

THORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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



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

Also present: CCllr Goggin, DCllr Wiggins, E Crook (Clerk), K Lott (RFO) and a member of the public

The meeting was called to order at 7.03pm 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 4th October 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 member of the public asked whether the Council had received complaints about the newly installed Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS). He stated that it is in the wrong place as it displays an angry face at drivers doing over 30mph, despite it being located in a 40mph zone which he finds insulting. He went on to express that he would prefer average speed cameras both ends of the village and noise monitors. He appreciated the effort to put the sign in. The Chairman explained that the sign will be in the right place because the 30mph limit is due to be extended. She noted that the Council are waiting for Essex Highways to do the work required. Cllr A Sadler advised that the VAS provides speed data which is a step in the right direction to try and encourages motorists to slow down. The gentleman asked whether any community speed watch groups had been set up. Cllr A Sadler confirmed there had been a group in Thorrington but noted that if the Councillors had not organised checks, no one else had bothered do it.

5. Reports from District & County Councillors

DCllr Wiggins advised that DCllr Scott attended the Essex University Civic Signing agreement on 30th October.

An enquiry received about the lane next to Thorrington Village Hall with regards to the bowling green, was forwarded to Tendring District Council (TDC) finance department as it was in relation to s106 money. The Chairman explained that after the Bowls Club ceased, the green, owned by the Chelmsford Diocese, was put up for lease or sale and that the Village Hall had now decided to lease the land.

Cllr A Sadler expressed his disappointment with the Pride of Tendring nomination system as he had wanted to make a suggestion. DCllr Wiggins explained how they rotate their nominations across the four Parish Councils in their ward. The Chairman proposed that in order to find the most deserving recipients across all four councils each year, it should be open to all the Councils then the District Councillors could decide who should be put forward. The Chairman also noted that the Parish Council were not aware that nominations were up this year.

DCllr Wiggins was thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 7.36pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Goggin reported there had been a road traffic accident recently on Tenpenny Hill where a resident was struck whilst waiting to turn onto his drive and there was a request for a sign warning of concealed entrance. He suggested the Council consider making an application.

Cllr Goggin will attend a meeting on 3rd November regarding the change of speed signs along the B1027 from 40mph to 30mph. The work will be complete by the next election.

Essex County Council (ECC) have been rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted for children in care.

Devolution is coming and ECC are going in at Level 2.

Cllr G Parks asked for an update on the noisy manhole cover on Clacton Road, Cllr Goggin thought that it had been inspected but had received no confirmation of any work being done. Cllr Goggin noted that he will look into it.

Cllr A Sadler asked about the hedge belonging to 3 Chapel Lane and asked Cllr Goggin to put pressure on ECC to get it cut due as it is a Highways issue. Cllr Goggin explained that whilst it is a Highways issue, that responsibility to keep it under control lies with the home owner. Cllr A Sadler advised that the Parish Council have written to the owner several times and that it has been reported many times on the ECC Report It website but no update has been received. Cllr Goggin said he will visit the resident.

Cllr A Sadler noted that out of three pot holes he had reported, only two have been dealt with. The Chairman asked Cllr Goggin what the timescale for a permanent repair is if a temporary fix has been carried out. He noted that dangerous issues are prioritised.

Cllr Goggin was thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 8.01pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.

6. (a) Planning Applications

23/01359/FULHH	St Michaels House, Brightlingsea Road Proposed first floor rear extension to form bedroom and en-suite and extension to existing bedroom.
23/01411/FULHH	Wheatfield, Church Road Proposed installation of new pond canopy supported by 8 upright timber posts and a dual pitch roof with plain clay tiles.
23/01417/FULHH	Meadow Barn, Rosemary Lane Proposed extension to form additional living areas (alteration to approved planning 23/00139/FULHH).
23/01430/COUNOT For Information Only	Apple Blossom Paddocks, Brightlingsea Road Prior Approval Application under Part 3 Class Q of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (as amended) for proposed conversion of building to a residential dwelling.
23/01460/FUL	Darmel Lodge, Brightlingsea Road Proposed new chalet bungalow to the rear of Darmel Lodge with new access, and retention of existing bungalow (Darmel Lodge). <i>The Clerk provided the Chairman with an email from a resident asking the Parish Council to consider their concerns about this application. Cllr P Sadler advised that the Council are only asked to comment as a matter of courtesy, suggesting that the resident should submit their comments via the TDC planning portal. Clerk to notify the resident.</i>

(b) Planning resolutions/determinations

23/01173/FULHH	Windyridge, Brightlingsea Road Installation of PV panels to bungalow roof & part retrospective application for proposed new timber frame summerhouse/spa outbuilding to garden.
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7. Land behind the Village Hall

The situation has been resolved and this motion was dismissed.

