

THRUXTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8th APRIL 2024

Present: Cllr P Christie (Chairman), Cllr S Cotterill, Cllr R Munday & Cllr R Sherlock.
In attendance:

Mrs H Bourner – Clerk
4 members of the public

1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Will Odling & HCC Chris Donnelly.

Public Participation

2) A member of public present raised concerns regarding the repairs required to the stream bank. She said that the high-water levels and sunken wall meant the stream had now breached the wall and in heavy rainfall caused a stream to run down the road and re enter the stream near the culvert. The signs placed near the site by HCC have been removed possibly by all the other workforces that have been present in the village; nevertheless, this meant the site was exposed and if a vehicle was to end up in the stream this would presumably be followed by a liability claim. The cones present belong to Southern Water and they want to recover them. If the wall collapses into the stream, it is likely to cause a blockage to the culvert and result in flooding. The Clerk agreed to contact HCC to ask for safety signs to be reinstated as soon as possible.

The second question raised by another member of the public related to the land around the bus stop and verge on Stanbury Road. This is currently maintained voluntarily by a villager and has been for approximately 20 years. The suggestion was this be formally registered as a village green by the Parish Council thus giving the parish complete control of the area of land. Cllr Cotterill has been looking at this in respect of another area of land and agreed to consider this at the same time.

Declarations of Interest

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

Minutes

4) **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 4th March were confirmed as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman. Proposer Cllr Munday, seconded Cllr Christie. All in favour.

Specific Reports

5)
Cllr Munday- (Flooding & Biodiversity) – had nothing to report regarding biodiversity. In respect of flooding, he said the latest report is that high water levels are still rising. He reported on a meeting he had attended with Southern Water. He said that in 2021 38 tankers were deployed in the area, this is now reduced to three confirming the relining work has made a significant difference. In Thrupton the main sewer is relined but there are still 112 properties in the village where the laterals still require re lining but this cannot be tackled until the ground water levels drop. The initiative to create a wetland is unlikely to happen locally as this work has been so successful.

Cllr Christie (Roads & footpaths) – noted that work to clear the footpath at Thrupton Down has been carried out and looks much better.

Flooding on Village Street near the entrance to Halcyon Drive is increasing caused by either a blocked or collapsed drain. The metal drain cover was also damaged. The Clerk will report to HCC.

Cllr Cotterill - Village Green & Mandy Garden – had circulated her report which confirmed the notice board at the entrance to the village green needs repainting and many of the benches need attention The litter bin on the green is still being used inappropriately. It was therefore

agreed this should become a planter. The main vehicular gate needs to be secured with chains and padlocks. A tree survey was required this year in line with the risk assessment and the Clerk agreed to obtain some quotes for an assessment and work to trim the cherry tree which now tangles with the flag. Finally, the Mandy Garden needs some work to tidy it. There was a suggestion this area should be re incorporated into the village green. The Clerk will seek advice on shrubs and plants in this area.

Cllr Odling (Play area safety checks) – was absent but had circulated his recent report.

Speed awareness - The Clerk reported data from both machines continues to be collected and she will ask Simon Hopkins to download this again to produce up to date statistics. Once this has been done the Clerk will arrange for the machine currently on Village Street at the junction of Church Lane to be moved to the post at the lower end of Stanbury Road.

It was suggested a speed watch team should be set up in the village. The Clerk agreed to carry out some research and the subject will be raised at the annual parish meeting.

The Clerk reported: -

The globe maple tree in memory of Cllr John Davis has now been planted on the Village Green.

She has negotiated the best price available for street light electricity with SSE. However, a backlog in work means they have yet to be implemented which is why the recent DD charges are so high. Credit will be given once the changes are made.

Finally, she reported TVBC have confirmed the vacancies for Parish Councillors can be filled by co-option as soon as candidates can be found.

