

THRUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th OCTOBER 2024

Present: Cllr P Christie (Chair), Cllr R Munday (Vice Chair), Cllr S Cotterill, Cllr R Earp, Cllr H Liechtie, Cllr W Odling, Cllr R Sherlock.
HCC Cllr C Donnell

In attendance: Ms W Turkington– Clerk
Four members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC Cllr. Phil Lashbrook

2. Public Participation

Members of the public wished to speak about items on the agenda under item 5.4.2 Electricity sub-station.

Non agenda - a member of the public spoke on the Parish archives, which had been previously curated by the church and have now been returned to the Parish. A workshop will take place on 19th October to display the significant amount of material, which needs storing and a permanent location for the archives is under consideration. Fundraising ideas on how to support, protect and develop the archive project as well as storage costs to be discussed at the next meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest. All Councillors present confirmed that no changes to register of interest forms were required.

4. Minutes

Resolved. The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair. Proposer Cllr Munday, seconded Cllr Christie. All in favour.

5. Specific Reports

5.1 Biodiversity and Flooding Cllr Munday had circulated a detailed report to the Parish Councillors. Cllr Donnelly advised drainage systems are under severe stress, and there is only one 'jet cleaning' vehicle to cover many areas across the region. The Pan-Parish forum had reported groundwater levels had risen by one metre in the past week, double the average. The village stream has been flowing a month earlier than usual. Cllr Odling reported there was flooding at the east end of Village St due to a blocked drainage pipe. The Clerk had written to Highways and Cllr Donnelly, and an inspector is investigating the issue.

5.2 Roads, Footpaths and Thruxton Circuit Cllr Christie reported HGV traffic through the village is an ongoing issue, with a recent incident being dealt with by the police. Separately, Highways had surveyed the damaged brook retaining wall near the Church and advised it needs reinforcing. Any works taken will be fully funded by Highways. To prevent HGVs using this part of the road, Cllr Donnelly had raised the issue with HCC and advised there could be an option to place retractable bollards at the junction where the village telephone box is located.

5.3 Thruxton Circuit: non racing events Cllr Cotterill reported there had been a recent aerial acrobatic display, which had not been notified to the parish council. Several residents had voiced concern and Alex Thistlethwayte, the owner, had apologised for not giving advance notice.

5.4. Environmental, Mandy Garden and Village Green update Cllr Cotterill had circulated a detailed report to the Parish Councillors.

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5.4.1 Village Green: Cllr Munday and a group of residents had undertaken the stream clearance at the Village Green on the 15th September and 5th October. A large tree branch extending over part of Village St is a potential hazard and requires cutting off. Work would need to be conducted by a professional tree surgeon and planning permission granted.

5.4.2 Electricity sub-station: A resident has kindly agreed to pay for the proposed laurel trellis screening for the electricity sub-station in Lambourne Green. Cllr Cotterill advised that SSE would need to give permission and if received, they could then discuss fixings as additional supports/posts may be required. Cllr Christie proposed that should fixings be required; the Parish Council should share the cost. Cllr Munday seconded this motion. All in favour

5.4.3 Mandy Garden: Two residents, Mrs Heather Bournier and Mrs Janet Graham, kindly volunteered to maintain it.

5.5 Play area safety checks Cllr Odling had had circulated a detailed report to the Parish Councillors. One of the gates was hanging off and he and Cllr Earp offered to fix it. Signage at the site had disappeared and needs replacing. He had looked at best prices and these would be £48+VAT for an A3 sign. Four signs would be required, two for each gate. A resident had kindly offered to undertake the job. The cost was approved and all in favour of the work.

5.6 Speed awareness and community speed watch Cllr Cotterill reported that four residents had volunteered but at least one more was required to meet regulations. The cost of speed guns is exorbitant and perhaps these could be rented from Shipton Bellinger Parish Council, who have them.

5.7 Dog walking field Cllr Christie reported that he will hold the keys to the dog walking field, now that local resident, Heather Bournier, has retired as the Clerk.

