

**THRUXTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2010**

Present: Cllr C Milner-Williams Chairman, Cllr J Davis, Cllr R Bradbury, Cllr Mike Windsor, Cllr Mrs K Philipson & Cllr Mrs D Foyes.

In attendance: Mrs H Bourner –Clerk
TVBC Phil Lashbrook
Mr J McKenzie -Thrupton Times and Village Correspondent
One member of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

575 Apologies for absence were received from HCC Mrs Pat West, TVBC Mrs E Charnley & Cllr Mrs J Saunders.

Public Participation

576 Margaret Davis asked if it was possible to arrange for some large potholes that appeared around the village to be filled. Cllr Milner-Williams confirmed it was a simple matter of registering the potholes on line with HCC. The clerk said she would be happy to make contact if all present could let her know where the offending holes were situated.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

577 Cllr Milner-Williams declared an interest in the parochial church council application for tree works. Cllr Windsor declared an interest in a planning matter pertaining to a conservatory at his property.

MINUTES

578 **Resolved:** that the minutes of the meetings held on 3 November 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Stream Bank Repairs

579 Cllr Bradbury expressed utter dismay that the repairs were still not complete. It seems incredible that HCC were unable to control contractors to ensure the work was carried out. The initial request for the work was made some 5 years ago. The work commenced in July 2010, and it was promised it would be complete by the end of November. All councillors present agreed with the sense of dismay. The clerk agreed to continue to monitor. The Chairman would continue to copy e-mails sent and received on the subject to Councillors.

Village Green Rubbish

580 Cllr Davis had contacted Tony Carter of Thrupton Down, who had agreed to remove the rubbish on the village green shortly. As before, establishing a date for the task was proving difficult.

Small grants scheme

581. The clerk confirmed she had received an offer of a grant for the purpose of improving footpaths in the village. The conditions were any grant received had to be match funded, and must be spent by end of February 2011. It had been hoped to carry out repairs to St Johns Lane at the same time as carrying out footpath repairs, however the plan to be provided by residents of the lane had not materialised, and likewise any monetary donations. Given the deadline those councillors present agreed to proceed with repairs to the footpath by the electricity substation and from the village hall to Beech close as soon as the weather made this possible. Work on St John's Lane which remained a disgrace would be postponed until some positive effort was seen from the residents. This remains a great inconvenience to many.

Sports Field Car Park

582 Cllr Milner-Williams reported the official opening of the car park had been a success. The event had been attended by HCC Pat West, the Mayor and Mayoress of Test Valley, several Parish Councillors and a group of children from Kimpton Thrupton and Fyfield Primary School. Thanks were expressed to Mr Andy Rowles of Stanbury Road for building a safe and sturdy path across the ditch for easy access to the play park. The clerk was also able to report the sports trust would be erecting a height restriction barrier at the car park entrance shortly.

BT Phone Box

583 The clerk reported she had contacted Brain Pearce to obtain a quote to install three shelves within the box. Cllr Davis, Cllr Mrs Foynes and Cllr Windsor assisted by the Chairman had started work rubbing down the paintwork on the box and the next working party will be Sat 8th January 2011 at 1030 to clean the box and secure the panes of glass. The Chairman thanked them for their hard work. Cllr Davis asked the clerk to establish prices of the glass units used to glaze the box.

Mobile Library Service

584. Cllr Milner-Williams confirmed he had completed and returned the survey sent to the parish council, pointing out what a valuable and well used service it was and how the village would be very unhappy to lose the service.

Tree Enquiry

585 The clerk reported a tree specialist from HCC had viewed the large beech tree on the junction of Lovell Close and Village Street. The subsequent report to the Parish Council stated the tree was not damaged or presenting any danger and HCC were therefore unwilling to carry out any work on the tree. Cllr Windsor had also examined the tree and gave his agreement to these findings.

Footpath from Village Street to Lambourne Close.

586 Cllr Milner-Williams agreed to deal with the repair required to the footpath as soon as the weather was conducive. The clerk reported she had asked TVBC and Hants Highways to establish ownership of this path but as yet had not received any reply.

