

# THRUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 3 MARCH 2025

**Present:** Cllr P Christie (PC, Chair), Cllr R Munday (RM, Vice Chair), Cllr W Odling (WO)  
Cllr H Liechti (HL), Cllr R Sherlock (RS), Cllr R Earp  
HCC Cllr C Donnelly (CD), TVBC P Lashbrook (PL)

**In attendance:** Ms W Turkington, Clerk

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Cotterill

### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest. All Parish Councillors present confirmed that no changes were required to the Register of Interest forms.

### 3. Public Participation

Cllr PC welcomed members of the public and requested any questions comments. A member of the public advised that in respect of the green space in Stanbury Close, which has been maintained by the neighbourhood for the past 20 years, Hampshire Highways has raised an objection to the proposal to adopt it as a Village Green for the community.

### 4. Minutes

**Resolved.** The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair. Proposed Cllr RM, seconded Cllr HL. All in favour.

### Matters arising from the Action List on the Minutes of 3 February 2025

These are dealt with in the relevant sections below.

#### 5.1 Flooding and Biodiversity.

Cllr RM had circulated a report to the Parish Councillors. In respect of the possibility of receiving any biodiversity protection in the parish, he had looked at these but advised it would be extremely difficult to obtain.

Cllr RM recommended working with the Pillhill Pan-Parish Forum to look at protections for the brook and aquifer under Thruxton Down and proposed calling for volunteers to help with this initiative.

#### 5.2. Roads and Footpaths.

A member of the public has dug out the gulley near Mullens Pond on Village Street where accessible. Cllr PC will speak to Lady Vernon, the landowner, about extending the gulley further into the land surrounding Mullens Pond.

In respect of the remedial work needed on the wall by the Village Green, Hampshire Highways (HH) had sent an engineer to look at it, but he advised that the budget allocated for this work might not be sufficient. Cllr PC has not yet heard back from HH.

Cllr PC will contact HH about the need to cut back the vegetation growing along the slip road onto the east-bound A303, which is making visibility difficult. Cllr RM suggested asking for volunteers to help undertake this work.

Cllr WO asked about the white lines at the east-bound slip road and Cllr PC advised that HH will be working on the A303 in March to resurface the West bound slip road, and he will raise the issue about the East exit road. HCC Cllr CD will also raise the issue with HH.

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A member of the public had asked if the Parish Council would deal with the extremely muddy footpath that leads from the Village Hall to Beech Close and perhaps pay for gravel to be put along it. Cllr PC asked all the councillors to look at the footpath before the next meeting and report their findings and suggestions to him.

### **5.3 Speed Awareness and Community Speed Watch.**

Cllr PC had held a meeting with HCC Cllr CD in respect of the proposed traffic calming and 20mph speed limit. HCC Cllr CD had provided a Self-Assessment Guide in respect of the latter, and Cllr PC would circulate it.

The key criteria would be to provide data on car speeds through the village and to undertake a referendum. HCC Cllr CD advised that a referendum would need substantial support from the community – probably 80% + response with a substantial majority in favour of the introduction of a 20mph limit. It was noted that the only similar referendum had been undertaken by Appleshaw Parish Council, who had received an 82% response rate with over 90% in favour, and are now in the process of changing their speed limit signs.

HCC Cllr CD advised that if the average speed through the village is greater than 26 mph, additional traffic calming measures would be required. Councillors discussed where the limit should apply and it was agreed that it should include the length of Village Street, Stanbury Road, and include going past the primary school to the junction. It was noted that all side roads leading into the two roads above, would also be included in any revised speed limit.

Cllr PC advised that the key issues to be addressed are:

- (i) does the village want a 20mph speed limit?
- (ii) how best to carry out a Referendum and ensure a high response rate

Cllr PC brought to attention the fact that at the December Parish Council meeting, HCC Cllr Chris Donnelly (CD) had advised that the cost of changing the speed restrictions could be around £10,000, but would be greater if additional traffic calming measures were required.

Cllr RM proposed moving the speed signs in the village. Cllr RE proposed placing one sign near the school and to move the other one down towards the White Horse. This was agreed and Cllr RE agreed to undertake moving the signs.

### **5.4 Environmental, Village Green, Electricity sub-station.**

A resident had asked Cllr PC about providing disabled access to the village green and it was agreed that the Parish Council has a responsibility to help with this request. Cllr PC advised that the money from the Jubilee Fund was going to be used for a new gate to the village green and that some money could also be used to provide improved access for the disabled.

Cllr WO offered to investigate putting a dropped curb to address the above, and to find out the legal requirements from Hampshire County Council.

The Clerk advised that a Planning Application has been logged with the Planning Department to prune the trees on the village green and she has received confirmation that it is on the latest Planning Lists. It can be seen on TVBC's website under application number 25/00453/TREEN.

