

THORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the village hall on
Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 7.00pm



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Present: Cllrs P Sadler, A Sadler, S Parks, Dewar, Damant, Sait & G Parks.
Also present: CCllr Goggin, DCllr Scott, E Crook (Clerk) & K Lott (RFO)

The meeting was called to order at 7.05pm 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 3rd November 2021 having been previously circulated, were amended by the Chairman at item 5 from “noisy cover” to “noisy drain cover” and further down corrected “interest” to “interested”. Also corrected the spelling in item 19 of “May Phigtle” to “May Pightle”. This was agreed by the Council and were signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

4. **Public Questions** – There were none

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

The Chairman informed the District and County Councillor that instead of hearing them read the report that they provide ahead of time, in order to keep the meeting to a reasonable time it had been decided at the previous meeting that the Parish Council members would ask questions on the items of interest.

Cllr G Parks asked DCllr Scott who is responsible for kerb stones because there are some in the village in need of attention, DCllr Scott and CCllr Goggin explained that this is the remit of Essex County Council (ECC).

Cllr Dewar asked CCllr Goggin about alternative options to the current idea to use the member led community initiative fund for the VAS machine which may have to be funded out of the 2022/23 budget. He wondered whether the money from the 2021/22 budget could be used towards the bus shelter replacement instead. Cllr Goggin advised that as the money has to be spent by March 2022 it needs to be used for items “off the shelf”, the bus shelter replacement would not be completed in time.

Cllr P Sadler asked CCllr Goggin whether the VAS machine being ordered before March 2022 would suffice or would it need to be paid for. CCllr Goggin explained the item would need to be paid for. He noted that there are still some technicalities to finalise with Essex Police.

DCllr Scott asked the Parish Council which bus shelter they interested in replacing, Cllr P Sadler advised that it was the brick built structure located at Thorrington Cross. DCllr Scott suggested to the council to go to Elmstead Market and look at the bus shelter there for ideas.

CCllr Goggin mentioned that ECC have started a library consultation and he has asked that this information is passed to the residents for them to respond.

DCllr Scott was thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 7.42 pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.

MS

Cllr Sait asked Cllr Goggin what ECC were doing about the slippery and broken bridge on the footpath towards Brightlingsea as this has been reported but still not fixed. *Cllr G Parks to report it via the ECC website.*

Cllr Goggin was thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 7.46 pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.

6. (a) Planning Applications

21/01801/FULHH	Kingfishers, Clacton Road Proposed first floor side extension over garage, rear extension to form annex and single storey rear extension to form cinema room.
21/01895/TPO	20 Clover Drive 1 No. Oak - crown lift.
21/01908/AGRIC	Mill Farm, Brightlingsea Road Proposed steel framed extension to existing agricultural building to match the existing buildings.
21/01854/FUL	Snowdrop Cottage, Clacton Road Proposed replacement dwelling.
21/01841/FULHH	9 Lark Meadow, Clacton Road Proposed two storey side extension.

(b) Planning Resolutions/Determinations – There were none

7. Draft budget for 2022/23

The RFO explained that money has been saved mainly through lower electricity costs after upgrading their street lights. The savings have been reallocated to areas of need, increasing the number of verge cuts and to enable fortnightly cleans of the bus shelter in the interim whilst awaiting a replacement. The donations budget has been increased for the first time in a number of years. Proposed by Cllr A Sadler, seconded by Cllr Sait. All in favour.

8. Precept for 2022/23

Following a discussion surrounding the increase in housing in the village and number of years since it was last raised it was proposed that the precept be raised to £27,000. Proposed by Cllr A Sadler, seconded by Cllr Sait. All in favour.

9. Community Special Constables

Cllr S Parks was thanked for attending the briefing and passing on the information she gained. After a brief discussion it was decided that the Council were not in a financial position to pursue this option. It was noted that the cost of policing is supposed to be covered in the specific portion of the council tax payment and should not require parishes to pay more.

