

# THORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the village hall on  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.00pm



**Present:** Cllrs P Sadler, A Sadler, G Parks, Dewar & Krinks

**Also present:** CCllr Goggin, DCllr Wiggins, E Crook (Clerk) & K Lott (RFO)

The meeting was called to order at 7.06pm by Cllr P Sadler, Chairman

## 1. Apologies for absence

Cllr S Parks

## 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

## 3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023, having been previously circulated, were amended after it was proposed by Cllr A Sadler and agreed by the Council, that the following be added to item 9; “also potentially TDC are intending to cease the dog waste collection service”. Cllr A Sadler also proposed adding to the Councillor’s Reports the following “Cllr Krinks will deal with the memorial bench in HCOS which is in need of some attention”. Once agreed, the minutes were then signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

## 4. Public Questions

There were none.

## 5. Reports from District & County Councillors

Cllr A Sadler noted that a schedule of the waste collections had not been received, despite the Parish Councillors being told that it had been circulated. He also noted that neither of the bins in Hazel Close had been emptied, which is usually done on Monday each week. Cllr P Sadler reported to DCllr Wiggins that she had asked the other members of TDALC whether they had similar issues in their villages and many noted that it had been an issue in the past but not lately.

Cllr G Parks reported that the waste sacks used by Tendring District Council (TDC) operatives in the bins on the playing field are too short and fall down in the bin making them ineffective.

**DCllr Wiggins was thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 7.24pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.**

Cllr A Sadler voiced concerns about the set number of pot holes allowed to be repaired in the upcoming scheme, when in CCllr Goggin’s division these could be used up in Brightlingsea alone due to the current poor condition of the roads. He asked how Essex County Council (ECC) could quantify the amount to pot holes to be repaired in a year. CCllr Goggin responded that pot holes can be reported and done throughout the year. The 36 pot holes that can be repaired is not the limit, just those have been listed through the member led pot hole repair scheme. Cllr A Sadler asked whether it was possible to meet an operative on site to show them the areas that need attention, CCllr Goggin noted that this is not an available option.

CCllr Goggin noted ongoing contact with a Clacton Road resident concerning a flooding issue.

Chapel Lane will be closed for five days whilst repair work is carried out.

Cllr P Sadler asked where the residents of Avocet Place were looking to place a bench. CCllr Goggin noted that the Clerk had put them in touch and that they are hoping to site it on a verge.

**CCllr Goggin was thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 7.50pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.**

## 6. (a) Planning Applications

<b>23/00259/FULHH</b>	<b>2 Avocet Place</b> Proposed erection of pent roof corner shed in south east corner of garden, increase 3 brick piers from 1.4m to 1.8m with fencing inserts to match rear wall of property.
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## (b) Planning Resolutions/Determinations

<b>22/01845/FUL</b>	<b>Rookwood Stables, Brightlingsea Road</b> Proposed new dwelling following planning approval under 20/00200/OUT.	<b>Approval Full</b>
<b>23/00167/FULHH</b>	<b>Malika, Church Road</b> Proposed two story rear extension to provide open plan ground floor accommodation and an additional bedroom to the first floor and new porch to the front elevation. (resubmission of 22/00377/FULHH).	<b>Approval Full</b>

## 7. Grass maintenance along Clacton Road

- a) Cllr Dewar noted that the contractor had cut the area, despite the Clerk's request to leave it.
- b) The Council discussed leaving the grass on the verge from the Brightlingsea Road bus shelter down the lefthand side to the first sign to wild, as the area is awkward to maintain. Proposed by Cllr Dewar, seconded by Cllr Krinks. All in favour. *Clerk to contact contractor.*

## 8. Annual playground inspection

The price of the annual inspection of £54.95 had arrived too late for the last agenda, Cllr P Sadler proposed retrospectively accepting the price, seconded by Cllr Dewar. All in favour.

## 9. Additional storage

- a) Having provided three prices at the previous meeting, Cllr A Sadler proposed purchasing a container from Portable Space at a cost of £3,008.40, seconded by Cllr Dewar. All in favour.
- b) Cllr A Sadler proposed that the new container sit about 10 feet to the right of the new bench, against the fence (What3words fade.winds.safely). Seconded by Cllr Dewar. All in favour.

## 10. Home working allowance

The RFO advised that it had been discovered that the HMRC allowance to cover home working costs for electricity and heating had been increased in 2020 from £4 a week to £6. Cllr P Sadler proposed implementing the increase and backdating the amount owed to the Clerk, at a cost of £312. Seconded by Cllr Krinks. All in favour.

## 11. Chapel Lane Playing Field signs

- a) The Council retrospectively agreed to the quote received from Impact Signs for £24.50 exc VAT. Proposed by Cllr A Sadler, seconded by Cllr P Sadler. All in favour.
- b) Council decided on an A3 safety sign for the multi-play goal/basketball hoop. Proposed by Cllr G Parks, seconded by Cllr Krinks. All in favour. *Clerk to source sign.*
- c) The RFO showed the Council a mock-up the donations sign wording. It was proposed to accept the layout by Cllr A Sadler, seconded by Cllr Krinks. All in favour. *Clerk to order sign.*
- d) Following increased instances of dogs being on the playing field, Cllr A Sadler suggested that the no dog signs should be replaced, clearly noting the byelaw and £500 fine. He asked who enforces the byelaw, the RFO read out the relevant part of the document. It was proposed by Cllr Krinks to buy three signs, seconded by Cllr Dewar. All in favour.



