

THORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the village hall on
Wednesday 4th August 2021 at 7pm



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

Also present: CCllr Goggin, DCllr Scott, E Crook (Clerk), K Lott (RFO) & 1 resident

The meeting was called to order at 7.04pm 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 30th June 2021, having been previously circulated, were agreed by those present and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

4. Public Questions

The resident present raised two concerns, firstly the speed and type of traffic using Church Road, asking whether the road signs either end of the road regarding the unsuitability for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) could be upgraded from advisory to enforcement. Cllr P Sadler explained the situation with previous speed surveys and how they are interpreted by the County Council who oversee the roads. She also explained the history of the village speed watch and that due to safety restrictions there is no permitted location along Church Road. DCllr Scott agreed to forward the comment regarding the road signs to Tendring District Council (TDC) but noted that they are difficult to enforce. CCllr Goggin explained the accuracy of speed surveys.

The resident also expressed concern regarding parking, particularly around junctions and hazards caused. Cllr P Sadler advised that the Council are aware of this and have pursued a number of options at length with Essex County Council (ECC) but each has been turned down.

5. Reports from District & County Councillors

DCllr Scott reported that he attended a meeting at which Section 2 of the local plan was discussed. A consultation will inform residents of the latest evidence provided to the inspector.

DCllr Wiggins attended a Resources and Services Committee meeting where housing voids and S106 agreements were spoken about along with previous and future work plans.

Both DCllrs attended a full council meeting where fundraising for CVST, the preparations for a celebration of Clacton turning 150 years old and recycling were all discussed. DCllr Talbot had spoken about the future changes to how the whole country carries out recycling. A major consultation on recycling will be carried out in 2023/24.

DCllr Wiggins attended her first Group Leaders meeting where issues discussed included the rubbish on the A120 and elsewhere in the district often caused by lorries not being netted.

DCllr Scott visited Avocet Place and Firmin Gardens where all the residents have moved in and the road sign has been put in place. He also noted the Post Office temporary closure in August.

Cllr Sait asked whether fly tipping offenders in the area are being prosecuted, DCllr Scott advised none to his knowledge.

CCllr Goggin attended a meeting where ECC pension fund was discussed. He then shared an update on the £6.5 million spent on site improvements at The Colne Community School.

At an all member briefing broadband champions were discussed, there are 260 in total across Essex. Cllr A Sadler updated CCllr Goggin on his initiative that improved the local broadband.

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CCllr Goggin was updated about B1027 ideas. Cllr P Sadler asked if these concerned the varying speed limits. CCllr Goggin and DCllr Scott explained further details about the consultation that Alresford Parish had invested in.

CCllr Goggin and DCllr Scott were thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 7.54 pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.

6. (a) Planning Applications

21/01026/FUL - Briar Patch, Brightlingsea Road. Erection of single storey self-contained detached annex.

21/01036/FUL - 14 Hazel Close. Erection of single storey front extension, internal reconfiguration and demolition of existing conservatory.

21/01128/FUL - Conifer House, Brightlingsea Road. Proposed retention of swimming pool, pool house and home office.

21/01242/CMTR & ESS/65/21/TEN - Auto Spares, Station Yard, Great Bentley Road. Change of use of land to form extension of vehicle breakers yard, incl. processing of end-of-life vehicles, new access, erection of new operational building, new internal road & turn area, parking & storage of vehicles & metals, landscaping, fencing, infrastructure & ancillary works.

21/01069/FUL - Burrsville Frating Road. Variation of condition 4 of approved application 18/01792/FUL to move stables closer to house for security.

21/01166/FUL - Gatehouse Farm, Brightlingsea Road. Proposed extension of existing outbuilding to form three stables.

(b) Planning Resolutions/Determinations

21/00737/FUL - Kingfishers, Clacton Road. Erection of first floor side extension over garage. Two storey rear extension to form annex/garden room and single storey rear extension to form cinema room. Approval – Full D/D

21/00795/FUL - Glebe Farm, Clacton Road. Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic panels within property grounds. Approval – Full

21/00710/DETAIL - Windyridge, Brightlingsea Road. Reserved matters for Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale pursuant to 19/01313/OUT (Proposed conversion and extension of existing masonry storage building to form 3 bedroom detached bungalow with new cartlodge and garage). Approval - Reserved Matters/Detailed D/D

7. Code of Conduct

This was accepted. Proposed by Cllr A Sadler, seconded by Cllr P Sadler. All in favour.

8. To review the Internal Auditors report year end 31st March 2021

The report provided by the internal auditor was reviewed and accepted. The RFO noted the reports suggestion regarding the reserves and put forward that the precept be paid into the current account and the saving account be used to earmark the reserves. The Council agreed.

9. Bus Shelter

Cllr P Sadler thanked Cllr G Parks for forwarding the YouTube link regarding the ECC bus shelter program. *Clerk to contact Essex Highways to obtain further information.*

10. Allotment Tree

Cllr Dewar reported that a tree on the allotment has grown out over a neighbouring property. He has obtained 3 quotations for the work required. Council decided to use John Glover who quoted £280.00 ex VAT. Proposed by Cllr Sait, seconded by Cllr A Sadler. All in favour.

