



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD MONDAY 19TH April 2021 Via Blue Jeans

April 2021

Minutes

1. Chairman's welcome – Following on from the Annual Parish Meeting, the Chairman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

2. Apologies for absence – Cllr's Powell, Blandford, Coulter

Present – Chairman, Clerk, Councillors Cooper, Fielder, Ewart, Carpenter, Starling, Raftery

3. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting held Monday 8th March 2021.

Having been previously circulated, the minutes were confirmed as a true record.

Proposer – Councillor Ewart, Seconder – Councillor Fielder. Unanimously agreed.

4. Declaration of Members Interests: There were none

5. Public discussion

Local resident and former councillor Mr Alan Newman was in attendance to raise concerns regarding traffic volumes through the village, as expressed in his letter to the Parish Council and to MP Giles Whatling, which had been previously circulated to all councillors. (See supplementary information)

Chairman thanked Mr Newman for joining the meeting and for his contribution, he acknowledged the issues raised had now come to a 'boiling point' and that the council should explore what can be done to alleviate the issues.

Councillor Ewart stated that he supported Mr Newman in what he was saying and that he had heard that there had been some plans for a bypass to follow the railway and then come up Station Road. Councillor Raftery commented that such a plan would not alleviate the whole problem as it would only bypass part of the village. Councillor Cooper commented that wherever a bypass was proposed, there would be complaints. He expressed concern that there seems to be a disregard for people – there is no traffic enforcement and Essex Highways don't seem to want to slow traffic. Traffic passing through Abbey street and Frinton road goes too fast and this presents a danger to pedestrians.

Councillor Fielder stated that he agreed with Mr Newman that there is a need for a bypass to divert through traffic from the village and that a bypass doesn't necessarily have to be a dual carriageway as is often thought of when the word 'bypass' is mentioned, just a single carriageway road can be a bypass. He agreed that there is no traffic enforcement, particularly for the dangerous parking outside the school. This has become such an issue for the residents of Abbey Crescent, that they are going to start putting cones up at school pick up to stop people parking along there. Councillor Carpenter stated that she also agreed with Mr Newman's concerns, particularly with point 11 (pedestrian crossing) and that this is something worth visiting, suggesting that perhaps we could allocate some S106 money from the developments in the village to install a crossing. Councillor Ewart suggested that we should campaign for a 20mph limit through the village in the meantime. Councillor Cooper suggested we write to the police regarding speed checks and traffic enforcement and Councillor Fielder asked if we could invest in a proper speed gun. At this point of the discussion the chairman stated that some of the points raised would be covered at later points of the agenda and brought the public discussion to a close.

6. Chairman's Report

- Parking partnership. Red lined are to be painted at the junction of New Thorpe Avenue and stretching back towards Beaumont. Also, under the bridge by the station coming back up station road towards Lockyers Wood. These red lines mean no parking at anytime.
- Following the lobbying of ECC in relation to a traffic crossing patrol officer in Thorpe, the position has been advertised and this has been readvertised/shared to try and push for the position to be filled
- Speeding – The chairman has spoken with the special constable from Little Clacton, who came to Thorpe to do some traffic monitoring the day the 2 children got knocked down. He will come and do some more for us.

Councillor Starling asked if the scope of the red line parking partnership scheme could be extended to certain pinch points in the high street, or if we could push for a one way system through the high street or parking on one side of the street only. Chairmans responded that these ideas had been presented before and we do need to have a think about the possible options.

7. Thorpe Parish Church Lighting

Further to the previous months discussion regarding the lighting installation at the Parish Church, a brief discussion took place regarding the works required, the quotes obtained and the correspondence from the church regarding their preferred contractor. Councillor Raftery questioned whether the church would be expecting the PC to pay for the electricity required for the illuminations once the work had been completed. The chairman advised that he didn't know, however they had paid for their own electricity for the Christmas illuminations so couldn't see why they would think we would start paying for their electricity. A discussion took place regarding church closures around the country and what might happen if Thorpe parish church were to be selected for closure. The chairman explained that should we approve the quotes, the Diocese still have to give their final approval before any work can take place.

Chairman Land proposed that the quote provided by MRL should be approved, Councillor Carpenter seconded the motion and all were in favour.

