

**THRUXTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 OCTOBER 2011**

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

In attendance: Mrs H Bourner –Clerk

Mr J McKenzie -Thrupton Times and Village Correspondent

PC Roger Kitson

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

747 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs J Saunders, and Cllr J Davis Vice Chairman. The chairman noted with sympathy the absence again of Cllr Mrs J Saunders who was currently under some pressure from her employment. Cllr Mrs J Graham agreed to talk to her and offer support.

**Public Participation**

748 With no members of public present PC Kitson was given the first opportunity to speak. He said that he had been the beat officer for the parish for almost a year, and while he had been busy was happy to report crime figures in the parish were low. So far in 2011 there had been one dwelling burglary and 2 none dwelling thefts. Sadly the dwelling burglary was a recent event. In late September the home of an elderly resident had been burgled while he was on holiday. Police enquiries continue and links to other crimes have already been established. Cllr Windsor lived next door to the targeted property and in supporting his neighbour had seen firsthand the work of the police and expressed his gratitude, and praise to the police for their swift and efficient handling of the matter.

PC Kitson also reported on the use of a mobile speed laser check in the village which had resulted in one fixed penalty notice being issued. He said these checks will continue in the village sporadically. He also said it was acceptable for locals to pass details of speeding vehicles to him, he would then visit the offenders reminding them of the speed limits, laws etc. The same applies to individuals seen driving while using mobile telephones. Details should be passed to the clerk on 773976.

Finally PC Kitson expressed his thanks to Jeremy Bally who had recently retired after many years service, from his position as coordinator for the village neighbourhood watch scheme. The chairman also expressed his thanks to Jeremy on behalf of all parishioners. Cllr Milner-Williams has agreed to continue this role in the short term as it is invaluable to the village, not least as all residents receive 10% discount on home insurance policies for simply being in a neighbourhood watch area.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

749 Cllr Milner-Williams expressed an interest in the contract for cutting grass on the village green as his wife also employed the gentleman on a private basis. He also declared an interest in two planning applications submitted as both properties bordered his garden.

**MINUTES**

750 **Resolved:** Subject to an amendment at paragraph 743 regarding expenditure by Cllr Davis which was for paint and not fence repairs as had been reported, the minutes of the meetings held on 7 July 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**Jubilee Tree Planting**

751 The clerk confirmed she had obtained details of the scheme where local community groups could apply for a free tree pack to commemorate the Queens Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Packs contained 105 trees and have to be planted in community areas. Given the space required for this volume it was agreed to ask villagers if they had any ideas on where planting could take place.

### **Reduced Bus Service**

752 Following the details reported at the September meeting Cllr Milner-Williams reported on his attendance at a recent transport forum. Those present at the forum said given the reduced funding for bus services the best availability had been arranged. The matter was continually under review and the present timetables were not set in concrete.

Cllr Bradbury expressed his concerns that despite all residents paying their council tax some of them; particularly the elderly were being denied even the most basic services, which was simply not acceptable.

The clerk said she had contacted Cango bus services to establish if they would extend the route they have planned for Kimpton and Fyfield to include Thruxton, and was awaiting contact from a manager from this company.

### **Re-location of Litter Bin**

753 Cllr Milner-Williams and the clerk had met with a representative from TVBC regarding the moving of a litter bin from the village green to the sports field. This required some decisions regarding moving or fitting a new station. Those present agreed it would be wise to try and move the station currently in use as this would have to be removed if it became redundant. There could also be a cost saving. The clerk agreed to discuss the matter further with TVBC and attempt to get the work carried out. It was agreed that up to £100 could be spent to bring the matter to a conclusion.

### **Street Lighting.**

754 The clerk confirmed she had written to Southern Electric to reject the quote of over £600 for the required work to clear trees and change timers. She had however been approached by a member of the press regarding this who was interested in writing a story about how a local councils attempts to be "green" were thwarted by cost. The same member of the press had also contacted the electricity company and this had resulted in them asking the clerk to enter into discussions as to how the resolve the problems encountered. The clerk agreed to gather some data from the electricity company regarding cost recovery, and the electricity company agreed to review the quote. The matter will be revisited at the next meeting.

### **Repairs to Bus shelters**

755 Cllr Milner-Williams expressed his thanks to Cllr Mrs J Graham and Cllr Davis for their continued work to repair and restore the bus shelter. Unfortunately some problems had been encountered in that the benches inside the shelter needed repair, as did the black base surround on the outside of the building. The clerk agreed to obtain quotes for the required work.

### **Postal deliveries**

756 Cllr Milner-Williams said many residents had expressed dissatisfaction with the current service. He had established each postal delivery worker had recently been given a much larger area to service and at the same time been banned from claiming overtime. The rounds were too large to complete in a normal working day. The matter had been referred to Sir George Young who was currently undertaking enquiries.

### **Grit Bins**

757 The clerk reported HCC Pat West had registered the parish request for three more grit bins. Arrival of the bins at the local HCC depot was imminent. The clerk will monitor the situation.

### **Road Closures**

758 The clerk reported that two notices had been received regarding road closures. Stanbury Road between Church lane and Stanbury Close was to be closed on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November and part of Wiremead Lane under the A303 flyover at the east end of the village was to be closed between 24<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November.

## County and Borough Councillor Reports

759 There were no HCC or TVBC councillors present.

### Planning

760 The following decisions by TVBC were noted: None

761 **Resolved:** that the Planning advisory committees recommendations on the following applications be endorsed: 11/01851/FULLN – separation of Cottage Croft into 2 dwellings-support

11/01878/FULLN- Replacement garage Rose Cottage. Matter reviewed at meeting Cllr Milner-Williams abstained from comment. All others present gave full support.

11/02142/TREEN- removal and reduction of trees 15 and 17 Lambourne way. Cllr Milner-Williams abstained from comment. All others present discussed matter and agreed an objection would be lodged regarding the removal of three silver birch trees, with support for a reduction of a further silver birch and removal of a diseased conifer.

### FINANCE

762 The bank balance as at 13 September 2011 was as follows:

Lloyds TSB 8168.71  
Lloyds reserve £11000

### Payments

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

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Anton DO Supp          | £24.80  |
| Thrupton WMH           | £16.00  |
| H Bourner Sep salary   | £249.36 |
| H Bourner Sep exp.     | £318.99 |
| Mr. R Welch Oct        | £71.76  |
| Cllr Mrs. Graham       | £8.47   |
| Information Comms      | £35.00  |
| Audit Comm             | £162.00 |
| Southern Electric      | £120.47 |
| S Electric contracting | £118.02 |

The clerk confirmed the Sports Trust rent had now been received.

### Attendance at Events

764 Details of the transport forum attended had been reported at paragraph 752.

### Correspondence

765 The clerk noted several items of correspondence recently received: - a letter from the Village Hall association confirming price rises from April 2012, a letter regarding the parliamentary constituency review, a guide from CPRE on how to deal with planning applications, a letter from the Society for Local Council Clerks, and an acknowledgement to a letter sent by Cllr Milner-Williams to Ken Thornber head of HCC regarding the reduced bus service and reserves held.

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

766 Cllr Milner-Williams highlighted the Village Harvest Service planned for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October. The clerk recommended the new dance classes in the village hall on Monday evenings, see notice boards for details.

Expressions of concern regarding support for the Sports Trust were voiced. The chairman had resigned and no replacement found. The parish council wished to support this worthwhile village organisation. The clerk will contact the trust to establish how help can be given.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would take place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 2 November 2011.