



# THURGARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair : Toni Smith

Clerk : Annie Duquemin  
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## THURGARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting Wednesday 07 January 2015 7.30pm

### THOSE PRESENT/APOLOGIES

Chair	Toni Smith	TS
Cllr	Charles Day	CD
Cllr	Ian Edwards	IE
Cllr	Ellis Morgan	EM
Cllr	Tina Tsoukatos	TT
Cllr	Roger Aston	RA
Cllr	Roger Blaney	RB
Cllr	Roger Jackson	RJ
Clerk	Annie Duquemin	Clerk

Apologies : David Waine (ill)

No members of the public were present

TS introduced the new Councillor, Roger Aston.

### ACTION

1.0

#### MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

RA queried the fact that a vote had been taken on the R91 planning application but not recorded in the minutes. Clerk advised that following the vote and based on RB's recommendation, it was agreed that TS would contact the applicant and ask for further details which subsequently happened. This formed the basis for submitting PC comments. The minutes were the unanimously approved and signed by TS.

2.0

#### MATTERS ARISING

2.1

##### Snow clearance

TS wanted all to know that Neil Harris and Neil Jowett had cleared snow following the Boxing Day fall from the Corner Croft site and had been thanked by the residents. She praised their initiative and willingness for volunteering and thanked them on behalf of the PC.

2.2

##### Corner Croft parking and beech hedge

Clerk reported that Sharon Stewardson, who attended the last meeting, has reported that N&S Homes are still looking at ways of resolving the CC parking problems and hope to come up with a solution very soon. She also reported that NCC have told her they are unhappy about cutting back the beech hedge as they believe it will die as a result, and at its present size, it slows drivers down who are emerging from Bleasby Rd. The PC is unhappy with this response as cars have to pull out too far into the path of oncoming traffic on the A612 before turning out; an accident could easily happen. The width of the hedge also makes it difficult for wheelchairs and pushchairs to go past on the pavement.

Clerk will ask SS who the contact is at NCC then RJ will follow up and ask that the hedge is cut.

Clerk/RJ

2.3

##### NCSC potential planning application on lake near the station

TS reported that there is a meeting arranged with NCSC who are working with the Scouts on an application to use the lake. So far an application has not been made and details of what is proposed are unclear from the design statement supplied by NCSC. The meeting is on 24 Jan at 10am and a Hoveringham PC representative is coming along as well. EM will supply map showing permissive footpath route as this will also be discussed. TS to confirm site meeting details. NCSC have agreed to attend the Feb PC meeting if necessary to answer further questions.

TS/EM

POST MEETING NOTE: the proposed meeting did not go ahead as the Scouts initiative did not materialise.

