

THURGARTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday March 23 at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church

Couns Tina Tsoukatos (Chairman)
Roger Aston, Denise Bryant,
Charles Day, David Lewis,
Natalie Robinson and Katie Chan

In attendance: Clerk Mike Elliott, Coun. Roger Jackson (Notts County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council member).

- 1] APOLOGIES Coun. Natalie Robinson
- 2] DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were none
- 3] MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 23, 2017 were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman.
- 4] CLERK'S REPORT ON PREVIOUS MEETING BUSINESS
World War I Centenary of ending of the war. November 11, 2018. The clerk said it was hoped by the central organisers that parishes would attempt to trace relatives of those who served in that war and to engage them in any commemoration event. Coun. Day agreed to investigate this further and come back to the PC with a recommendation.

The chairman proposed that Item 11 be brought forward to this point in the agenda:

- 11] CASUAL VACANCY
The council unanimously agreed that Mrs Katie Chan of the White House, Southwell Road, Thurgarton be co-opted to the council. The new member signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and was welcomed to the council by the chairman.
- 5] ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC
Coun. Jackson gave an update on news from the District Council and then had to leave to attend another meeting after complimenting the council on the success of the recent Litter Pick.
- 6] CORRESPONDENCE
CPRE Notts Best Kept Village Competition 2017. The council agreed not to enter the competition in 2017 but to do so in 2018.
Notts County Council advised of Recycling Centre information and it was agreed to include the information in the minutes, showing that the site at Calverton on Hollinwood Lane is open from April to September between 8am and 8pm.
- 7] PLANNING
NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL APPLICATIONS
There were no applications.

NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISIONS

- 17/00407/TWCA The White House, Southwell Road. Remove Eucalyptus tree due to damage caused by adjacent tree in recent storms. Permit.
16/01934/ful. Roland Duce, Thurgarton Priory, Priory Road. Retrospective application for change of use to locate glamping tent. Refuse.
1700405/TWCA Priory Farm, Nottingham Road. Remove two fallen trees. Permit.

The council discussed and approved having a working party to review planning applications that were received by the council and report on them using the NP checklist. It was agreed that Sam Spencer and Annie Duquemin be part of the Working Party. Mr Spencer was thanked for the work he had undertaken to produce the review form. Coun. Aston would continue to be the council planning member supported by Coun. Chan.
Coun. Aston said on receipt of any plans he would pass them to the two non-council working party members and they would then go to Coun. Chan and afterwards they could be circulated to the rest of the Council as appropriate.

8] STRATEGY ROLES

The Chairman recommended that each PC Objective set for 2017/18 be allocated to two Councillors, one as part of their remit on the PC, and that the second Councillor as a back-up and someone who can act as a sounding board.

The 2017/18 Objectives were allocated as follows;-

General – Coun Chan to work with Sam Spencer
 Emergency Plan – Coun's Robinson and Day
 Highways - Coun's Day and Robinson
 Village Assets and Planning – Coun's Aston and Chan
 Village Hall – Coun's Lewis and Bryant
 Environment – Coun's Bryant and Lewis
 Communications – Coun Tsoukatos

It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan objective did not require focus from one of the Councillors, this will be dealt with by the NP working party.

EMERGENCY MEASURES (NATALIE ROBINSON)

The chairman read out a paper produced by Coun. Robinson

A successful meeting was held on February 28 when Co-ordinators and Deputies attended. The meeting discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Co-ordinators, and the emergency process and discussed what else was needed to improve the plan. Charles Day agreed to take on the role of Base on a temporary basis.

A key priority is to ensure that there is an up to date database so that in the event of an emergency contact can be made with Parishioners but also understand what resources and skills there are in the village. All Co-ordinators had been asked to contact the respective households in their designated areas.

Once the database is up to date there will be a 'test' run of the plan. A meeting with volunteers for Road Closure Scheme will be held in the coming months

Defibrillator

EMAS have been invited to a PC meeting and may attend in April.

Contact had been made with Community Heartbeat Trust (UK's leading Community Defibrillator Charity) who have advised of several services they provide that Thurgarton could benefit from. More information was awaited. In brief they have offered to send a representative to the village to review what is in place, albeit over the phone they are impressed with processes already in place. They would attend a PC meeting to do a talk if invited. They have an online governance system where the council can log maintenance and keep records, can support with training and communication and even offer counselling services.

The key safe has been installed next to the defibrillator as a manual back up in event there is a power failure. The code for the key safe is the same as the code the 999 operator would provide.