**12. Report from the TDALC meeting**

No questions or comments were made.

**13. Online EALC training**

Cllr Dewar expressed an interest in the Environmental Awareness and Freedom of Information courses. The Clerk also expressed an interest in those courses and Cyber User Awareness, Human Factors, Homeworking and Introduction to Planning courses at a cost of £17 +VAT each. Proposed by Cllr P Sadler, seconded by Cllr Krinks. All in favour.

**14. Allotments**

Cllr A Sadler explained that the communal rotavator is difficult to start even for male allotment holders and so suggested that the motor be replaced with an “easy start” motor at a cost of £170 +VAT. Proposed by Cllr Dewar, seconded by Cllr G Parks. All in favour.

**15. Accounts**

a) The RFO reminded the Council of the budget that was agreed last year, noting that it needs to be adhered to. When spending is proposed, Councillors should relate to which area the funds are coming from. All spending needs to be approved at a meeting, unless it is an emergency that affects the running of the Council, i.e., the lawnmower breaking down. This spending can only be authorised by the Clerk. No other spending can be authorised outside of a meeting.

b) Payments for approval and signatures at meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Payment Details
300300	Elizabeth Crook	£421.75	Clerk wages, accom. & expenses
300301	Katherine Lott	£147.08	RFO wages & accom.
300302	Mr A Sadler	£187.70	Goal items, hoop net, tap & fuel
300303	Mr A Dewar	£20.00	Multi spray gun
300304	JRB Enterprise	£898.20	Dog bag dispensers and bags
300305	Ian Allston Tree Surgery Ltd	£2,280.00	Work to trees on playing field
300306	Landscape Services	£600.00	Concrete base & bench installation
300307	Landscape Services	£360.00	Grass maintenance
300308	Thorrington Village Hall	£260.00	Hall hire Feb '22 - Mar '23
300309	EALC	£421.32	Affiliation fees
300310	Impact Signs	£29.40	Gym equipment safety sign

Cheques written	BACS	Direct Debits	Receipts
£5,625.45	£0	£0	£13,624.00

**Balance of accounts with Unity Trust = £47,909.18**

**16. Reports from Amenities Representatives**

Allotments	Cllr Dewar obtained a price for the removal of a tree by Plot 23 and asked it be added to next month’s agenda.
Playing Field	Cllr A Sadler noted the grass been cut for the first time this year, hopefully the ground will be rolled and seeded next week. It was agreed that an official opening of the new equipment could take place on 29 <sup>th</sup> April. A request was made for volunteers to remove the twigs and branches from the grass to make cutting easier.
Tennis Court	Cllr G Parks and Cllr A Sadler will reinstate the net next Friday. Weed spraying to commence this month.

Footpaths	Cllr Krinks asked who maintains the footpath behind the Scout Camp, Cllr A Sadler advised that it can be reported via the ECC Report It site.
Tree Warden	No report
Hazel Close Open Space	Grass has been cut; dog fouling is still a problem.

### 17. Clerk's report

A resident of Avocet Place contacted the Council to ask whether one of the new benches could be located on a verge near the new development. As the benches had to be installed on the playing field the resident was put in contact with CCllr Goggin to discuss other options.

Local Clerks got in touch to say that the Parish.uk Network website had been approaching businesses asking for money for advertising with them. The businesses owners had contacted their Parish Councils, as the site gives the impression that it is a government website. A note has been put on the TPC website stating that they are a private organisation and not affiliated.

The Independent Remuneration Panel report is out and the RFO will forward to the Council.

TDC has a resilience meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May to discuss emergency planning and points of contact.

Local Council Tax Support grant for 2023/24 will be £248, a 10.2% increase on last year.

The Village Hall Committee have increased the rate for the main hall from £19 a session to £20.

The gentleman who enquired about a bench plaque was informed of the preference for a planted container with a plaque but not reply has been received so far.

The Bowls Club were contacted about the foliage obscuring the street light at the edge of their property. The Council were advised that the Club believe that the plant is growing from The Old Rectory who had been written to initially. Cllr A Sadler explained that he had looked at it and whilst the growth does snake back and forth, he believes it originates from the Bowls Club border. He noted that he will have another look and send a photo onto the Clerk.

The Clerk and RFO will be on annual leave from 17<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> May.

### 18. Councillor's reports

Cllr P Sadler had noted to the Clerk before the meeting that the hedge outside 23 Hazel Close is obstructing the pavement, it was agreed that a letter could be sent. The difficulty getting residents to maintain hedges to no further than their boundary was discussed and that the legal power to enforce lies with the highways authority, not the Parish Council. Cllr A Sadler also noted the overhanging hedges at 3 Chapel Lane and 38 Hazel Close.

### Date of next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Closure.** There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:11pm

SIGNED.....

Date...17/5/23.....