

THURGARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday February 23, 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church

Couns Tina Tsoukatos (Chairman)

Roger Aston , Denise Bryant, Charles Day, David Lewis, and Natalie Robinson.

In attendance: Clerk Mike Elliott, District Councillor Roger Jackson and four members of the public.

1] APOLOGIES There were none

2] DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were none

3] MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2017 were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman.

4] CLERK'S REPORT ON PREVIOUS MEETING BUSINESS

Following the decision the previous day by Mr Chris Peach to stand down after originally agreeing to be co-opted, the council now had a vacancy again. The matter was being dealt with.

Further information received on the event planned on November 11 next year to mark the centenary of the ending of the First World War. The event primarily will be a village bonfire or lighting a beacon. The organisers are asking parishes to trace someone within their village who had relatives in the 1914-18 war, and then to invite them to be involved in the Remembrance Day event. The matter would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The on-going matter involving Mr Neil Harris of Jackaroo Rural Services at Hollows Farm Cottage on Priory Lane resulted in receipt of a Freedom of Information request being received from him on the matter involving a right of way access on hollows Farm Lane. No printed letter he asked for is held by the clerk but he has been given a copy of an email dated May 17, 2013 and a copy of the minutes of the council held on May 22, 2013 which refer to 'written confirmation' from Thoresby Estate and which it can only be assumed is the email concerned.

At a previous meeting an email from Mr Chris Robinson concerning the speed of traffic on Beck Street and Station Road and asking among other things for 20mph signs at each end of the road and other signs being moved had been received. Coun. Jackson took the matter up with Notts County Council and they say they consider there is adequate signing provided on Beck Street.

5] ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

The meeting was addressed by Mr Bib Johal of Priory Farm. He outlined the changes he had made to his planning application in an attempt to meet objections to it by the parish council.

6] CORRESPONDENCE

Lisa Gibson-Mead, Acacia Hair Salon, Traffic Cones. Coun. Day was dealing with Notts County Council highways on the matter

Mr Phil Gleave, Roc Conversation (Redeeming Our Communities). advised of a meeting at Kelham Hall on Wednesday March 22 instigated by Mr Paddy Tipping, the Nottinghamshire Police Commissioner. No one was available to attend.

Notice has been given of the Thurgarton Village Spring Clean taking place on Saturday March 11. Coun. Denise Bryant is heading the arrangements.

7] PLANNING

The chairman presented a paper involving a Neighbourhood Plan Compliance Check and members approved its contents which would be used to gauge comments on planning applications. A Working Party would look at the matter in due course.

NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL APPLICATIONS

17/00084/ful. Bankwood Farm, erection of ground mounted Photo Voltaic panels. No objection.

17/00159/ful. The White House, Southwell Road., erection of a low energy dwelling. The recent housing needs survey identified a need for some 10 houses of varying sizes to be built within the village, due to a series of events there are now 25+ approved housing plans. Of these some have been built, one sold, several under construction and several still at the pre-build stage. This represents an 18%+ increase in housing for the village. For this application, there has been no building needs survey of the village, a requirement of the Neighbourhood Plan that is currently supported by 90%+ of the villages who responded to the questionnaire. Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan has not been formally adopted we believe that the council have a duty to abide by it and therefore voted unanimously against the application.

16/02157/ful. Priory Farm, Nottingham Road. Application to Vary Conditions 07,22 and 24 Of Planning Permission 16/00529/Ful to allow Existing Building which was to be re-sited to create the new cart shed on the Northern End of the site, Revised application. Do not object, but stress the need for not more than two of the new build dwellings comprising Plots 1, 2 and 3 being occupied until Units A, B and C have been converted and ready for occupation.

NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISIONS

None were reported

8] STRATEGY MEETING AND STRATEGY ROLES

The chairman presented a report outlining the objectives of the council for the 2017-18 year and they were agreed as follows:

General

Secure a sustainable village pub within Red Lion Development

TPC to debate - Are the villagers going to have to do more ourselves? What does devolution from the Councils mean for the village?

