

**Minutes of Thorrington Parish Council's Meeting**  
**held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**Present:** Cllrs P Sadler, J Damant, S Parks, A Sadler, J Sait, E Crook (Clerk) & K Lott (RFO)  
**Also present:** CCllr Goggin, DCllr G Scott, DCllr M Talbot & J Hamlet (TDC)

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

- 1. **Apologies for absence** - Cllr J Hindle
- 2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests** – There were none

**3. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019, having been previously circulated, were agreed by those present and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

- 4. **Public questions** – There were none. During Item 5 two residents arrived wishing to discuss an issue concerning the pump in Chapel Lane. Cllr Sait arranged to meet them the following day.

**5. Reports from District & County Councillors**

DCllr Scott reported that due to the general election some of the planned Tendring meetings had been cancelled this month.

DCllr Scott and DCllr Wiggins attended an all members briefing to discuss the Mayflower 400 project, Career Track and a scheme called Family Solutions.

Highways defects can be passed to DCllr Scott or DCllr Wiggins who meet with Tom Eng from Essex County Council (ECC) on a regular basis.

Tendring District Council (TDC) sent an email announcing that the new development off Station Road, Thorrington will be called Firmin Gardens.

Most recycling issues appear to be sorted but a resident in Station Road is still having problems.

DCllr Scott introduced DCllr Talbot, Environment & Public Space Portfolio Holder and Jon Hamlet, Street Scene Manager at TDC, to the Council. It had been arranged for them to attend to answer questions regarding the new waste system introduced by TDC.

DCllr Talbot thanked DCllr Wiggins for organising their attendance at the meeting.

TDC are aware of the problems in Thorrington having received a number of emails from residents. The change to the system was the biggest change since April 1974 when TDC was formed following the amalgamation of the rural district councils.

Fortnightly wheelie bins are being collected from the majority of properties. Weekly black sacks are still being used by a number of properties, where a wheelie bin is unsuitable.

DCllr Talbot remarked that they are doing very well, and he was aware that DCllr Scott is keen on the poor recycling figures being improved. In August the recycling percentage had gone up but it was still just under the 40% recycling target. Calls regarding missed collections had returned to normal levels after the higher volume received in July.

DCllr Talbot continued that the system has done what they wanted. The wheelie bin system is a success and the recycling percentage is going up virtually every time it is reported. The system as a whole has been a satisfactory exercise. The review has been put back to February 17<sup>th</sup>.

The problems with collections were acknowledged but it was thought that when looking back and seeing the enormous change that had been achieved it would be seen as worthwhile.

Mr Hamlet confirmed that the crews and rounds were changed which had caused issues. The best advice to give to residents is to report a missed collection rather than rely on neighbours to assist. Reports can be made online or on the phone and will ensure the problem is addressed.

A question was raised about recycling more than the supplied box would hold. It was made clear that TDC will not do not empty wheelie bins that have not been issued by them in order to guarantee the safety of their crews and to standardise collection. There is no limit to the number of kerbside boxes that are put out for collection.

Recycling rates have gone up, food waste has doubled, cardboard, plastic, tins and cans have gone up and black bags collection rates have gone down.

Thorrington's scheduled day has been Thursday but recycling collection has been rolling onto the weekend. Collections for Thorrington will move to Friday, a letter will go out to all residents and it will be publicised on the website. TDC offer a free clinical waste collection and assisted collections for residents who are unable to handle their bins.

DCllr Talbot and Mr Hamlet were asked how a village can be missed week after week and responded that hopefully the new collection day would solve the problem, acknowledging that Thorrington had been among the worst affected.

**DCllr Scott, DCllr Talbot & Mr Hamlet were thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 8.04 pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.**

CCllr Goggin reiterated the changes to the park and ride in Colchester for bus pass holders. Using the bus will be free, including before 9.30am, parking will be charged at £1.50 per person.

The meeting with CCllr Bentley to challenge his decision not to proceed with the proposed one-way system in Chapel Lane has been moved to January.

The next Local Highways Panel (LHP) meeting is now January 6<sup>th</sup> 2020.

There are two smaller pavement initiative scheme slots available. CCllr Goggin is encouraging all of his Parish Councils to apply.

CCllr Goggin reiterated highways defects should be reported through the website. Tom Eng is Assistant Highways Liaison Officer working on the LHP, not repairs and maintenance.

**The Chairman thanked CCllr Goggin and he left the meeting at 8.21pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.**

**6. (a) Planning Applications:**

19/01670/FUL Variation of condition 02 (Approved Plan) of planning permission  
19/00885/FUL. Glebe Farm, Clacton Road, Thorrington. *Council had no comment to make.*



19/01713/FUL Variations of conditions 02 (approved drawings) and 04 (parking spaces layout) of planning permission 19/01335/FUL. Land adjacent Morton House, Station Road, Thorrington. *Council did not have enough information to comment.*

19/01689/FUL Variation of condition 02 (approved plans to allow for new cladding of first floor rear extension) of planning permission 18/01263/FUL. Borel House, Church Road, Thorrington. *Council had no comment to make.*

**(b) Planning Resolutions/Determinations:**

19/01335/FUL Variation of conditions 2 and 4 to substitute drawing numbers to allow for an amended site layout and house types, and condition 7 relating to widened footway of application 17/00090/FUL (allowed on appeal APP/P1560/W/17/3175859). Land adjacent Morton House, Station Road, Thorrington

**7. To discuss and allocate responsibility for weekly safety checks to tennis court**  
As Cllr A Sadler has received training it was proposed that he add this to his playground checks. It was also noted that the net should be put away for the winter. Proposed by Cllr P Sadler, seconded by Cllr Sait. All in favour.

