

# THORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held at the village hall  
on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.15pm



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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7.15pm by Cllr P Sadler, Chairman  
Those persons elected on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

## 1. Election of Chairman

Cllr S Parks proposed Cllr P Sadler be elected as Chairman, seconded by Cllr G Parks. All in favour. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed in the presence of the Clerk.

## 2. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr A Sadler proposed Cllr Dewar be elected as Vice Chairman, seconded by Cllr S Parks. All in favour. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed in the presence of the Clerk.

## 3. Co-option of Councillor

Cllr A Sadler proposed that Mr Grenville Krinks of Hazel Close be co-opted onto the Council, seconded by Cllr S Parks. All in favour. Cllr Krinks was welcomed back onto the Council.

## 4. Apologies for absence – None. Cllr Krinks advised that he cannot make the June meeting.

## 5. Appointment of representatives

The Council agreed that all Councillors will remain in their existing roles.

## 6. Disclosure of pecuniary interests

Cllr Dewar – agenda item 12(b).

## 7. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023, having been previously circulated, were agreed by those present and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

## 8. Public Questions

No public were in attendance.

## 9. Reports from District & County Councillors

DCllr Scott advised that he and DCllr Wiggins will continue to alternate attendance at meetings.

Complaints had been received from some Avocet Place residents about the overgrown grass verges either side of the entrance to their road. Scott Properties have now cut the area. It was noted that maintenance on the estate is Scott Properties responsibility at this time.

A resident emailed both District Councillors regarding the empty flat in Edwards Drive and DCllr Scott forwarded the email to the Housing Team at Tendring District Council (TDC).

Discussions about who will run TDC are ongoing with a decision expected next week.

CCllr Goggin congratulated Cllr P Sadler on being re-elected as Chair.

CCllr Goggin is hosting a get together for new and any existing Cllrs who wish to come, to run through items that may be of concern, on 31<sup>st</sup> May at Brightlingsea Parish Hall from 3-5pm.

The Government and Essex County Council (ECC) understand that despite highway and pavement maintenance being a modest size of the budget, that potholes and pavement repairs are the top of the agenda for many people. £4.5 million has been allocated to ECC for pothole repairs. 12 new extra repair teams will be available on top of the existing staff.

Cllr G Parks asked how a number of potholes very close to each other are dealt with, are they all repaired or just those that meet the criteria. Using some located near the Colne Community School as an example, CCllr Goggin advised these would be considered a surface issue.

Cllr G Parks chased a follow up regarding the protruding tree roots on footpath 8, CCllr Goggin suggested someone may have been out and deemed it not important, it is best to re-report it.

Cllr A Sadler updated CCllr Goggin on the situation with the drain on Chapel Lane and asked what sort of checks have been done on the drain further along which floods outside of the shop.

Cllr Krinks asked about white lines that need repainting at the end of Clover Drive, having had a near miss with a driver who did not give way. CCllr Goggin highlighted the ReportIt website.

**CCllr Goggin was thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 7.55pm. DCllr Scott stayed to listen to the rest of the meeting.**

#### 10. (a) Planning Applications

<b>23/00580/HHPNOT</b> <b>For Information Only</b>	<b>Maltings, Church Road</b> Prior Approval Application under Part 1, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for proposed single storey rear extension (Depth
<b>23/00616/AGRIC</b> <b>For Information Only</b>	<b>Glebe Farm, Clacton Road</b> Prior Approval Application under Part 6 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for proposed erection of agricultural storage building.

#### (b) Planning Resolutions/Determinations

<b>23/00228/FUL</b>	<b>Wellsummer House, Brightlingsea Road</b> Proposed replacement of existing garage/store with new detached single storey annex and garage.	<b>Approval Full</b>
<b>22/01427/OHL</b>	<b>Overhead Lines at Reeves Grove Tenpenny Hill</b> Alterations to the high voltage (HV) overhead lines.	Deemed Consent
<b>23/00377/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.	<b>Approval Full</b>

#### c) Planning appeal

<b>23/00580/HHPNOT</b>	<b>Maltings, Church Road</b> Prior Approval Application under Part 1, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for proposed single storey rear extension (Depth 6m, Maximum Height 2.85m, Eaves Height 2.55m
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#### 11. Review of documents

##### a) Standing Orders

No changes to be made. All in favour.

