

Thornley with Wheatley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8 November 2021 at

7.00 pm at Thornley School, Thornley

Present: Mr M Hayhurst (Chairperson)
Mrs C Ansbro (Vice-Chairperson/Clerk)
Mr P Hallett (Representative on Parish Councils' Liaison Ctte)
Mrs G Airey (Responsible Financial Officer)

There were no questions from Members of the Public

21.11.01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Faraday

21.11.02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

21.11.03 Minutes of the meeting held on 9 August 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 August 2021 were approved and a copy signed by the Chairman.

21.11.04 Discussion with Representatives from Thornley Community Space

Representatives from Thornley Community Space had attended the meeting to update the Council on the continued refurbishment of Thornley School. The work had included the installation of a toilet and beverage area, fire doors, removing dry rot, exposing the brickwork dating back to 1880s, repairing and refurbishing the original floorboards, painting of woodwork, extensive work to repair the external gullies to try to resolve the leaking chimney which was still ongoing and the installation of a wood burning stove. This work had been enabled by a donation from the Parish Council and the receipt of 4 grants. The next phase would include the installation of a more substantial kitchen facility and the creation of another external doorway with ramp as an additional fire escape.

It was anticipated that in the New Year the School would be available for small events and meetings. In the next few weeks it was intended to hold an event to thank Volunteers who had helped with the work.

The Parish Council was informed about the Charity and Community Insurance Policy arranged for the School and its use which appeared to be very comprehensive.

Parish Councillors were delighted to see first-hand the improvements that had been made and congratulated Thornley Community Space on what had been achieved.

The Representatives from Thornley Community Space then left the meeting.

21.11.05 Matters Arising from Minutes

21.2.10 Flooding Across Main Carriageway

The Parish Council had kept a watching brief on this issue which during dry weather had not been a problem. The recent change in weather conditions, with heavy rain, had resulted in flooding again. Although the Farmer had cleared the entrance to the culvert from his field, during heavy rain, water was still not discharging quickly enough. It was felt that this was due to a blockage further under the main carriageway which he was unable to access to clear. It was agreed that, once again, the Parish Council should report this problem to Highways Authority for its attention/action.

RESOLVED The Parish Council to report the flooding onto the main carriageway again to Highways Authority for its attention/action.

Action - Parish Clerk

21.2.05 Accounts a) Bank Statements to 5 January 2021

Mrs Airey reported that, with some difficulty, she had finally been able to set up on-line banking for the Parish Council. She had had to apply separately for an Online Banking Card and Reader which were awaited. Councillors were pleased to hear this progress which would provide quick access to review the Bank Account and provide up-to-date information to the Parish Council.

21.11.06 Accounts

a) Income and Expenditure Statement 2021/2022

Councillors reviewed and noted the Income and Expenditure Statement 2021/22 which detailed transactions from 1 April 2021 to 5 November 2021. Mrs Ansbro confirmed that the expenditure of £22.00 had been approved by the RFO prior to payment. The Chairman signed off the Statement.

As the next meeting of the PC was scheduled to be held on 17 January 2022 Councillors confirmed agreement to allow delegated powers to the RFO/Clerk to approve any urgent payments and to the Chairman to deal with any urgent items of business, all of which would be reported at the January meeting.

The budget set for 2021/2022 was reviewed and expenditure under each budget heading noted.

Councillors had agreed an allocation of £500 as a donation to Community Space towards the School renovation project. Recognising the Charity's limitations in raising funds during the pandemic it was agreed to increase this allocation to £1,000.

RESOLVED To increase the donation to Community Space from £500 to £1000 and to arrange payment

Action - Responsible Financial Officer

Discussion took place regarding the damaged railings near Tile Kiln Corner in Thornley. Councillors agreed that the PC should offer to fund and carry out the work to repair/restore them. If the PC was to undertake the work it would require access

from the Farmer's field. Due to the condition of the land it was envisaged that the repair would need to be left until the Spring. Mr Hallett agreed to speak to the Farmer about this proposal and to ask that in the meanwhile action was taken to keep stock safe from straying onto the road.

RESOLVED To inform the Farmer that the Parish Council was offering to fund and carry out the work to repair/restore the damaged railings in the Spring.

