



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held Monday February 12th 2024 at Thorpe Baptist Church**

**Minutes**

**1. Chairman To convene meeting**

The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance

**2. Apologies for absence:** Councillors Blandford, Fielder, Coulter, Ewart, Moor

**In attendance:** Chairman Land, Councillors Cooper, Carpenter, Holland, 3 members of the public.

**3. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting held Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Councillor Cooper proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the January meeting, Councillor Holland seconded the motion, all were in favour

**4. Declaration of Members Interests**

There were none

**5. Public discussion**

Member of the public, John, raised concerns re the signage at the new shop in Churchgate (previously Alfie's barbers), this is in a conservation area. The Chairman advised that he had raised this to planning at TDC and they have been out today to inspect. Member of the public Donna added to the discussion re the signage to state the building is listed and under listed regulations it must be maintained in heritage colours and she is unable to even paint her front door without planning permission for LBC.

John Parker provided an update on his discussion with TDC regarding the additional bungalows at Henderson Park, the Ombudsman are reinvestigating, a letter has been sent by the Ombudsman to Ian Davison requesting he look into some of the complaints. He has also been in touch with Giles Watling who has agreed to look into this further and asked John's permission to approach TDC on his behalf.

**6. Chairman's report**

Works along Frinton road by Nanny Jo's are to improve gas services to the area due to the amount of development that has occurred in recent years.

Burfoot have requested the S106 money for the Lady Nelson development have been redirected to Lokyer's wood as opposed to the playing field.

Drainage scheme – last 2 elements which is up the crescent and the by the roundabout is being combined into one and the resurfacing is due to take place in June. However, if the drainage scheme is not up to scratch then standing water will erode the road surface adding to the poor state of the road. The Community garden is continuing to progress with volunteers, discussions are taking place to potentially arrange some support from volunteers of The Prince's Trust. A grant of £1000 from the ECC locality fund has been awarded for planting at the community garden.

£8m in funding is coming from the government to Essex CC Highways to address the pot holes issue across the county.

Mary Sullivan requested that we write to the Abbey requesting that they cut back the foliage encroaching on to Abbey Street.

**7. Clerks report**

The Clerk thanked Councillors Holland and Moor for making the extra effort to attend the January meeting despite having already given apologies, so that the meeting was quorate and could therefore go ahead as this was a critical decision making meeting for setting the precept for the year ahead. The Clerk stated that there are at least 2 meetings each year wherein critical decisions/motions are carried, these are the precept setting in January and AGAR approval in June and councillors are politely requested to make every effort to attend these meetings so that the council can fulfil its legal obligations connected to these decisions. The Clerk advised that Thorpe Le Soken was not alone in having to raise the precept for the forthcoming financial year and many parishes within the Tendring district had done so, with some increasing it by over 10%. In light of the increases the parish council had made to the precept following 2 years of a 0% increase, the Clerk read out a prepared statement that was to be shared on the village social media to inform residents of the community of the increase and the reasons for it, ahead of the council tax bill in March. Members of the public present were invited to give their thoughts on the statement, which was well received by councillors and members of the public alike.

**8. Website upgrade**

The clerk explained that the website management team have advised that the website needs to be moved to a new server and upgraded to improve speed and efficiency, this will cost £30 +vat. Chairman and proposed that the costs be accepted, Councillor Carpenter seconded the motion and all were in favour.

**9. Path Cleaning - Purchase of Mechanical Cleaner**

Councillor Cooper provided an update on the path cleaner for the benefit of the MOP's present. He then read out a letter from the provider that stated they don't feel they would be selling us a machine that doesn't meet our needs as we turned down the large City sweeper machine. A brief discussion took place regarding the need for such a large machine and that the 'Billy Goat machine that had previously been suggested by the supplier looked quite adequate. Councillor Cooper to continue to research.

**10. Planning**

**Applications received**

24/00096/TCA	Oak Tree - Remove the lower main south facing bough.	Down to decision of tree officer
24/00067/FULHH	Proposal to change the current balcony area into an extension for the main bedroom	No concern
24/00087/DOVU5	Deed of variation linked to application ref 21/01397/FUL, to secure the provision of the agreed financial contribution in place of the on-site provision (Schedule 2). And to delete Schedule 5.	Comment – Concern that this does not provide affordable housing within Thorpe as it could be used for anywhere in the district. Our understanding is that there are outstanding questions regarding the legitimacy of the S106 agreement approved on this application.
24/00129/TCA	3 x Ash trees - Repollard back to previous points.	Down to the decision of the tree officer.

**Applications determined**

23/01724/FULHH Approval - Full	Proposed two storey side and single storey rear extensions and porch.	Box Cottage, Colchester Road
22/01679/FUL Approval - Full	Proposed two storey rear extension	Rose and Crown, High Street
23/01516/OUT Application Withdrawn	Outline Planning Application (all matters reserved except for access) for the erection of up to 10 single storey dwellings.	Land to the rear of Paddock Drive
23/01725/COUNOT Determination prior approval not required	Prior Approval Application under Class MA of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development)) for conversion of former Class B1 commercial unit in to a residential dwelling unit.	Unit 5 Rice Bridge Industrial Estate
23/01780/NMA Approval Non Material Amendment	Non Material Amendment to application reference 23/00302/FUL to incorporate garage doors across front elevation	Damonts Farm Damants Farm Lane
22/01330/FUL Approval - Full	Proposed erection of 6 Bungalows (re-submission of application 22/00056/FUL	Land South of Frinton Road

**11. Accounts for period 16<sup>th</sup> January – 12<sup>th</sup> February 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.

**STANDING ORDERS:**

Jess Ball	£ [REDACTED]	Staff Wages
Naze Lamb	£490	PF maintenance

Payee	Invoice	Amount	Budget line
A&J Lighting		£180	S. light maintenance
N. Power		£402.97	S. light energy
Affinity Water		£14.46	Allotments water
ICO		£40.00	GDPR registration
Payments pending			
Great Oaktree Land Services		£840	Work to fallen/hanging trees/branches after storm

Dan Land approved, Holland seconded

**12. Sub Committee Reports:**

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Christmas Lights                  | Nothing to update                     |
| b. Highways and Pavements            | No further update to Chairmans report |
| c. Lockyer's Wood                    | No further update to Chairmans report |
| d. Parish Footpaths & Village Greens | Nothing to update                     |

Minutes of the Thorpe Le Soken Parish Council meeting Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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|---------------------------|---|
| e. Playing Field<br>March | A directional hearing has been scheduled for the 19 <sup>th</sup> |
| f. Street Lighting        | Nothing to update   |
| g. Thorpe in Bloom        | Nothing to update   |
| h. Allotments             | Nothing to update   |

**13. Date of next meeting**

11th March

**14. Close of meeting**