

# THORNHACKETT PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Attendees:** Cllrs. B Taylor-Wade (Chairman), S Hillier (Vice-Chairman), J Rogers, B Lewis, R Baxter, A Bromell, J Axten, J Parker.

**Also in attendance:** Mrs S E Hillier (Clerk), 19 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr R Legg (Dorset Council)

Cllr Taylor-Wade welcomed the members of the public to the meeting

1. **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Hillier declared a pecuniary interest in 4a.
2. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were agreed.
3. **Cricket Ground Update:** Cllr Taylor-Wade was aware of the decision to ban dogs from part of the Recreation Field and due to the strength of feeling locally wanted residents to be able to give their opinions on this matter, she then handed this topic to Cllr Hillier to Chair as he chaired the meeting in March when it was discussed. Cllr Hillier explained that the Council had been requested by members of the cricket club to consider the banning of dogs from the Recreation Ground as was the case for other local clubs, the reason being that often mess was left behind and this was not pleasant for the players or children who may be present in the area. The Council discussed the matter and decided to implement an informal ban for the duration of the cricket season May to end of September. The cricket club agreed to erect signage to this effect. The posters that were prepared were more officious than agreed and mentioned that there was a PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order) for the area which could be enforced by the dog warden. This was not the case, PSPO's only cover land owned by Dorset Council and the Recreation Ground is owned by Castle Estate. The cricket club then leases the pitch from the Parish Council for the season and so the Parish Council does have a duty of care to the club. The meeting was then opened to members of the public to comment or ask questions e.g. a summary of some of the points raised:
  - a) Why was there no consultation? This was an informal decision and unlike a PSPO there was no requirement for consultation.
  - b) The season consisted of only 15 days - a club member explained that was for league matches there were also others.
  - c) The majority of the problem was due to people from outside the area allowing their dogs to run freely and not picking up after them.
  - d) Land owners making it more difficult to walk the land.
  - e) Many elderly or disabled people use the field to exercise their dogs and cannot access footpaths.

Cllr Hillier concluded by stating that there were lessons to be learned and in future the Council would produce its own signage.

#### 4. **Matters Arising:**

- a) Web Site update - the company engaged had been very unhelpful, meetings and phone calls had been missed to discuss difficulties. Policy documents only allowed for 1 document per policy, surveys could be difficult, He had looked again at the Hugo Fox provision of a web site, not a domain so the

Council could use 'thornhackettpc.org.uk', they did not host e-mails. However, Cllr Hillier hosts web sites and could host e-mails but it would have to be on a business basis and also host surveys, but it could not be on a pro bono basis. The Hugo Fox web site would however be free.

At this point Cllr Hillier left the room for Council to discuss the position. Cllr Parker said it made sense, Cllr Bromell wanted comparative costings, also what would the Silver and Gold levels with Hugo Fox provide? Cllr Hillier returned to the meeting.

- b) Thornford Halt update - Cllr Parker explained the background to this item to the members of the public present. A project begun several years ago to improve access to the Halt, especially for the elderly, disabled and those with prams. A scoping booklet had been produced and this would be on the web site. Network Rail were supportive as was Chris Loder, the M.P. On the web site there was to be an on-line survey for residents to complete. Cllr Bromell suggested the Council go ahead with Cllr Hillier's suggestion and get the website up and running as soon as possible, as good survey results would create more pressure. The Clerk noted that she and Cllr Hillier had met with representatives from Great Western Rail company and they were also supportive. The members of the public present were asked for their feelings on the matter and they were all supportive of the project.
- c) Recreation Ground - The Clerk reported that the dead and sick trees had been dealt with by the Tree Surgeon, football nets were on order and the problem regarding the wall by the gate had been passed to Castle Trust.

5. **Public Forum** - Concerns were raised about speeding vehicles through Thornford village. Would the Parish Council consider purchasing speed indicator devices. Dorset Council would have to be approached regarding permission, siting and whether there could be any support towards costs. Poles would have to be erected and indicator devices purchased. Cllr Hillier asked the Clerk to find out whether CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) monies could be used. The possibility of speed bumps was also raised.

6. **Planning Matters** - P/FUL/2023/02375 Trill Farm Dairies Access Road to new silage clamp. Discussed and no concerns raised.

The Clerk noted that the application for 1 Wheelwright Studios had now been granted. Cllr Parker stated that local residents had expressed concern regarding the facing for the extension to 3 Church Close Beer Hackett as not being in keeping.

7. **Financial Report** - a) A report regarding payments was presented (see attached) and agreement for payment requested - agreed. The audited accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 were circulated. They had only been received that day and so Councillors were asked to contact the Clerk with any questions when they had had time to look at them.

b) Cllr Parker requested that the Council consider paying for an updated Beer Hackett booklet - agreed.

c) Discussion regarding the Bembury lane Bench a new recycled material bench was suggested, but members were not generally in favour, a wooden bench was preferred the Clerk was asked to look to Castle Gardens to see what they could supply.

**8. Sustainable Thornford** – Mr Wright, the Council’s environment representative presented two possible Action Plan drafts regarding the Council’s possible ‘Declaration of a Climate Emergency’. A website consultation could get strength of feeling and a working group could be established to work up an action plan. Cllr Hillier expressed concern that anything that might involve expenditure we would need to know of in advance, Cllr Lewis agreed. Cllr Taylor-Wade did not think there was a problem and asked for a vote – ‘Hold off deciding and come back with more detail’ – 3 Votes or ‘Agree to the Declaration in Principle’ – 5 votes this was carried. The Clerk requested that Councillors indicate which declaration they preferred by the end of the month.

b) Thornford River of Flowers some areas had ben seeded and the next planting time will be in September. The Group’s next meeting would be in September.

c) Mr Wright reported on the Climate and Ecological Emergency Support Meeting that he had attended on behalf of the Parish Council. The topic was ‘Zero Carbon Dorset’. It was reported that progress was slow. See <https://www.dorset2030.com/annual-review-2023.html> for the report’s findings.

Cllr Taylor-Wade thanked Mr Write for his report and hard work on behalf of the Parish Council.

**9. 20’s plenty** - Due to time constraints it was agreed to carry this forward to the next meeting.

**10. Correspondence** – A list had been circulated to Councillors, there no questions at this time.

**11. Dates for Parish Meetings** – The Clerk asked Councillors to consider dates in the Autumn for Parish Meetings, one for Beer Hackett and one for Thornford.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

**12. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.00pm in Thornford Village Hall**