

THRUXTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2011

Present: Cllr C Milner-Williams Chairman, Cllr J Davis Vice Chairman, Cllr R Bradbury, Cllr M Windsor, Cllr Mrs J Saunders & Cllr Mrs J Graham.

In attendance: Mrs H Bourner –Clerk
Mr J McKenzie -Thrupton Times and Village Correspondent

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

787 There were no apologies for absence.

Public Participation

788 There were no members of public present.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

789 There were no expressions of interest.

MINUTES

790 **Resolved:** The minutes of the meetings held on 7 November 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Grit Bins

791 The clerk confirmed there was still no news on the three further grit bins requested. Cllr Milner-Williams reported that the bins currently installed around the village required refills. The clerk agreed to contact Hampshire Highways.

Fly Tipping

792 Cllr Graham had spotted some garden and building waste which had been dumped alongside the road to the industrial estate. The clerk had reported the matter to TVBC and most of the waste had been removed. It was possible TVBC had not been able to clear this in one go and Cllr Graham agreed to monitor to ensure the balance was removed in due course.

Re-location of Litter Bin

793 The work to install the bin was complete and the first "empty" had been successful. Although the bin needs to be wheeled to the bus shelter for emptying the clerk reported she had been monitoring the situation and it was clear that it would not be necessary to transport the bin every fortnight as the volume of rubbish was minimal.

Street Lighting.

794 The clerk reported on the promised data from Southern Electric regarding cost recovery, and energy efficiency. With a 20% discount now being offered it was clear the Parish Council could recover the costs of £466.03 to change all the street light timers in order that these went out at midnight and came back on again at 5am, in approximately two and three quarter years. Some additional expenditure of £105 was required to cut back some trees to enable the work to take place. All present agreed this expenditure and the clerk was asked to contact Southern Electric and ask them to proceed with this work.

Financial Support of Toddler group.

795 The matter of financial support for this group was discussed at length. All present agreed this was a very important group to the community and should be given some assistance. It was agreed the Parish Council would pay a grant of £300 on behalf of the toddler group, direct to the War Memorial Hall Trustees, towards the cost of hall hire for the financial year 2012/13. The Village Association had agreed in principle to pay a similar amount. The Chairman felt it important that the Mother and Toddler Group should have continued responsibility for raising at least a third of its costs in order to maintain their financial focus.

Bus Shelter Repairs

796 Cllr Davis had met with Fred Hopkins to discuss the required repairs to the benches in the bus shelter at the top of Stanbury Road. New uprights and slats were required and Fred had agreed to carry out the work. The Chairman thanked both Cllrs Graham and Davis for their efforts in this regard

Footpath clearance

797 The clerk confirmed she had logged the necessary report regarding the footpath from the top of Stanbury Road to Kimpton School which required clearing of overgrown weeds and debris. An acknowledgment had been received confirming the work would be carried out in the next 2 months.

Pot Holes

798 All residents are urged to report any potholes either to the clerk, or direct to Hampshire Highways online. Cllr Milner-Williams had reported a particularly nasty one outside the church path which the clerk agreed to report again.

Closure of Weyhill Road

799 Cllr Milner-Williams highlighted the imminent closure of the Weyhill Road. The road would be closed to traffic at the point of the railway bridge from Christmas Eve for several weeks.

Meeting Dates 2012/13

800 Meeting dates were agreed for the year 2012/13. All were the first Wednesday of the month with the exception of August and January when no meetings took place.

Test Valley Planning Survey

801 Cllr Davis gave a brief report on a recently completed survey. The only significant point was the occasions when planning permission documents were sent to the wrong parish.

Sports Field Height Barrier

802 Although the barrier had been installed it was possible to open this with ease as there was no lock fitted. This meant unwanted vehicles would still be able to access the land. Cllr Milner-Williams said he would be attending a Sports Trust meeting when he would inform the committee that the Parish Council would seek to source a lock from TVBC.

County and Borough Councillor Reports

803 There were no County or Borough Councillors present.

Planning

804 The following decisions by TVBC were noted: None

805 **Resolved:** that the Planning advisory committees recommendations on the following applications be endorsed:

11/02338/FULLN – Extension and roof alterations Ruddle Moor, Amesbury Road- The Parish Council felt they could raise no objection to this application although they were aware other objections had been made. Cllr Davis agreed to follow the application process at TVBC.