**8. To consider applying for a tree planting grant from Tendring District Council**  
Without the details required the Council decided to pass on this opportunity for this year.

**9. (a) To consider and approve the draft budget for 2020/21**  
TPC is operating within the overall budget set for 2019/20 and minor changes have been made for 2020/21 but there is no reason to increase the precept amount. With reference to the expected street light replacements it was noted that grants often state they cannot be used for core costs. It was proposed that the draft budget drawn up by the RFO was accepted by Cllr A Sadler, seconded by Cllr Sait with all in favour.

**(b) To agree level of precept for 2020/21**

The precept should remain at £22,000. Proposed by Cllr A Sadler, seconded by Cllr Sait with all in favour.

**10. To consider purchase of 30mph signs for wheelie bins in Clacton Road and Church Road**  
This motion was moved to February's agenda

**11. To approve 5 hours of overtime for clerk**  
The Council approved the Clerk's overtime of 5 hours to cover attendance of CiLCA training. Proposed by Cllr Sait, seconded by Cllr Damant. All in favour.

**12. To consider the purchase of The Clerk's Manual 2019 (£47.50)**  
Proposed by Cllr P Sadler, seconded by Cllr Parks. All in favour.

**13. To consider the purchase of The Law of Allotments book (£24.80)**  
Proposed by Cllr P Sadler, seconded by Cllr Parks. All in favour.

**14. To consider Joy Darby visiting for Cllr training at a cost of £290**  
Proposed by Cllr P Sadler, seconded by Cllr Parks. All in favour.

**15. To consider changes to Financial Regulations 2019**  
This motion was moved to February's agenda.

**16. To discuss closure of essexinfo.net**

The Council decided on using e-voice.org.uk which was also free. Proposed by Cllr P Sadler, seconded by Cllr Damant. All in favour.

**17. Payments approved at Thorrington Parish Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Payment Details
300045	Elizabeth Crook	£304.22	Clerk's pay & expenses for December
300046	Katherine Lott	£83.62	RFO's pay for December
300047	Mr J Sait	£34.00	Beware of Adders sign
300048	Family Support Brightlingsea	£200.00	Donation (Autumn Centre)
300049	EACH	£75.00	Donation
300050	Essex & Herts Air Ambulance	£75.00	Donation
300051	Ladywell Accountancy Services	£114.75	Payroll service
300052	HMRC	£179.60	Quarterly tax for Clerk & RFO
300053	Mr J A Baker	£225.00	Bus shelter cleaning 2019
300054	F-hot	£138.00	Replacement planter for TiB

Cheques	BACS	Direct Debits	Receipts
£1429.19	£0	£533.06 inc. Light repair	£11,078 – precept & allotment fees

**Balance of accounts with Unity Trust = £31,110.77**

**18. Reports from Amenities Representatives**

Allotments	Cllr Sait is waiting to hear from volunteers regarding helping with the compost bin.
Playing Field	Cllr A Sadler reported the grass has been cut. The loose basketball net will be fixed.
Tennis Court	Cllr A Sadler will take on the weekly checks.
Village Hall	No update. It was decided this position was no longer necessary.
Footpaths	Cllr P Sadler has asked Gibbons Farm 3 times that they reinstate the footpath across from Clacton Road to Brightlingsea Road. Cllr Sait will ask Mr Gibbon directly. If not restored the matter will be passed to ECC for enforcement.
Tree Warden	Vacant
Hazel Close Open Space	No report
Thorrington in Bloom	No report

**19. Clerk's Report**

A freedom of information request was received regarding numbers of school crossing persons in the area, this was directed to the County Council.

Flashing and non-lit bollards at Thorrington Cross have been reported to ECC.

Concerns from a resident about the overhanging oak tree in Church Road were referred to the Bowls Club who rent the land the tree is on.

After receiving the Farrow Room price, the main hall will continue to be used for meetings.

A consultation letter was received naming the new road off Station Road as Firmin Gardens.



An invitation for Pride of Tendring was received and it will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

All allotment fees have finally been paid for 2019/20.

TDC planning enforcement were contacted regarding contractors' vehicles parking on the Council maintained grass verges on Station Road. A form required to report planning breaches was circulated to Councillors, which on completion could result in a visit from an enforcement officer. *Clerk to contact the contractor directly asking them not to park on the verges.*

The bus shelter at Thorrington Cross has been found to be in an unsanitary condition more frequently. *Clerk to obtain prices of professional cleaning service for a deep clean.*

Essex Highways propose to place a soakaway in Chapel Lane playing field. The Council have asked the Clerk to email Essex Highways asking they explore other options.


**20. Councillor's Reports**

Cllr P Sadler reported on the Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC) meeting. Cllr Alan Coley, Chair of Climate Change working party at TDC, gave an overview of the group. It was formed in August 2019 and consists of 11 cross party Councillors and Cllr Coley and has an allocated budget of £150,000. TDC aim to be carbon neutral by 2030, they will research the carbon footprint, look at current policies and investigate ways of community engagement. Tree planting is of vital importance, Friends of the Earth have told TDC that only 4% of the district is woodland and 300,00 trees are to be planted in Essex in the next few years. The devolution pilot scheme was discussed and reported to be working well in Alresford and Little Clacton.

Cllr Sait raised concerns over the chemicals being used by the car wash company at Thorrington Cross. *Clerk to contact Environmental Health*

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Closure.** There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.36pm

SIGNED 

DATE 5/2/2020