

*THRUXTON PARISH COUNCIL*  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024**

Present: Cllr P Christie (Chairman), Cllr R Munday, Cllr W Odling & Cllr S Cotterill.

In attendance:

Mrs H Bournier – Clerk  
HCC C Donnelly  
17 members of the public

**1) Apologies for Absence.**

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

**Election of Chairman**

2) Cllr Cotterill nominated Cllr Christie to be Chairman for the forthcoming year. This was seconded by Cllr Odling. All Agreed. Cllr Christie signed an acceptance of office form.

**Election of Vice Chairman**

3) Cllr Cotterill nominated Cllr Munday to be Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year. This was seconded by Cllr Christie. All agreed. Cllr Munday signed an acceptance of office form.

**Co Option New Councillor**

4) This item was adjourned to the next meeting.

**Declarations of Interest**

5) There were no declarations of interest. All Councillors confirmed there were no amendments required to Register of Interest Forms.

**Minutes**

6) **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April were confirmed as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman. Proposer Cllr Munday seconded Cllr Odling. All in favour.

**7) Clerks report**

Review and agree standing orders, financial regulations & code of conduct

All documents had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. These were all based on NALC model documents including the recently published Financial Regulations. All documents were re adopted for 2024-25.

Mileage rates for claims for travel for all Councillors and the Clerk was agreed at .45p per mile

Village Green

The Clerk had circulated a report regarding the Village Green which was discussed. Cllr Cotterill also reported on her review of the Village Green. At the last meeting it was suggested the Mandy Garden be removed and the area be made part of the green. The Clerk reported comments she had received from villagers who had said the garden was not meant to be formal but a wildlife garden. Two parishioners in attendance agreed to work to keep the area tidy.

A parishioner in attendance said they believed the green should be maintained as an open space and that there should now be a restriction on planting any more trees. After a short discussion the Parish Council agreed no further planting of trees will be allowed in the foreseeable future.

It was agreed the rotten benches on the green should be disposed of now. The Clerk will organise this. She will also gather prices for replacement benches both wooden and recycled materials, to be considered at the next meeting.

It was noted the stream level was still fairly high although this is now starting to drop. The bank will remain un trimmed as this is felt to be aiding with its stability. The Parish Council continue to push HCC to repair the broken wall at the bank of the stream by Village Street. Finally, Cllr Cotterill reported she is gathering evidence to apply for Village green status on the land in front of the electricity substation.

Dragons Tooth

One of the dragons' teeth at the triangle of land near Lovell Close was rotten. A quote for £35

to replace this was accepted. The Clerk will arrange for the work to be carried out.

### **Finance**

8) The bank balance as 30/04/24 was as follows:

Lloyds £24316.82

United Trust Reserve £14083.63

### **Payments**

**Resolved:** that the following payments be approved, and online transactions authorised:

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

H Bournier salary	£635.80
HMRC	£0
H Bournier exp.	£18.00
Thrupton Mem Hall	£54.00
Taits	£52.00
HALC	£324.00
Ray Welch (sports field)	£120.00
Notice board, oil & sealant	£37.35
C& M DIY	£43.47
HCC SLR posts	£951.00
Clear Insurance	£629.40
R Welch (V Green)	£200.00
Janet Wright	£7.00
Chairmans Allowance	£39.17

The Clerk confirmed the first half of precept had been received.

### **Planning**

12) The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

23/02657/FULLN & 24/0038/COU- change of use Thrupton Down Farm- appeal and public hearing- deadline for comments 9<sup>th</sup> May, appeal hearing date 16<sup>th</sup> July at TVBC offices, Andover. A representative from the Parish Council will attend and speak.

**Resolved:** that the planning advisory committee's approval on the following applications were endorsed:

24/00897/TPON- fell trees subject to preservation orders-Wanowrie, Dauntsey Lane - objection.

24/01012/TREEN- tree works The Old Rectory 24/01013/TREEN fell 1 holly tree-Manor Cottage Church Lane- no objection

24/01014/TPON tree work including felling 10 dead elms, subject to preservation order- Thrupton Manor- no objection

### **13) Correspondence**

Cllr Cotterill reported she had been corresponding with the Police regarding setting up a community speed watch group. There is a cost of £450.00 for equipment. Training is required for all those prepared to be part of a team to manage the program. Research into sharing equipment with another village will take place however requests for volunteers will now be made via the newsletter. Cllr Odling also suggested parishioners are asked now if they are in support of a 20mph zone in the village, also maybe regarding possible traffic calming methods. The suggestion was questions regarding this be included in the next Housing Needs Survey which will be circulated with the June newsletter to help with the five-year review of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Christie will speak to those creating the new survey.