11/02575/FULLN- 2 story extension 12 Lambourne Way- support.

Cllr Davis confirmed tree preservation orders had been placed on the silver birch trees at 15 & 17 Lambourne Way.

Cllr Windsor expressed his concerns regarding three areas, two within the parish and one on the boundary with the neighbouring parish. In each case concerns had been raised about the possible change of use of land without the necessary permission being sought, and the impact this had on the erosion of village boundaries. Cllr Milner-Williams agreed to write to the land owners within the parish and the Chairman of Fyfield parish regarding the land which bordered Thruxton parish. He was concerned that a landowner at Thruxton Down felt victimised by the Parish Council. He would write to assure her of complete parity of treatment.

FINANCE

806 The bank balance as at 14 November 2011 was as follows:

Lloyds TSB £6599.95
Lloyds reserve £11000

Payments

807 **Resolved:** that the following payments be approved and signing of cheques authorised:

Anton DO Supp	£24.80 (Dec)
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Thruxton WMH	£16.00
H Bourner Nov salary	£249.36
H Bourner Nov exp.	£57.67
TVBC re litter bin	£210.00
H Bourner Dec salary in adv	£249.36

Some discussion followed regarding general office expenses paid to the clerk who carried out work from home, and whether these should be increased given they had remained at the same level for at least six years. The clerk agreed to establish levels paid to other clerks and bring the matter back for discussion in due course.

A final draft of the 2012/13 budget was considered by Councillors. One further item of expenditure of £35 to the Information Commissioners was added, along with a further grant of £300 for the toddler group as previously discussed. Finally Cllr Milner-Williams shared details he had obtained regarding commemorative mugs at £4.95 each to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. Cllr Bradbury proposed that the Parish Council buy one for each child of the village less than 16 years of age. Approximately 100 mugs would be needed. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Saunders. All in favour. Cllr Davis agreed to approach HCC Mrs Pat West to establish if there was any possibility of claiming funding from Hampshire Awards for All to meet this expenditure. The clerk will ensure the budget for 2012/13 reflects this.

Attendance at Events

808 Cllr Milner-Williams reported from the HALC AGM when the Localism Bill was discussed, having recently become an official "Act". Details were still scant but it seemed Parish Councils would need to be judged competent in the future or they could be grouped with other parishes. It was likely some standards would need to be met with the possibility of moving toward quality council status. It is hoped things will become clearer with time.

Cllr Davis reported on a health forum he had attended. He was one of only 5 representatives at the meeting but had established services in the newly amalgamated Winchester & Basingstoke health services would remain broadly unchanged. Cllr Saunders a current employee of the hospital trust said most of the changes were to be within back room and managerial staff. Services at Andover hospital are likely to increase. Any individual interested in learning more can register as a member of the new "Hampshire Hospital Foundation Trust"

Correspondence

809 The clerk noted two items of correspondence recently received: - a letter from the TVBC regarding health walks along with a poster which will be displayed on a village board, and a Christmas card from the Village Hall Trustees. Cllr Milner-Williams also noted an invitation from Andover Home start to attend an open forum.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

810 The clerk noted details received regarding a Hampshire Play Conference which will be sent on to the toddler group representatives.

Cllr Davis noted that the promised pack from TVBC regarding retuning televisions following the digital switchover had not arrived. The clerk agreed to contact TVBC Lashbrook regarding this.

The clerk noted some information regarding digital speeding signs. Those present did not feel the purchase of a sign would be a worthwhile use of funds.

Cllr Graham highlighted two potential problems, an overgrown hedge just inside the Fyfield boundary and another by the pedestrian entrance to the sports field at the top of Stanbury Road. Cllr Milner- Williams would mention the Fyfield hedge to a member of that parish Council and Cllr Graham will try to cut back to hedge by the sports field entrance. She also said that traffic leaving the school often sped round that particular corner which just added to the danger. The clerk agreed to mention this to PC Kitson who has agreed to visit the village with his speed gun whenever possible.

The possibility of installing some new play equipment at the play area was discussed. All present were in favour and the clerk was asked to contact Debi Foynes who had taken a particular interest in this area while she was a Parish Councillor.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Cllr Milner Williams closed the meeting by thanking all those present for their hard work and commitment throughout the year, and wishing them customary season's greetings. The next meeting will take place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 1 February 2012.