

THRUXTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th OCTOBER 2022

Present: Cllr P Christie (Chairman), Cllr J Davis (Vice Chairman) Cllr Mrs P Harris, Cllr Mrs J Graham & Cllr W Odling.

In attendance:

Mrs H Bourner – Clerk
Gemma Clinch-HCC footpaths officer
Martin King- Parish Council footpaths representative
1 member of the public

1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mrs J Durant, Cllr R Munday, HCC Chris Donnelly & TVBC Phil Lashbrook.

Presentation from Hampshire Countryside Access

2) Gemma Clinch a footpaths officer with Hampshire County Council addressed the meeting to explain how the countryside access team can help parish councils. She explained she worked with teams of volunteers who worked across the area doing such things as clearing overgrown footpaths and erecting gates and signs. She explained how problems with rights of way could be reported online.

She further gave details of funding streams available for training volunteers and to provide equipment so parishes could cut back overgrown hedges and pathways themselves. Gemma agreed to send details to the Clerk but confirmed no further funding was available until next April. She also confirmed funding could be used to change stiles to (metal) gates. It was essential the landowner was happy for the gate to be installed and take on future maintenance. Where this was agreed she was happy to engage with landowners.

Cllr Christie asked if there was any possibility of getting a bridge installed across the A303 to link the footpath from Beech Close with the other side. After some discussion it was agreed this is likely to be Highways England responsibility and would almost certainly be cost prohibitive.

Public Participation

3) No matters were raised by the member of public present.

Declarations of Interest

4) There were no declarations of interest. All councillors present confirmed no changes to register of interest forms were required.

Minutes

5) **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 7th September were confirmed as a correct record with one small amendment to the name of a tree and will be signed by the Chairman. Proposer Cllr Odling seconded Cllr Harris. All in favour.

Matters arising

Cllr Odling confirmed the ivy around the Lime tree on the small triangle has been cut back. He will monitor this and consider asking a tree surgeon about pollarding the tree later in the year.

Specific Reports

7)

Cllr Munday- (environment) was not present but had confirmed he continues to have discussions with Hants & IOW Trust regarding a flora and fauna study. He will present his findings to the Parish Council at the November meeting.

Cllr Christie (Roads & footpaths) confirmed approx. 9000 responses had been received to the HCC survey regarding possible 20mph speed limits in Hampshire. Hampshire Highways will now be reviewing the data.

He confirmed he had met with HCC Chris Donnelly about the poor signage to dissuade lorries from entering the village. He also showed him the areas where damage had occurred in the

past and he has agreed to research any possibilities of improving signage.
Cllr Christie confirmed he had written to Earthline about lorry traffic in the village and they responded to say recent lorry movements in the village were in exceptional circumstances and they always avoid doing this whenever possible.
Finally, he has written to Thruxton Airfield asking if they could remind tenants not to drive lorries through the village.

Cllr Durant – See item 9

Cllr Harris (social concerns) had nothing to report.

Cllr Graham (Children & Mandy Garden) –. Confirmed she has started planting at Mandy Garden. The railing around the garden was now rotting and the Clerk was asked to obtain a quote to replace this. Two benches have been painted but repairs are required to the older oak benches. It was suggested that Pete Fletcher who has done work around the village may be able to help. The Clerk was asked to contact him and an article will be placed in the next newsletter to find a handyman who can be paid for odd jobs around the village.

Two volunteers have stepped forward to help clear the stream bed. Some work has been carried out by the Environment Agency so there will not be as much to clear particularly as full removal of plants is not required just some channels cleared so water can pass.

Play area safety checks – Leo McDevitt has circulated the completed reports for the safety checks of the play equipment for September. He has advised he is no longer able to carry out this voluntary task. The Clerk will write to him to thank him for all the work he has carried out. Cllr Odling agreed to take on this responsibility and the Clerk will share all relevant reports with him. He will also look at those areas where repairs are required.

Update on St Johns Lane

8) Cllr Christie had met residents of the lane to discuss what repairs they felt were necessary. They believed the current surface needs to be removed and some drainage installed before a new surface of scalpings is installed.