Emergency Plan

Flood mitigation solution – to agree and prepare for implementation of a flood mitigation solution for the village

Defibrillator process - training to be arranged

TEP - refresh of the Thurgarton emergency plan to be done, database to be refreshed, training refreshed and renew communications with external stakeholders

Highways

Work with NCC to improve village road signage and drainage e.g.

Drains on A612 to be cleared by NCC

A612 White lines and road need renewing

Arrange 3rd village sign entering on Bleasby Rd

Speeding on Beck Street – potential one way designation, remove sign from top of the road.

Village Assets and Planning

Asset register to be updated and maintained

Neighbourhood Plan

Complete the process and implement the Neighbourhood Plan.

Village Hall

Short term objective is to identify the maintenance requirements, find funding and effect repairs.

Long term - resolve what should be done with the Village Hall lease and potential for replacement

Environment

To improve our village environment

To document, cost and diarise the ongoing maintenance activities within the village

To determine the best mechanism for the upkeep of the village environment – i.e Volunteers (villagers and farmers) plus a village handyman

To investigate the village entering into the Best Kept Village competition for 2017

Improve look of the village by installing village displays

To investigate a Christmas focal point for the village

Telephone box refurbishment was discussed, a working party of 4 parishioners is looking into this

Communications

Communicate TPC objectives throughout the village

To improve communications generally:

a. Website – ensure up to date

b. Industrial relations – have irregular meetings with local businesses and communicate the outcomes

c. TP – ensure articles from PC are within every edition

At the end of each PC meeting, the main points of interest resulting from the meeting will be agreed and an email will be sent out highlighting these.

Agree a process for providing Welcome packs to all new residents, meeting to be agreed and start to work.

EMERGENCY MEASURES (NATALIE ROBINSON) including defibrillator

Coun. Robinson reported that East Midlands Ambulance Service had sent a letter reporting their investigation findings from the defibrillator incident that occurred in December. They said the conclusion from the investigation was as follows:

“The Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) could not ‘flag’ the device on our Computer Aided Dispatch system as it was not registered. The EMD provided a generic code to the caller to try and access the Defibrillator. It was not possible to access the Defibrillator using the generic code as this was incorrect”.

“The registration process was assumed to have occurred in 2015 and an email was sent to assure the Guardian of the Defibrillator that the device had been registered when in fact it never was. EMAS have considered that the registration did not happen because of human error”.

“I can confirm a 999-test call has been completed to check the Thurgarton Defibrillator is registered and live on the system. I am pleased to confirm that the Defibrillator and code is registered and will show on CAD should we receive a 999 call within the locality in the future”.

Councillor Robinson and the Council expressed disappointment with the findings. Next steps were discussed and agreed as follows:

- Agreement from Councillors to take up offer from EMAS to have a representative attend next Parish Council meeting to allow Councillors and members of Public to address questions
- Copy of letter to be sent to Thurgarton resident who originally raised incident with Parish Council
- Councillor Robinson to include Defibrillator as part of Thurgarton Emergency Plan review
- Councillor Robinson to contact national charity ‘Community Heartbeat Trust’ who have installed over 2,000 defibrillators in communities nationally to see whether they can offer any support going forward and report back findings to Parish Council
- County Councillor Jackson to take up this issue to ensure that other parishes don’t have the same problem in their defibrillators not being registered on EMAS system

HIGHWAYS AND BROADBAND (CHARLES DAY)

Coun. Day said progress was being made in regard to broadband services on Bleasby Road and it was expected that High Speed provision would be available to all properties there.

At this point Notts County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council member Roger Jackson spoke. He said the Notts County Council tax figure would be going up by 5 per cent

VILLAGE ASSETS (ROGER ASTON)

Coun. Aston reported he had a liaison meeting with the Scouts, whose depot is in Hoveringham Lane, Thurgarton, and Hoveringham PC. The Scouts reported that they were getting on with setting up their installation but the issue that he wanted to raise was car parking at the station. All along the Nottingham – Lincoln railway line car parks have been installed – Carlton, Lowdham, Bleasby – soon, Fiskerton, Collingham, Swinderby, and Hykeham but not Thurgarton or Burton Joyce. Newark has a municipal and a railway car park already.