Cllr RE advised he has had no update yet about the proposed screening for the electricity sub-station. Cllr SC has been pursuing Southern Electricity about this matter for some months. It was agreed not to obtain trees from the Hampshire Forest Partnership.

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### **5.5 Play Areas safety checks.**

Cllr WO had circulated the latest report on the above. Cllr PC advised that the Sports Field Trust had agreed for the signs they had erected to be changed to those signs already purchased by Cllr WO on behalf of Thruxton Parish Council.

Cllr WO advised that the 8 'brushes' (supporting rods) required for the swings would cost £46.64 plus VAT. This purchase was agreed and Cllr WO kindly offered to install them.

Cllr WO had looked at the requirement for putting mirrors opposite the exit from the field, the costs for these would be approximately £300, he kindly offered to put these up. The cost was agreed.

A question was asked whether the Sports Field Trust (SFT) should contribute to the above. Cllr PC advised that the responsibility for the mirrors lies with the Parish Council (PC) and therefore the PC should cover this cost.

The SFT has asked for financial support again in the sum of £500, as was given by Thruxton Parish Council (TPC) in 2024. It was noted that historically, TPC has given a grant of £400 to the SFT.

Cllr RM proposed that £500 be given to the SFT. This was agreed.

### **5.6 Clerks Report**

As noted under item 5.4, the Clerk reported that the planning application to trim the trees on the village green has been logged and acknowledged by TVBC. When this work is undertaken, the fallen leaves on the village green will also be cleared and the fallen tree across the roof of the electricity sub-station will be cut down and removed.

The Clerk is obtaining quotes for new notice board to be put up on the side of the bus shelter at the top of Stanbury Road.

## **6. County and Borough Councillors' Reports**

TVBC Cllr PL reported that the council tax will increase by 3.05% and gave an example of a Band D property having to pay an extra £5 per month. It was noted that 80% of the additional revenue will go to central government.

In respect of Thruxton Race Circuit, new road diversions had been confirmed, closing the north end of the Aerodrome during circuit race days. There had been issues with traffic speeding along Snoddington Lane. Further information will be posted on the Parish website in due course.

TVBC Cllr PC also advised that there will be a meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March with the Northern Area Planning Committee (NAPC) to discuss the Lains Farm Solar Farm plan. The Airfield had dropped its objections and the NAPC will revert with a decision.

A discussion followed about the government's Devolution Priority Programme, to support areas towards devolution at pace, becoming mayor-led strategic authorities by May next year.

This would include replacing the current two-tier system of counties and district councils with unitary authorities across the country. Each of these will have a population of at least 500,000 and would be responsible for a full range of council services.

HCC Cllr CD agreed to give a briefing on changes anticipated through Devolution at the Annual Parish Meeting.

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The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in Thruxton Village Hall at 7pm on Thursday, 8 May.

### **7. Planning**

(i) It was noted that the following planning applications were listed for Thruxton:

25/00453/TREEN – to raise the crown of trees on Thruxton Village Green. (Item 5.4)

55/00330/TREEN – re-pollard Weeping Willow, The Old School House, Church Lane.  
No objection

(ii) In respect of Thruxton Down Farm, Cllr RM advised there was a lot of frustration from residents being voiced about the site still operating, despite an approved enforcement notice to cease operation. There is concern that the applicant can change their application, without further public comment.

TVBC Cllr PL advised he had spoken to the Head of Planning and was waiting for more information, which Hampshire Highways had requested from the applicant.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would also write to Simon Finch, Head of Planning and Building Services. Cllr RM has drafted a letter requesting the enforcement order be upheld.

(iii) Sewerage installations. Cllr PC advised that the Pillhill Pan Parish Forum has drafted a letter to TVBC to lobby for the use of PVC for pipework used for drainage. Cllr RM is working with the PPF on this issue on behalf of the Parish Council.

(iv) Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr PC advised that the Planning Forum will meet, and it will hopefully include several participants who were closely involved with the original NDP. He has asked Steve Counsell to set up a meeting.

### **8. Finance**

The Councillors approved the payments listed in the agenda. Cllr PC advised that there is a ring fence around certain funds, these being the Fete, Jubilee, Parish Archive and Toddler Group. It was agreed to transfer all ringfenced sums into the United Trust reserve account. The draft Budget for 2025/26 is being finalised.

### **9. Annual Parish Meeting**

This will be held on Thursday, 8 May at Thruxton Memorial Hall. All speakers were yet to be confirmed, however, HCC Cllr CD kindly agreed to speak about the government's plans for Devolution.

Cllr PC advised that the day of the meeting is the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day and that there is a VE Day grant available from TVBC, but time is very pressing to organise any events that might qualify. The following suggestions were put forward.

Cllr PC has written to the Village Hall in respect of putting on a special film night and has also written to the Thruxton Loves Cake organisers suggesting a coffee morning to remember and celebrate VE Day.