##### b) Financial Regulations

No changes to be made. All in favour.

##### c) Asset Register

The Council accepted the updated version that detailed the new equipment. All in favour.



**12. Allotments**

**a) Tree work**

Cllr Dewar advised that a substantial branch had fallen from a tree in the hedge near plot 23 and it landed on the plot holders water tank. Landscape Services quoted £65.00 to dispose of the limb or £165.00 to remove the tree. It was proposed by Cllr Dewar that the tree be removed and the wood cut up and left as a nature habitat. Seconded by Cllr P Sadler. All in favour.

**b) Shed application Plot 5**

Cllr P Sadler proposed accepting the request to add an 8x6 shed. Seconded by Cllr S Parks. All in favour.

**c) Muntjac**

Cllr Dewar had received reports from four allotment holders about muntjac eating their crops. Some plots do have adequate fencing around them, but this has not deterred the deer. Holders had suggested that they could be culled. DCllr Scott advised that there is a herd of muntjacs around Alresford. The Council discussed other options and agreed that wildlife was part of living in a rural community. The RFO noted that washing up liquid and water can be sprayed on plants as a deterrent. *Clerk to email holders noting the decision and other reminders.*

**13. Memberships**

**a) Essex Playing Fields Association**

Cllr Krinks proposed accepting the £30 renewal fee, seconded by Cllr A Sadler. All in favour.

**b) Campaign to Protect Rural England**

Cllr Krinks proposed renewing the membership at £36, seconded by Cllr Dewar. All in favour.

**14. Storage container**

**a) Locksmith**

Cllr A Sadler explained the events of the attempted break in at the allotment site resulting in the main gate lock and storage container locks being vandalised with glue by persons unknown. A number of young males had been seen by the container. In order to confirm to Police that nothing had been taken, the Clerk authorised calling a locksmith at a cost of £195, as the locks had been rendered inoperable. A councillor had been contacted about one of those involved, reparations were offered but he would not name the others in fear of repercussions. It was noted that the goal equipment found on the playing field was stored there until the owner could be found. As the attempted break in was thought to be connected it was suggested that if the owner does not come forward, the items could be sold to recover some of the cost of the damage and to save it being paid for by parish tax payers. *Clerk to contact EALC to ask about the period of time for unclaimed property to be collected so as to establish ownership.*

**b) Alternative**

Given recent events, Cllr A Sadler proposed not purchasing a new container but improving the existing one. The grafo therm coating can be applied by Portable Space Ltd for a cost of £400. He suggested installing second hand shelving to improve the space issue and as the price would be unknown a budget limit of £300 was proposed. Seconded by Cllr Krinks. All in favour.

**15. Vehicle Activated Sign licence**

The licence document had been circulated ahead of the meeting to all Councillors. The Council agreed to the conditions detailed, the Clerk will sign on their behalf. Cllr A Sadler will contact the contractor to install the post, noting the need to contact the permit team at ECC.



## 16. Insurance

The RFO advised that BHIB, Zurich and Came & Co were asked for quotes. Only BHIB and Zurich responded. BHIB quoted £1,099.21 and Zurich quoted £1,157.38. BHIB also include Parish Online access which is useful. Cllr A Sadler proposed accepting the quote from BHIB, seconded by Cllr Dewar. All in favour.

## 17. Personal protective equipment

Cllr A Sadler advised he has been using his own high visibility jacket which is now no longer fit for purpose and he mentioned the need for ear defenders. He noted that both items should not total more than £60. Proposed by Cllr Krinks, seconded by Cllr G Parks. All in favour.

