

THRUXTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 March 2009

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

In attendance: HCC Cllr Mrs P West
Mrs H Bourner Clerk
Mr J McKenzie Thruxton Times and Village Correspondent
Six members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

227 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr K Phillipson, TVBC Cllr Mrs E Charnley and TVBC Cllr Phil Lashbrook

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

228 Three young members of the parish attended to give their views on the proposed BMX track. While they expressed gratitude that the PC were trying to provide recreational facilities for them their preference was a skateboard park. Some concern was expressed at the lack of lighting at the proposed site on the sports field, however those councillors present agreed to give support to the idea and asked the youths to provide some plans of the type of facility they would like. The youngsters agreed to compile a presentation for the next meeting. Cllr Mallock urged the youngsters to have patience.

229 Sue McPartlan attended as custodian of the village hand bell set. She said it was possible for the bells to be played at village events provided she were given enough notice to gather a team of ringers. She stated that the hand bells did not lend themselves to outdoor displays.

230 John McKenzie asked if there were any news on potential renovation or other of the old Happy eater site on the A303. No one was able to provide any information.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

231 There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES

232 **Resolved:** that the minutes of the meetings held on 4 February 2009 and 9 February 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Grit Bins

233 The matter of placing grit bins in the village was discussed. The clerk presented the HCC regulations regarding the siting of such bins. Cllr Davis agreed to carry out research to establish possible sites. The clerk had researched the price of grit bins and undertook to contact HCC with regard to the suitability of those from sources other than that recommended by them.

Stream Bank Repairs

234 Cllr Milner-Williams expressed his frustrations that no progress had been made on this matter. His letters to TVBC remained unanswered. HCC Pat West agreed to take this matter further on behalf of the Parish Council.

Affordable Housing

235. Cllr Phillipson had written following last months meeting as agreed, but had reported that no reply had yet been received. Given both the lack of response and her absence it was agreed to defer the discussions to the next meeting.

The Green

236 Cllr Milner-Williams reported that the registration of the green was expected to be approved at a meeting on 11 March 2009.

The clerk reported that Green King had accepted the quote to mow the grass on the green. The method and timing of payment were discussed and it was agreed that payment be made quarterly.

Ann Gerrish Memorial Tree

237 Cllr Pennells suggested that the company Green King be asked to purchase and plant the tree given their expertise in this area. The clerk agreed to contact Green King with regard to this matter.

County and Borough Councillors Reports.

238 HCC Cllr Mrs Pat West reported the lowest rise in council tax for many years and gave detail as to how astute planning and budgeting had enabled this. Rates for Police and Fire service were not set by the council. There were no planned cuts to services and increased staff were to be sought in both Children and Adult services. She confirmed the new household waste recycling site was now open which was a valuable asset to the area. HCC Cllr West confirmed the date of the Planning Control Committee meeting at which the proposed new megashed was to be discussed as 10 March 2009 but the venue had been changed from Beech Hurst to The Guildhall which, with a capacity of only 60, was considered inadequate. She urged members and the public to attend.

Planning

239 The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

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

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

08/02702/CAWN retrospective application to demolish fence School House Church lane Thrupton-Support

08/02699/FULLN retention of replacement fence and brick and flint plinth School House, Church lane Thrupton- Support

09/00076/FULLN single story extension with roof alterations to provide enlarged kitchen/diner & lounge-Twilight Stanbury Road- object

08/02840/FULLN permission sought for travelling showman's site- object. A discussion regarding attendance at the Northern Area planning meeting followed. This item did not feature on the agenda for 12/03/09 as expected. Cllr Milner-Williams agreed to write to TVBC expressing Parish Council desire to speak at any meeting when item to be discussed.

FINANCE

241 The bank balances as at 11 February 2009 were as follows:

Lloyds TSB £3304.10

Bank of Ireland £10,272.54

Payments

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

972 (retrospective) Clerk training course £15.00

973 Thrupton W M Hall hire £15.00

974 Anton Drawing Office Supplies Jan newsletter £19.20

975 H Bourner- Feb salary £224.53

976 H Bourner Feb expenses £20.97

977 Hampshire ALC subscription £191.00

Attendance at Events

243 It was agreed that Cllr Milner-Williams and Cllr Davis should attend the meeting of TVAPC on 5 March 2009.

Correspondence

244 Correspondence had been received regarding protecting the clerk given that private details had been made available following the posting of the necessary notice regarding the Freedom of Information Act. The suggestion was that the clerk have a dedicated PO box for correspondence, along with a dedicated e-mail address and dedicated telephone line. The clerk reported a dedicated e-mail address was in operation. Neither the receipt of post or telephone calls in relation to Parish Council business caused any problems. It was agreed no action would be taken but the subject would be constantly reviewed.

Cllr Milner-Williams reported on correspondence received in relation to a scheme entitled active learning for active citizenship. The scheme encouraged the inclusion of youngsters in decision making, an example of which had been seen at this meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

245 The local Police had reported the receipt of several complaints regarding the danger of an individual walking at the side of the A303 with an sandwich board advertising The George. The complainant purported to be speaking on behalf of the council. No person present had any knowledge of this.

Cllr Milner-Williams had also received complaint from some resident who had found inappropriate notices stuck to their rubbish bins at the bottom of the lane leading to Nightingale Cottage.

Cllr Foynes asked if the necessary planning consent had been sought for the replacement fence at Harcourt. Cllrs Davis and Milner-Williams were able to confirm no permission was required.

Cllr Pennells asked that the hedge at the allotments be cut back, and that ivy and small trees growing near the telephone box be removed.

Cllr Davis reported that he had completed a planning survey on behalf of the parish council which is available for review if required. He was authorised to send in his completed survey on behalf of the Council

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 1 April 2009.