5.8. Newsletter advertising and distribution Cllr Christie advised a resident has now offered to co-ordinate the distribution of the newsletter. Cllr Liechti had offered to assist with the newsletter, gratefully accepted.

5.9 WhatsApp Group Cllr Christie proposed setting up a closed group for the Parish Councillors and Clerk. All in favour.

5.10 Clerks Report **Village telephone box** the clerk had been notified that the village telephone box is Grade II listed by Historic England. Their regulations stipulate that any proposal to remove it, would have to be approved by them, however, lesser works are not normally commented upon. **Weed control** had been undertaken by a volunteer resident to all the Parish footpaths and once the village stream dries out, any new growth will also be sprayed. It was agreed that the work should continue in 2025.

Sports Field This is now being hired out and the responsibility for cutting the grass at its edges and maintaining the trench lies with the Sports Field Trust.

6. Foreman Homes meeting the developer requested an opportunity to present their plans to apply for the building of new houses on the field at the end of Lambourne Way. This was agreed and Foreman Homes will come to the next Parish Council meeting in November.

7. Green space at electricity sub-station Cllr Cotterill is pursuing the registration of this land to become a village green.

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8. Housing Needs Survey Cllr Christie gave a summary of the survey findings. Key results indicated that 64% of respondents were in favour of a 20mph speed limit on main roads through the village. Cllr Donnelly advised he would be willing to assist with an application to HCC as he has done for Appleshaw parish council, however, there would be a cost to the parish council of approximately £10,000, as each stage of the application would need to be evaluated. This could result in an increase to council tax bills. It was therefore agreed to make the survey findings available for public review at the next meeting so that comments could be received. Cllr Christie suggested that the council precept might be increased for one year for the above, for discussion.

9. County and Borough Councillors' Reports Cllr Donnelly reported that the Thruxton Down Farm Planning Application Enforcement Appeal has failed and that the site must be returned to its original state. This will be subject to the outcome of a fresh retrospective planning application. TVBC Planning has not yet made a recommendation on the latest application as key reports including from Highways have not yet been submitted. The application has been called to the TVBC Northern Area Planning committee (NALC) for councillors to vote upon, date to be confirmed.

The Lains Farm Solar Farm latest planning application will be voted upon at the October NALC meeting. Members of the public can attend. Cllr Christie reported that a community grant of £16,000 could be available if the application were to be approved.

10. Bus Shelter: Cllr Christie noted that this requires painting and surrounding area weeded. It was suggested that 'community payback workers' or the Lengthsman might undertake this work.

11. Laptop Cllr Christie proposed that a laptop should be purchased for the Clerk, solely for Parish Council business, rather than the Clerk use her personal laptop as there could be GDPR issues. All in favour.

12. Finance

The outgoing clerk reported that she had notified Lloyds Bank of the change to signatory from herself, Heather Bournier, to the new clerk, Wendy Turkington, and adding cllr Munday was now waiting for confirmation from the bank.

Cllr Christie advised that the Fete income would be published in the next newsletter and residents invited to put forward suggestions for the use of the profit made from the event. Some funds would be ringfenced for next year to cover costs for any items required. Cllr Christie proposed that any additional support provided by Heather Bournier, the outgoing clerk, should be paid as a consultancy fee. All in favour.

i) To note the bank balances as at 27/09/2024

Lloyds £28369.02

United Trust Reserve £14761.78

ii) To approve the following payments and authorise online transactions: -

H Bournier salary	£487.24
HMRC	£212.04
H Bournier exp.	£18.00
W Turkington Salary	£356.93
HMRC	£89.20
W Turkington Exps	£18.00
Taits newsletter (Aug)	£52.00
Thruxton Mem Hall	£28.00
Ray Welch Village Green	£200.00
BDO LLP	£252.00
Taits newsletter + inserts (sep)	£90.00
Enerveo street lighting	£122.30

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The payments given in ii) were approved and authorised.