- 2.4 Contact with Lowdham PC re proposed gravel extraction at Shelford  
PC have contacted Lowdham PC offering help and advice based on Thurgarton's experience of gravel extraction but have had no response. Clerk to contact Shelford PC as well. Clerk
- 2.5 Application to SLC fund  
Clerk confirmed that an application has been sent in to NCC for £10K which is for funding towards the village entrance scheme. At the previous meeting an application for a possible parking scheme for CC was discussed if an estimate could be provided by N&S but they were unable to do so by the deadline. RJ has approved the application. RJ not sure when results will be published.
- 2.6 Raised kerbs for bus stops  
RJ had informed us about new raised kerbs being installed for the bus stops on the A612. Clerk reported that the bus stop at the top of the hill had not been done. RJ will follow up. RJ  
The meeting was closed and opened to the public at 7.50pm
- 3.0 **QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**
- Roger Jackson items**
- 3.1 Lack of gritting following the Boxing Day snow  
PC had sent RJ a query about this prior to the meeting. RJ reported that NCC have said that only rain was forecast, not snow. He is taking our complaint and those from many other villages to full council and will report back. RJ
- 3.2 Interactive sign Bleasby Rd
- 3.2.1 CD has heard nothing since the meeting with RJ in October. RJ will follow up. RJ  
Post meeting note : details have now been received and are being considered by the PC
- 3.2.2 The existing sign on the A612 near the Milones house needs some adjustment as it picks up cars leaving the village. RJ will follow up. RJ
- 3.2.3 CD will apply for an updated sign and 40mph buffer zones for the village in April 2015. CD
- 3.3 Councillor Development Fund  
RJ reminded PC to apply for this by 13 March 2015. Clerk to send e mail to RJ Clerk
- Roger Blaney items**
- 3.4 Cost of election to be considered when setting new precept  
RB reported that PCs need to budget £2000 every 5 years to pay for elections. There was some query about this so Clerk to check with NSDC. Clerk
- 3.5 New footpath on the Coach and Horses site  
PC had expressed concern to NSDC that the new footpath which had been agreed with the C&H developer has been omitted from the latest plans submitted to NSDC. The PC confirmed they have met a potential developer on the Priory Farm site who has agreed in principle to continue the pathway through that site, thus removing the need to walk along the narrow pavement on Bleasby Rd corner and thus giving the parish an enhancement. RB reported that the landscape plan submitted for the C&H site has not yet been approved so he suggests the PC talk to the developer again and ask that the footpath is added back onto the drawings.  
POST MEETING UPDATE: TS met with the new developer- the previous one has sold on the plot- who is in principle happy to go along with a footpath provided the development of the Farm next door completes the footpath route.
- 3.6 Broadband : meeting with BT Nov 26 2014  
CD reported back on the meeting he and Darryl North had attended re Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire on 27th November. Steve Henderson from BT and Jayne Francis-Ward from Nottinghamshire County Council gave a progress update on the current rollout of fibre based broadband. During a heated Q&A session it was explained why villages, like Thurgarton, were not included in the current project. As there is a finite amount of funding Notts CC are using the money on a 'best value' basis which means that areas that are further away from the exchange will be a lower priority when compared to areas that are more densely populated or areas that are closer to an exchange.  
Jayne Francis-Ward said that additional funding of £5.26 million will be available for 'Superfast Phase 2' which will be rolled out in 2017. She explained that this money would be used for installing fibre-based broadband in the rural areas of Bassetlaw, Rushcliffe and Newark & Sherwood. It is hoped that Thurgarton will be included in Phase 2, although no detailed plans will be published until 2015.  
Conclusion : there is little more we can do at the moment except keep applying pressure on N&S and NCC and ultimately on Sajid Javid Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

The meeting was closed to the public at 8.35pm.

