

THORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the village hall on
Wednesday 5th July 2023 at 7.00pm



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

Also present: CCllr Goggin, DCllr Wiggins, E Crook (Clerk), K Lott (RFO) & 2 members of the public

The meeting was called to order at 7.03pm by Cllr P Sadler, Chairman

1. Apologies for absence

There were none.

2. Disclosure of pecuniary interests

Cllrs Dewar, G Parks, S Parks, P Sadler & A Sadler had a non-pecuniary interest for item 14.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2023, having been previously circulated, were called into question by Cllr A Sadler who noted that the decision to purchase a lawn mower with the VAT rebate was not included under item 17. He also noted asking for the purchase to be added to the agenda for the July meeting. The RFO explained that the VAT rebate was noted at the June meeting under the accounts item. The money had arrived too late for the allocating of it to be added as an agenda item so no discussion could have been had or decision agreed. As the VAT rebate is not included in the agreed budget the Council must decide where to allocate it before individual items can be discussed. The Chairman asked what changes were being proposed, none were put forward. The Clerk confirmed that the minutes were technically correct and they were signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

4. Public Questions

A member of the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church was present to note their community outreach and a desire to work with Parish Councils, he had come to observe the meeting.

5. Reports from District & County Councillors

Cllr G Parks asked for an update on the situation with waste collections and DCllr Wiggins advised that the issues had been reported to senior officers and to the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services. There have not been any further updates but Thorrington is not the only village having this issue. Cllr A Sadler expressed concern that Tendring District Council (TDC) were not taking the situation seriously enough, DCllr Wiggins assured the Council that TDC were very involved with the matter, noting that the contract is due to be renewed in 2024/2025. Veolia have been good in some areas and not in others, she encouraged reporting issues so that TDC can follow up. Cllr P Sadler asked whether there were any penalties for Veolia not fulfilling the contract and wondered if it could be discussed with the Portfolio Holder. DCllr Wiggins offered to forward the details.

Cllr A Sadler asked CCllr Goggin about some matters that he had sent emails about. He noted the first issue was to chase the Public Rights of Way Team about the hedge on footpath 8, this has now been cut but it was unclear who had done the work. The second issue concerned a truck that had shed loose stones along a verge leading to Station Road. The grass contractor is unable to cut the verge, in case they are thrown up at passing vehicles. It has been reported to Essex Highways and an operative had been in the vicinity but it was unclear if the stones had been cleared from the grass. CCllr Goggin asked for the reference number to look into it.

The 10 year contract with Ringway Jacobs is not due to be renewed until 2027 but Essex County Council (ECC) have now started the two to three year tender process.

It has been the driest June in Essex since 1948.

There has been reports of an odour from Brightlingsea but there is no evidence as to where it originates. CCllr Goggin asked the Council whether they had received any reports from Thorrington residents. The Chairman noted that there had not been. The Environment Agency are carrying out tests on a regular basis but have not found anything conclusive. They are looking into whether the water company are clearing the drains sufficiently.

Cllr A Sadler asked whether flooding across the road at the S bend in Frating had ever been reported. CCllr Goggin noted that this was not in the geographical area that he reported on but DCllr Wiggins was sure that it had been reported.

ECC are reviewing the bus routes that they subsidise as bus use has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. It will not affect the routes for Thorrington.

Martin's Farm, the former landfill site, is going to be improved and become a net gain site.

DCllr Wiggins and CCllr Goggin were thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 7.36pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.

6. (a) Planning Applications

23/00818/VOC	Windyridge, Brightlingsea Road Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act, to allow a variation of condition 1 (Approved plans) of 21/00710/DETAIL to alter the approved access drive.
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(b) Planning Resolutions/Determinations

22/02001/FUL	Springfield House, Brightlingsea Road Proposed construction of two storey house following demolition of existing garage.	Refusal Full
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7. Council operating procedures
Motion moved to August agenda.

8. Chapel Lane Playing Field
Cllr A Sadler advised the Council that he had only received two of the three quotes that he had requested for renewing the ground surface under the youth shelter. Those received were RTC at £2,582 and Abacus Playgrounds at £2,949. Creative Play were contacted as they had installed the new equipment but they explained that the work was too small an area. Following a clarification of the details Cllr G Parks proposed RTC, seconded by Cllr Krinks. All in favour.

9. Membership of Community Voluntary Services Tending (CVST)
Cllr P Sadler proposed renewing at a cost of £25.00, seconded by Cllr Krinks. All in favour.

10. Budget allocations
The RFO advised the Council that nine residents had emailed their ideas in, as required in the poster. Most suggestions were for pavements on both Tenpenny Hill and the top end of Church Road, there were also votes for a speed gun/camera, for signs to be cleaned and for picnic benches on the playing field. The Council considered the requests, noting that pavements and sign cleaning fall under the County Council as the highway's authority. Cllr A Sadler suggested purchasing a new mower with a larger cutting area. It was agreed that the ground under the youth shelter, a bigger lawn mower and a picnic bench be purchased using the VAT

rebate. Cllr Dewar asked if a thank you could be put on Facebook to the people who replied to the request. *Clerk to add to ride on mower and picnic benches to August agenda.*

11. Allotment holder communication

Cllr Dewar proposed setting up a WhatsApp group for the allotment holders, to discuss growing methods and crop surpluses, etc. The Clerk noted that allotment site or tenancy decisions must still come through the Clerk or the rep to the Council. Seconded by Cllr A Sadler, all in favour.

