

THORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held via conference call on
Wednesday 6th January 2021 at 7pm



Present: Cllrs P Sadler, A Sadler, S Parks, G Parks, Dewar, Damant & Sait.

Also present: CCllr Goggin, DCllr Wiggins, E Crook (Clerk), K Lott (RFO) & 4 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** – There were none
3. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2020, having been previously circulated, were agreed by those present and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

4. **Public Questions**

Four members of the public were present to raise concerns about speeding on the Brightlingsea Road (B1029). The questions put to the Council were, could a speed and volume survey be carried out, what action would be taken and could a community speed watch be started.

Cllr P Sadler explained the history of the previous speed watch and that there was no reason why it could not be reactivated. There would need to be at least six volunteers to be trained. She went on to explain that the Council had an independent survey carried out in Church Road, but despite a number of vehicles doing 70mph, any action taken is based on average speed. A request can be made for a survey to be carried out.

CCllr Goggin noted that he had spoken to these residents and advised that whilst road safety is paramount, that speed and volume surveys are a tool to be used to see whether perception meets reality. He also noted that Essex County Council (ECC) are responsible for road maintenance, speed limit enforcement is a police issue.

One resident noted that looking at previous surveys suggest that just catching ten percent of speeding vehicles would generate enough income for the police to make the visit worthwhile. CCllr Goggin advised that parish council would have to liaise with the police directly.

Cllr Damant noted that drivers have been prosecuted doing a couple of miles an hour over the speed limit through Alresford because their parish council can afford to pay for their own PCSO, increasing the speed checks carried out. CCllr Goggin refuted the claim that paying for a PCSO gives an area increased policing, stating that they get the same resources but are able to direct the PCSO whose wages they fund.

Cllr P Sadler suggested that residents attend the next 'Coffee with Cops' morning in Brightlingsea and raise the issue. The Council will approach the new sergeant in the local area. Any resident wishing to resurrect the speed watch should contact the Clerk.

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

DCllr Wiggins reported that Tendring District Council (TDC) are still giving out support grants to businesses with the latest one that was announced yesterday although there may possibly be a delay in receiving them. Businesses are being encouraged to apply via the TDC website.

Before Christmas Section 1 of the Local Plan was approved. For Section 2 the Government has appointed two different inspectors to look at the plan, a consultation will happen later this year.

Residents should be aware of a number of scam calls being reported relating to Covid-19 tests.

New residents in Firmin Gardens have been visited and been given recycling boxes.

The mud and stones that created a hazard along Clacton Road from the harvesting equipment leaving the carrot field at Thorrington Cross was passed to TDC. As much of it washed down the drains concerns have been raised about it blocking the drainage system and causing flooding at a later date. DCllr Wiggins advised she will send an email to TDC.

CCllr Goggin noted that the application for the "Happy to Chat" seat has been submitted

ECC attended an oil spill and covered it with absorbent material. Cllr P Sadler raised concerns about the oil-soaked leaves that still remain. Clerk to send a request to TDC Street Services.

Cllr G Parks noted the good quality of the surface repairs to the level crossing at Thorrington.

CCllr Goggin and DCllr Wiggins were thanked by the Chairman and left the call at 7.57 pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.

6. (a) Planning Applications

20/01629/OUT Proposed erection of 6 dwellings with all matters reserved. Land adjacent Cross Farm, Station Road, Thorrington.

The Council members noted that four driveways would not be in keeping with other recent developments within the village. With the speed and volume of traffic using Station Road, four properties with one exit would be more appropriate.

TDC suggested they would improve Chapel Lane playing field to meet open space quotas. The Council noted that TDC do not own the playing field and improvements could only be made to their own land or that developers set aside.

20/01525/COUNOT Proposed conversion of agricultural building into four dwellings. The Talbots, Church Road, Thorrington. **For information only.**

20/01735/CMTR EIA SCOPING OPINION Proposed construction of a second agricultural reservoir involving the extraction and exportation of sand and gravel and soils, the erection and use of an on-site processing plant, and other ancillary development works, including changes to the extant planning permission for the first reservoir. Lufkins Farm, Great Bentley Road, Frating.

(b) Planning Resolutions/Determinations

20/01549/TPO 1 No. Oak (T2) - Reduce crown by 2-3 metres to suitable growth points to all aspects, remove epicormic growth from main stem and remove deadwood >25mm. The tree is causing excessive shading to the dwelling and branches have snapped and fallen during recent high winds. Rectory House, Salmons Lane, Thorrington. **Approval – Full 08.12.2020 D/D**

20/01343/FUL Proposed first floor and single storey extension and enlargement of shop area with internal alterations. Post Office, Clacton Road, Thorrington. **Approval – Full 08.12.2020 D/D**

20/01602/TPO 1 No. Oak - reduce by 3 metres and remove dead wood. Thorington Bowls Club, Church Road, Thorington. Approval – Full 18.12.2020 D/D

ESS/113/20/TEN Change of use of land to form extension of vehicle breakers yard, including processing of end-of-life vehicles, new access, erection of new operational building, new internal road and turn area, parking and storage of vehicles & metals, landscaping, noise fencing, infrastructure and ancillary works. Auto Spares, Station Yard, Great Bentley Road, Thorington **Refused 22.12.2020**

7. To consider the purchase of renewing two dog waste bins

Cllr A Sadler will check the condition of the dog bins and will report back, Clerk to order a replacement if needed. Proposed by Cllr A Sadler, seconded by Cllr Damant. All in favour.