- 4.0 PLANNING**  
 TS reminded all Councillors that they must reveal an interest if they have one on any planning matters and not take part in the discussion. RJA admitted to an interest in the Hope House application so took no part in the discussion or vote.
- 4.1** Planning ref 14/02128/FUL : Overfield House  
 Vote : 6 in favour.
- 4.2** Planning ref 14/02130/FUL : New business sign  
 Vote : 6 in favour.
- 4.3** Planning ref 14/02246/FUL : Hope House  
 Vote : 4 in favour.  
 The PC will comment to NSDC that the proposed extension should not contravene Green Belt /conservation area policy and does not go against the previous PC comments regarding the size of the overall footprint in comparison to the original property on the site. It was difficult to read the plans but the assumption was that there was no interconnection between the 2 conservatories. TS
- 4.4** Meeting on Priory Farm site with potential developer  
 TS, IE and the Clerk met with a potential developer on 18 Dec 2014. In principle the developer wants to retain and refurbish the existing barns and build some new houses behind. All agreed that a further meeting would take place once a scheme has been produced. In principle the developer agreed to the new footpath through from the C&H site and to the opportunity to make the St Pancras clock available for visitors to view. Flooding was also discussed and it was agreed that all would review this once a more detailed plan was produced.
- 5.0 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**
- 5.1** Letter to Richard Exton NSDC  
 Clerk confirmed that the letter had been sent to Richard Exton at NSDC confirming that Thurgarton wants to go ahead with an NP. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that an NP would give financial benefit to the village in the form of an increased rate of CIL and in the face of future development, NSDC would legally be bound to take more notice of PC comments. EM suggested that a staged approach to the plan could be adopted, only looking at new development to start with.
- 5.2** Housing survey  
 Clerk will apply for grant from Locality or elsewhere to help fund this but it was agreed that the £500 fee would be paid back on the basis of the increased rate of CIL. The survey was to go ahead. Clerk
- 6.0 STRATEGY ROLES**
- 6.1** TS : chair's report
- 6.1.1** Strategy meeting  
 The PC held a strategy meeting on 26 Nov 2014. In summary the ideas discussed were to be ratified in open meeting as follows :
- the PC will hold 2-3 strategy meetings per year to discuss policy but no decisions
  - Meetings will always be reported back to the next full PC meeting
  - TT and RA will meet to look at the issue of flooding in The Park area
  - Councillor roles were reviewed and left in place until after the election. RA will take on the role of investigating the registration of community assets and reporting back to the PC
  - The Clerk was asked to produce a 5 year spending plan to assist with making decisions on the level of the precept
  - TS proposed making 3 gifts to key volunteers in the village from the Chair's fund. All agreed except RA.
- 6.1.2** Robert Jenrick meeting  
 TS and Jim Ward met with Robert Jenrick at Newark Town Hall. TS will do piece for TP. TS
- 6.2** CD : Highways.  
 Ivy has been cut back on the high pavement on Priory Rd but NCC have not yet done any work. CD will ask Matt D about it. CD
- 6.3** TT : Emergency
- 6.3.1** IDB flood management update
- The Beck was cleared again by the IDB, as requested by PC, so ready for winter after extended warm weather
  - Short list of flood management options now being assessed for suitability by computer modelling, expect to meet with IDB to discuss results shortly
  - Maintenance work to Bentley drain and the Railway drain is now completed, both drains had become obsolete but are working

- Govt Autumn Statement announced flood defence monies for Southwell, Lowdham and Gunthorpe. I am assured by IDB and Robert Jenrick that the Thurgarton bid is still live and likely to be included in the 6 yr plan, probably available 2016. Full costing need to be available before this bid can be formally announced.
- 6.3.2** Flood grant scheme now available for properties flooded in 2013, repair and renew up to £5K. More information can be found on the Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC) website along with an application form at <http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/yourcouncil/flooding/floodsupportscheme/>. Those wanting a paper copy of the application form should ring NSDC customer services on 01636 650000 and one will be sent out in the post.
- 6.3.3** TEP training - provided by NCC and undertaken by 20 TEP volunteers on 25/11/14, all now able to legally and safely do this work in the event of a flood emergency
- 6.3.4** Defibrillator - rearranged meeting with EMAS 14/1/15 to discuss options and report back to PC TT
- 6.3.5** Welcome pack - 1st draft is underway, plan to have this completed by end Jan TT/Clerk
- 6.3.6** Road signs for the village - Expecting delivery of road signs for the village flood road closure scheme and a pallet of sand bags. Cannot cover area adjacent to resilience store but can use behind store and to the RHS.
- 6.4** **IE : Odd jobs**
- 6.4.1** Xmas tree/war memorial : tree taken down. New lights needed for 2015. £30-£40 approved unanimously. CD  
Time switch is faulty. Clerk will give CD name of electrician; if can't be fixed, CD will buy a new one £35 approx approved unanimously. Clerk/CD  
All agreed light on war memorial to stay on until clocks change in March as it looks attractive and acts as a speed deterrent.  
CD will calculate cost of electricity to pay Lisa at Aveda. CD
- 6.4.2** Emergency shed : IE needs to take off padlock as the compound is an emergency exit for Aveda. IE to fit new bolt at high level on the inside of the gate. Approved unanimously. IE
- 6.5** **DW : Communications and crime (feedback by TS in DW absence)**
- 6.5.1** Crime : nothing to report
- 6.5.2** Communication : reminder for the Clerk to put up election notice 3 months before 7 May. Clerk  
DW also confirmed that the Chair receives items from Councillors and the Clerk and then compiles the agenda for meetings.
- 6.6** **EM/IE : Maintenance**  
Clerk to ask Peter Yates to do a cut on the A612 banks end Feb/beg March ready for spring Clerk  
All agreed to review how the triangle on Bleasby Rd can be maintained as the grass is very rough ALL
- 6.7** **RA : Community assets**  
RA reported that he had completed and sent the relevant form to NSDC to register the village hall. TS reminded RA that she had asked him to investigate the process and not make the application, so that the PC could review and discuss the implications for registration eg could it have a detrimental effect on the PC's negotiations with owners in the future. RA will ask NSDC to put the application on hold and ask their advice re the above points and feedback in due course. RA  
Other assets which had previously been discussed and which need the same issues to be considered are : the St Pancras (Roland's) clock, The Red Lion, the sheep dip, the war memorial and The Methodist church. RA
- 6.8** **Clerk : various points**
- 6.8.1** Knotweed  
Clerk and TS have been to look at the potential knotweed reported by a resident but it has died back. It will be rechecked in the spring and then reported to the owner if relevant. Resident has been told. Clerk
- 6.8.2** Register of interests Forms  
ROI Form has been received by Clerk from TT and RA. Copies had already been submitted to NSDC.
- 7.0** **CORRESPONDENCE**
- 7.1** An e mail has been received from a resident about a pipe by the hedge adjacent to the bridleway behind the hall. TT has reported this and another pipe by the level crossing to the IDB who have recently cleared the drain and they will remove. TT to monitor. TT
- 7.2** TS had received a letter from a parishioner with a potential complaint which she was taking legal advice on before it was discussed further. TS
- 8.0** **FINANCE**
- 8.1** Balance of accounts