12. Thorrington Village Day

The Clerk explained the process and procedures required for Council committees. Cllr A Sadler explained that as the current Village Day committee had folded, he had wondered if the Parish Council could take on running it. Due to the extra cost in running a Parish Council committee and the current low numbers of Councillors it was agreed not to pursue this option.

13. Chapel Lane Playing Field

The RFO had contacted the Council's preferred contractor John Peak & Sons to check the price to cut the hedges. A price of £360.00 plus VAT was provided for the work. Cllr P Sadler proposed accepting this price, seconded by Cllr Krinks. All in favour.

14. Allotments

Cllr Dewar reported that the manure pile had become infested with weeds and proposed hiring a skip to remove it from the site. He provided the Council with the options and prices for skips from three companies. The Clerk noted having spoken to a company who expressed concerns about the width of the access road. Cllr A Sadler suggested that only the top of the pile needed to be removed perhaps reducing the size of the skip required. Cllr Dewar proposed hiring a 12 yard skip from Dunmow Skips at £325.00 ex VAT. Seconded by Cllr S Parks, all in favour.

15. Accounts

Payments for approval and signatures at meeting on 5th July 2023

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Payment Details
300327	Elizabeth Crook	£434.20	Clerk wages, accom. & expenses
300328	Katherine Lott	£147.08	RFO wages & accom.
300329	Mr A Sadler	£281.06	Shelving, hose reel handle & fuel
300330	EALC	£122.40	Online courses
300331	Landscape Services	£360.00	Grass maintenance
300332	Portable Space Ltd	£576.00	Grafo therm coating to container
300333	CVST	£25.00	Membership

Cheques written	BACS	Direct Debits	Receipts
£1,945.74	£0	£375.72	£0

Balance of accounts with Unity Trust = £54,903.73

16. Reports from Amenities Representatives

Allotments	A new handle was replaced on one of the hose reels. The RFO reminded all Councillors that authorisation for repairs between meetings must be given by the Clerk before purchases are made and then noted at the next meeting. There is a swaps table at the allotments for spare produce, Cllr Dewar asked if an email could be sent to all holders asking them to drop spare produce at his back gate on Monday evenings or first thing Tuesday mornings to go to foodbank.
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Playing Field	Two bags of litter were collected recently. The playground opening and bench dedication for the late Dave Edwards took place on 1 st July. Cllr A Sadler noted his disappointment that the Council staff had not been in attendance.
Tennis Court	This is being used regularly.
Footpaths	The footpath by the scout camp and the footpath by Church Road and Station Road have been reported. Footpath 8 has been cut back.
Tree Warden	The tree branches along Station Road have been trimmed.
Hazel Close Open Space	Excessive amounts of dog waste are being left and not picked up by owners. Some of the wooden stumps required to stop traveller ingress need attention.

17. Clerk’s report

There have been some problems with emails not getting through to the inbox.

Great Bentley Parish Council asked for details about the installation of the new gym equipment.

The external audit has been submitted to PKF Littlejohn and the Period of Public Rights notices have gone up. The public may inspect the accounts until 28th July.

Councillors requiring redactions on their DPI forms must contact TDC Standards Department.

ECC are running a consultation on an electric vehicle points strategy, it is open until 30th July.

The returned allotment plot has been relet and there is now one person on the waiting list.

The Alresford Viaduct will be closed overnight on 22nd July, 2nd September and 25th November.

The annual playground inspection report came through after the agenda was set. It will be circulated ahead of the next meeting.

The Bowls Club noted that they would be continuing with indoor activities only in future.

18. Councillor’s reports

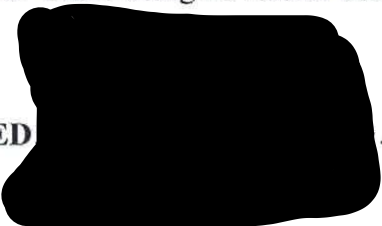
Cllr A Sadler asked Cllr Dewar about his wild flower planting at the allotments, in order to consider potentially using the method along Brightlingsea Road and possibly Hazel Close Open Space in the future.

Cllr S Parks recently went to Brightlingsea Museum and the Curator showed her a big book on the history of Thorrington. It is hoped that this will be able to be made available for residents to view on organised occasions.

Cllr P Sadler asked whether the Manager of the Orchards Residential Facility had an update for when the fencing would be installed around the planted area of the Cross. *Cllr G Parks will chase this up.*

Date of next meeting 2nd August 2023

Closure. There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:55pm

SIGNED 

Date 2/8/23