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**THRUXTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 February 2009**

Present: Cllr C Milner-Williams Chairman, Cllr R Mallock, Cllr J Davis, Cllr K Phillipson, Cllr D Foynes, Cllr R Bradbury.

In attendance: TVBC Phil Lashbrook
Mrs H Bourner Clerk
Mr J McKenzie Thruxton Times and Village Correspondent
Monxton parish Cllr's Katrina Saville and John Chaffney
Seven members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

200 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Pennells, HCC Cllr Mrs P West and TVBC Cllr Mrs E Charnley.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

201 Several comments were made by those attending to raise objections to the planning application to create a travelling showman's site at Thruxton Down. Cllr Milner-Williams said that an extraordinary meeting of the council had been called on Monday 9th February 2009, at 7.30 pm, in the village hall, specifically to discuss this matter.

202 Margaret Davis asked if it was possible for the village to have a supply of grit in the village so that residents could treat any badly affected roads themselves. TVBC Lashbrook agreed to investigate the possibility.

203 John McKenzie asked if any response had been received regarding the request to use the village hand bells. None had been received and Cllr Milner-Williams agreed to approach the custodians of the bells again.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

204 Cllr Milner-Williams and Cllr Foynes declared an interest in one party who had been asked to provide a quote to cut the grass on the village green. Both had used the services of this person privately.

MINUTES

205 **Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Car Park

206 Cllr Milner-Williams reported that he had met with a member of CPRE and a TVBC to discuss the restrictions placed on the planning permission to build a car park, in particular the condition to remove and replant a large part of ancient hedgerow. An application to vary the permission could be made at a cost of £85. It was agreed that an initial approach be made asking for the costs to be waived as the conditions set were considered unreasonable. If this failed the £85 payment would be made to expedite matters.

County and Borough Councillors Reports.

207 TVBC Lashbrook reported that he had made significant progress in his attempts to resolve the flooding problem under the A303 at Quarley and was hopeful that the matter would be dealt with although it appeared to be a major project. He also reported that a meeting of various bodies regarding traffic flow on race days at Thruxton Circuit had been useful and is confident there will be less problems than ever before. He commented that he had received many complaints regarding the planning application at Thruxton down, and finally that despite the terrible weather conditions this week his team had done a magnificent job of keeping the roads open. Cllr Milner-Williams expressed his thanks on behalf of the parish for these efforts.

Cllr Charnley had sent a report in her absence highlighting a new initiative called Push for Safer Homes where grants can be obtained to improve warmth, safety and accessibility in homes in the Test Valley. Further information from TVBC.

Affordable Housing

208 Cllr's Katrina Saville and John Chaffney of Monxton gave a comprehensive report of their experiences relating to the provision of affordable housing. While not without problems Monxton Parish were glad to have participated in the scheme. Councillors were concerned that if the housing association and TVBC were invited to identify a possible area for affordable housing and if that area were wholly unacceptable to the Parish, would the Parish be able to extricate itself. Cllr Phillipson agreed to further research the powers of a Parish Council to withdraw from any scheme once initial interest had been shown and where any aspect in the planning stage was unacceptable. It was noted that should Hyde Housing be the chosen partner then it would be prudent to secure written confirmation of all agreements reached, and to have formal minutes of any meetings held. It was agreed that without firm assurances that the Parish could withdraw in the early stages then any further involvement would need to be very carefully considered.

The Green

209 Cllr Milner-Williams reported that documents regarding the registration of the green had been submitted to the necessary authority. The covenant holders had asked that the parish council continue to respect the restrictive covenants. It was formally resolved that the parish council would continue to respect both the spirit and the wording of the restrictive covenant

Three quotes had been received regarding the maintenance of the village green. After careful consideration of the standards achieved in the past and the need to improve the appearance of the Green it was resolved that the contract be given to Green King Garden services.

It was agreed that The Village Association could use the village green to hold the annual village fete on 7 June 2009.

Access to dog walking field

210 Cllr Milner-Williams reported that the field opposite the school used by villagers for dog walking had been fenced to prevent fly tipping and vandalism. Locked gates were to be erected and anyone wishing to use the field would need to purchase either a key or electronic card to gain access. Further details of where to purchase the keys will follow when final decisions are made.

Planning

211 The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

08/02778/TREEN, tree works 15 Beech Close - no objection

New application - 08/02840/FULLN permission sought for travelling showman's site to be discussed at extraordinary meeting 9 February 2009.

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

08/02835/TREEN fell ash tree, Brooklands - support

08/02778/TREEN tree works 15 Beech Close - no objection

08/02936/FULLN erection of office, WC, storage & septic tank for plant nursery, land East of Thrupton Down - support

08/02951/VARN cease using garage for parking, South Barn, Church lane, Thrupton- support

08/02883/FULLN convert garage to kitchen area South Barn, Church Lane ,Thrupton - support

08/03010/CLEN certificate of lawfulness, Weyhill garden centre- support

09/00071/FULLN replacement of garden centre, post office and ancillary buildings- support

FINANCE

213 The bank balances as at 31 January 2009 were as follows:

Lloyds TSB £3623.36

Bank of Ireland £10,259.48

Payments

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

960 Mr S Withers Village green maintenance 2008-£660.00

961 H Bourner- December salary £224.53

962 Anton Drawing Office Supplies Jan newsletter £19.20

963 Southern Electric Contracting £104.58

964 H Bourner January salary £224.53

965 H Bourner expenses Dec/Jan £46.29

966 Thruxton W M Hall hire £15.00

967 Anton Drawing Office Supplies Feb newsletter £19.20

968 B Pearce hedge cutting £45.00

969 Audit commission £155.25

970 Southern electricity charges £125.31

971 Thruxton W M Hall hire £36.00 special meeting

The clerk also reported that a payment of £7.50 had been made by standing order for a safe custody fee.

215 The clerk reported that the annual audit commission return had been received with a recommendation that the fidelity guarantee insurance be increased. This had been duly actioned at no further charge to the parish. The return would now be displayed on the notice board as required.

Attendance at Events

216 Cllr Milner-Williams had attended a meeting of the Test valley strategic partnership, and discovered there had been a sharp rise in criminal activity in particular shoplifting and burglaries. He urged all present to be vigilant.

Training for the clerk had been rescheduled to early March.

Correspondence

217 The following items were all noted:-

A countryside access guide had been received and was held by the clerk,

The relevant notice regarding compliance with the freedom of information act was now on display,

TVBC had provided a summary statement of accounts which would be left for public view in the hall.

A reply had been received from Hampshire Police chief constable in response to the letter from Cllr Milner-Williams regarding the closure of the Weyhill Police.

The family of the late Ann Gerrish had asked that a hornbeam tree be planted on the village green in her memory. The Parish council will proceed.

Cllr Milner-Williams said the village web site now had a very useful diary and urged villagers to use it.

The village appraisal is to be updated with all households being asked to complete a questionnaire in the near future

A letter regarding street light maintenance had been received and Cllr Bradbury agreed to research whether the proffered PFI project brought any benefit. The deadline for response was 27th February. .

An invitation to enter the Calor village of the year had been received but sparked no interest.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

218 Cllr Phillipson had carried out further research regarding the proposed BMX track on the sports field. Insurance cover was sufficient provided the relevant health and safety conditions were met. It was proposed that local youngsters be asked to help with planning and design.

Cllr Foyne asked all present to look out for neighbours particularly during the bad weather.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 4 March 2009.