8. Review of external audit findings

The RFO read out the findings of the external audit and it was accepted by the Council.

9. Allocating funds to LED street light replacement plan

After reviewing each light, the Council decided to remove an obsolete light fitting at the level crossing. Proposed by Cllr P Sadler, seconded by Cllr Damant. All in favour.

The remaining 32 street lights to be changed to LED heads over a two-year program. Proposed by Cllr A Sadler, seconded by Cllr G Parks. All in favour.

10. Stone Snake

Cllr Dewar reported that the Village Hall are happy to house the snake but asked for the Council to assist with installation costs. Cllr Dewar will work out fixings and obtain costings.

11. To set grass cutting schedule for 2021

Cllr A Sadler will be cutting Chapel Lane playing field, the allotments and Hazel Close Open Space. Therefore, Clerk to seek quotations for verge cutting only.

12. To approve subscription to SLCC for Clerk (£80)

Proposed by Cllr A Sadler, seconded by Cllr S Parks. All in favour.

13. Maintenance of vacant allotment plots

Cllr Dewar explained the tyres would be supplied free of charge so the costing would be for the heavy-duty membrane, paint materials and blow torch. Proposed by Cllr A Sadler, seconded by Cllr G Parks. All in favour.

14. Review of allocation of Amenities Representatives roles

The roles will be represented as follows and reviewed as usual in May:

Allotments – Cllr Dewar	Tree Warden – Cllr S Parks & Cllr G Parks
Playing Field – Cllr A Sadler	Hazel Close Open Space – Cllr P Sadler
Tennis Court – Cllr Sait	Thorington in Bloom – Vacant
Footpaths – Cllr S Parks & Cllr G Parks	TDALC – Cllr P Sadler

Proposed by Cllr P Sadler, seconded by Cllr Sait. All in favour.

15. Accounts

Payments for approval and signatures at meeting on 6th January 2021

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Payment Details
300115	Elizabeth Crook	£353.42	Clerk's pay, accom. & expenses

300116	Katherine Lott	£189.32	RFO's pay & accommodation
300117	Kendall Facility Management Ltd	£268.57	Grass maintenance
300118	SLCC	£80.00	Membership
300119	Ladywell Payroll Services	£96.00	Payroll service

Cheques written	BACS	Direct Debits	Receipts
£987.31	£0	£203.66	£0

Balance of accounts with Unity Trust = £38,928.36

16. Reports from Amenities Representatives

Allotments	Clerk to contact the resident whose tree is leaning over precariously.
Playing Field	Youths have been bringing a set of full goal posts
Tennis Court	Nothing to report
Footpaths	Footpath 14 still blocked with agricultural trailer. Clerk to contact ECC
Tree Warden	Nothing to report
Hazel Close Open Space	Increase in dog fouling over the Christmas period. Cllr A Sadler asked Clerk to pass on thanks regarding the tree trimming.
Thorrington in Bloom	Vacant

17. Clerk's Report

Letter of thanks received from Age Concern Colchester regarding donation from the Parish Council.

Ladywell Payroll Services will be closing down at the end of the financial year. Clerk to contact EALC to obtain other companies to use.

18. Councillor's Reports

Fly posting on a metal cabinet by Thorrington in Bloom. Cllr Sait offered to remove it.

Cllr Dewar asked if anything could be done to mitigate the damage done to wildlife populations by land clearance around Glebe Farm. Cllr Sait advised that this was planned countryside management and the Council noted that it is private land and up to the land owner.

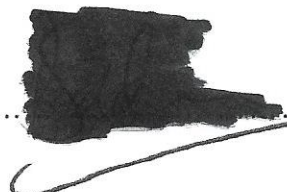
Cllr G Parks reported the state of the bus shelter which is again in a disgusting state and still being routinely used as a toilet. Cllr P Sadler said it was agreed last year for the contractor to attend once a quarter. Clerk to add to February agenda for options.

Cllr Sait advised the gutters on Clacton Road outside Glebe Farm / allotment entrance needs clearing. He also noted the farmer was out on Clacton Road clearing the mud off the road.

Cllr Damant reported that cars are parking on the pavements on Station Road. Cllr P Sadler advised that parking enforcement is carried out by the Parking Partnership.

Date of next meeting 3rd February 2021

Closure. There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.31pm

SIGNED... 

Date. 03/02/21