

**Minutes of Thorrington Parish Council's Meeting
held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 1st February 2017**

Present: Parish Councillors. P. Sadler, J Damant, J. Hindle, K. Miller, K Sharpe, S Turner, Y Webb and S Sawyer

Also present: Cllr A Goggin (Items 1 to 5)
K Fairhurst (Parish Clerk) and 1 resident.

The meeting was called to order at 7.05 pm by Cllr P. Sadler – Chairman

1. Apologies for absence

Cllrs R. Heaney, F. Nicholls and J. Sait

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2017, having been previously circulated, were agreed by those present and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

4. Public Questions

A resident raised a query regarding the new development of 16 houses at Edwards Drive in Thorrington. He asked what percentage of the development would be for Affordable Housing. Councillors were not able give a definitive answer but it was thought possibly 4. It was usual for TDC to offer these to people with a local connection but they could be offered to outsiders if not enough interest from local applicants.

5. Reports from County & District Councillors

Cllr Goggin referred to the site Meeting on 19 January 2017 with an engineer and his assistant from ECC and attended by 3 TPC Councillors, to discuss the possibility of making a footpath along a section of Church Road. Cllr Goggin informed the Meeting it had become clear that this was not a viable proposition because of ditches at the roadside and insufficient width available. An alternative solution to the speeding problems along Church Road would be to install a "Pinch System" as a traffic calming solution. It would be necessary to complete a Scheme Request Form to provide evidence of need. The Clerk would action. Cllr Goggin raised a concern that a tree in the corner of the Playing field was a potential traffic hazard and queried if it could be cut down. This was as a result of a survey for the proposed "one-way" system that has been progressing through the Local Highways Panel. Cllr Goggin again reminded everyone to let him know if they received any reports of fly tipping in this area. Cllr Goggin informed the Meeting that February 14th is Budget Day for ECC when it could be known if the 3% increase for Home Care would be implemented.

Cllr Goggin stated his belief that Public Transport needs to be reliable and bus stops need to be user friendly with either a shelter or a seat. He would

investigate the cost of installing these where necessary. Cllr Goggin then reported that a multi agency operation had taken place in Brightlingsea, without warning. 1800 vehicles had been checked, using number plate recognition cameras, and 15 infringements had been identified. 50 Diesel dips had been made to check for illegal use of red diesel.

It was noted that it is illegal to have unreadable number plates. Cllr Goggin reported that the Highways Department would be carrying out repairs to prevent water leakage onto the road near the Church on Brightlingsea Road. Cllr Sait had been concerned that the keep left bollards on local roads were often covered in mud and unreadable and this posed a danger to road users. Cllr Goggin would ask about the cleaning of bollards.

Cllr Sadler thanked Cllr Goggin who then left the Meeting at 7.35pm.

Clerk's Report

At this point the Chairman invited the Clerk to speak to the Meeting. The Clerk took the opportunity to remind everyone of the correct procedures relating to Grant applications and the purchase of goods and services by the Council and stressed the importance of adhering to laid down procedures to comply with annual audit.

6. (a) Planning Application :

Ref: 17/00090/FUL. Proposed Development of 10 new bungalows on land to North of Morton House, Station Road, Thorrington.

Council were opposed to this development for several reasons, including: it was outside the village envelope, it would increase traffic congestion at certain times of the day on an already congested road where traffic queues back to Brightlingsea when the level crossing barriers are down and it would place a strain on an already overloaded infrastructure, especially drainage. Clerk would forward their comments to the Planning Department

Ref: 17/00118/FUL. Construction of a two bay cartlodge, Homewood, Church Road, Thorrington.

Council had no comments to forward to planning department.

(b) Planning Decisions -

Appn No. 16/01732/FUL Single storey and first floor extensions, Old Rectory, Church Road, Thorrington.

Full approval had been given on 09/01/2017.