## 18. Council email communication

Due to potential Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, the Clerk advised that some Councils use gov.uk / org.uk emails which comes at a cost whilst other Councils use webmail purely for Parish Council business. *Clerk to investigate further and to be added to the June agenda.*

## 19. Accounts

Payments for approval and signatures at meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Payment Details	
300311	Elizabeth Crook	£718.40	Clerk wages, accom. & expenses	
300312	Katherine Lott	£147.08	RFO wages & accom.	
300313	Mr G Krinks	£35.70	Grass seed for field	
300314	Mr A Sadler	£288.84	Locksmith, mower fuel &	
300315	Landscape Services	£1,080.00	Grass maintenance (3 cuts)	
300316	BHIB Ltd	£1,099.21	Insurance	
Cheques written		BACS	Direct Debits	Receipts
£3,369.23		£0.00	£0.00	£100.00

**Balance of accounts with Unity Trust = £42,396.45**

## 20. Reports from Amenities Representatives

Allotments	Cllr Dewar advised that Plot 1 will soon be returned to be relet. Paths around plots need to be trimmed by holders, <i>Clerk to email all holders to remind them.</i> The top of the manure pile will be covered with membrane to suppress the weeds growing through it. An ivy-covered tree near Cllr Dewar's plots looks unstable and could fall, he will try and deal with it but if he is unable to, he will ask Landscape Services for a price to do the work. Cllr A Sadler offered to help.
Playing Field	Cllr A Sadler advised the ground is still wet so the works to the ground will be dealt with when the ground is dry, the reseeding will wait until the autumn. The provisional date for the official opening of the new equipment is the 24 <sup>th</sup> June at 11:00am. The goal nets keep being moved despite a notice requesting they are not moved. There is also a lot of litter on the field.
Tennis Court	No report.
Footpaths	Cllr Krinks reported to ECC that footpath 8 is dangerous and footpath 2 has an overhanging branch at eye level.
Tree Warden	No report.
Hazel Close Open Space	No report.

**21. Clerk's report**

A resident reported noise coming from White House Farm, a response was sent advising them to contact TDC. The resident replied stating the cause was a noisy truck.

TDC sent a £100 payment to the Parish Council to be used towards Coronation events, as the Council did not hold any events the money will be returned.

A gentleman looking into starting a church newsletter got in touch, noting that they have the resources but would like a report from the Council similar to previously done for the Grapevine.

A resident raised concerns about the letting criteria of the Edwards Drive properties. They were signposted to the District Councillors, who are more aware of the TDC housing process.

The Vice Chairman of Lawford Parish Council was impressed with the new outdoor gym equipment and asked a few questions about where it had been purchased from and the cost. A reply was sent and he was very grateful for the information provided.

A Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community consultation is from 15<sup>th</sup> May – 25<sup>th</sup> June.

A report has been received from the Village Day Committee which will be circulated.

Due to overwhelming concerns from Councils, the Parish.uk website has been suspended.

The Clerk and RFO are now working on the annual audit process.

The Clerk noted that the new fencing had not been put up at the Cross. Cllr G Parks advised that there had been some illness and staffing issues at the facility so the work was delayed.

**22. Councillor's reports**

Cllr Krinks asked whether a part of HCOS could be left to "rewild", Cllr A Sadler advised that the land belongs to TDC.

Whilst discussing leaving grass to wild the Clerk advised that Landscape Services had been in touch about the patch of grass along Clacton Road. Cllr A Sadler advised that he had spoken to one of the operatives, noting that they had left the wrong bit and he told them this is now to be cut. The Clerk also mentioned that Landscape Services had noted that cutting the wild area along Brightlingsea Road at the end of the season would be outside the quoted price for the schedule due to the length of the grass. It was agreed that Landscape Services should cut the areas scheduled and the wildflower plans can be actioned in the autumn. *Clerk to contact Landscape Services.*

Cllr A Sadler noted that the ground under the teenage hangout shelter looks out of place now that all the other surfaces have been improved. He asked for this to be added to the June agenda for discussion. *Clerk to add to next agenda.*

**Date of next meeting 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**Closure.** There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:34pm

SIGNED  .....

Date... 7/6/23 .....