8. Thorpe in Bloom hanging baskets

Councillor Carpenter advised that she had spoken with Parkers about this years baskets and that she would give them a write up in the village magazine to thank them for their continued and generous support of the Thorpe in Bloom by providing us with the flowers for the hanging baskets. Councillor Carpenter stated that there is no budget available from TPC to increase the number of hanging baskets, as they require specialist brackets, which are very costly to purchase, but that she liked the idea of encouraging more community involvement/sponsorship and perhaps planters at the entrances to the village could be an alternative option for widening the scope of Thorpe in Bloom. Some of the businesses that have our hanging baskets outside them (The Crown and The Bell) have said they would like to make a contribution. The chairman expressed his thank to James Carpenter for his ingoing help and support with hanging and taking down the baskets each year. Councillor Fielder and the Chairman expressed that if James Carpenter needed any help with hanging the baskets again this year, then they would be happy to do so.

9. Play equipment and bus stop cleaning

A brief discussion took place regarding the cleaning of the bus shelters and play equipment and the quote that had been provided to do so. **The chairman proposed that the quote be approved and the cleaning should take place. Councillor Ewart seconded the motion and all were in favour.**

10. Street Lighting

Having been circulated before the meeting, the quote from UKPN for the power transfer to the new columns in Byng Crescent was briefly discussed, as was the quote from A&J lighting for the maintenance clean of the LED lights. As UKPN are the nationwide power supplier and only company that can do the power transfer, no other quote could be obtained for this. Councillor Fielder also raised that 2 lamp posts had been damaged on Abbey Crescent, following a car hitting them, leaving one quite badly damaged. Councillor Carpenter stated that she would try and find out who was responsible and if it is possible to claim on their insurance for the repairs to be done.

Chairman Land proposed that the quotes be approved, Councillor Fielder seconded the motion. All were in favour.

11. Special Constable

The chairman explained that Little Clacton has a Special Constable present in the village, which has been very successful and that a Special Constable has more powers than a PCSO and would be a good addition to Thorpe. Councillor Starling stated that Special Constables, although volunteers, have the same powers as the police. A general discussion took place.

12. Lockyers Wood management – payment authority

The chairman provided a brief explanation of the works required to the diseased and damaged trees within Lockyers wood, which had been assessed by Clive Dawson, tree officer at TDC. The chairman explained that the quotes had been provided by a contractor used before who had quoted significantly less than another local firm when first engaged to complete works for the council last year. **The Chairman proposed that on this basis the 3 x quotes for the required works be approved. Councillor Ewart seconded the motion and all were in favour.**

A discussion followed regarding the ongoing need for works to be carried out at the woods as and when it happens, due to the safety implications of damaged trees and branches affecting members of the public and that having to potentially wait for a month to get a motion approved for remedial works to be conducted, presented a safety risk and that on this basis the council are asked to consider and approve a 'payment authority' (with an upper limit) so that should a need arise, payment can be authorised by the chairman/clerk for remedial works in the interest of safety and the continued safe use of the woods by all. Councillor Cooper raised the issue of vandalism in the woods and that some young trees had been uprooted and other trees damaged. **Councillor Carpenter proposed that the payment authority should be approved with an upper limit of £2,000 on the basis that the largest of the 3 quotes given for current required works is £1800.00. Councillor Ewart seconded the motion and all were in favour.**

13. Internal auditor

The annual audit is approaching and as such an internal auditor needs to be appointed. Michelle Curtis has been our internal auditor for the past few years, however she is unable to conduct it for us this year. Clacton Business Services (CBS), who have recently been appointed as payroll administrators, provide internal audit services for local parish councils and are able to conduct the internal audit for TPC this year.

Councillor Fielder proposed that CBS should be appointed as internal auditor. Councillor Cooper seconded the motion and all were in favour.

14. Insurance

A brief discussion took place regarding any new additions to the asset register for this year.

Councillor Fielder proposed that the new brush cutter and 2 new benches that have been purchased by the council this year should be added to the asset register to be submitted to Came & Company for the insurance renewal. Councilor Carpenter seconded the motion and all were in favour.

15. Village sign – Maids head parade

The chairman gave a brief update on the situation with the village sign. Chairman to follow up.

16. Onecom

Following receipt of the bills from Onecom, that had been sent to the retired clerks address, The chairman proposed that the outstanding debt of £171.10 should be paid. Councillor fielder seconded the motion and all were in favour.