Beck Monitor

Terms and conditions for the SMS Service had been reviewed and as a result questions had been put back to TBFD -- Liability – what protection is in place for Council in event the SMS service fails and houses are then flooded – who is accountable/responsible? -- Price protection – the contract is for a year so what safeguards can we have in place around price increase at renewal. Maintenance – they have provided costs for parts so the council can ensure it is accruing sufficient funds to maintain the monitor in future

Coun. Robinson said when the agreement is finalised she recommends the council proceed with promoting the service to Parishioners -- which following the TEP meeting will be wider than Beck Street -- and getting residents signed up to the scheme. The aim is to complete this by May. PC voted to proceed with promoting service while awaiting information back from TBFD

Speeding – Bin Sticker Scheme

An approach by Bleasby Parish Council has been made about a bin sticker scheme they are introducing into their village to reduce speeding by motorists. In collaboration with Bleasby Primary School they are running a competition for school children to design a sticker which residents can put on their bins. There is statistical evidence from a community group in Normanton who have been recording speed of vehicles and on bin day there is a significant reduction in the average speed.

Bleasby have already got interest from villagers on Station Road/Main Street who will display the stickers once the winning design has been selected. Rough cost for pair of stickers is £5 – I believe Bleasby PC are funding their villagers.

Coun. Robinson said speeding is a hot topic and she thinks this is something the council should consider.

"If we want to be involved I would need to get an idea of how many residents would be interested so we can order some. If Councillors are in favour of this I would put out some information on email/TP to promote." PC voted to investigate further

HIGHWAYS AND BROADBAND (CHARLES DAY)

The meeting was told by Coun. Day that the plans by Notts County Council for improvements to the broadband service for the village as a whole were progressing. There are plans for an additional 12 properties to add to the existing 12 properties on Bleasby Road to have FTTC connections and a further 14 to have FTTP connections. These will be delivered as part of Phase 3 between June 2017 and March 2018. He was aware of concerns in the village about speeding motorists, and particularly on Beck Street. He was in touch with Mr Matt Duckworth concerning the planters.

VILLAGE ASSETS (ROGER ASTON)

Coun. Aston gave a report on the Scouts' Liaison Meeting he had attended on 13th March 2017, with the meeting attended by a representative from the Scouts, one from Hoveringham PC, and one from Thurgarton PC.

The attention of the Scouts was drawn to a potential hazard in that a tree stump had been left very close to the footpath. The Scouts agreed to consider the issue. Otherwise there was no issue to raise.

The Scouts reported that the work in building up the facility continues. The water logging of the ground has been a problem. Storm Doris had caused fences to be blown over, the soft, waterlogged ground also playing a part. 400 trees are likely to be planted over the coming weekend. The building, which it is hoped to finish in April, will be painted brown to help merge with the background.

The Scouts' programme for 2017 was tabled. It was noted that there will be 5 "Camping Weekends", marked with a C on the programme, which have 50 places for an expected 50 - 65 participants. The tents will be a mixed bunch but no caravans will be allowed. The camping area is likely to be behind the trees on the railway side of the site. The campers are likely to arrive on Friday.

"Activity Days" were noted. There will be 150 places on these days and concern was expressed that this could lead to the arrival of 150 cars and where were they to park? The Scouts admitted to 80 cars and stated that parents would only be allowed to drop off children and would not be allowed to stay. Pressed to say what would happen if there were, nevertheless, cars parked up in various places, such as the lane to the Sailing Club, the Scouts claimed that they would manage the situation. (This would appear to be optimistic and will need to be monitored – witness the Corner Croft situation!).

Concern was expressed at the possibility of light and noise. The Scouts stated that there would be no amplification of sound and that the only bright lights would be the security lights which would go on if movement was detected (this is normally caused by rabbits and cats). Again, this will need to be monitored.

It was agreed to meet again in June.

VILLAGE HALL (DAVID LEWIS)

Coun. Lewis said the monthly TCA meeting on March 14 had heard an update from the TCA/Parish Council meeting held on the 21st February regarding Fundraising and grants. Analysis of Village Hall accounts made by PC explaining the need to think of new innovative ways to fundraise to be able to attract match funding and cover the cost of anticipated ongoing repairs. Feedback from TCA was of an additional "Dogs Trust" class starting in the hall and of the Village Hall night for the villagers on the third Friday of every month"

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (TINA TSOUKATOS)

COMMUNICATION (TINA TSOUKATOS)

Neighbourhood Plan

The chairman said the Independent Examiner's draft report found that the Thurgarton NP meets the basic conditions and should proceed to referendum. She said the whole activity around the Plan was the biggest item for the parish for a long time, and she was delighted it had reached the stage it had.