10. Traffic safety system

The council discussed the options, including the new information from Cllr Goggin. The preference at this time was for a portable VAS sign with downloadable data, a digital display that says thank you or a smiley/angry face and extra brackets enabling the unit to be moved to various locations in the village. The clerk reminded the council that three quotes are required for transparency. *Clerk to forward other companies to the council for them to consider.*

11. Chapel Lane Playing Field improvements

Cllr A Sadler explained that he had only received quotations from two of the three companies that he had spoken to. The clerk advised the Council that if they want to have the works all the

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work done in one go then it would have to be listed on the Contract Finder website due to Government transparency rules about public spending over £25,000. *Clerk to contact EALC with regards to public consultations and experience of the Contract Finder*

12. New Councillors

Following concerns about being unable to encourage residents to fill the empty Council seats, Cllr S Parks suggested they compose a letter which could then be posted to each household to promote the need for councillors and to invite them to meetings. Cllr P Sadler will pass this on to DCllr Scott and DCllr Wiggins for them to mention when visiting new residents. Cllr P Sadler suggested the clerk draft a letter with the statutory information required for the Council to review. Cllr G Parks suggested that the document could be commercially printed due to the numbers required. *Clerk to obtain prices.*

13. Accounts

Payments for approval and signatures at meeting on 1st December 2021

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Payment Details
300188	Elizabeth Crook	£385.90	Clerk wages, accom. & expenses
300189	Katherine Lott	£86.92	RFO wages & accom.
300190	Mr A Dewar	£36.00	Mileage to attend Cllr training
300191	St John's College	£0.50	Rent for land on Brightlingsea Road

Cheques written	BACS	Direct Debits	Receipts
£509.32	£0	£159.25	£58.00

Balance of accounts with Unity Trust = £41,433.69

14. Reports from Amenities Representatives

Allotments	Cllr Dewar reported that Plot 3 is untidy and has not been prepared for winter. Cllr A Sadler noted possible recent mitigating circumstances. Cllr Dewar to speak to the tenant in passing.
Playing Field	Cllr A Sadler has found a new way to secure the goal nets.
Tennis Court	No report.
Footpaths	Cllr G Parks has reported the tree roots on the footpath opposite the pub and also a way marker post on footpath 13.
Tree Warden	Cllr S Parks reported that some trees on Station Road near the Cross need cutting back as they are overhanging the path. It was noted that these trees may not have been planted officially and therefore could be maintained by anyone. <i>Cllr S Parks to cut back the overhanging foliage.</i>
Hazel Close Open Space	Cllr P Sadler reported the hedge flailing still has not been done by Tendring District Council (TDC).
Thorrington in Bloom	Vacant

15. Clerk's report

The last few allotment holders have finally paid their fees. The new allotment holders have sent back their paperwork.

An email was received after the November meeting from the Church requesting a donation. A response was sent noting the end of September deadline and the current national legal situation.

Kendall Facility Management have invoiced for unspecified hedge cutting. The Clerk has

asked them for more details about where the work was carried out and who authorised it. No-one present knew anything about any cutting done recently to Council owned hedges.

The same resident from Brightlingsea Road that contacted the Clerk regarding a non-functioning council owned street light in November replied noting his displeasure with the situation. He questioned the speed of the process and the priority given to other roads. The Clerk had invited the resident to speak to the Council directly at the meeting. It was noted that priority was given to roads with the most lights out and was completed in March 2021. The contractor has been instructed to carry out the second phase that should be completed shortly.

The Council were advised that the Clerk and the RFO will be on annual leave from 13th December for 2 weeks.

16. Councillor's reports

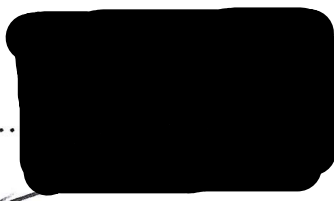
Cllr Damant noted that there were a number of vans being parked on the grass verge along Station Road. It was suggested that they may be connected to a bungalow being renovated.

Cllr A Sadler asked for reimbursement for printer cartridges he had purchased following printing the playground quotations. Given the number of pages in each quote the Council agreed that this was reasonable.

Cllr P Sadler asked whether there was an update from TDC regarding the bin on Church Road which has still not been put in. The Clerk advised she had not yet received a response to her email to the street scene team chasing it. *If no response received Clerk to chase again.*

Date of next meeting 5th January 2022

Closure. There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.17pm

SIGNED..... 

Date..... 5/1/22