Current : £6550.15, reserve : £1188.45

**8.2** Cheques to sign

Clerk £75 for purchase of Xmas vouchers for volunteers Toria Parker, Jim Ward and Darryl North.

**8.3** Precept

Clerk had produced spreadsheet to show Projected Budget over 5 years and a spreadsheet to show possible spend for 2015/16 to assist with deciding on the level of the precept. These had been circulated to all before the meeting and are attached to these minutes.

Also circulated at the meeting were 2 sheets showing comparative levels of precept and levels of contribution for band D properties in other NSDC villages.

TS asked all Councillors for their initial views on the precept figure and after appreciating that there were very diverse views ranging from a zero increase (on the basis that 'no one likes taxation') to a 25% increase (on the basis that the absolute increase of a 25% increase is so small it was reasonable to build up a fund to maintain the village in a better fashion) TS asked for agreement to a compromise of the following :

- Use of inflation rate at 2% for 2015/16 : unanimous
- That the PC should consider spreading spending over the next 5 years and beyond : unanimous
- The increase should be £20 for a band D property from last years £17.54. Vote 4 in favour.
- All agreed that a piece in TP should explain the reasons for the modest increase and also feature in the AGM this year.

TS

**9.0** **MINOR SPENDS**

**9.1** None other than those listed above

**10.0** **AOB**

**10.1** Xmas vouchers

Volunteers Toria Parker, Jim Ward and Darryl North have all expressed their thanks to the PC for their Xmas vouchers.

**10.2** Code of conduct/register of interests To be carried forward

TS

**10.3** E mail

RA queried an e mail he had received from the Clerk which had been sent in error. Clerk apologised for doing so.

**11.0** **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

These were reviewed in the light of the AGM date being 2 weeks after the election on 7 May

New dates are :

Wed 18 February 2015 7.30pm at the Methodist church

Wed 8 April 2015 7.30pm at the Methodist church to plan for the AGM.

Wed 20 May AGM 2015 7pm at the village hall. New councillors will be in place.

The meeting closed at 10pm