Cllr Odling said any unmade road will always need constant maintenance and any surface water could not be routed along the public highway. He said it should be made clear that any maintenance was not Parish Council responsibility but that they would try to help on a without prejudice basis.

Cllr Odling will visit the site and write a scope of works for what he believes will be a solution. The Clerk will use this to obtain quotes.

Potential speed signs around the village

9) Cllr Durant had produced a comprehensive report of potential sites and the costs required for posts and fittings along with the costs of the different types of cameras. The report had been circulated to all councillors.

After some discussion it was agreed a maximum of 4-6 posts were required. Depending on which was chosen would have an impact on costs. Cllr Graham & the Clerk will review and bring proposals to the next meeting. The Clerk had also received some special offers for camera costs and she agreed to review these before the next meeting.

It was essential that there were enough people to be responsible for siting the cameras and moving theses from location to location as well as downloading any data available. An article would be included in the newsletter asking for volunteers.

Tree works around Village

10) The Clerk confirmed she has made an application to TVBC for work to be carried out on trees on the village green. Assuming this was agreed the only contractor who had supplied a quote would be asked to carry out the work at both the Village Green and on the land by the electricity sub-station.

Hedge Planting -Village Green.

11) The Clerk confirmed she had ordered a tree pack from The Woodland Trust to plant trees on the Village Green where old trees had been removed. The application for a free pack had been accepted however trees will not be supplied until Spring 2023.

The Clerk had also obtained a quote to have the area cleared of debris and weeds. It was agreed this should be re visited nearer planting time.

Lains Solar Farm

12) Cllr Christie reported the planning application has been withdrawn following an objection raised by an aircraft operator. Further work will be carried out by the developer before any conclusion can be reached.

County and Borough Councillors' Report

13) HCC Cllr Chris Donnelly was not present.

TVBC Cllr Phil Lashbrook was not present.

14) Finance

To note the bank balances as at 23/09/2022

HSBC £29279.40

Lloyds £5000

United Trust Reserve £13833.62

ii) To approve the following payments and authorise online transactions: -

H Bournier salary	£468.00
H Bournier exp.	£18.68
Thrupton Memorial Hall	£26.00
Taits	£49.00
Southern Electric DD	£56.02
HSBC charges DD	£8.00
Ray Welch	£141.00
ICO	£35.00
Enervo	£101.69

iii) Change of bank account

The Clerk confirmed an account with Lloyds had now been opened. Now that the second installment of precept had been received it was agreed the HSBC account should be closed. Cllr Davis & Cllr Graham signed a cheque to transfer the balance to Lloyds and a letter to HSBC asking them to close the account.

iv) Budget 2023-24

A draft budget had been circulated and was discussed. Although inflation was running high and costs to the Parish Council will rise the Parish Council are in a healthy position financially. Any request to increase the precept has a link to household council tax and given the current economic climate it was agreed that not increasing the precept could in a small way support parishioners.

The draft budget as presented was therefore agreed. Exceptionally for the next financial year 23-24, the agreed precept request will remain the same as the current year at £15750.00

Planning

18) The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

22/01613/FULLN/conversion of chalet bungalow-Ash Lea House, Dauntsey Lane-withdrawn

Resolved: that the planning advisory committee's approval on the following applications were endorsed:

22/02379/FULLN-demolish pool house and erect detached garage with ancillary accommodation in roof space- Ash Lea House, Dauntsey Lane-no objection

Attendance at Events

19) None

Community Thanks

20) Thanks were expressed to: - Leo McDevitt for all the work he has carried out checking the play area, Richard Thorne for continuing to raise the flag on a daily basis and all volunteers who deliver the monthly newsletter.

Correspondence

21) The Clerk highlighted correspondence as follows: -
Invitation to the HALC Conference

Items for next agenda

22) Protecting the countryside against large building applications, in particular solar farms.
History Board
Report regarding flora & fauna
Resilience plan
Speed awareness signs & volunteers
Repairs to St Johns Lane

Date of next meeting

23) The next meeting will take place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 2nd November