There is only one modification recommended relating to form of wording rather than content, this change has been made resulting in the Thurgarton NP Referendum version. The Independent Examiner had been very complimentary about the Plan stating that "it sets out a clear vision and objectives. It is a well written document with precise policies and detailed explanatory text. The Plan is a well-written document, which is easy to read. Those involved in the production of the Plan should be very pleased with their achievement."

The Thurgarton NP Referendum version has been submitted to NSDC Democratic Services allow for preparation of referendum and 6 week notice of poll. The referendum is still planned for 4th May 2017. If the referendum votes in favour of the Plan then ratification by the NSDC is required for the Plan to be 'made'.

NSDC Planning Officers will be referring to the Thurgarton NP policies from now on and parish council comments on Planning Applications should refer to NP policies where appropriate.

Communication

Still requesting meeting with Forterra, thanks to Cllr Aston for sending a letter to them requesting funding for the village gateways. The chairman said the Neighbourhood Plan had recently taken most of her time but she still intends to update village web site and have regular articles placed in TP to keep parishioners fully apprised of PC matters.

ENVIRONMENT (DENISE BRYANT)

Village Spring Clean – 11th March

March 11 – Village Spring Clean was a resounding success with 35 volunteers cleaning the village for 2 hours. Support from local businesses and surrounding properties was great. An email was sent to the village and an article written for the Thurgarton People thanking all concerned

Many volunteers suggested that this be repeated. Plans are underway for an Autumn Clean up.

Asbestos was found on Station Road (and a second amount has subsequently been identified). NSDC were notified. It is being removed by a specialist company

Ongoing Village Maintenance

The bench sited on the Priory entrance layby has been renovated at a cost of £145 and an invoice has been submitted to the Parish Council. Coun. Brant proposed the Village handyman be contracted for 2 hours as soon as possible to trim the brush growth from the triangle at the bottom of the footpath between Bleasby Road and the A612. The council gave its agreement.

Villagers are complaining about the amount of dog fouling on the land behind the Village Hall, despite the proximity of a clearly labelled dog poo bin. The village cleaning team cleared the area on 11th March. It has been requested that the Council erect more “No Dog Fouling” notices. Six of these would cost £89 for rigid plastic self-adhesive signs or £47.50 for 6 Vinyl self-adhesive signs. The Council’s supported action to combat the nuisance.

A village map which was developed in the past has been reproduced by Coun. Day working with the Highways Department. This map will assist us in delineating which authority has responsibility for maintaining the various parts of Thurgarton. Whilst, given budget cuts, the various authorities may not perform the maintenance with the regularity required the map will assist to ensure that they do the basic minimum required. Thanks to Coun. Day for undertaking this activity.

A request has been made that daffodils be planted at the entrance to the village from the Bleasby Road end. This has been noted and will be added to the autumn planting scheme.

Coun. Bryant said she would produce four signs asking dog owners to clean up after their dogs and Coun. Day would laminate them.

- 9] FINANCE
CHEQUES FOR PAYMENT were approved as per the circulated list

Request for funding for telephone box refurbishment

Coun. Lewis said at the last Parish Council meeting he took the action to set up a team to carry out refurbishment of the telephone box. Since then himself, Trevor Mitchell and Keith Rhodes had a meeting to create a plan to start the work

He outlined the Plan and said the work to assess the state of box was complete and jet washing to remove flaking paint had been carried out by Mr Rhodes. Future tasks included undercoat and finish painting the box, screed floor, remove paint from previously overpainted areas and fit shelving for further usage. It was assessed that of the no panes of glass need to be replaced

Coun. Lewis was given approval to spend £233 to cover the following items: Refinish Primer £40, refinish gloss £50, floor screed £13, sundry items £20, Metal shelving £60, timber £30 and contingency £20, giving a total estimated cost of £233

- 10] ASSET REGISTER
The clerk was asked to complete the asset register, as much as possible, and present it to the council for approval.

- 12] AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING APRIL 27, 2017 Nothing was put forward

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WILL BE HELD IN PRIVATE SESSION

- 13] CLERK’S CONTRACT. No progress was made regarding this.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9-40pm.