

THORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the village hall on
Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 7.00pm



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

Also present: CCllr Goggin, DCllr Wiggins, E Crook (Clerk), K Lott (RFO) & 2 members of the public

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr S Parks.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2023, having been previously circulated, were agreed by those present and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

4. Public Questions

The manager from the Orchards Residential Unit detailed the improvements that they would like to make to the bus shelter at Thorington Cross. His team would like to supply, fit and maintain a bin to the external wall and install a solar light to illuminate the inside. They would also like to supply, fit and maintain hanging baskets, with future plans to take on the planting in the fenced area on the other corner of the Cross. The Chairman noted that the Council would discuss this initial request later in the meeting at the appropriate agenda item. The manager advised that it is hoped that the new fencing at the Cross will be installed around 10th March.

A member of the public noted the recent passing of a resident who was his relative and asked whether a memorial bench could be installed, preferably on Chapel Lane playing field. The Chairman put forward that, due to the location of the residents property, Hazel Close Open Space (HCOS) might be desirable. If this was the case permission would need to be sought from Tendring District Council (TDC). It was noted that Chapel Lane playing field was the preferred site. The Chairman then highlighted the Happy to Chat bench and the four new benches that are due to be added. The gentleman asked whether it would be possible to have a plaque added to a bench. The Chairman asked the Clerk to add this to the March agenda for the Council to discuss and suggested that she forward the plaque size to the member of the public.

5. Reports from District & County Councillors

DCllr Wiggins advised that she has not received an update from TDC about the availability of recycling boxes. There has been some discussion that a charge of £7.50 per box may be introduced.

Cllr P Sadler asked whether there have been any problems in other villages with the food waste collections, DCllr Wiggins noted there has been some reports of food waste being put in with the normal household collections.

DCllr Wiggins noted that TDC were discussing removing dog waste bins from rural areas.

DCllr Wiggins was thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 7.25pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.

Cllr P Sadler asked CClr Goggin about the new road signs warning drivers of the weak bridge at Alresford and the variation in the wording that could be confusing. Cllr A Sadler noted that Essex Highways can put up large signs at will but that the Parish Council are having a battle to install one post for the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS). CClr Goggin confirmed the wording on several of the signs with the Council, noting that it might be because they are aimed at haulage companies with large vehicles who will have been informed of the new weight restriction.

CCllr Goggin noted that the Locality Fund application for Thorrington had been approved the previous day by Essex County Council (ECC).

ECC have agreed the funding for the extension of the 30mph limit past Avocet Place.

Following a successful trial, residents wanting to use waste and recycling centres in Essex will have to book a slot from March 2023.

Cllr G Parks advised CClr Goggin that the footpath opposite the Red Lion pub has a lot of protruding tree roots which is causing a hazard and preventing many people from using it. The issue has been reported to ECC several times over the last few years and no information has been received. The report has now disappeared from the Report It map. CClr Goggin advised that ECC will not clear tree roots coming from private properties. The RFO added that the Parish Council had asked the Public Rights of Way team (PRoW team) for permission to cover the path with tree bark chippings in order to level it out but that no response had been received. CClr Goggin asked for the details to be forwarded to him so he could speak to the PRoW team.

CCllr Goggin was thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 7.52pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.

6. (a) Planning Applications

23/00004/LUPROP	Georgina Cottage, Brick Kiln Lane Proposed single storey extension.
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(b) Planning Resolutions/Determinations

22/01983/FULHH	Springfield House, Brightlingsea Road Proposed two storey rear extension.	Approval Full
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7. Thorrington Cross bus shelter

The Council considered the requests received earlier in the meeting from the manager of the Orchards Residential Unit and approved of the scheduled works. Proposed by Cllr P Sadler, seconded by Cllr Dewar. All in favour. *Clerk to email the manager to update him.*

8. Portable vehicle activated sign

The RFO reported that the license application has been resubmitted to Essex Highways.

9. Appointment of Councillor Representatives

Cllr A Sadler proposed that Cllr G Parks take the vacant tennis court representative role and Cllr Krinks take over as the footpath representative, seconded by Cllr P Sadler. All in favour.

10. Grass maintenance

Five companies were approached for a price. The three quotes received were: Colne View Contracts £402.62 per month, Landscape Services £300 per cut and Cottage Landscapes £400 per cut. Despite being asked none of the contractors provided a multi-year price. Cllr P Sadler proposed accepting the Landscape Services quote, seconded by Cllr Krinks. All in favour.



11. Dog waste collection

(a) Cllr A Sadler proposed changing the red bin sited near the allotments to a larger capacity green bin and using the current red bin elsewhere in the village. *Cllr A Sadler to check on condition of other bins. Clerk to add to March agenda.*

(b) Cllr A Sadler proposed replacing the bag dispenser at the same location as the spring is no longer working, at a cost of £94.80 inc. VAT. Seconded by Cllr Dewar. All in favour.

