

THORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the village hall on
Wednesday 4th January 2023 at 7.00pm



Present: Cllrs P Sadler, A Sadler, G Parks, S Parks & Krinks

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

The meeting was called to order at 7.05pm by Cllr P Sadler, Chairman

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Dewar.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2022, 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 A Sadler asked DCllr Wiggins who should be contacted at Tendring District Council (TDC) with regards to issues with waste collections. He noted that often during the food collections operatives are knocking caddies over and not clearing up the waste. He also noted that during paper collections, boxes are often not emptied completely with paper still left behind. DCllr Wiggins advised that either she or DCllr Scott could be contacted about this, and they would report it to TDC. They have been made aware of this happening in other villages, with some reports of food caddies being damaged by the operatives.

Cllr G Parks asked whether the street lights fall under the remit of TDC, as a light in Heathlands is not working. Cllr P Sadler advised that those particular lights are the responsibility of Essex County Council (ECC). The Clerk suggested reporting it online via the Report It site.

DCllr Wiggins reported that DCllr Scott had attended a budget meeting.

It was noted that for the upcoming elections voters may need to bring photographic identification with them to be able to vote.

DCllr Wiggins was thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 7.15pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.

Devolution will be rolled out at some point and it will see a grant system being put in place which will give a Council control of work they would like to prioritise.

Cases of Covid and flu are causing staff absences at ECC, which is slowing some processes.

Cllr A Sadler asked for an update on the pavement repair in Chapel Lane, reported to ECC on 16th August 2022. A temporary repair was carried out on 23rd August, but he noted the plastic cover over the hole is now affecting the drain. Concerns were expressed over the potential timescale of the repair in light of the previous use of these covers elsewhere in the village. CCllr Goggin noted that he had not heard anything but advised that he would look into it.

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Cllr Goggin was thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 7.30pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.

6. (a) Planning Applications

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 22/01983/FULHH | Springfield House, Brightlingsea Road Proposed two storey rear extension. |
| 22/02001/FUL | Springfield House, Brightlingsea Road Proposed construction of two storey house following demolition of existing garage. |
| 22/02061/FULHH | Andilla, Church Road Proposed construction of a single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory), front porch & loft conversion with front & rear dormers. |

7. **Thorrington Cross bus shelter**

Motion moved to the next agenda, noting that Cllr S Parks could suggest to the residential unit that they could send their ideas to the Clerk if there was difficulty attending meetings.

8. **Portable vehicle activated sign**

The RFO advised the application from will be resubmitted.

9. **Chapel Lane Playing Field**

a) Cllr A Sadler appraised the Council of the benches he had researched. After a discussion the Council decided on four brown Witton benches from Broxap. One to replace the old metal bench, one in memory of Dave Edwards and two others. Wording for the plaque was discussed as potentially "In memory of Dave Edwards, a generous and community minded individual who will be sadly missed". The other benches will have plaques that note their funding, to match the Happy to chat bench. Proposed by Cllr A Sadler, seconded by Cllr S Parks. All in favour.

b) Cllr A Sadler detailed the options for new goals that he had sourced, the Samba package costing £709.20, Forza totaling £1150.00 and Soccer Store at £635.00. The Council decided on the Samba goals. Proposed by Cllr A Sadler, seconded by Cllr G Park. All in favour.

10. **Tendring District Council – Parish Summary of Needs**

It was discussed that any potential funding could go to replacing the tennis court fencing and possibly covering the top with netting to stop balls going over on to the allotments.

11. **Grass maintenance schedule**

Cllr A Sadler proposed that the schedule is altered to 12 cuts, with the first cut in mid-March and fortnightly cuts until June. The RFO noted that some Councils enter into a multi year deal in order to ensure a better rate. Seconded by Cllr G Parks. All in favour.

12. **Grass maintenance equipment service**

Cllr A Sadler proposed the equipment be taken to Bellets due to their location and prior knowledge of the mower and strimmer. Seconded by Cllr P Sadler. All in favour.

13. **Allotments**

Following a recent burst pipe, Cllr A Sadler proposed that the mains water is turned off from the 1st November to the 28th February. Seconded by Cllr S Parks. All in favour.

14. **SLCC membership**

Cllr Krinks proposed accepting the £101 renewal fee, seconded by Cllr G Parks. All in favour.

15. Council Officers hours

After a discussion, the Council decided to increase the RFO's hours by an extra 4 a month. Proposed by Cllr G Parks, seconded by Cllr Krinks. All in favour. When asked what might help with the workload the RFO suggested that the projects could be spaced out. It was noted that the number of agenda items each month has increased significantly. The Clerk reminded the Council that reporting ECC and TDC faults themselves is the most efficient way and very helpful. Cllr P Sadler asked that extra hours are monitored and that she is informed.

16. Accounts

Payments for approval and signatures at meeting on 4th January 2023

| Cheque | Payee | Amount | Payment Details |
|--------|--------------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| 300285 | Elizabeth Crook | £381.94 | Clerk wages, accom. & expenses |
| 300286 | Katherine Lott | £90.04 | RFO wages & accom. |
| 300287 | Landscape Services | £540.00 | Turf laid on Clacton Road verge |

| Cheques written | BACS | Direct Debits | Receipts |
|-----------------|------|---------------|----------|
| £1,011.98 | £0 | £83.38 | £0 |

Balance of accounts with Unity Trust = £43,664.86

17. Reports from Amenities Representatives

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Allotments | No report. |
| Playing Field | No report. |
| Tennis Court | No report. |
| Footpaths | No report. |
| Tree Warden | Cllr S Parks reported that an oak tree has had quite a severe cut back. |
| Hazel Close Open Space | Cllr P Sadler reported that people are still not picking up after their dogs. |

18. Clerk's report

Letters sent to residents at The Old Rectory and 3 Chapel Lane requesting foliage is cut back.

The fly tipped rubbish left by Cadent has been reported to TDC.

A resident of Alresford, noting their long waiting lists, has asked if they can take on an allotment plot in Thorrington. The Clerk noted that plot 23 is still vacant and that there is currently no-one waiting. The Council agreed that the Alresford resident can take on the plot.


An email was received from Parish.uk Network, which initially appears to be a government initiative, imitating their website branding. On closer inspection it appears that this is not the case and that it maybe fraudulent.

19. Councillor's reports

There was a discussion about the Council considering leaving areas of the grass verges uncut to benefit nature. *To be added to a future agenda at the appropriate time.*

Date of next meeting 1st February 2023

Closure. There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:46pm

SIGNED 

Date 1/2/23