Action - **P Hallett**

b) Business Reserve Account Statements to 5 October 2021

The Business Reserve Account Statement for the period 5 July to 5 October was noted. Councillors considered that there was no real benefit in holding funds in this account going forward. It was, therefore, agreed that it should be closed and all funds transferred to the current account.

RESOLVED To close the Business Reserve Account and transfer all funds to the Current Account

Action - **Responsible Financial Officer**

c) Clerk's Expenses

Mrs Airey raised this item. It was agreed that as the Clerk was in an unpaid role due to her also being a Parish Councillor, the Parish Council would offer her £100 as a contribution towards the cost of broadband and her mobile phone, both of which were used in her role as Clerk.

RESOLVED The Parish Council to offer the Clerk £100 as a contribution towards the cost of broadband and her mobile phone.

Action - **Responsible Financial Officer**

d) Precept

It was agreed, when notification is received from the Borough Council, to request the same precept (£1,500) as in previous years.

RESOLVED When notification is received from Ribble Valley Borough Council, to request the same Precept as in previous years.

Action - **Parish Clerk/Chairman**

21.11.07 New Councillor Code of Conduct

Councillors had had the opportunity to read this document which Ribble Valley Borough Council had adopted and was recommending to Parish Councils. It was agreed to adopt the new Councillor Code of Conduct with a minor addition of "when considered necessary" at point 7.1

RESOLVED To adopt the new Councillor Code of Conduct with a minor addition at point 7.1

21.11.08 Lyme House Farm Woodland Management Plan

Councillors considered and discussed this document which had been emailed to the PC as part of the Consultation/Stakeholder Engagement process. It was agreed the following points should form the basis of the PC's response.

- a) The felling and thinning of woodland would take place over the next 10 years which will change the landscape. It was hoped that replanting would follow quickly to ensure the woodland is regenerated and enhanced habitats provided for wildlife as soon as possible.
- b) There is reference to the potential need to cull wildlife to protect restock trees. There is no indication of how extensive this may be. It was hoped that it would be kept to a minimum and only undertaken when absolutely necessary and that it would be carried out humanely.
- c) Whilst in Section 7 - Stakeholder Engagement there is reference to the PC being a party of interest, the PC had not been invited to comment on the work to "improve haulage access to commercial timber compartments". It was noted that this work has already been undertaken.
- d) There was no indication in the Plan which route(s) the transporters of the felled timber would take to access the main carriageway. It was expected that these would be large, heavy vehicles which would need to travel along single-track roads. This was of concern for traffic management and safety issues. The PC proposed that the most appropriate route to and from the main carriageway (Chipping Road) to the proposed access track would be via Hope Lane.

RESOLVED The comments listed from a) to d) to form the response from the PC in respect of the consultation on the Woodland Management Plan.

Action - Parish Clerk/Chairman

21.11.09 Amendment to Concurrent Functions Grant Schem

The letter from RVBC indicating that from the current year onwards the grant scheme would allow for the inclusion of the purchase of CCTV equipment and installation costs (capital) and revenue expenditure was noted.

21.11.10 Ribble Valley Rural Task Force

Councillors noted that the Ribble Valley Rural Task Force had been set up in April 2021. The team consisted of four experienced Police Officers with specialisms that would allow them to investigate and target a wide range of matters that impact on rural communities.

21.11.11 Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

The Minutes and Agendas of the Parish Councils' Liaison Committee which had been circulated with the Agenda were noted.

21.11.12 Planning Applications

- a) Proposed replacement boundary along the south-western access point to Clough Lane replacing timber fence with stone wall (No 3/2021/0861)
- b) Land off Four Acre Lane – Proposal to construct forestry track to provide access from existing track to nearby woodland. Members were informed of this application for information only
- c) Appeal against refusal of a householder application – Seven Acre Bungalow (No 3/2020/1062)

Comments from Councillors regarding Application a) had been provided by email – no issues had been raised. The Application had been put on the Agenda to confirm Councillors comments.

In respect of Application b) no request for comment from RVBC had been received. Subsequently it had been realised that this application was referred to in the Lyme House Farm Woodland Management Plan which the PC had discussed previously and the discussion was minuted at 21.11.08.

In respect of Application c) the PC had raised concerns when consulted. The Appeal against the refusal was noted.

21.11.13 Date and Time of next meeting

The date and time of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 17 January 2022 commencing at 7pm. Subsequently changed to Monday 28 February 2022 commencing at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Signed _____ Date _____