7. Reports on Highways Issues:

a. Proposed Chapel Lane – One Way System – Update

It was reported that a feasibility study on this issue would be included in the ECC Highways budget for the next financial year.

b Church Road Footpath – Update

This item had been discussed at Item 5. It had been agreed to submit a Scheme Request form for LHP

8. Reports from Amenities Representatives:

Allotments	Nothing to report this Month
Playing Field	Cllr Turner will forward flooring quote to Clerk.
Tennis Court	Nothing to report this Month
Village Hall	Cllr Sharpe reported that the new boiler was working well. Suggestions had been made that a dishwasher be obtained and drapes for the stage.
Footpaths	A bridge along Footpath 8 was in a dangerous state and had been reported to ECC for urgent attention.
Tree Warden	There was nothing to report this Month
Hazel Close Open Space	Some home made signs regarding disposal of dog waste had appeared. Cllr Sadler and Cllr Sait would install the "Do not let your Dogs Foul" signs.
Thorrington in Bloom	Nothing to report this Month

9. Correspondence:

Letters of thanks had been received from Essex Air Ambulance and Marie Curie for Donations.

Cheques had been received in Memory of a Resident, but had all been well out of date so were returned to the benefactor.



EALC confirming Grant of £1559.55 from the Transparency Code Fund.

An e.mail had been received from a Resident raising several issues. These related to signs in Chapel Lane and the walkway from Heathlands to Clacton Road, which were damaged and unreadable. The orange waste bin, on the same pathway was damaged and needed replacing. The Clerk would report these issues to ECC and TDC for their attention. The Resident also raised the issue of residents not using their green waste bins, resulting in food remains from black sacks being strewn over the pathways. A reminder to residents to encourage them to use the green bins would be put in the next Grapevine.

10. Accounts - Cheques approved and signed:

Cheque no.	Cheque payable to	Amount	Council Minute Ref.
102217	Mr P Bradstock	£639.36	Former Clerk's pay from Transparency Code Grant
102218	The Information Commissioner	£35.00	Renewal of Data Protection Registration
102219	M & S Bank	£379.99	Purchase of new computer for Parish Council from Transparency Code Grant
102220	Mrs K D Fairhurst	£237.24	Clerk's salary, mileage, accommodation for January and stamps.

- 11. **To approve Annual Renewal of Data Protection Registration - approved.**
- 12. **To approve Clerk's application for Essex Clerks Training Bursary - this was approved.**
- 13. **To approve spending of Grant from EALC as detailed in Transparency Code Application form (TPC Mtg 7 Dec 2016) - this was approved.**
- 14. **To consider/approve donations to Graveyard and Grapevine. It was agreed to donate £150 to Grapevine (power) and £250 to Graveyard under s137.**
- 15. **Skate Ramp**
 (a) **To pass a Resolution to replace the agreement of Council to "contribute £2150 to Skateboard Ramp Project, which equates to the cost of dismantling and taking away the old skate ramp and a replacement litter bin which would be required if current skate board ramp is not replaced" (Item 13, Minutes 3 February 2016) with a Resolution that Council agree to make a donation of £2150 towards a new Skateboard ramp.**
 This was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Miller, seconded by Cllr Hindle, all were in favour.
 (b) **It was further agreed to obtain quotes for a replacement skate ramp for consideration at next Meeting.**
- 16. **TDALC**
 Council was invited to submit questions to the Secretary for forwarding to Essex Police and Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst who would be the Speaker at the meeting on March 22nd.
- 17. **Counsellor's and Clerk's Reports**
 Cllr Damant reported that a van parked opposite the Red Lion Public House and close to a road junction, posed a danger, especially at night. Inconsiderate parking was also noticed at the junction of Church Road and Hazel Close. Cllr Hindle reported that a new hedge had been planted to replace the old hedge removed as part of the Vaughan and Blyth development at Larks Meadow. It was noted that Gypsies had returned to Martins Farm and to Morrisons at Little Clacton. Cllr Sharpe suggested that Council might want to take advantage of local Training sessions for Councillors. It was not felt necessary as most Councillors had already attended such a Course.
- 18. **Closure.** There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.55pm. **Date of next meeting - Wednesday, 1st March 2017 at the Village Hall in the Main Hall at 7pm**

SIGNED.....  Date 18th March 17 

As Chairman