County and Borough Councillor Reports

587 TVBC Phil Lashbrook reported on behalf of HCC Pat West to confirm the latest winter road salting plan had been so far successful. There were however concerns that the highways department were not completing gritting on some major routes and an investigation in to an accident on the A303 possibly caused by ice, was currently in progress.

Cllr Lashbrook also reported on the planned changes to policing in the county, and the proposed closure of Stockbridge police station. He confirmed that TVBC will fight any reductions in service.

Planning

588 The following decisions by TVBC were noted: none

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

10/02518/ CLPN certificate of lawfulness conservatory 15 Stanbury Close - noted

10/02649/TREEN ash tree pruning village green- support

1002629/TREEN cut back beech and conifer churchyard- support.

It was agreed to get quotes for the removal of the branch from the Ash tree on the Green from Mr Welch and Mr Lister. A request would be made to leave the timber in manageable sections on the Green for use by villagers.

The Chairman mentioned the response received to his letter which he had circulated to members regarding the poor handling of the appeal against the planning permission for the travelling showman site at Thrupton Down. Councillors agreed the response added little to the debate. There currently had been no decision regarding the appeal. The Chairman intended, if the appeal was successful to write to CE of TVBC to ensure that any conditions imposed were properly enforced. In addition Cllr Davis suggested if permission were granted the Parish Council should attempt to set up a liaison group to work with Mr & Mrs Connor-Squires in the spirit of conciliatory monitoring. TVBC Phil Lashbrook also said he was sure that local enforcement officers would keep a close eye on the site to ensure conditions were adhered to.

FINANCE

590 The bank balances as at 10 November 2010 were as follows:

Lloyds TSB £6070.47

Bank of Ireland £10,286.61

Payments

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

Anton DO Supp April	£24.80
Thrupton WMH	£16.00
H Bourner Nov salary	£240.57
H Bourner Nov exp.	£88.71
Cllr J Davis	£10.00
Mrs H Bourner Dec	£240.57

Draft budget proposals were presented and after some discussion on the simplified format and presentation the proposed budget for 2011/12 was agreed.

The money previously held in the Bank of Ireland had been received by cheque and was now lodged with Lloyds. Possible alternative bank accounts for reserve funds had been explored and Cllr Davis had negotiated an attractive interest rate from Lloyds Banking Group. After a short discussion it was agreed Cllr Davis would revisit the bank and begin the process to set up an account in which the reserves would be held earning 1.6% at no notice withdrawal. The Chairman sought and was granted permission to transfer an amount from the current account to the new reserve account sufficient to bring that reserve up to the agreed £11,000. It was agreed that the existing two signatories for the reserve account, namely the Chairman and Cllr Davis should be the authorised signatories for the new reserve account.

Attendance at Events

592 Cllr Milner-Williams asked for and was given permission to attend the Community Safety partnership meeting at Stockbridge Fire Station on 02/12/10.

Correspondence

593 Cllr Milner-Williams said he had received a letter from the Mayor thanking him for the invitation to the opening of the car park. The response had been circulated to all councillors. A Christmas card had been received from the village hall trustees.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

594 Cllr Mrs Philipson suggested the debate in allowing heavy HGV vehicles through the village should be reopened. She felt the damage to the stream bank walls could be much reduced if restrictions were in place. TVBC Phil Lashbrook said it could be a very lengthy process in order to succeed but agreed to give assistance to the parish if required. He gave the names of TVBC transport engineers to the clerk, and she agreed to contact them to establish how to proceed.

The clerk was able to confirm the sports trust had agreed to remove the accumulated rubbish from the sports field in particular that behind the container.

The clerk had received an email from TVBC environmental health dept regarding the ownership of the land used as a path to the cottages alongside the allotments. After a brief discussion it was agreed the land was owned by the diocese. The clerk agreed to reply to the request.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The chairman expressed his thanks to all present for their work in the past year, and extended his best wishes for Christmas to all parishioners. The meeting concluded with seasonal refreshments provided by the Chairman.