

THORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the village hall on
Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 7.00pm



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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7.01pm by Cllr P Sadler, Chairman

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Dewar

2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests** – There were none

3. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2021, 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

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

Cllr G Parks asked DCllr Wiggins how long Tendring District Council (TDC) have been considering closing Brightlingsea and Harwich sports centres. DCllr Wiggins replied she did not think it was that long and there is currently a 3 month reprieve. Cllr G Parks asked whether it was related to income. DCllr Wiggins confirmed this, noting that it was hoped this would improve over the next 3 months. CCllr Goggin explained the history of the situation in Brightlingsea and the discussion over the last 18 months concerning the end of the 30 year agreement that set up the site. Ideas for how to improve visitor numbers have been put forward. Cllr P Sadler asked what was expected to change in those months. CCllr Goggin explained the agreement ended in July 2021 and the extension granted included budgeting for these months.

Cllr P Sadler asked DCllr Wiggins about the cyber issues noted in her report and whether TDC had been hacked. DCllr Wiggins explained that in the past TDC had experienced problems.

CCllr Goggin had received an email from Cllr Dewar regarding the alternative use for the initiative fund. Cllr A Sadler explained that has not yet been discussed by the Council.

The representative from Westcotec will contact the interested councils with further details about the speed devices. Cllr P Sadler asked whether this can be included in this financial year and CCllr Goggin confirmed that it could. Essex Police have written to the Chairman at Alresford confirming their approval but noting a current lack of capacity to fine motorists caught if the devices with number plate logging are used.

A recent train accident at Frating is still under investigation, a car was shunted onto the tracks by the car behind. The occupant was able to escape the vehicle before it was struck and no-one was harmed in the incident.

Following a delay, the zebra crossing by the Colne School is being installed in February.

Works for the Highways Rangers can be reported via the TDC website. Cllr G Parks asked whether Essex County Council (ECC) deal with fly tipping, DCllr Wiggins advised it can be reported direct to either her or DCllr Scott who can then inform an officer.

Cllr A Sadler advised that the white Fiat van on the corner of Chapel Lane is still there despite having been reported as abandoned. Cllr A Sadler to pass the details to DCllr Wiggins to chase.

Cllr Sait mentioned he was concerned about the chemicals used at the car wash at Thorrington Cross and asked what checks are made, if any. DCllr Wiggins will raise it at TDC.

DCllr Wiggins and CCllr Goggin were thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 7.32 pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.

6. (a) Planning Applications

21/02006/CMTR	Lufkins Farm, Great Bentley Road, Frating County Application ESS/41/15/TEN: Continuation of the construction of an agricultural reservoir involving the extraction of minerals and the removal of surplus soils without compliance with condition 6 (cessation of development) attached to planning permission ref ESS/41/15/TEN to allow additional time for completion and restoration of the development.
ESS/101/21/TEN	Lufkins Farm, Great Bentley Road, Frating Construction of an agricultural reservoir involving the extraction, processing and exportation of approximately 1.068 million tonnes of sand and gravel.

(b) Planning Resolutions/Determinations

21/01895/TPO	20 Clover Drive 1 No. Oak - crown lift.	Approval Full D/D
21/01648/DETAIL	Unit 4 & 5, Woodlands Business Park, Tenpenny Hill Submission of details in respect of Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout & Scale of Plot 1, planning permission 18/00466/OUT, allowed on appeal 18/07/19	Approval Reserved Matters

7. Precept for 2022/23

The RFO explained that due to the Council raising the precept by more than 5%, TDC require the reason behind the decision so that they can inform residents that contact them. Notes were sent out before the meeting with further information. Cllr A Sadler spoke of an increase in population which then increases the expectations of how the village is maintained. Cllr G Parks highlighted that the precept had not been increased in the last few years, despite increasing expenses. The reasons suggested by the RFO were accepted by the Council. Proposed by Cllr A Sadler, seconded by Cllr G Parks. All in favour.

8. Street light in Chapel Lane

In Cllr Dewar's absence, Cllr A Sadler passed on the suggestion of putting a light on the post nearest the shop, it is very dark and a high traffic area for pedestrians and vehicles. He explained that the post does have electricity to it. The RFO noted that the Council had recently had a light that was no longer required removed so this would just reallocate that light. Cllr Sait raised a concern about the proximity to the property above the shop and offered to speak to the owner. *Clerk to contact the light contractor to obtain a quote.*

9. Chapel Lane Playing Field improvements

Cllr A Sadler noted the benefits of the Creative Play quote, including the modular items that would enable easier replacement in the long term. The Clerk explained to the Council that she had emailed TDC Open Spaces Department with the questions from the previous meeting and

they have requested a site visit to discuss further. The council have agreed in principle to the Creative Play equipment. *Clerk to arrange site visit.*

