

# THORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the village hall on  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 at 7.00pm



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

**Also present:** CCllr Goggin, DCllr Wiggins, E Crook (Clerk), K Lott (RFO) & 4 residents

The meeting was called to order at 7.02pm 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 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, having been previously circulated, were agreed by those present and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

4. **Public Questions**

A resident asked if there was any way of reducing the speed of the traffic along Clacton Road. Cllr P Sadler explained that the Council have ordered a portable VAS machine which will be in operation once permission has been granted by Essex County Council (ECC) Highways.

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

DCllr Wiggins was asked by Cllr Dewar whether Tendring District Council (TDC) have plans to make a donation to help the people of Ukraine, DCllr Wiggins explained both her and DCllr Scott would make a donation to the British Red Cross and TDC may do something but nothing was agreed yet. A letter of support has been signed by the District Councillors.

Cllr A Sadler asked why Highways have spent thousands of pounds partially resurfacing the B1027 outside Avocet Place when it was not required but the drains outside the Post Office and Chapel Lane are consistently blocked and flood every time it rains. CCllr Goggin advised the drains need to be reported if it has not been done already and asked to be sent the log number. Cllr A Sadler also advised CCllr Goggin that the tarmac near the level crossing has holes appearing in it and noted that he will report it on the website.

CCllr Goggin noted that in the February minutes it states that ECC can issue penalties for unmaintained hedges, he thought this may not be true, they are only issued for highway issues.

CCllr Goggin was pleased to announce the community initiative grant from ECC to Thorrington Parish Council for £2,500 has been approved for the purchase of the VAS.

Thorrington will not get much levelling up money from ECC, this will go to areas such as Jaywick and Clacton.

The zebra crossing at the Colne Community school is taking a lot longer than expected.

Cllr G Parks asked CCllr Goggin about the difficulty of reporting faults on the ECC website due to the interactive map not allowing faults to be logged.

**DCllr Wiggins and CCllr Goggin were thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 7.27pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.**

6. **(a) Planning Applications**

22/00109/FUL	<b>The Panthers, Station Road</b> Proposed demolition of existing buildings on the site, erection of 4 dwellings with associated garages, hard & soft landscaping & redeveloped entrance gates
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**(b) Planning Resolutions/Determinations**

<b>ESS/65/21/TEN</b>	<b>Auto Spares, Station Yard, Great Bentley Road</b> 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, parking and storage of vehicles & metals, noise fencing, infrastructure and ancillary works.	<b>Refused</b>
<b>21/01609/FUL</b>	<b>Acacia House, Brightlingsea Road</b> Proposed conversion of existing garage to 3 holiday homes.	<b>Approval Full</b>

**(c) Premise Licence Applications**

<b>22/00056/PREMGR</b>	<b>Mill Farm, Brightlingsea Road</b> This vineyard will hold wine tours, tasting and special events. There will be a little shop to sell the wine and online sales can be made 24/7.
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**7. Co-option of a Councillor**

The Clerk advised the Council that a resident had enquired but was not present.

**8. Internal auditor**

Council to use the services of Heelis & Lodge. Proposed by Cllr Dewar, seconded by Cllr A Sadler. All in favour.

**9. Internal controls**

It was agreed that no changes are needed.

**10. Play area inspection**

The RFO appraised the Council of the different companies available and the costs involved. Cllr P Sadler proposed using the option provided by TDC, seconded by Cllr Sait. All in favour.

**11. Grass maintenance**

The RFO advised only 2 quotes were received, both £300 a cut. Cllr A Sadler asked whether the level of insurance cover could be increased so that he could cut the verges or separate public liability insurance could be taken out. *Clerk to ask local Councils and contact BHIB.*

**12. Dog waste bags**

Cllr A Sadler proposed that 25 boxes would be needed at a cost of £430.00 excluding VAT. Seconded by Cllr P Sadler. All in favour

**13. Street light in Chapel Lane**

Cllr Dewar detailed the suitable options but was concerned that it had been raised that an ECC licence may be required. The RFO noted it may also need planning permission, but that she was more concerned with the handling of the electricity payments and the paper trail required. Cllr A Sadler suggested that the light be paid for and installed by the Parish Council and the shop owner would then be responsible for the electric used to power the light. Cllr P Sadler asked whether an allowance could be paid to the shop owner on a regular basis, the RFO advised that the amount of electricity used would still need to be tracked. In order to avoid accusations of fraud the RFO said a legal contract preferably by a business solicitor would need to be drawn up between the Council and the shop owner. Cllr Dewar noted that the meter could be sealed and read by Council members. *Cllr Dewar to draft an agreement.*

**14. Chapel Lane Playing Field improvements**

No response had been received from TDC. *Clerk to email the proposed plan to the S106 officer.*

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**15. Essex County Council community funding**

**(a) Update on the VAS application**

The Clerk advised that the funding had been approved this afternoon and the order placed. Further information needs to be supplied to the supplier about the bracket size required. Cllr A Sadler noted the Council have to agree on where the VAS will be positioned in order to obtain the licence from ECC, he suggested two locations that would require new posts. The Clerk explained to the Council that Highways advise the VAS machine is installed by a qualified competent person with public liability insurance to work on the highway.