8. Chapel Lane Playing Field picnic tables

Cllr S Parks proposed the Council purchase signage for the new picnic tables warning people to not place barbecues on the tables. Cllr A Sadler suggested an A5 sign stating "Please do not use portable barbecues on this equipment and please remember to take your litter to the nearest bin". Seconded by Cllr Krinks. All in favour. *Clerk to order signs.*

9. Allotments

a) Deposits

This motion has been moved to the December agenda.

b) Ponds

To attract wildlife Cllr Dewar suggested that a plot holder has asked about ponds on plots. After a discussion, the Council agreed that ponds could be installed, at no more than 4ft square and 18" deep. Cllr P Sadler asked about insurance implications. The Clerk noted that legal responsibility lies with the tenant and is covered through the holder's insurance. Where there are ponds, children must be supervised at all times. *Adjustment to agreement to be added to next September's agenda.*

10. Budget 2024/25

Cllr A Sadler queried the accommodation allowance figures and the RFO explained the weekly amount was increased to £6 a week, it was backdated a couple of months and the Council agreed to back pay it. Cllr A Sadler proposed increasing the grass cutting budget to £4,500 and increasing the dog waste bags budget to £1,500. Cllr Dewar proposed increasing the donations budget to £1,500. Cllr A Sadler advised increasing the hedges and trees budget be increased to £2,500. All in favour.

11. Setting the precept

Cllr A Sadler suggested the precept should be increased, Cllr Dewar proposed a rise to £30,000. All in favour.

12. Dog waste bags

Cllr A Sadler noted the increase in turnover of bags and that a further order of 10 boxes would be best due to the reduced price. The RFO noted that the budget for dog bags had been used, but funding could be reallocated from the election budget now that the invoice had arrived. Cllr A Sadler proposed ordering 10 boxes. All in favour.

13. Donations

Before the meeting the RFO had circulated the requests received from Essex & Herts Air Ambulance, Brightlingsea Foodbank, 4Youth Brightlingsea, East Anglia's Children's Hospice, Tendring Families First and BASICS Essex. Cllr Dewar proposed using some of the unused election budget to increase the money available to £1,500. Cllr A Sadler proposed awarding Tendring Families First £100 and the remaining organisations £280 each. All in favour.

14. Accounts

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

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Payment Details
300363	Elizabeth Crook	£398.75	Clerk wages, accom. & expenses
300364	Katherine Lott	£147.08	RFO wages & accom.
300365	Clear Councils	£11.65	Increase in premium for mower
300366	Tendring District Council	£268.58	Election expenses
300367	EALC	£40.80	Online courses not previous billed
300368	Impact Sign Services	£64.80	Playground and tennis court sign

Cheques written	BACS	Direct Debits	Receipts
£931.66	£0	£0	£350.00

Balance of accounts with Unity Trust = £48,389.98

19. Reports from Amenities Representatives

Allotments	No report. The RFO noted that only one plot had not yet paid their fee.
Playing Field	No report.
Tennis Court	Cllr A Sadler reported that he had seen people using the court to play football in the absence of the net. He informed the Post Office that key should not be handed out again until 1 st April.
Footpaths	The footpath by the Scout Camp is blocked by a sloe bush.
Tree Warden	No report.
Hazel Close Open Space	No report.

16. Clerk's report

With regard to the bin replacement by Glebe Farm, TDC have asked that the Parish Council contact the land owner to gain permission. They are unable to replace the bin at the other end of the footpath due to budgetary constraints. *Cllr A Sadler offered to contact Glebe Farm.*

TDC Elections team were sent the details of the number of vacant seats that they requested.

The laptop is now working correctly after the previous trouble with the battery.

The planning appeal for Auto Spares has been upheld.

Parking Services were contacted again about the Island Landscapes van, they noted that their Inspector did not see the vehicle, so an application to install restrictions might be the next step.

The new Chapel Lane playing field entrance sign was handed to Cllr A Sadler to be installed.

17. Councillor's reports

Cllr S Parks asked about the football goal and mannequins, the RFO said the Great Bentley youth team had been keen but that having sent the details to them, they have not been in touch.

Cllr A Sadler asked for letters to be sent to The Rectory and Dulce Domum about their hedges.

Date of next meeting 6th December 2023

Closure. There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:02pm

SIGNED 

Date 6/12/23