

## THORNHACKETT PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**Attendees:** Cllrs. Hillier (Chairman), Whitsun-Jones(Vice-chair), Baxter, and Bromell.

**Also in Attendance:** Mrs S Hillier (Clerk), 11 members of the Public.

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting. They were reminded that this was a meeting of the Council held in public but it was not a public meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence** - Cllrs Axten, Hoff, Keene, Robins, Rogers and Taylor-Wade were agreed.
3. **Declarations Of Interest:** No Declarations of Interest were received.
4. **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and the Extraordinary Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> September** These had been circulated to Councillors. These were agreed by those present.
5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes – Speed Survey –** Dorset Council have been requested to conduct a speed survey at three points, one each end of the village and one close to the Village Hall/Boot Lane as these are areas of potentially the greatest pedestrian activity. Officers indicated that this would probably happen towards the end of October. Permissive Footpath towards Lake. Castle Estates had been written to requesting their comments. Thornford Halt – John Parker had exhausted his contacts regarding a feasibility study but had some names of other organisations. The Clerk to ask him to contact them. A lead Councillor is still to be identified. The change in Government and their desire to re-nationalise the railways may affect this project.
6. **Public Forum** – i) Mr Young mentioned Unity Bank as a possible organisation for Thornhackett to use, they offer good interest rates and specialise in Parish Councils and Community Organisations. He would forward a link to the Clerk.  
ii) A question was raised about the Open Space at Wingfield Place – there was no record of it having been offered to the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to contact Dorset Council Enforcement Team regarding the Section 106 on this matter.  
iii) Hedgerows in the Drove who is responsible for cutting them. Hedges are the responsibility of the land owner – possibly Castle Estates.  
iv) The street sign to Grange Park still has not been replaced. Cllr Legg was dealing with this – Clerk to contact Cllr Legg.
7. **Finance Report** a) Payments due were circulated. The rent request for the Playing Field had been received. The Annual Play Equipment Inspection has taken place. The External Audit Fee was also due. SSE had taken monies saying out of contract. The Clerk had queried this and SSE agreed there had been a mistake. This was to be corrected. A VAT refund of £625 had been received  
b) St Michaels requested £330 towards maintenance of graveyard. Clerk requested that a wreath and a female ‘tommy’ be purchased for Remembrance Day. – **Agreed**  
c) The External Audit report had been received. There had been some conflicting advice from the External Auditors which had now been resolved.
8. **Thornford Clock** – A quotation for £600 had been received for the scaffolding. The company repairing the face indicated that scaffolding was necessary. Clerk requested to check that company had the necessary permissions and public liability insurances. Also check if Highways Authority needed to be notified.

9. **Wyke Solar Farm Proposal**- The summary of the questions and comments made at the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September had been circulated and were agreed. They would be placed on the web site. These comments would be taken into account by the Parish Councillors when the formal Planning Application had been received when they made their responses to that application. Cllr Whitsun-Jones indicated that Dorset Council were unaware of the public pre-application consultation. It was felt that the community benefit fund of £400 000 over 40 years covering the four Parish Council areas was derisory. Cllr Whitsun-Jones suggested establishing a negotiating team to meet with RWE. It was suggested that the team comprise of the Chairman and three others to investigate a community fund without prejudice. **Agreed** Cllr Whitsun -Jones also indicated that RWE had requested whether an Environmental Impact Assessment was necessary. It is understood that as yet Dorset Council had not as yet responded.
10. **Wriggle Valley Bus – Cllr** Toby Hartwell from Yetminster PC who was leading on this item gave a short presentation on the ‘state of play’. It was hoped to start running the bus in mid October. It would run on Fridays, alternating between Yeovil and Sherborne. A grant from Dorset Council had been obtained for 6 months trial. Customers would be able to pay by cash or card on the bus with a flat fare of £5. Bus passes at this stage would not be able to be accepted. Residents would have to register to travel by phone, e-mail or using the web site. Posters and timetables were in the process of being produced and printed. The Clerk requested ‘soft copy’ and would print some for noticeboards, shop, pub and The Hub. Parish Councils were being asked to give a commitment by way of a donation. A payment of £150 was proposed by Cllr Hillier, seconded Cllr Whitsun-Jones – **Agreed unanimously.**
11. **Play Area Annual Report** – This had been circulated to Councillors. The report included a stock valuation which would be forwarded to the Insurers. The report indicated that the two picnic benches were of a moderate risk and required work. It was agreed that somebody be found to remove the benches so that they could be assessed and either replaced or repaired.
12. **Street Lighting** – The Clerk had been in contact with several companies with regard to upgrading the street lighting. To date only one company had responded indicating that they would need to undertake a survey at a cost of £850. The Clerk was asked to make further enquiries as this seemed quite expensive.
13. **Environment Champion** - A report from Mr Young, the Environment Champion had been circulated to Councillors. It was proposed that a Working Group be established to look at the Green Action Plan, It was proposed that the group consist of 3 Councillors and 3 residents to include the Chairman, Cllr Whitsun-Jones and Mr Young – **Agreed**  
**At this point it was agreed to lift the guillotine so as to complete business.**

**14, Correspondence** – i) The Planning Application list had been circulated

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEER HACKETT** No new applications

**THORNFORD**

**P/TRC/2024/04886** Bembury Lodge Bembury Lane Thornford DT9 6QF TG1 and TG2 - Cypress x2 - Sever roots.

**P/HOU/2024/04215** High Trees Grange Park Thornford DT9 6QG - Installation of 12kw air source heat pump - **consultation closed**

**P/TRT/2024/03921** - Thornford Church Of England Va Primary School Boot Lane Thornford DT9 6QY - T1 Ash – Fell - **Granted**

- i) Heart of Wessex Line was to be closed for a week from 23<sup>rd</sup> September for new track to be laid and other works.
- iii) Neighbourhood nPolicing Report – one reported incident in Thornford of Fraud

**Date of Next Meeting** –Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 7.00pm Thornford Village Hall.

Meeting Closed at 9.15pm