

THURGARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th October 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church

Present: - Councillors Miss T. Smith, R. J. Aston, C. Day, and M/s T. Tsoukatos

In attendance: - 5 members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr. N. Harris and County/District Councillor R. Jackson sent apologies.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th August 2015 were approved.

3. Matters arising from previous Minutes

a. The Council's Clerk

Reported that a lady had accepted the Clerk's position but had this very day changed her mind. The recruitment procedure would have to be re-commenced.

Cllr. Aston agreed to produce the minutes of the meeting.

b. Councillor vacancies

Noted that there are two vacancies and that these would be advertised in the usual way.

c. Hill Farm

Noted that Parish Council representatives had visited the establishment and had been favourably impressed. The management want to become part of the community.

d. Corner Croft parking

Reported that an exit on Bleasby Road is not feasible because there is a high hedge obstructing vision. The hedge cannot be taken down without the owners' permission but it was noted that the hedge does protect the privacy of the owners of the house.

The A612 exit would be feasible if the traffic island was removed, although the Highways Department are not in favour and the Council is also in favour of retaining it.

Cllr. Day agreed to investigate with the County Council and Newark & Sherwood Homes whether there was an acceptable scheme.

4. Questions/statement from the Public

a. Corner Croft parking

Noted that the funding is still available but might be re-allocated.

b. Pothole repairs on Priory Road

Noted that the quality of the repair was poor.

c. Works on lane to Thurgarton Quarters

Noted that works were in hand in connection with the building of a grain barn and it was hoped that the lane's surface would be re-instated.

5. Planning

15/01594/FUL – Bankwood Farm, Oxtun Road, Thurgarton

Alterations to previous application

The Council unanimously supported the application.

15/01537/FUL – Railway Lake, Thurgarton Lane

Change of use of the Railway Lake to Water sport and Scouting use, incorporating installation of portacabin for changing/training room.

The Council supported the report from Hoveringham Parish Council objecting to the application and unanimously objected to the application adding its concerns on potential noise and light pollution.

Councillor Smith declared an interest in the following item and did not vote on the matter.

14/01781/FULM – Millside Stables, Southwell Road

New horse barn and change of use of the land from agricultural use to leisure use.

The Council supported the application for a new horse barn - 2 in favour with one against but unanimously opposed the change of use.

6. Emergency Planning and Welcome Pack

a. Items resolved

Noted that the Welcome Pack has been done, CPR training completed, and the various repairs arising from the village inspection undertaken. The beck has been cleared. Also noted that high viz vests have been distributed and that a flood wardens workshop had been held.

Representatives of the Parish Council had attended the Open Day at the Concrete Works, now operated by Forterra, an American/private equity firm who state that the intention is to invest in the business, but not to extend the site.

b. Flooding

Reported that a further meeting had taken place with the relevant authorities and it is likely that the upstream storage system will not be viable. A diversion channel is the most likely outcome and a decision needs to be made as to its route. The next meeting will be on 12th October 2015.

c. New houses on Coach and Horses site

Noted that the ground floor of the new houses is at ground level and hence liable to flooding. It was understood from the planning application that the floors would be raised above ground level as a protection in the event of flooding. The Planning Department has been notified but it did not perceive any problem.

7. Village Assets

a. War memorial

Reported that it had not been possible to obtain a pro bono lawyer. Cllr. Aston agreed to investigate whether it was possible for the Council to register the land itself.

b. Car parking at the railway station

Reported that the ownership of the small piece of land at the station was being investigated but that there had been no response to the latest correspondence and reminders. The matter would be pursued.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

Reported that the Steering Committee is to meet shortly to progress the Plan and noted that much work has already been done.

9. Environment

a. Bank trimming

Agreed to request Peter Yates to trim the bank sides on the A612. Noted that residents had agreed to ensure that other banks were trimmed.

b. Damage to Council's store shed

Noted that vehicles turning at the beauty salon were frequently colliding with the store shed. Agreed to ask Cllr. Harris to install a protective pole.

c. Village sign

Noted that the sign will shortly be refurbished.

d. Gate at Village Hall

Agreed that the gate to the rear of the Village Hall could be locked to exclude motor bike riders, gypsy encampments, and other unauthorised use. Cllr. Tsoukatos agreed to approach the farmer for views and also to cut the hedge bordering along Bleasby Road. The Highways Department will repair the kerb where tractors have damaged the Village Hall entrance.

e. Ditch alongside Priory Road

Noted that this needed clearing and the landowner has been advised.

f. Hill Farm

Noted that representatives of the Parish Council had visited the site and found it to be satisfactorily organised with the management desirous of engaging with the village community.

10. Finance

a. Payments approved

The Post Office Ltd – PAYE - £315.00

Payment of the retiring Clerk's salary was agreed.

11. Dates of future meetings

25th November 2015

12th January 2016