**(b) Alternative for the funding**

Cllr P Sadler advised this can be discussed next year if there are funds available from ECC.

**16. Covid funding available from the Tendring District Councillors**

Cllr P Sadler noted the Bowls Club's request for the funds. Cllr Dewar suggested Wildlives. The Clerk was contacted by DCllr Wiggins implying the money was going to village halls. The Clerk did pass on the details of the Bowls Club at that time. Cllr Dewar proposed Wildlives as the suggestion to TDC for where the money should go. Seconded by Cllr Sait. All in favour.

**17. Litter picking**

Cllr S Parks provided prices of hoops that keep the bags open. Cllr P Sadler proposed ordering 6 black Handy Hoops at a cost of £12.49 each. Seconded by Cllr A Sadler. All in favour.

**18. Donation to Jubilee Party**

Cllr A Sadler explained that a children's tea party is being organised and proposed that the Council donate £50 towards the event. Seconded by Cllr Dewar. All in favour.

**19. Accounts**

Payments for approval and signatures at meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Payment Details
300207	Elizabeth Crook	£363.20	Clerk wages, accom. & expenses
300208	Katherine Lott	£88.52	RFO wages & accom.
300209	Mr J Sait	£30.00	Manure for allotments
300210	HMRC	£16.60	Tax for Clerk
300211	Landscape Services	£180.00	To clear trees damaged in storm
300212	Bellet Ltd	£358.84	Lawn mower service
300213	Westcotec Limited	£3,900.00	VAS machine

Cheques written	BACS	Direct Debits	Receipts
£4,937.16	£0	£403.29	£0

**Balance of accounts with Unity Trust = £30,850.58**

**20. Reports from Amenities Representatives**

Allotments	Cllr Dewar will visit the resident of Clifton House to look at the damaged tree that overhangs their property. Plot 3 has some glazing from the greenhouse laying on the ground. <i>Clerk to email the tenant.</i>
Playing Field	Cllr A Sadler reported he had dealt with a small tree that had uprooted during the storms and one of Cllr G Parks neighbours has a log burner and would like the leftover logs.
Tennis Court	No report
Footpaths	No report

Tree Warden	No report
Hazel Close Open Space	Cllr P Sadler noted that the hedges still need to be cut. TDC advised that the gardener will carry out the work when they are next in the area. Two covid signs in the play area are in a bad state of repair.
Thorrington in Bloom	Vacant

**21. Clerk's report**

The Church contacted the Clerk noting that the two planters by the lych gate are broken and in need of attention. Due to the lack of interest in Thorrington In Bloom they will be removed.

TDC wanted the details of planned Jubilee events by 20<sup>th</sup> February, reply sent about the gift.

The cost of a Rapid Deployment Camera being installed is £150. Planned for April agenda.

A Great British Spring Clean is being run from 25<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> April. TDC are happy to continue with the current process for collecting the litter picking bags as long as the waste team are collecting them. TDC loan equipment to community groups, details are on their website.

There have been a number of issues with trees due to storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin. John Glover attended two trees around the playing field, one by The Chapel and a broken branch overhanging Clacton Road. A resident is concerned about the playing field trees growing through the power lines. One of the allotment trees is still to be looked at.

A resident of The Chapel emailed to ask whether the goal nets on the playing field could be moved further away from the property, balls have been hitting their greenhouse, windows and have been kicked repetitively against their fence. Cllr A Sadler noted that he had not seen the goals there but Cllr Sait confirmed the noise and will ask anyone he sees and to stop.

**22. Councillor's reports**

Cllr Dewar reported that a resident had spoken to him again about the temporary drain cover opposite May Pightle. The Clerk replied she has already reported this twice to Anglian Water.

Cllr Dewar noted the collection point in Frinton for donated items for Ukraine and asked if the Council could discuss making a financial donation to the Red Cross or UNICEF at the April meeting. Cllr P Sadler explained that individuals are free to donate but that Parish Council funds are provided for the local area. The Clerk confirmed the rules around s137 donations.

Cllr G Parks reported the ivy has not been removed from Clacton Road, Cllr Dewar advised this was not in the specification. *Clerk to add to April agenda.*

Cllr S Parks asked for an update on the councillor leaflets, Clerk advised they will be ordered but that with the number of issues currently being handled, time sensitive issues took priority.

Cllr A Sadler reported he has not heard from the Highways Rangers about work to the verges.

Cllr P Sadler asked about the new bin for Church Road, the Clerk advised TDC wanted to confirm the site but did not send the photo.

**Date of next meeting 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Closure.** There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.52pm

SIGNED:  .....

Date: 6/4/22 .....