

THRUXTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2023

Present: Cllr P Christie (Chairman) Cllr R Munday (Vice Chairman) Cllr Mrs P Harris, Cllr S Cotterill & Cllr W Odling.

In attendance:

Mrs H Bournier – Clerk
3 members of the public

1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC Phil Lashbrook.

Public Participation

2) A member of public present asked questions regarding replanting at the substation see item 6.

Other public interest was in the planning application 23/02657/FULLN Thruxton Down Farm, change of use application- see item 13.

Declarations of Interest

3) Cllr Odling declared an interest in his planning application to build a three-bed house 23/02678/FULLN. There were no other declarations of interest.

All councillors present confirmed that no changes to register of interest forms were required.

Minutes

4) **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd October were confirmed as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman. Proposer Cllr Cotterill, seconded Cllr Munday. All in favour.

Specific Reports

5)

Cllr Munday- (Environment) - reported the green waste from the stream clearance had now been removed. The Clerk said she had approached, the Environment agency and TVBC to ask for advice on maintaining the stream. TVBC had also asked Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to pass on advice on regarding Winterbourne maintenance and enhancement. The Environment Agency advice is to cut back foliage while the stream bed is dry and can be by machine. This approach supports flood risk and both TVBC and H & IoW Wildlife trust suggest this advice should be followed although the Wildlife trust will support an alternative plan if the wider community and the EA will support this.

Cllr Munday (Biodiversity)- had nothing to report.

Cllr Christie (Roads & footpaths) confirmed work by Southern Water continues in the village and this has meant traffic lights but fortunately no road closures, although some can be expected in the future. Concerns have been raised regarding the height of ground water levels which have reached a point when tankering will become necessary. There have been some incidences of damage to private property and Cllr Christie will provide contact details to report these. Concern was also raised that traffic lights were left operating overnight when not required. Cllr Christie will raise this with the project manager.

Concerns were raised that drains by Mullins Pond were once again blocked. The Clerk has reported this to HCC and the lengthsman has cleared the drainage channel which runs into Mullins Pond.

Cllr Harris (social concerns) raised the possibility of planting a copper beech tree in memory of former Cllr Davis. While all agreed this type of tree would grow well on local soil the potential size of the tree was of concern, particularly if this were to be planted on the Village Green. After some discussion a globe maple was recommended as it will not grow so large. Cllr Harris will discuss this Margaret Davis to gauge her views.

Further volunteers to help with delivering the newsletter are required and a note will be included in the next newsletter.

Village Green & Mandy Garden –Cllr Cotterill said the Village green was looking great. She would like to organise a working party to tidy the Mandy Garden in the spring. At the same time the benches will be checked for safety. Safety signs for the river bank have been purchased and will be erected.

Cllr Odling (Play area safety checks) – had circulated his recent report. This indicates two minor areas which will need to be repaired in the future but will be monitored in the meantime.

Speed awareness- The Clerk reported data continues to be monitored and the most recent report has been circulated. Cllr Christie proposed moving the machine currently by the allotment to Village Street near the church turning. The Clerk will ask the group of volunteers who agreed to help with this initiative if they are able to do this.

Cllr Odling asked if there were any news on 20mph limits. Cllr Christie agreed to speak to HCC Donnelly about this matter.

The Clerk reported: -

The bin at the west end of the village by the industrial estate road has been removed by TVBC, a replacement has been requested given this is well used.

Replacement defibrillator pads have been purchased as those currently in the machine expire on 31st January 2024.

Meeting dates for 2024 will be the first Monday of the month except January and August when no meetings take place, April when the meeting will be on Monday 8th as the first Monday is a bank holiday and May when the Monday is a bank holiday and the meeting will be combined with the annual Parish Meeting. Date to be confirmed.

Green area by electricity substation.

6) A member of public present asked when trees would be planted to screen the electricity sub-station. She said she had asked for this work to be carried out some months ago and was both disappointed and frustrated that this had not been done. Her home is adjacent to the substation and she felt she should have been informed before the work to remove trees was carried out, she said the substation is an eye sore and should be screened. Cllr Christie explained that the trees were removed following advice from a tree surgeon about their safety. The Clerk said full details were discussed at Parish Council meetings and fully minuted. She said she has spoken to an expert regarding planting and has information and costs to discuss with the Parish Council tonight. Cllr Christie went on to apologise for the impact and said no planting had taken place because the best time to plant trees was autumn.

Roger Oliver has agreed to help with planting some screening and he met with the Clerk to offer advice regarding the best plants. He has suggested a mixture of viburnum and dogwood plants -twelve in total. The Clerk has researched the best value products and confirmed she could purchase 2 large viburnum and 10 mixed dogwood plants from Garden Express for £220.00. All Councillors agreed the Clerk should proceed to purchase these.

A volunteer interested in creating a wildlife area here has asked if the Parish Council will purchase some bird boxes and a hedgehog house for the area. It was agreed £30 could be spent on these items providing the volunteer agreed to maintain them.