Retrospective

ii) Report from Audit - this needed to be dated, and the Auditors confirmed it is otherwise correct

Action: The outgoing Clerk has dated and resubmitted the Report

iii) Budget Planning 2025-26

13. Planning

(ii) To receive the Planning Advisory Committee's recommendations on the following applications:

24/02141/TREEN – tree works St Martins House - no objections

24/02009/FULLN – Land East of Thruxton Down House, Topliss Hill - Comments submitted

24/01880/FULLN Thruxton Down Farm Application - retrospective planning application update

Please refer to pt.9 of these Minutes

14. Attendance at Events None

15. Community Thanks Cllr Cotterill expressed thanks to Cllr Munday for organising the annual weed cut and stream clearance. This is vital work that helps reduce the risk of flooding in the village. Thanks were also expressed for the help of volunteer residents, including Sue King, Edward Chamberlain, Richard and Dee Thorpe, Judy Fowler, Louise and Dave Cushine, Keith Edwards, Ray Welsh, supporting Cllr Richard Earp and Cllr Richard Munday.

Cllr Earp proposed giving a gift voucher to a specific resident for his voluntary work in controlling the weeds on the parish footpaths and assistance around the parish with many external tasks. All in favour.

16. Correspondence None

17. Community News A vote of thanks and presentation was made by Cllr Christie on behalf of the Parish Council to Heather Bourner, outgoing Clerk, for her many years professional and dedicated work for the community

18. New items for next Agenda

1) Archives; 2) HGV traffic – road bollards; 3) Budget Plan 2025-26

19. Date of Next Meeting 7.30pm, Monday, 4th November 2024

ACTIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN RESPECT OF AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda No	Item
2	Parish archives – emails to be circulated to all Councillors
Action	Cllr Christie
5.1	Biodiversity and Flooding -issue to be raised at next meeting of the Pan-Parish Council Forum
Action	Cllr Donnelly
5.2	Roads, Footpaths and Thruxton Circuit – option to place retractable bollards at junction of village telephone box
Action	Parish Councillors to consider further
5.3	Thruxton Circuit: non-racing events – concerns over noise levels to be raised again at next Thruxton and District Protection Society meeting
Action	Cllr Christie
5.4.1	Village Green – large tree branch over Village St requires cutting off
Action	Clerk to find out costs for above
5.4.2	Electricity sub-station – screening trellis required
Actions	Cllr Earp to liaise with resident: Cllr Cotterill to contact SSE for permission

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5.5	Play area safety check – one of gates needed rehangng and new signage required
Actions	Cllr Odling to organise signage Cllrs Odling and Earp to rehang gate
5.6	Speed awareness and community speed watch –one further volunteer needed. Speed guns required
Actions	Cllr Christie to request volunteers in newsletter; Cllr Cotterill to contact Shipton Bellinger Parish Council in respect of renting speed cameras
5.7	Dog walking field
Action	Cllr Christie to advise change of keyholder in Newsletter
5.9	WhatsApp Group – closed group for Parish Councillors
Action	Cllr Christie to set up
5.10	Clerks Report – Weed control
Action	Clerk to confirm with volunteer resident for 2025
5.11	Sports Field– grass cutting and trench maintenance to cease by Parish Council
Action	Clerk to notify Sports Field Trust and contractor of above decision
6	Foreman Homes – presentation of plans at next Parish Council Meeting
Action	Cllr Christie to publish details in next Newsletter
7	Green space at electricity sub-station
Action	Cllr Cotterill to pursue registration of the above to become a village green
8	Housing Needs Survey (HNS) – findings
Action	Cllr Christie to circulate HNS and include Summary in next Newsletter
10	Bus Shelter – painting and weeding
Action	Clerk to follow up with Lengthsman
11	Laptop for Parish Council business
Action	Clerk to provide quotes to Cllr Christie
12	Finance – Lloyds Bank signatories; Fete Income; Budget 2025-26
Actions	Clerk to notify Parish Councillors once bank implemented
	Cllr Christie to publish Fete income in next Newsletter
	Parish Councillors to review proposed Budget 2025-26 for next meeting
15	Community Thanks – Gift voucher to resident for work controlling weeds and assistance around the Parish
Action	Cllr Earp to organise above