The idea was to find some unused land near the station. There is a small triangle of land at the station on the north side where Network Rail dump their paraphernalia which could be used. There is also land owned by Trinity College, Cambridge, and leased to the Scouts on the south side of the line which would be appropriate.

The idea is to create a small car park at the station and my objective at the meeting was to float the idea past the Scouts to see the reaction. The Scouts were not fundamentally against the idea but it would be better to raise it in a year’s time. I stressed to the Scouts that they would not be expected to pay for the car park, merely to agree to give access to the land.

A Hoveringham representative was a barrister. and my experience of lawyers is that they tend to be somewhat negative. He came up with the negatives, viz, Trinity would have to agree, planning permission would be needed. I agreed but pointed out that the first body to ask was the Scouts and, if they did not agree, then other bodies would not need to be involved. So, it was one step at a time. He seemed to subside at this point. That is the background and that which transpired at the Scouts Liaison Meeting.

VILLAGE HALL (DAVID LEWIS)

Coun. Lewis reported that a Meeting was held with TCA on Tuesday 21st of February to discuss the Village Hall maintenance and repair funding. At the meeting a representative from RCAN was also present to advise on potential grant funding available.

Currently the hall funds are in the black for the first quarter, however, with the required spending to maintain the hall both this year (£6.7k) and over the next 3 years (£16k) there will be a funding gap that needs to be filled assuming all the repairs are carried out. TCA will look at, and are open to new ideas from the community for fundraising.

Paul from RCAN will investigate best opportunities to get grants to help with this gap. He will also check any grant applications before we submit them.

The long-term lease of the hall is still open and in the first instance a conversation should happen with Trinity.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (TINA TSOUKATOS)

Newark and Sherwood District Council had advised that the plan was now with the independent examiner and therefore the position remained on timescale. There were a total of 5 responses to the consultation, 4 of which were from statutory consultees. The statutory consultees raised no objections and the other respondent requested land is removed from an important open space. The examiner requested copies of certain documents referred to in the plan/evidence base, which I provided promptly.

COMMUNICATION (TINA TSOUKATOS)

The chairman reported that last month they had begun to provide a PC meeting email update on the village email service, and said this would continue. There were two articles in TP providing a general Parish Council update and a Neighbourhood Plan update. In the coming month the chairman said she planned to work on updating the village web site, and then continue to keep it up to date.

ENVIRONMENT (DENISE BRYANT)

Village clean up arranged for 11th March. Publicised via village email service and a flyer in the Thurgarton People.

Villagers asked to bring own equipment

High Viz vests to be borrowed from the resources shed

NSDC are supplying litter pickers, bin openers and gloves. NSDC are also picking up the rubbish which has been collected from the village Hall on 13th March

No action was taken on the proposed second cut to the A612 banks as it was too late and would have damaged the daffodils

The Beck triangle has been trimmed back

The hedge on Corner Croft has been cut back by Newark and Sherwood homes

The bench from the Priory Lay-by has been renovated by Neil Harris

Further action is to be taken to the owners of the Corners as the hedge has been insufficiently trimmed back.

9] FINANCE

CHEQUES FOR PAYMENT were approved as per the circulated list.

10] ASSET REGISTER

The clerk was asked to update the list where possible with the purchase cost of items on it

11] AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING MARCH 23, 2017

Nothing further was put forward other than the End of War event on November 11, 2018.

12] CLERK'S CONTRACT AND SALARY

The matter of the clerk's contract was discussed and it was agreed the clerk circularise a job description in order that, and the necessary contract, could be dealt with as a joint project. The chairman said the clerk's salary had been agreed on appointment, being at Spinal Column Point 15 plus 2 points to acknowledge his qualifications.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.