### **14) Items for next agenda**

Councillor responsibilities

Housing Needs Survey

### **15) Community News**

Thanks were expressed to Roger Oliver for his work to survey the Village Green and for his

continued work to spray weeds in pavements and verges around the village.  
The death of Heather Coleman who was previously Clerk to Thruxton Parish Council was noted.

The meeting was followed by the Annual Parish Assembly- minutes below

*THRUXTON PARISH COUNCIL*  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 9th MAY 2024**

Present: Cllr P Christie (Chairman), Cllr R Munday, Cllr W Odling & Cllr S Cotterill

In attendance:

Mrs H Bourner – Clerk  
HCC C Donnelly  
40 members of the public

**Apologies**

1 Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC Phil Lashbrook & Cllr R Sherlock.

**Minutes**

2) **Resolved:** The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman. Proposer Cllr Munday seconded Cllr Christie. All in favour.

**3) Annual Report of the Parish Council**

Cllr Christie opened by thanking all those present for attending. He reported on several projects undertaken by the Parish Council and highlighted the vacancies for Councillors plus the need for volunteers. His full report can be seen at appendix 1.

**Report on Finance**

4) The Clerk confirmed the year end accounts to 31/03/24 had been agreed and were available for inspection along with the full records, a review by the internal auditor would take place shortly. She confirmed the requested funds from TVBC for the forthcoming year had increased to take into account the rate of inflation at the time of the request and to allow for the lack of increase in the past two years.

**5) Reports from Local Organisations**

**Alex Thistlethwaite-Thruxton Circuit-** the new owner of Thruxton Circuit spoke of his plans to update and improve Thruxton Circuit and airfield including the industrial area. He said he lives close to Thruxton and has lived in Hampshire most of his life.

He said the purchase of the circuit had only recently completed and no firm plans for change and improvement had been made yet however his vision is to make all areas better improving quality while retaining where possible, some of the heritage assets. He stressed that he is not a property developer and changes to the industrial area centre around improving and creating a high-quality centre bringing good employment possibilities. Finally, he said sees himself as custodian of site and plans to develop an intergenerational business which will bring benefits to the local community.

**Ben Taylor-Thruxton Circuit-lead of BARC** reported that BARC have had some very successful events in the last year however the condensed calendar of last year will not be repeated this year. Events will be more spread-out following discussions with the protection society. Improved traffic signage will be used to prevent traffic using the village to access the track in particular with big events such as British Super Bikes, British Touring Cars and truck racing all of which will be visiting this season.  
He expressed huge gratitude to Henry Pelham for the last 56 years when BARC have been tenants at the site, and said BARC look forward to working with new owners.  
He said BARC have been working with the local school which saw a large carol service for both Kimpton & Appleshaw schools being held at Thruxton Circuit last year.

### **Reverend Sarah Sharland**

Thanked the Parish Council for the invitation to speak at the meeting. She said she has been the local vicar for almost two years, looks after 5 parishes and lives in Shipton Bellinger. She said that worshipers of Thruxton parish have reduced to a small number but she would very much like to welcome new parishioners. She said she is looking to promote a new way to worship which includes involving children. She regularly visits the three schools Kimpton, Appleshaw and Shipton.

She explained to those present how the Church gains finance and said Thruxton is struggling to meet all its financial obligations. She said that new donations would help to alleviate this and hoped more parishioners would consider giving either by way of regular donation or when attending services.

### **County and Borough Councillors' Report**

6) HCC Cllr Chris Donnelly reported that HCC has set a new budget and 86% of funds are allocated to adult and children's services which leaves a significant shortfall for other areas. HCC are now lobbying central government to rectify this and a recent survey has been carried out to find out what public priorities are.

He said he has spoken to officers at a higher level to push for the stream bank repair in Thruxton and hopes this will be dealt with this summer. He is also trying to get agreement from HCC highways to clear all drains in the village now the ground water levels are dropping. He confirmed Donna Jones was reelected as Police & Crime Commissioner and her vision is to provide a designated police officer for all communities. Finally, he said agreement had now been secured that Hampshire residents will only require one bin to recycle all materials except food waste for which a caddy will be required. A start date for this has yet to be confirmed.

A parishioner asked if he could push for a 30mph sign to be installed at the main entrance to the village as the only small sign that was installed has now disappeared. He agreed to speak to highways regarding this.

Finally, concerns were expressed regarding the Highways comments on the planning application for 14 homes on land behind Stanbury Close. They had simply commented highways access was acceptable in contrast to requesting a mass of information regarding the application to build one house in Village Street. While the application had been refused there is likely to be further applications. HCC Donnelley agreed to speak to the planning officers regarding this.