11. Christmas Lights

Cllr Dewar reported the information he had gathered regarding artificial and real options of Christmas trees. Following a discussion, he will continue exploring options for a planted tree. Cllr P Sadler suggested applying to the ECC community initiative fund to help with the costs.

12. Climate Change

Cllr Dewar suggest that a statement be added to the start of meetings to consider the environment during decisions. The Clerk suggested asking other Councils what they have in place, also suggesting that perhaps a policy would be more enforceable. *Clerk to investigate.*

13. Chapel Lane Playing Field

Cllr A Sadler reported that the hedges around the playing field need cutting and due to the quality of their work proposed using John Peake. Seconded by Cllr Sait. All in favour.

14. Play Equipment Annual Inspection

Having considered the report, the Council decided there is no work required at the moment.

15. Entrance to the allotments

Cllr A Sadler suggested that the 3 little wooden stumps to the right of the gate be removed. He noted that they were hindering grass maintenance and that as a longer post had also been put that impeded access that the smaller posts were no longer required. Cllr Sait advised that the stumps sit on land belonging to the owner of Glebe Farm and were not owned by the Council. After a lengthy discussion, the majority of the Council declined to vote to remove them.

16. Grass maintenance

Cllr A Sadler noted the complaints about the verges this year and stated that the 10-cut rule is not sufficient. He put a proposal to the Council for 2022 that with a retainer of £50 a month he would be prepared to add the verges to the other grass that he currently cuts and his handyman role. In order to be paid, he would step down as Councillor in February 2022. The Council would provide the mower and its associated costs, insurance and a leaf blower. The grass would be cut when required rather than 10-cuts and Scott Properties would be contacted so that the Avocet Place verge would be added to the schedule. Some of the verge opposite Silver Springs would be put to wild flower. *Clerk and RFO to find details needed to advise Council.*

17. Accounts

Payments for approval and signatures at meeting on 4th August 2021

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Payment Details
300154	Elizabeth Crook	£362.10	Clerk wages, accom. & expenses
300155	Katherine Lott	£86.92	RFO wages & accom.
300156	RCCE	£72.60	Membership
300157	Mr A Sadler	£95.14	Taps for allotment & fuel for mower
300158	Great Oaktree Land Services	£168.00	Grass maintenance

Cheques written	BACS	Direct Debits	Receipts
£784.76	£0	£322.79	£0

Balance of accounts with Unity Trust = £35,879.98

18. Reports from Amenities Representatives

Allotments	Cllr Dewar reported that plot 13 looks like it has been given up. <i>Clerk to write to the tenant.</i> Letter to be sent reminding all holders that pathways must be maintained and to insist that no further waste is to be placed on the bank, it must be composted on their plot or removed from site. Cllr Dewar asked for a key for the storage container, <i>Cllr A Sadler to action.</i>
Playing Field	Cllr A Sadler will remove the dead tree, putting the cage in the container.
Tennis Court	Nothing to report
Footpaths	Nothing to report
Tree Warden	Nothing to report
Hazel Close Open Space	Nothing to report
Thorrington in Bloom	Cllr S Parks reported that residents who had cleared the Clacton Road bed could not commit any further. <i>Clerk to add to next agenda.</i>

19. Clerk's Report

The external audit has been sent to PKF Littlejohn and have yet to receive the result.

The grass contractor asked if the trees in the verge & hedgerow down Station Road could be looked at to make it easier to cut the grass. Reported to ECC who said it was not a priority.

An anonymous email was received about the newly installed gate on Station Road. The details were sent to TDC and a planning inspector has been allocated to investigate it. Cllr Sait noted that the landowner had installed the gate and that there used to be access there.

A letter from Mr Edwards was handed to the Clerk by Cllr Sait with regards to further building in the village and where any funding could be allocated if more properties were built.

The parish council printer shows an error message and now does not work. Council noted the cost of repair over a new device and gave the Clerk permission to purchase a new printer.

20. Councillor's Reports

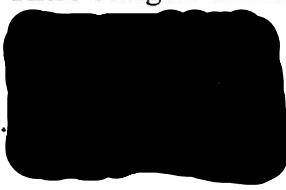
Cllr Dewar reported that on the verge opposite May Pightle there is a temporary plastic cover over a very deep sewer drain. *Clerk to contact Anglian Water to report/get update on situation.* He also reported the path by the carrot field was covered by tall grass. *Clerk to report to ECC.*

Cllr Sait raised awareness of the need for more volunteers to take the defibrillator training.

Cllr A Sadler noted that he felt disrespected by the Clerk as he had not received a reply to several phone calls and emails. The RFO explained the situation regarding the day in question, going on to note that due to the volume of work and the time allowed, that priorities have to be made based on each situation and they are responded to as soon as is possible. The Clerk felt that as the Councillor had resolved the issue himself by the following morning that no response had been necessary. Cllr Dewar noted that unlike Councillors, employees of the Council are only contracted for a certain number of hours. Cllr A Sadler also noted that email requests for letters to be sent had not been actioned. The RFO reminded those present that Officers work for the Council as a whole, they do not and cannot serve each Councillor individually. All correspondence sent on behalf of the Council as a whole is always agreed to at a meeting.

Date of next meeting 1st September 2021

Closure. There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm

SIGNED. 

Date..... 1/9/2021