12. Official re-opening of Chapel Lane Playing Field

The Council were asked whether they would like the press to be contacted with regards to the reopening of the new play equipment. Cllr A Sadler suggested inviting the Edwards family, also noting that he is taking photographs of the various stages of the work which will then be stored in the Parish Council archives. *Clerk to contact the press nearer to the reopening.*

13. Chapel Lane Playing Field

Cllr A Sadler suggested the trees need a serious crown reduction and trim especially where the play and gym equipment is located. The RFO advised that the owner of the Chapel had been in touch to find out when the agreed tree work would be carried out. The Clerk advised that the insurance company need to be contacted to find out their requirement for tree surveys. *Clerk to contact tree surgeons to get prices for work to the Clacton Road side and for all of the trees.*

14. Accounts

Payments for approval and signatures at meeting on 1st February 2023

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Payment Details
300288	Elizabeth Crook	£659.80	Clerk wages, accom. & expenses
300289	Katherine Lott	£230.44	RFO wages & accom.
300290	Mr A Sadler	£67.92	Padlocks, keys and mileage
300291	SLCC	£101.00	Membership
300292	DM Payroll	£66.00	Payroll service for second half 2022/23
300293	B G Sports International Ltd	£709.20	New goals for the playing field

Cheques written	BACS	Direct Debits	Receipts
£1,834.36	£0	£35.00	£0

Balance of accounts with Unity Trust = £39,134.51

15. Reports from Amenities Representatives

Allotments	Cllr Dewar asked if the Clerk would contact plots 3 and 23 to request that they remove the membrane and leave it by the container to be stored.
Playing Field	Cllr A Sadler will take the mower and one of the strimmers to be serviced next week.
Tennis Court	No report
Footpaths	Cllr G Parks reported that the footpath off Brightlingsea Road has been cut back.
Tree Warden	No report
Hazel Close	No report
Open Space	

16. Clerk's report

Age Well East and the Foodbank sent thanks to the Council for the donations they received.

A post was placed on the Parish Council Facebook page advising residents that Chapel Lane playing field is currently closed, while the improvements are carried out.

The new goal nets have been ordered and should be delivered tomorrow.

The Coronation of King Charles III is to be held on Saturday 6th May 2023, Councils are being advised to consider how they might like to mark the occasion.

The form for the bench funding was submitted, it has been approved and they can be ordered.

A new bus timetable post has been installed next to the bus shelter at Thorrington Cross.

The Tendring Independent Remuneration Panel Parish report has been received.

Candidate nomination packs should arrive soon and will be on the next agenda.

17. Councillor's reports

Cllr G Parks advised he plans to spray the weeds around the tennis court in early March.

Cllr A Sadler reported that when the water on the allotment site was turned back on for the play equipment contractors that there was water leaking at the meter. He contacted the water supplier and after some difficulty, managed to get them to send someone to look at it.

Cllr A Sadler suggested setting up a WhatsApp group, the Clerk cautioned that whilst conversations this way could be useful, discussion of agenda items and decisions must be carried out at a meeting.


Cllr A Sadler raised concerns about the timeliness of the Council minutes. The Clerk and RFO explained that the current situation was not ideal but that the increased workload this year caused delays. It was hoped that now many of the items are almost completed that the previous timescale would return. Cllr A Sadler expressed a preference to see the minutes within 7 days of a meeting. The Clerk advised that there is no statute for the timescale of the production of the minutes, noting that the agendas have become much longer than in the past, increasing the work between meetings. Cllr A Sadler explained that the Council have always had the minutes within the first week after the meeting and there is concern that the delay may cause things to be missed. The RFO explained the increased in workload compared to previous clerks. Cllr Dewar noted that a clerk running a recent training day had advised that her minutes are sent out the day after the meeting. The Clerk noted that that particular clerk is full time and has other staff. She advised the Council that she tries her best but that other things have been asked to be chased soon after meetings and that in order to do that, the minutes have had to wait. Cllr A Sadler expressed a preference to see the minutes as soon as possible after a meeting and that if that meant other things had to wait then that would be understood.

Cllr Krinks reported that a resident had asked when the Chapel Lane one-way system would be implemented, Cllr P Sadler noted the history of the situation and the decision by CCllr Bentley.

Cllr Krinks asked about the net on the basketball hoop, Cllr A Sadler noted that maybe a chain hoop could be fitted instead. *Clerk to add to next agenda.*

Date of next meeting 1st March 2023

Closure. There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:59pm

SIGNED... 

Date... 1/3/23