Cllr WO suggested inviting a local resident to the Annual Parish Meeting speak about VE Day. Cllr RM and Cllr WO also suggested asking the director of Thruxton Aviation Limited.

It was also suggested that the new Community Engagement Office could be asked to speak about her work.

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### 10. Attendance at events

Cllr WO had attended a recent meeting on local government re-organisation.

### 11. Community Thanks

The Parish Council expressed its thanks to village resident, Jason Bourne, for his work in digging out the gully at Mullens Pond. This is greatly appreciated.

### 12. Correspondence.

Cllr PC has written to the Chairs of Kimpton, Fyfield and Amport Parish Councils in respect of setting up a three villages council liaison group. To date, he has heard back from the Chair of Kimpton Parish Council.

A resident had raised the issue of mirrors being obstructed by the hedge growth in Halcyon Drive. Cllr PC advised that the hedge in question had now been cut back so that the mirrors are clearly visible again.

### 13. Items not covered in the Agenda

Cllr RE advised that he would be willing to maintain and empty the proposed new bin for dog waste in the dog-walking field and it was agreed that Cllr RE should investigate the cost of purchasing one.

Cllr RE suggested holding a Scarecrow Competition to coincide with Thruxton Village Open Gardens and to offer a prize for the best one. Cllr RM proposed that the Fete fund could contribute to it. The date proposed is Saturday, 19 July 2025.

Cllr PC asked Cllr RE to write a short article about the above for the Thruxton Times newsletter and to also publish the event on Facebook.

### 14. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday, 7 April 2025, 7.30pm at Thruxton Memorial Hall.

#### Actions to be taken in respect of items discussed during meeting.

| Item No. | Cllr/Clerk                    | Action/s Agreed   |
|----------|-------------------------------|---|
| 5.1      | Cllr RM                       | <b>Flooding &amp; Biodiversity:</b><br>To call for volunteers to look at protections for the brook and aquifer under Thruxton Down  |
| 5.2      | Cllr PC<br>Cllr PC<br>Cllr PC | <b>Roads and footpaths:</b><br>Look into possible need for improved drainage at Mullens Pond. To speak to Lady Vernon, the landowner about it. Obtain revised plan and budget from Hampshire Highways ref remedial work on wall by village stream<br>Contact HH about the need to cut back the vegetation growing along the slip road onto the A303 |
| 5.3      | Cllr PC<br>Cllr RS<br>Cllr RE | <b>Speed Awareness and Community Speed Watch:</b><br>Circulate the Self-Assessment Guide in respect of the above.<br>Look into preparing a Referendum.<br>Relocate speed signs in village   |

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|-----|-------------------------------|---|
| 5.4 | Clerk<br>Cllr WO              | <b>Environmental, Village Green, Electricity sub-station</b><br>Put up planning application notice on Village Green<br>Obtain details and costs for putting a dropped curb for disabled access to the Village Green. Find out the legal requirements from Hampshire County Council.   |
| 5.5 | Cllr WO                       | <b>Play Areas safety checks:</b><br>To purchase and replace the 8 worn bushings/supporting rods on swings. To purchase and replace the missing mirrors ref car access and exit visibility to the Sports Field   |
| 5.6 | Clerk                         | <b>Clerks Report:</b><br>Confirm planning application receipt to arborist ref the trimming of trees on the Village Green<br>Purchase new notice board on bus shelter at top of Stanbury Road  |
| 6.  | Cllr PC                       | <b>County and Borough Councillors' Reports</b><br>To write to HCC Cllr CD to confirm invitation to him to speak at Thruxton Annual Parish Meeting on 8 May  |
| 7   | Cllr RM<br>Cllr RM<br>Cllr PC | <b>Planning:</b><br>To write to Head of Planning ref Thruxton Down Farm<br>To follow up with PPF in respect of letter concerning use of pipework for sewerage installations.<br>Ref the Neighbourhood Plan. To liaise with Steve Counsel to set up a meeting of the Planning Forum  |
| 8   | Cllr PC<br>Cllr RM<br>Clerk   | <b>Finance:</b><br>To finalise 2025/26 Budget   |
| 9   | Cllr PC                       | <b>Annual Parish Meeting</b><br>To invite various speakers, including a local resident to speak about VE Day; the director of Thruxton Aviation Limited and the new Community Engagement Officer<br>To contact the new Community Engagement Officer   |
| 12  | Cllr PC                       | <b>Correspondence:</b><br>To follow up with the Chairs of Fyfield and Amport Parish Councils in respect of setting up a three villages council liaison group.   |
| 13  | Cllr RE<br>Cllr RE<br>Cllr RE | <b>Items not covered in the Agenda</b><br>To find out cost of buying a dog waste bin for the dog walking field.<br>To investigate holding the Scarecrow Competition again and to offer a prize for the best one.<br>To write a short article about the above for the Thruxton Times newsletter and to also publish the event on Facebook. |

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