TVBC Cllr Phil Lashbrook – had sent his apologies

### **Public Participation**

7) A question was raised regarding the terrible state of village roads. Cllr Christie said the Parish Council has no powers to address these issues but will continue to press HCC to carry out any work they are able to fund.

A request was made to apply for a reduced speed limit on Amesbury Road. Cllr Christie said the road was in both Thruxton and Ampport parishes and he will talk to Ampport Parish Council to ascertain their views on this.

### **Date of next meeting**

8) The next meeting will take place at 7.30 pm on Monday 3rd June 2024

Appendix 1

## **THRUXTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **CHAIR'S REPORT – 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**

Welcome and thank you for coming to the Annual Parish Assembly – and an especially warm welcome to our guest speakers. As you will have seen from the agenda we will be addressed later in the meeting by Alex Thistlethwaite, the new owner of the airfield estate; by Ben Taylor, MD of BARC; and, finally, by Rev. Sarah Sharland who came to these parishes around 3 years ago. We are especially grateful to Alex for agreeing to attend as he has only just completed his purchase of the land from Henry Pelham. Alex is a classic car racing

enthusiast, lives in Chute and is keen to continue the friendly relationships with local communities that Henry had established. He's here tonight with his wife Lucy and, although he hasn't yet really developed any concrete plans for the land – with apologies for the use of “concrete”! – I know that he's ready to meet you and answer questions.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Parish Council for their time and dedication. We have had a few changes in the last year with the recent resignation of Tricia Harris. Tricia joined the Parish Council in 2019 and has contributed significantly to the community through her concern for social matters as well as being responsible for the distribution of the monthly newsletter. We are most grateful for her work and commitment. We have welcomed Susie Cotterill and Becky Sherlock to the Parish Council, both joining over the last few months. Susie – Cllr. Cotterill – has agreed to take on the responsibility for over-seeing the guardianship of the Village Green and the other small plots of land that the Parish Council look after around the village, whilst Becky – Cllr. Sherlock – will take over the distribution of the newsletter. We are grateful for their dedication, support and service to the community. I truly appreciate their support and hard work and, on behalf of residents, I give them our thanks.

As I said last year, none of us could do our job without the unfailingly professional and truly wonderful Clerk, Heather Bournier, who has again steered us through the pitfalls and traps of executing our democratic responsibilities with great care and devotion to the people of Thruxton – a massive thank you. Thanks too to TVBC Cllr Phil Lashbrook and Hampshire County Cllr Chris Donnelly for their support of Thruxton and the Parish Council. We look forward to continuing our relationships with them. It is appropriate to also offer our congratulations to Phil for his term as Mayor and to wish him well for whatever future role he is given in TVBC.

Some of the key areas that your Parish Council is or has been engaged with include:

- **Planning** – this is probably the most visible of our responsibilities. Cllr. Will Odling and Cllr. Richard Munday lead in this area. Generally, it has been a quiet year with a total of 25 applications to be commented on over the 12-month period. The vast majority of these have been generally straightforward – typically applications to prune trees – but 2 stand out as being more difficult cases. One is, of course, the application to build a number of affordable homes on land off Stanbury Close and twice in the last year we have been successful in persuading TVBC Planning to refuse the Orchard Homes proposals. I'd like to thank all of you who objected as we believe this potential development is inappropriate – we're not against building new homes and recognise the national need for more homes, but not these homes in this location. I would like to take a moment here to recognise and thank the small group who have worked with the Parish Council to research and advise the community on the Planning Policy issues associated with the application, from the National Policy (NPPF), through TVBC's Local Plan to our own Neighbourhood Development Plan. Ably marshalled by Steve Counsell, they are Edward and Louisa Chamberlain, Mike Windsor, Bill Brewer, Hugh McPartlin and David Niven; they have recently been joined by Debbie Foynes. Thank you.

The second contentious application related to a change of use at Thruxton Down Farm and subsequent enforcement of current planning permission. Thanks to the sterling work of Cllr. Richard Munday, the local community was informed, involved and energised and their interactions with TVBC Planning resulted in the application being denied and enforcement action being taken. The owner is appealing against the planning decision and enforcement action and the appeal is being heard on the 16<sup>th</sup> May – we await the outcome with interest.

Finally, on the subject of planning, we are approaching the time when we have to review the Neighbourhood Development Plan – amazingly, it will soon be 5 years since it was “made” or approved. To help us prepare for this, our small Planning Forum team have committed to running a new Housing Needs Survey so that we have up-to-date information on residents thinking and opinions regarding our housing needs and thoughts about development. The survey is similar to the one that was run in 2016 and which provided input to our initial NDP. The survey will go out to all households in the Parish with the June newsletter and we urge everyone to take advantage of the opportunity to let us have your input. Thanks to Louisa Chamberlain for taking the lead on this.