Green Space by electricity sub-station

6) Cllr Cotterill reported on research regarding the land in front of the electricity sub-station which had been maintained by the Parish Council for several years. A lengthy discussion followed as to whether the land was owned by the Parish Council, whether it should be registered as a Village Green or if a claim under adverse possession could be made. There was a suggestion that the Parish Council had acquired the land some 20 years ago. The Clerk will review financial records to establish if there was any apparent spending on this land. Cllr Cotterill will continue to research the best registration method.

County and Borough Councillors' Report

7) HCC Chris Donnelly had sent apologies

TVBC Cllr Phil Lashbrook was not present

8) Parish Assembly

The meeting on May 9th would be the AGM of the Parish Council followed by the Annual Parish Meeting. Alex Thistlethwaite, the new owner of Thrupton Circuit had agreed to attend. It was agreed to also invite Ben Turner from BARC, The PCSO or a traffic police officer and the Reverend Sarah Sharland.

9) Finance

To note the bank balances as at 31/03/2024

i) Lloyds £16133.57
United Trust Reserve £14083.63

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

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| H Bourner salary | £624.20 |
| HMRC | £5.80 |
| H Bourner exp. | £18.00 |
| Thrupton Memorial Hall | £28.00 |
| Taits | £52.00 |

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| SSE (DD) | £164.75 |
| TVBC garden waste | £41.00 |
| Enerveo | £121.30 |

iii) Accounts to the year ended 31-03-24 were discussed. Cllr Cotteril proposed these be agreed and this was seconded by Cllr Christie. All agreed. The Clerk reported that Thruxton Parish Council had been selected for a 5% assurance review by Audit which meant additional information would need to be submitted.

Planning

15) The following decisions by TVBC were noted: 24/00301/TREEN- pollard Sycamore, fell ash-The Moorings- no objection
23/03026/OUTN an outline application for 14 dwellings on land behind Stanbury Close- refused

Resolved: that the planning advisory committee's approval on the following applications were endorsed: None

A housing needs survey will be drawn up and some work into establishing who those on the register are and what sort of affordable housing they are looking for. The Neighbourhood Planning team will take on this work. Thanks were expressed to Louisa Chamberlain for agreeing to take the lead.

Cllr Munday confirmed the application for change of use from agricultural to commercial at Thruxton Down has been refused. The applicant had now appealed to the Secretary of State against the refusal along with an appeal against enforcement while continuing to operate.

Cllrs Christie and Munday met representatives from Foreman Homes to discuss informally the possible use of the field at the end of Lambourne Close. While they listened, they reminded Foreman Homes the land is outside the settlement boundary and that there is a made Neighbourhood Plan in place. Foreman Homes have said they want to engage with the community and in future may wish to meet and discuss possible proposals.

Application 24/00218/FULLN - create additional hard standing, land east of Thruxton Down House - has been withdrawn as an ecology report is required

Finally, Cllr Munday reported on the Thruxton Parish Council response to the consultation on the TVBC Local Plan 2040. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Munday for the considerable work carried out.

Attendance at Events

16) Cllr Munday and the Clerk attended the TVAPTC which concentrated on planning and the draft local plan 2040.
Cllr Christie and Cllr Munday attended the recent Pan Parish Forum meeting.

Community Thanks

17) Thanks were expressed to Edward Chamberlain and Richard Munday for planting the John Davis memorial tree. The Clerk expressed thanks to the resident who has moved the green waste bin back into the Village Green after emptying.

Correspondence

18)The Clerk highlighted correspondence as follows: -
A sales brochure for speed awareness machines
A letter from a company regarding tree management

Items for next agenda

19) Councillor responsibilities
Moving defibrillator
Housing needs survey

Community News

20) Water testing of Pilhill Brook will commence shortly.
The terrible mess of the layby built by Southern Water on Wiremead Lane was noted.

Southern Water have agreed to repair all verges they have damaged in due course.

Date of next meeting

21) The next meeting will be the Parish Council AGM followed by the Parish Assembly and will take place at 7.00 pm on Thursday 9th May, followed at 8.00 by the annual parish meeting.