Dragon's teeth

7) The Clerk confirmed she had obtained a quote to replace broken dragon's teeth on the triangle near Lovell Close. Eleven need to be replaced and the net cost of these from ATF will be £161.59. Labour costs will be £110.00- total costs £271.59. All councillors agreed this expenditure. The Clerk will arrange for the work to be carried out.

First Aid

8) The Clerk confirmed she had obtained a quote for £485.00 to deliver a first aid course at Thruxton Village Hall for 12 people. Potential dates of Thursday 16, 23 or 30th November were discussed. It was agreed to arrange a course for 30th November. Any persons from outside Thruxton should be asked to meet the full costs of the place. Villagers' places would be

subsidised by the Parish Council by 50%. The Clerk will contact all those who expressed an interest and the course provider.

Upkeep of Sports Field.

9) The Clerk reported she had met informally with the treasurer of the Three Villages Sports Trust to discuss general upkeep of the sports field. Concerns have been raised regarding grass cutting, grass not being cut in the play area, damaged gates and general mess and rubbish. There is currently an agreement between the PC and the Sports Trust which states the Parish Council are responsible for the play equipment and all other matters are the responsibility of the Sports Trust. Income to the Sports Trust is limited and while there is a small amount in reserves this will not last indefinitely.

Some ideas how things could be improved were considered and included

- 1) The Sports Trust continues in its current form and attempts some fundraising to meet costs.
- 2) The Sports Trust continues in its current form and attempts some fundraising to meet costs but the PC helps financially now as a one off to pay for grass to be cut and rubbish removed.
- 3) The Sports Trust continues in its current format but the agreement between them and the PC is updated with a change in responsibilities IE the PC becomes responsible for grass cutting and or insurance
- 4) The Parish Council becomes Trustees of the Sports Trust and takes over the day to day running of the field including hire of pitches etc. They could approach Kimpton & Fyfield Parish Councils to help financially. There could still be a Sports Trust steering group for the Sports Field who could organise fund raising events.

After some discussion it was agreed a formal meeting should be arranged between the Sport Trust and the Parish Council.

Defibrillator

10) Cllr Odling the hall trustees were still establishing if a planning application was required to re site the defibrillator at the Village Hall because it is a listed building. A new lid will be purchased once a permanent site is agreed.

County and Borough Councillors' Report

11) HCC Chris Donnelly had sent a short report and this has been circulated to all Councillors.

TVBC Cllr Phil Lashbrook had sent apologies

12) Finance

To note the bank balances as at 31/10/2023

Lloyds £21597.27

United Trust Reserve £14761.50

ii) To approve the following payments and authorise online transactions: -

H Bournier salary	£600.00
H Bournier exp.	£18.00
Southern Electric DD	£56.02
Thrupton Memorial Hall	£28.00
Taits	£52.00
Ray Welch	£226.60
Ray Welch	£25.00

Retrospective

Windsor Forest College	£225.00
Ray Welch	£75.00
Peter Fletcher	£700.00
Safety Signs	£29.58

iii) The Clerk had circulated a draft budget for 24-25. Two scenarios were considered along

with the levels of proposed expenditure. Councillors will consider likely expenditure for 24-25 and this matter will be revisited at the December meeting when the level of precept request will be agreed.

Planning

13) The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

23/02103/TREEN-tree works St Martins House- no objection

23/02154/TREEN tree work-Old School House-no objection

23/02061/TREEN-tree works, Ninepins- no objections

23/02246/TREEN tree works, Bridge Cottage- no objection

23/02247/TREEN tree works, Curlew Cottage- no objection

Resolved: that the planning advisory committee's approval on the following applications were endorsed:

23/02657/FULLN-retrospective change of use application-Thruxton Down Farm-unanimous agreement to raise an objection similar to that in respect of the previous application that was withdrawn. Cllrs Munday and Odling will also consider objections in line with the provision of section 73 of the town & country planning act raising a challenge given the illegal nature of activity of the site. A member of public highlighted there appeared to be no consideration regarding the wash down of vehicles and the contamination this creates.

Steve Counsell, present as a member of the Neighbourhood Steering Committee, said in the past he has seen evidence submitted in relation to planning applications that planning officers do not take into account when making decisions. He had hoped to ask Cllr Lashbrook why this happened but unfortunately, he was not present.

23/02678/FULLN- erect three bed dwelling-land adjacent to George House with access from Beech Close- No objections. Cllr Munday said the principle of an infill where land is available is supported by the Neighbourhood Plan. Steve Counsell confirmed the design is acceptable to the Neighbourhood Plan and the application does not contravene any policies in this.

Attendance at Events

14) None

Community Thanks

15) Thanks were expressed to Pat Cousell for organising the recent, successful, safari supper.

Correspondence

16)The Clerk highlighted correspondence as follows: -

Email regarding Thriving Communities workshop on 4th December

Email from Lloyds Bank confirming statements are now online only

Cllr Christie has received an email from a parishioner who has expressed an interest in becoming a parish councillor and will contact the parishioner to discuss.

Items for next agenda

18) None at present

Community News

19) None

Date of next meeting

20) The next meeting will take place at 7.30 pm on Monday 4th December 2023