10. Traffic safety system

The Council are waiting for further details. *Cllr P Sadler to forward email from Westcotec. Clerk to contact other suppliers to obtain comparative prices.*

11. Commemorative Jubilee coins

Cllr P Sadler explained that in 2012 the Council ordered 70 coins for the village children at a cost of £284.30, for 5 – 11 year olds. A box was placed in the Post Office for people to fill out the details for their children. Cllr P Sadler suggested that children need to be 5 years of age as of 6th February. Cllr A Sadler raised concerns about details of children being left in the public domain and suggested that interested parents contact the Clerk direct. Cllr S Parks asked whether all primary school could be included as the cut off would mean some at school would be left out. *Clerk to contact other suppliers to obtain quotes.*

12. Grass maintenance equipment service

Cllr A Sadler noted the service received at Bellet Ltd, Alresford and his preference for it to be serviced there. There were no objections. The RFO noted that she would obtain the other prices required to ensure a fair price and avoid any potential accusations.

13. Antivirus and internet security

Clerk advised the Council of the prices she had found and that she had been using McAfee for the past few years and had no issues. Clerk to renew with McAfee. Proposed by Cllr P Sadler, seconded by Cllr A Sadler. All in favour.

14. SLCC membership

2022 membership is £98. Proposed by Cllr P Sadler, seconded by Cllr A Sadler. All in favour.

15. Accounts

Payments for approval and signatures at meeting on 5th January 2022

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Payment Details
300192	Elizabeth Crook	£320.40	Clerk wages, accom. & expenses
300193	Katherine Lott	£88.52	RFO wages & accom.
300194	Mr A Dewar	£6.99	White paint for allotment
300195	Mr A Sadler	£79.99	Ink cartridge reimbursement
300196	HMRC	£14.00	Quarterly tax return
300197	Landscape Services	£540.00	Work to trees on playing field
300198	SLCC	£98.00	Membership

Cheques written	BACS	Direct Debits	Receipts
£1,147.90	£0	£547.55	£0

Balance of accounts with Unity Trust = £40,256.85

16. Reports from Amenities Representatives

Allotments	Cllr Sait is waiting for the ground to dry out before arranging the next delivery of manure.
Playing Field	Cllr A Sadler has done a permanent fix on the goal nets.
Tennis Court	No report.

Footpaths	Cllr G Parks reported an issue with the footpath across from the B1027 to Frating Abbey Farm Road and way marker posts laying on the ground.
Tree Warden	No report
Hazel Close Open Space	Cllr P Sadler reported the flailing has still not been done by TDC.
Thorrington in Bloom	Vacant

17. Clerk's report

ECC sent through some information about the library consultation which has been added to the parish council website. ECC requested them to be placed in high traffic areas, the Clerk suggested that they contact both the shop and the village hall.

An invitation to Pride of Tendring has been emailed to the Clerk.

The expected higher water bill has been received. From a meter reading taken following reports of high water use, the RFO had calculated that a large bill would come through and the Council decided at that time to wait until it arrived to alter the water fee charged to tenants. The £400 bill will be reviewed before setting the fee charged to tenants this October.

Since the death of Sir David Amess MP some local parish councils have removed councillor home addresses from their website. The Clerk asked those present how they felt about having their addresses available, it was considered and most of them preferred their details be removed.

A thank you email has been received from the residents of the Chapel regarding the recent tree cutting works carried out by the Council to the trees behind their property on the playing field.

18. Councillor's reports

Cllr Sait raised the concern of the chemicals being washed down the drain at Thorrington Cross car wash. Cllr P Sadler advised that DCllr Wiggins would look into this.

Cllr A Sadler mentioned a discussion that he and Cllr Dewar had about an alternative use for the funding available from CCllr Goggin. Another storage container would enable the mower to be stored on the playing field, freeing up the original container for allotment storage. He wanted it noted that Cllr Dewar had then obtained three quotes and emailed CCllr Goggin saying that the Council had agreed on the container and asking if it met the ECC fund criteria. Cllr A Sadler raised concerns that it had not been discussed as an agenda item and therefore could not have been agreed by the Council. The Clerk said that she suggested to Cllr Dewar that he ask CCllr Goggin whether the purchase would fit the criteria, assuming he would do that at a meeting but that Cllr Dewar emailed CCllr Goggin instead. It was felt that the email was unintentionally misworded and the Clerk was asked to speak to Cllr Dewar about the situation.

Date of next meeting 2nd February 2022

Closure. There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

SIGNED..... 

Date... 2/2/22