Parish Council assumed responsibility for the upkeep of the banks. However, the Council were not prepared to make such an undertaking as it believed the steepness of the banks and the tree issues made it unacceptable. The Council believed that it was the responsibility of NCC Highways to make the area safe and then manage it. It would, however, carry out planting etc once the banks were restored. Cllr Stewart offered funds (£400) for bulbs etc to be planted later in the year. He would discuss the other matters with NCC Highways.
 - e. Mr Bows noted that a planning application submitted by Bell & Webster was apparently missing from the N&SDC Planning records.
 - f. In answer to questions, Cllr Stewart stated that the recent road works at Gunthorpe Bride were a shambles, and that NCC Highways had been forced to proffer apologies for the shortcomings of their organisation which had resulted in unacceptable traffic chaos.

Cllr Waine
Cllr Morgan

Cllr Stewart

Cllr Stewart

- g. Concern was expressed that the beech hedge at Corner Croft was excessively overgrown and needed to be trimmed and reduced in width by 50%. The clerk would contact Newark & Sherwood Homes accordingly.
- h. It was noted that the traffic warning sign by the Coach & Horses (Bleasby Road) had been unlit for approximately six weeks. NCC would be advised.

Clerk

The meeting was re-opened at 20.10 hrs.

4. Footpaths

Notification had been received from NCC of a change to their footpath maps to reflect the true position of the footpath between the Methodist Church and Priory Park. It was noted that the bridleway issue had still to be resolved after more than a year.

5. Replacement of Chairman and Clerk

Chairman

The Council agreed to hold a private meeting to discuss the Chairmanship issue. The clerk would notify all Councillors by email of the time and venue. He would also provide a written job specification for his post. The matter of replacement of both positions would be formally discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on 31st August.

Clerk

6. Correspondence

Notification of criminal damage to the trials mast for the proposed Gunthorpe Lock Wind Generator had been received. Police were investigating, and the company planned to erect a new mast.

7. Planning

- a. 11/00884/FUL Stoneacre, Bleasby Road. Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of replacement house. The council voted unanimously to oppose the application as being of inappropriate scale for the size of the plot.

8. Finance

The account balances as at 27/07/11 were:

Current Account:	£	6269.83
(Parish Plan element)	£	1358.97
CS Account:	£	1186.46

The Council approved the following payments:

Martin Cotton - strim	£	140.00
Ms Duquemin – flowers	£	15.00

The Chairman agreed to contact Mr Brady in order to resolve the issue of the disposal of the remaining Parish Plan funds.

Chairman

ACTION

9. Any Other Business

- a. The Chairman and clerk would both hold the contact information for the principle of Hill farm College.
- b. Those Councillors that had attended the NALC course agreed that it was of use. It was suggested that the Council needed to create a co-ordinated property list.
- c. It was agreed that in order to take advantage of Cllr Stewart's offer (see para 3d above) a planting plan was required. The matter would be addressed by Cllr Monaghan.
- d. It was noted that an altercation had occurred between a cycling club and a horsewoman on Bleasby Road which had resulted in Police involvement. Cllr Smith had witnessed the event and opined that the initial Police response was "not helpful". However it was understood that the Police had subsequently discussed the matter with the cycling club involved and it was hoped that a reoccurrence would not happen as a result.

Clerk

Cllr Monaghan

10. Matters for inclusion on the next Agenda

The following items were noted: replacement of Chairman & Clerk, planting plan, NALC Chairman's course

11. Arrangements for the next meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Methodist Schoolroom on Wednesday, 31st August 2011, commencing at 19.30 hours.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21.05 hrs.