- **Improvement of the waste water infrastructure** – Southern Water continue to invest in the improvement of the waste water system through the village and have been re-lining both the main sewage pipe and the laterals (the pipes between a house and the main foul water drain). This is to prevent ground-water getting into the sewage system and thus reduce the amount of water that the system has to deal with – remember, the system is largely late Victorian and the country is now reaping the results of years of under-investment by both government and the privatised water companies. Despite the record groundwater levels this year, the use of tankers has been dramatically reduced (from 38 in 2020 to 3 in the first quarter this year and none now) and there has been no over-pumping of partially treated sewage into our stream. We would like to record our thanks to SW for the success of this project which is being used as a model in other areas with similar geology.
- **Traffic** – this is a bit of a curate's egg. The positive news is that the speed cameras have been operational now for several months and we're beginning to get a solid base of data to understand the amount of traffic and their speeds. Looking at the last 5 month period from November 2023 to the end of April 2024, there was an average of over 615 cars per day driving up Stanbury Road toward Kimpton; on weekdays during term time this increases to 735 cars per day. Over the whole period, 3,285 cars exceeded 34mph with some reaching over 65mph – the fastest was 69mph at 4:00am but one car reached 62mph at 4:30pm on a Friday during term time. That represents 3.6% of traffic cases of prosecutable speeding offences or over 31 cases each day. On term time weekdays there were 2014 cases of speeding at 34mph or more – 7.5%. It's a shame that the police aren't here to listen to this because surely this warrants further action.  
The disappointment regarding traffic has been the lack of engagement and response from Hampshire Highways. Despite several attempts by our Hampshire County Councillor, Chris Donnelly, there has been zero action – let alone communication – from Highways. The wall beside the Village Green is beginning to fold into the stream, there are still too many articulated lorries attempting to manoeuvre through our narrow lanes and nothing has changed with signage. We appreciate that their budgets have been significantly reduced but we expect at least some response and recognition of our needs.  
We will be following up on all of these points – speeding, road repair and signage with the appropriate people in the coming weeks.  
Our thanks go to the team of people who have taken responsibility for moving the speed cameras around and setting them up at various points around the village – Geoff Bournier, Graham Harris, Alison & Simon Hopkins, Martin & Sue King and Gregory Langfield. Thanks especially to Simon Hopkins for downloading the data periodically so that we can analyse what the cameras have been recording.

As mentioned, we had hoped that our PCSO would be able to attend our meeting this evening but unfortunately, he is unable to attend and sends his apologies. He covers around 80 communities in NW Hampshire so it is understandable that he is unable to be here; however, I would just add my own personal observation that that seems a huge area of responsibility for a single PCSO..... just saying! Thankfully, crime in and around Thruxton remains relatively low and we continue to live in a safe environment. We are very grateful to Martin King for co-ordinating Neighbourhood Watch over the last year and for his advice and support on ways to ensure that the community remains safe and secure.

I couldn't stand before you without commenting on the excellent news that the Village Fete is making a welcome return in August. Working together with Gill Odling, Chair of Hall Trustees, we arranged a meeting for potential volunteers to come together and take on the responsibility for the Fete. The team is now moving ahead with the arrangements, led by Baz Myers and drawing on the energy and knowledge of Martin and Sue King, David White, Tricia and Graham Harris and Pat Fagan. It will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August so we look forward to an enjoyable day.

We continue to be short of Councillors to help with our responsibilities to the residents of Thruxton and I would welcome anyone who is interested to either speak to me after the meeting or to contact me in the coming days. The commitment is not onerous but you have the opportunity to make a difference to your community. In addition, we always welcome people to volunteer for various tasks around the Parish – whether that is keeping weeds under control along footpaths and verges (thank you Roger Oliver), upkeep of the library



(thank you Les Mitchell), looking after the flag-pole (thank you Richard Thorne) or neighbourhood watch (thank you Martin King). All are vital aspects of keeping the village ticking along and we are always grateful for support.

As I said last year, the most significant challenge that we face for the future centre around planning issues. We are committed to listening to the voice of the Thruxton community and ensuring we do all we can to represent your opinions and views on all proposals but it's also incredibly helpful – and powerful – when individuals take the time to make direct contact with TVBC Planning, as we have again seen with the Stanbury Close application.

I could go on but we'd be here an awfully long time and there is much to get through!! Thank you for your time in coming to this evening's meeting and on behalf of my fellow Councillors I wish you all a healthy and successful year ahead. Thank you.