

Thornley with Wheatley Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday
2 March 2020
at 7.00 pm at the Derby Arms, Thornley

Present: Mr M Hayhurst (Chairperson)
Mrs C Ansbro (Vice-Chairperson/Clerk)
Mrs G Airey (Responsible Financial Officer)

In Attendance Mr P Smith (PC's Nominee on Brabin's Trust)

20.3.01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Faraday and Mr Hallett

20.3.02 Declarations of Interest

Mrs Airey indicated an interest in Agenda Item 9 a) and 9 d) and, therefore, would not be involved in discussion on these items.

20.3.03 Update on the Work of Brabin's Trust

Paul Smith had been invited to attend the PC meeting to provide an update on the work of Brabin's Trust. Paul was welcomed to the meeting and he explained the history of the Brabin's Trust and how it was created in 1684 due to the Will of John Brabin, a successful cloth merchant and dyer, who had returned to Chipping from London.

Today the Trust consists of two charities, the Brabin's Alms Houses and the Brabin's Educational Trust and is for the benefit of Chipping, Bowland with Leagram and Thornley with Wheatley Parishes. In 1668 John Brabin also established a shop, in which he lived for a time and where he sold his dyed cloth. Latterly this became the Post Office and is now Brabin's Shop. Brabin's Alms Houses manages a number of affordable rent Alms Houses in Chipping and the Educational Trust donates monies annually to the local schools and provides small uniform grants for children attending these schools together with bursaries for the under 25's from the local area who are attending University. Some properties belonging to the Trust have been sold over time. Proceeds have allowed the development of affordable housing for the Chipping community. The Trust generates income from its properties, excluding the Brabin's School and Alms Houses, and collects dividend income from its investments. Over the last 5 years it has been able to utilise £250,000 on maintenance of property, benefitting the Schools, helping the local community and creating value for the future by the formation of Chipping Community Land Trust.

Councillors thanked Mr Smith for his attendance and for agreeing to continue in the role of the PC's nominee on Brabin's Trust and he left the meeting.

20.3.04 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2019 were approved and signed.

20.3.05 Matters Arising from the meeting held on 2 December 2019

19.12.11 Central Government Deadlines and Guidance on Website Accessibility

Mrs Ansbro provided Councillors with a copy of an email update from Alex Ansbro on the work undertaken on the Website Audit in order to meet the new regulations. A total of 378 tests had been created and so far 12 issues had been identified which will need to be fixed. The work was approximately 50% complete. Once everything had been tested and fixed a Test Closure Memo would be created to sign off the work.

19.12.08 Consultation re BT Proposals to remove pay phones – phone box near to Banks Cottage

Having undertaken some research the PC had not felt the need to object to the removal of this phone box. However, RVBC's "draft decision" following initial consultation on removal of a number of pay phone boxes, was "it should be retained for use in emergency situations".

19.9.07 Planning Application d) Smithy Cottage, Birks Brow – Erection of Log Cabin on agricultural land and associated site works No. 3/2019/0773

Update on this application was that Planning Status had been withdrawn as at 5/2/2020.

19.12.10 b) Outline application for up to 10 self-build dwellings with all matters reserved save for access No 3/2018/0507- Appeal to Secretary of State

Update on this application was "Appeal Dismissed" as at 19/2/2020.

19.9.06 Progress on the Development of Thornley School.

An email update from Thornley Community Space received on 29 February explained that tradespeople had been in the School working on the porch area. This was in preparation for the plumber who should be on site next week to begin the installation of the toilet facilities.

Councillors were pleased to note that work was finally beginning on the installation of toilet facilities albeit some months on from the PC's donation to the Charity to fund this work. Discussion followed and it was agreed to send a letter to the Charity to ask for a timescale for completion of the work still required to enable the School to be available for use and to request that the PC is informed when the work on the toilet facilities is complete with a view to arranging for the PC to visit the School again.

RESOLVED a letter be sent to the Charity to ask for a timescale for completion of the work still required to enable the School to be available for use and to request that the PC is informed when the work on the toilet facilities is complete with a view to arranging for the PC to visit the School again.

Action – Clerk/Chairman

20.3.06 Accounts

Councillors reviewed the Bank Statement to 3 January 2020 and the schedule of the PC's transactions up to 25 February 2020.

20.3.07 Proposal from Brabin's Trust regarding the appointment of a Lengthsman

Mrs Ansbro explained that an email had been received from Brabin's Trust asking the PC to consider engaging a Lengthsman in conjunction with Chipping and Bowland with Leagram Parish Councils. The Trustees wondered if the three Parishes could share the cost of this role. It was suggested that the Lengthsman could maintain grids and culverts and ensure that drains were kept free of obstruction which could reduce the problem of roads flooding and with any spare time could undertake other tasks such as painting railings. At the present time there was no estimate of the annual cost of this appointment or how the workload would be apportioned. Councillors discussed this proposal in detail. It was noted that Lancashire County Council (LCC) Highways Department had recently cleared a number of gullies in the grass verges on the main road through Thornley to improve drainage and when a local resident had contacted them due to a flooding issue during the recent exceptionally heavy rainfall, assistance had been provided to clear any blocked drains. In the past pathways in the Parish had also been cleared by LCC. In conclusion Councillors did not feel they could justify contributing to the cost of a Lengthsman.

RESOLVED Councillors did not feel they could justify contributing to the cost of a Lengthsman. Brabin's Trust to be notified accordingly.

Action – Parish Clerk

20.3.08 Lancashire County Council – Budget Consultation 2020/21

The email from LCC Legal and Democratic Services seeking the opinion of partners and stakeholders on the proposed budget for 2020/21 had been forwarded to Councillors on 3 February 2020. The PC had no specific comments to make on the proposed budget.

20.3.09 Planning Applications

- a) **Proposal to construct agricultural general purpose storage building to adjoin existing farm building – Thornley Hall Farm No 3/2019/1073**
- b) **Proposed equestrian building and manege for disabled individual – Good Heys Farm, UpBedlam Road No 3/2019/1135**

c) Demolition of existing ancillary buildings and construction of new detached garage with storage above, Limekiln Gate Cottage, Up Bedlam Road, Longridge No 3/2019/1074

Due to consultation timescale Members comments were provided via email on the above applications. Items have been put on the agenda to confirm Members comments. No objections had been raised in respect of these applications and RVBC Planning Department had been notified accordingly.

d) Proposed extension to previously approved general purpose store to adjoin agricultural building at Thornley Hall Farm No 3/2020/0108

Mrs Airey withdrew from discussion on this item. No objections were raised in respect of this application and RVBC would be notified accordingly

RESOLVED No objections were raised in respect of this application and RVBC would notified accordingly.

Action – Parish Clerk

20.3.10 Parish Councils’ Liaison Committee Agenda for meeting held on 30 January 2020

Councillors noted this Agenda.

20.3.11 Any Other Business

There were no items of other business

20.3.12 Date and Time of next meeting

Monday 15 June 2020 (Parish Council and Annual Parish meetings)

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed

Date