

THRUXTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4th DECEMBER 2023

Present: Cllr P Christie (Chairman) Cllr R Munday (Vice Chairman) Cllr Mrs P Harris & Cllr W Odling.

In attendance:

Mrs H Bourner – Clerk
4 members of the public

1) Apologies for Absence.

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

Public Participation

2) A member of public present asked questions about a tree near the site of a proposed planning application. He would like a TPO to be considered. The Clerk will approach TVBC tree officer to explore the possibility.

Declarations of Interest

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

Minutes

4) **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th November were confirmed as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman. Proposer Cllr Munday, seconded Cllr Harris. All in favour.

Specific Reports

5)

Cllr Munday- (Environment) – reported very high levels of rain fall recently mean the ground water levels and the flow of the stream are both very high, although there are no flood warnings currently in place. Work to reline the sewers and private laterals continues but may have to stop when levels become too high. In due course there will be a need to monitor additional ground water flowing into stream. A call for flood wardens will be made via the newsletter.

Cllr Munday (Biodiversity)- reported planning work for re wilding will take place over the winter and work will begin early in the new year. This will be an agenda item for February

Cllr Christie (Roads & footpaths) -confirmed road closures and traffic lights in the village are likely to continue for a further two weeks. A concern regarding traffic queues near road junctions will be passed to the project manager.

A recent report from HCC Donnelly suggests there will be an announcement regarding 20 MPH speed limits on 15th January 2024.

Cllr Munday has reported the poor state of pavement in Thruxton Down to HCC, along with various potholes.

Cllr Harris (social concerns) raised the possibility of planting a globe maple tree in memory of former Cllr Davis. Margaret Davis is very happy to have this type of tree and would like this in the centre of the village. It was agreed a tree would be planted on the village green close to the stream bank where the root system will help to strengthen the bank. This type of tree will not grow above 15ft.

Finally, she reported the death of Peter Swift, formally of 17 Stanbury Close who died at the end of November

Village Green & Mandy Garden –Cllr Cotterill had sent apologies. The Clerk confirmed she had erected the safety signs and added a sign to the bin by the benches reminders users only to place dog waste in the special bin for this at the Village Green entrance.

Cllr Odling (Play area safety checks) – had circulated his recent report. Cllr Odling will organise a working group to re site and secure the table tennis table. Cllr Christie reported a

contact from a company who clean play equipment. Cllr Odling did not feel this was required at present but details will be retained for future reference.

Speed awareness- The Clerk reported the machine which had been by the allotments has been moved to Village Street near the church turning by a group of volunteers. Data from both machines will continue to be monitored

The Clerk reported: -

The bin at the west end of the village by the industrial estate road has been replaced. The new dragons' teeth have now been installed.

The damaged 30mph roundel which has been removed from its site by the Village Street sign and thrown on the verge has been reported to HCC.

The National Joint Council for England has agreed a pay rise for local council workers, including parish clerks of £1 per hour to those below scale point 35. This is back dated to April 2023. This rise was approved by all councillors

Finally, the Clerk reminded all Councillors of her request for them to review the draft housing needs survey before TVBC are asked to produce this. Steve Counsell from the Neighbourhood Plan steering group offered to review this document and provide feedback.

Southern Water Update

6) See specific reports

Green area by electricity substation.

7) The Clerk confirmed two large viburnum and ten mixed dogwood plants had now been planted as a screen to the substation. While these are currently small, they are fast growing varieties and will provide a good screen fairly quickly. Thanks were expressed to Roger Oliver for carrying out the work to plant these.

Two bird boxes have been purchased to install in this area in the hope of attracting wildlife. A volunteer will maintain these.

First Aid

8) The Clerk confirmed she had obtained a quote for £485.00 to deliver a first aid course at Thruxton Village Hall for 12 people. The course will take place on Thursday 25th January and all those who had expressed an interest have been contacted. A small number of spaces were available at a cost of £22 for residents of Thruxton Parish or £45 to those from surrounding villages. Please contact the Clerk if interested 01264 773976.

Upkeep of Sports Field.

9) The Clerk reported she had met with the Chairman of the sports trust and discussed maintenance of the sports field. He confirmed that the youth football team currently using the field were planning to expand and the team manager had agreed to join the sports trust committee. The hope was that the football season of 24-25 will see an increase in revenue which will help fund the costs of maintaining the field. Financially the trust was struggling and would appreciate some help for the growing season of 2024.

After some discussion it was agreed both Kimpton and Fyfield Parish Councils would be asked to contribute £500 each towards costs for 2024. Along with a contribution by Thruxton Parish Council this would fund a cutting contract of both the main field and the play area. Thruxton Parish Council would arrange and pay the contractor for 2024.

Meeting Dates

10) As discussed at the previous meeting dates for 2024 were agreed as the first Monday of the month except January and August when no meetings take place, April when the meeting will be on Monday 8th as the first Monday is a bank holiday and May when the Monday is a bank holiday. The May meeting will be combined with the annual Parish Meeting and held on Thursday 9th May.

County and Borough Councillors' Report

11) HCC Chris Donnelly had sent a short report and this has been circulated to all Councillors.

TVBC Cllr Phil Lashbrook had sent apologies

12) Finance

To note the bank balances as at 30/11/2023

Lloyds £20149.71

United Trust Reserve £14761.50

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

H Bourner salary	£600.00
H Bourner exp.	£18.00
Thrupton Memorial Hall	£28.00
Taits	£52.00
TVBC Dog bin	£472.16
Martin King travel	£50.40
Bird Boxes	£28.27
Graham Harris (newsletter)	£9.49
Ray Welch	£110.00

Retrospective

ATF	£209.42
Gardening Express	£192.78

January Payments to agree

H Bourner salary	£630.00
H Bourner back pay	£240.00
HMRC	£60.00

iii) The Clerk had circulated a draft budget for 24-25. Two scenarios were considered along with the levels of proposed expenditure. Details were considered and after some discussion it was agreed the level of precept recommended by the responsible financial officer of £17500 be accepted. This was proposed by Cllr Christie and seconded by Cllr Odling. All agreed.

Planning

13) The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

None

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

23/03026/OUTN- outline application for 14 dwellings on land behind Stanbury Close.

A public meeting will be arranged to discuss this application on Thursday 14th December in the main hall from 7.45pm to 9.30pm. Public views will help to inform the Parish Council's response.

23/02657/FULLN-retrospective change of use application-Thrupton Down Farm- Cllr Munday reported no decision has been made at this point.

Attendance at Events

14) Cllr Munday had met TVBC Lashbrook to discuss planning and also attended the TVATPC meeting where there was a presentation from the Fire Service which highlighted the possibility of providing a map of fire hydrants in the village and a presentation from TVBC about community planning.

Community Thanks

15) Thanks were expressed to Janet Graham for assisting the Clerk with planting hedging on the Village Green, Greg Langfield, Bill Brewer and Graham Harris for moving the speed awareness sign and Sophy Jennings for work to attract wildlife to the green area by the substation.

Correspondence

16)The Clerk highlighted correspondence as follows: -
A letter offering servicing to garden machinery

Items for next agenda

18) Re wilding around the parish.

Community News

19)Cllr Odling reported the hall trustees were in favour of moving the defibrillator to the hall the precise location need to be determined and a quote from an electrician to move this needs to be obtained.

Cllr Harris confirmed her intention to retire from the Parish Council in February 2024.

Date of next meeting

20) The next meeting will take place at 7.30 pm on Monday 5th February 2024