

THORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the village hall on
Wednesday 4th October 2023 at 7.30pm



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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7.32pm 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 6th September 2023, having been previously circulated, were called into question by Cllr Dewar. He noted that at item 21 it did not mention why he left the meeting, but that he had felt that there was no other option but to leave. Cllr G Parks highlight the difficulty with wording given the situation. With regards to item 7, Cllr Dewar felt there was no mention of the supportive comments from Cllr Krinks who had expressed his gratitude, thanks and admiration of the Council staff. Cllr Dewar felt the minutes were not particularly balanced and he thought that they did not adequately reflect the meeting. When asked what alterations should be made, it was agreed that raising concerns with the overall wording at this meeting would be sufficient. The minutes 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 noted that there is an ongoing issue with a lack of adherence to the waste collection schedule and that he is still waiting for a reply from Tendring District Council (TDC) about the problem. DCllr Scott reported that there is a new cabinet member who deals with waste in the area, DCllr Mike Bush, who has set up a cross party committee to look at the contract. DCllr Scott noted the ongoing issues with Veolia in villages across the Tendring area.

DCllr Scott noted that DCllr Wiggins had reported the bin by the bus stop next to Berberis Cottage. Cllr Dewar expressed thanks to both District Councillors for their help with the issue.

DCllr Scott was thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 7.50pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.

Cllr A Sadler asked CCllr Goggin for an update on the overgrown hedge at 3 Chapel Lane. He noted previously reporting it via the Essex County Council (ECC) Report It website but no response has been received and the pavement is now too narrow to walk on. CCllr Goggin asked whether anyone from the Parish Council had spoken to the owner occupier. The Chairman advised him that the resident has been written to several times but that it has had no effect. CCllr Goggin suggested the Parish Council do the work and charge the resident. The Chairman raised concerns that this put them at risk that the resident would not pay. CCllr Goggin explained that ECC currently has more outstanding requests than funding available.

Cllr A Sadler mentioned that the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) is operating and asked when the 30pmh limit will be extended along Clacton Road, CCllr Goggin was unable to provide a specific date. Cllr A Sadler asked CCllr Goggin who the Parish Council should contact to request a speed limit reduction on Station Road from 40mph to 30mph, CCllr Goggin noted that

the road may be a Public Route 2 and that would make it difficult to change the speed limit. Cllr A Sadler then queried why Harwich Road in Great Bromley was reduced from 40mph to 30mph, Cllr Goggin was not aware of the reason for the change. The Chairman asked why there had not been any Local Highways Panel (LHP) meetings recently, Cllr Goggin explained that a back log of outstanding agreed work has meant no new work can be discussed.

Cllr Goggin briefly mentioned the Garden Community exhibition and the amount of housing that will be built. Cllr S Parks raised concerns about provisions for schools and hospitals.

Cllr G Parks noted that the previously problematic drain cover on Clacton Road is noisy again.

Cllr Goggin was thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at 8.19pm to attend the Alresford Parish Council meeting.

6. (a) Planning Applications

23/01249/WTPO	Oaktree, Church Road 1 No. Oak - Reduce by 30% and crown lift to 5m
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(b) Draft Neighbourhood Plan

23/00991/NDO	Elmstead Parish Council Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012) (as amended) Consultation on the Draft Elmstead Neighbourhood Development Plan & Neighbourhood Development Order.
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7. Allotments

(a) Insurance policy renewal

Cllr A Sadler proposed renewing at a price of £119.38, seconded by Cllr S Parks. All in favour.

(b) Manure

Following on from the allotment holders meeting earlier, it was agreed that holders would source their own manure and share supply details where possible.

8. Dog waste bin

TDC have proposed replacing the bin opposite the allotment entrance with a larger bin at their expense. Cllr A Sadler raised concerns about the design of the proposed replacement bin and noted the issue with them not being emptied on schedule. Cllr Dewar proposed the Council accept the offer, seconded by Cllr G Parks. All in favour. It was noted that TDC need to be made aware that the land belongs to Glebe Farm and that they should contact the landowner.

9. Chapel Lane Playing Field

(a) Work to trees

Cllr A Sadler advised the Council of the quotes received. Cllr G Parks proposed accepting the quote provided by Landscape Services, seconded by Cllr S Parks. All in favour.

(b) Work to bank along the boundary with the Chapel

The work was carried out by John Peak & Sons whilst they attended to cut the hedges.

10. Feeder pillar on plying field

Cllr Dewar proposed accepting the renewal price of £245.10 for a one year fixed term contract, seconded by Cllr Krinks. All in favour. Council to discuss alternative suppliers next August.

11. Review of external audit findings

The RFO read out the findings of section 3 of the audit, noting the mis-transposed asset register figure and the auditors warning that the Council must consider reserves and the budgeting

procedure. The Council were also made aware of the changes to audit that states that Council emails address must belong to the Council, ideally being gov.uk or org.uk domains.

12. Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)

Cllr A Sadler explained that the site selected to install the VAS is in between two trees and there is a concern that the tree in front will obscure it over time. He suggested that the tree could be moved or pruned. The difficulty of moving an established tree was noted and Cllr P Sadler stated a preference that the tree remains and is trimmed when necessary.

13. Parish Council library

Cllr Dewar suggested that a list of the publications that the Council have purchased be made available in case any Councillor wished to borrow them. *Clerk to create and circulate a list.*

14. Brush Cutter

Cllr A Sadler noted difficulty getting the brush cutter to work correctly. Cllr Dewar advised he had used it in the last few months and explained he had experienced issues keeping it running. It was agreed that Cllr A Sadler would take it to Bellet's to get it repaired with a budget of £50.

15. Facebook group posts about meetings

Cllr Dewar suggested that noting the publication of the draft minutes and agenda on the Spotted Thorrington Facebook page may help the Parish Council connect with residents. The Clerk noted that the administrators of the page have previously not responded to her requests, Cllr A Sadler offered to send the requests for the posts.

16. Tennis court signage

Cllr A Sadler explained that the gate had been found open recently and proposed an A4 landscape sign should be put up noting that the gate must be locked and the key returned after use. Seconded by Cllr P Sadler, all in favour.

17. Report from TDALC

There were no questions or comments made concerning the report that had been circulated.

18. Accounts

Payments for approval and signatures at meeting on 6th September 2023

Cheque	Payee	Amount	Payment Details
300352	Elizabeth Crook	£428.40	Clerk wages, accom. & expenses
300353	Katherine Lott	£147.08	RFO wages & accom.
300354	Mr A Dewar	£57.25	Wildflower seed mix
300355	Mr A Sadler	£166.77	Shed on allotment & mower fuel
300356	Landscape Services	£360.00	Grass maintenance
300357	Susan Morkham	£20.00	Allotment deposit return
300358	RTC Safety Surface	£3,098.40	Surfacing under the youth shelter
300359	John Peak & Sons	£432.00	Hedges cut around playing field
300360	National Allotment Society	£66.00	Membership
300361	PKF Littlejohn	£504.00	External audit fee
300362	Chris Knott Insurance	£119.38	Allotment holders insurance policy
Cheques written			
£5,399.28	BACS	Direct Debits	Receipts
	£0	£94.48	£729.64

Balance of accounts with Unity Trust = £36,870.40

19. Reports from Amenities Representatives

Allotments	The condition of Plot 16 was noted, the Clerk advised the Council of the tenant's current situation. The tenant of Plot 1 has moved to Plot 19, Cllr Dewar noted that the plot was not left in a good state and that the deposit should not be returned. The RFO advised that deposits are not returned when tenants move plots, no guidance was agreed when the deposit charge was put in place. Cllr Dewar did not feel able to assess the deposit return for Plot 21 as he had not been informed of when the plot would be returned. The RFO noted the problem and had drawn up the cheque so that the tenant was not penalised for the mistake. Cllr A Sadler suggested that information should be passed between the Clerk and Allotment Rep as soon as possible as a matter of courtesy. The tenant of Plot 20 has asked to take on Plot 21 as a second plot, Council agreed. The RFO suggested that greater details about deposits could be laid out in a policy, which may prevent further confusion.
Playing Field	The wet pour for the youth shelter is complete. Litter is still being left. Work to trees will commence late October or November.
Tennis Court	The net is now in storage for the winter.
Footpaths	Footpath 14 tree foliage needs cutting back.
Tree Warden	No report.
Hazel Close Open Space	No report.

20. Clerk's report

A resident asked to use the tennis court to test out their homemade trike. They were told it would require Council approval as it is not the intended use of the court but no response was received.

Great Bentley Parish Council put us in touch with the youth football group Chairman, who is interested in the equipment but the details have not been finalised as of yet.

BHIB have been contacted to increase the insurance premium to cover the cost of the new mower.

The A120 will be closed in both directions between Colchester Road and Harwich Road - Wednesday 18 October to Friday 20 October 2023 Time 10:30pm – 4:30am for survey work.

The second half of the precept is due to be paid this week.

Councillors were reminded that donations will be considered next month, any organisations that would like to be considered should write in. The usual legal restrictions apply.

The Clerk noted that she and the RFO had spoken to the Chairman on 3rd October and resigned their positions. Both noted that they would hand over the role in the same manner as previous Clerks had done. *Clerk to advertise role at EALC.*

21. Councillor's reports

No reports.

Date of next meeting 1st November 2023

Closure. There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:44pm

SIGNED.



Date. 1.11.23