17. Planning

The Chairman and Councillor Carpenter declared a non-pecuniary interest in the first planning item and abstained from the discussion.

Applications received

21/00270/FUL	Proposed side extension to existing dwelling and alterations to existing living space (rendering to existing house)	No objections
21/00490/TCA	4 No. Poplar Trees - Reduce by 50% (T1, T3, T4) and pollard T2.	No comments as TCA
21/00492/TCA	Trees (Crab Apple, Silver Birch) overhanging 6 Churchgate - lop overhanging branches and reduce height.	No comments as TCA
21/00402/FUL	Erection of single storey rear extension	No comment as this is Kirby le Soken rather than Thorpe Le Soken

Applications determined

20/01768/FUL Approval - Full	Two storey rear extension.	Willow Green Cottage Colchester Road Thorpe Le Soken
20/01803/FUL Refusal - Full	Proposed erection of 4 two bed dwellings	The Woodlands Edward Road Thorpe Le Soken
21/00323/TCA Approval - Full	1 No. Sycamore - Remove deadwood, prune back	Buttercup Cottage High Street Thorpe Le Soken
21/00356/TCA Approval - Full	1 No. Sycamore - Prune back 1metre from bungalow and 1 No. Sycamore - Reduce in height	Poppy Cottage High Street Thorpe Le Soken
21/00242/COUNOT Determination prior approval not required	Application for prior approval for the conversion of two agricultural buildings into 2no. self-contained dwellings.	Whitehall Farm Whitehall Lane Thorpe Le Soken

18. Accounts for period 8th March – 19th April incl.

To receive and approve the monthly accounts and payments.

CLRs to approve Cheques/on-line payments for signature/approval, agree D/Debits & S/Orders:

All cheques/on-line payments to be signed by two designated members of PC.

Payments requiring approval:

Payee	Invoice No	Amount	VAT	Budget line
Clacton Business Services	13992	75.00	12.50	Payroll services
EALC/NALC	13850	524.25		Affiliations

Cheque #	Payee	Invoice No	Amount	VAT	Budget line
OP	Glasdon	30533113	864.10		Open spaces
OP	Naze Lamb	0087	631.08		Open spaces (Lockyers wood)
OP	Naze Lamb	0088	1068.00		Open spaces (Lockyers wood)
OP	Scottish Power	107398382	134.44		Christmas lights
OP	Bull Guard (J Ball)		74.99		Office sundries (antivirus)
OP	Cartridge People (J Ball)		78.13		Office sundries (ink)
Income received					
	TDC		27,495.00		Precept

STANDING ORDERS:

Jess Ball	£867.68	Staff Wages
Naze Lamb	£490	Playing field maintenance

DIRECT DEBIT'S will be paid by Bank around 12th of each month

e-on energy	162.38	Street Lighting
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The following payments have also been made/drawn from the account although recorded on previous months agendas/minutes

Cheque #	Payee	Amount	Minuted month	Budget line
2504	Thorpe Festival trust	1000.00	November	S137 grants
OP	Royal British Legion	1000.00	November/February	S137 grants
OP	S. Howe	6250.00	January	Gratuity

A transfer of £10,000 was also made from the savings account to the treasurers account as available funds within the account had reached below £10,000.00 with over £9000.00 of payments pending/due.

Account balances:

Treasurers account	Savings Account (Bus bank instant)	Margery Wright Memorial	It's a Knockout/Thorpe Fete
£35,678.55	£50,443.15	£5,265.85	£0.00

The chairman proposed that the accounts and payments presented should be approved, Councillor Carpenter seconded the motion which unanimously agreed.

19. Sub Committee Reports:

Having been discussed in the Annual Parish Meeting immediately prior to the full council meeting, there were no sub committee reports, although Councillor Fielder raised the point that whilst the hanging decorations for the seasonal treasure hunts were a nice contribution by the person that puts them up, could they please be reminded to also take them down before they start to fall down and become litter.

Councillor Raftery stated that in order to work out the budget for the extended Christmas lights street scene this year, we need to know what columns are available to use and that it is probably best to put in the application for all the streets we might use so that the permissions are in place and ask MRL to let us know which columns would be suitable.

20. Date of next meeting

Due to the legislation for remote meetings ending on the 7th May before the government covid guidance allows for meetings in person, the council agreed that the next meeting should be held remotely on Wednesday 5th May at 7.00pm

21. Close of meeting

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.40pm