

THORNHACKETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held at Thornford Village Hall on Wednesday 15th March 2023 commencing at 19.00 hours.

Present: Cllr's S Hillier (in the Chair), R Baxter, J Axten, J Parker, B Lewis

Apologies for Absence – Cllr B Taylor-Wade, A Bromell

Also Present: - Cllr R Legg (Dorset Council), 6 members of the public.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks:

Cllr Hillier welcomed Councillors to the meeting, especially on such an inclement evening. Cllr Hillier announced that there was an emergency item on the Agenda to be discussed prior to the date of the next meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held 18th January 2023: These were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Baxter, seconded Cllr Axten.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary or other interest: Cllr Hillier and Cllr Baxter declared a pecuniary interest in the Emergency Item regarding the lease for the allotments as both are allotment holders.

4. Matters Arising

Website – Cllr Hillier reported that work on the site was proceeding, the majority of the Policy documents had been uploaded and as there had been no statements to the contrary, addresses and contact numbers of Councillors would also be added. Dorset Council had been contacted regarding a link for declarations of interest – **Clerk to progress**

Recreation Ground – The hedge line had been cut along the side and bottom of the recreation field, an e-mail of thanks had been received from a resident of Blacksmiths Lane. The dead trees were to be removed on 23rd March.

5. Public Forum - Members of the cricket club expressed major concern regarding dogs fouling the cricket area, this was unpleasant for players and a potential hazard for children as many people were not clearing up after their dogs. The Club members were requesting permission to put up notices banning dogs from the field during the cricket season 1st May to mid-October as is the case at other local cricket fields. Following discussion it was agreed that signs should go up banning dogs from the Recreation Ground and the possibility of introducing a by-law to this effect would be investigated.

A second resident raised the matter of the street sign to Grange Park which had been down for almost 2 years. A Dorset Council officer had visited the area but nothing had progressed as he could not find the road! Cllr Legg made a note and the Parish Clerk would also pursue.

There was also a request for funding for grass cutting and graveyard tidying at Thornford Church. It was noted that £200 had been allocated and was to be signed off tonight.

Cllr Legg noted that Dancing Hill junction was to be subject to a reduced speed limit of 40mph

And there would be visual flashing warning signs to traffic as it moves down the hill.

Cllr Legg also told those present about a public consultation into stroke services in Somerset. Dorchester had already been announced as a Hyper Acute hospital for stroke services and this could affect the services provided by Yeovil hospital. Members and the public were urged to respond to the consultation as it could affect the hospital to which stroke sufferers were taken Dorchester or Taunton instead of Yeovil. The consultation address is:

<https://nhssomerset.nhs.uk/public-asked-to-help-shape-the-future-of-acute-hospital-based-stroke-services-in-somerset/>

6. **Thornford Halt** - Cllr Parker outlined progress to date, there was a revised plan to hopefully provide a car park for disabled use in Post Box Lane with a footpath on Network Rail land to the Halt at station level. A financial scoping document was being prepared. The next step was public consultation on the project possibly by means of an independent on-line questionnaire, a door drop, questionnaires in the shop/pub/village hall. The problem was getting the responses returned. A straw poll of those present was taken with 100% in favour. Enhancing the Halt by way of planters was also mentioned and Chris Loder M.P. was contacting GWR on our behalf regarding this possibility.
7. **Planning** - 1 Wheelwrights Studios and 33 Waldrons appear to have been cancelled
7 Blackbirds (Thornford) and 3 Church Close (Beer Hackett) had been granted.
8. **Financial Regulations** - It was explained that these regulations had been brought forward as the Council wished to enter into a variable Direct Debit with Scottish and Southern Electricity for the power supply and this would give us a much more favourable rate per unit, this being allowed under Financial Regulations P8/15 Para 6.6 . The regulations were formally re-adopted Proposed Cllr Hillier Seconded Cllr Lewis. **Carried unanimously**
9. **Financial Report** -
 - a) **Payments Due** A spread sheet had been previously circulated to Councillors. There were two additional payments to be added and 3 future payments requested which should bring the Council to the year end. These payments totalled £4455.20 and £70 from the S106/CIL Account for brochure illustrations.
 - b) **Progress against Budget** - A spread sheet had been circulated to Councillors indicating that at year end we should be on budget.
10. **Sustainable Thornford.** Ian Young presented a paper on Natural Environment, Climate and Environment (formally Climate and Environment Emergency) as Champion for the Parish. He had attended the C&EE support group. The word Emergency had been dropped so as to focus on Environment. In order to raise Community involvement a group Sustainable Thornford had been established and they hoped to create a 'River of Flowers' as their first project. Planting wild flower seed and plants to enhance pollinators and other wild life in the area. It was suggested that they could 'adopt' the mounds in the Play Area and plant them possibly in the autumn after removing the stinging nettles. Linked to this the Parish Council would make a Climate and Environment Declaration. Council would work with Sustainable Thornford and the new Dorset Strategy to produce a raft Action Plan. Council agreed to

provide £50 towards the purchase of wild flower seed to 'kick start' the project and the possibility of a grant next year once Sustainable Thornford were up and running. Proposed Cllr Baxter, Seconded Cllr Axten. **Carried unanimously.**

- 11. Play Area Inspection Report** - The report had been circulated to Councillors, there were no major concerns. The weekly reports by volunteers had also been received, Cllr Axten and Cllr Baxter volunteered to help with the reporting. More volunteers are required.
The litter bins in the play area have been emptied by the Clerk but due to ill health this was not possible at the present time. Councillors agreed to continue with this on a rota basis. The Clerk would draw one up - bins are emptied on a fortnightly basis to coincide with the black bin collection.
- 12. Civility and Respect Project Protocol** This had developed from a widely publicised case where civility and respect had not been demonstrated. It draws together parts of the Code of Conduct into one Protocol which Councillors, staff and members of the public will follow. Adoption of the Protocol was Proposed by Cllr Hillier, Seconded by Cllr Axten. **Carried unanimously.**
- 13. Highways -**
- a) Mud on the Road - particularly at the junction of Yetminster Road and Longford Road and in Beer Hackett near Claypits Lane. The lorry/tractor drivers are responsible for cleaning the road, if not them it is the contractor or the farmer employing the contractor. The Council is aware of the problem, but it has been excessive at times with no attempt to clear the road of mud and detritus. It was decided to make a public statement in the Wriggle Valley and Contact magazines regarding the mud and to also remind residents about overhanging garden vegetation.
 - b) A DMMO had been received, submitted by the British Horse Society to make the track at the end of Bembury Lane into a BOAT (Byway Open to all Traffic) to join up with Bridleway N32/15. Following discussion, it was agreed to submit an objection to the track becoming a Boat, instead suggesting that it be a bridleway like bridleway N15. Proposed Cllr Hillier, Seconded Cllr Parker, **4 in favour, 1 abstention - Carried**
 - c) Extensive litter in the ditch behind the Halt lay-by. This had been reported to Dorset Council at the same time as a request for a litter bin. The litter has since been cleared. Clerk to pursue the litter bin provision.
- 14. Coronation** - following discussion it was decided to support a 'Party in the Park' on Sunday 7th May as was held for the Jubilee. Residents would bring their own food etc to eat in the park and if the weather is inclement then the Village Hall could be used. Approximately 50m of bunting would be purchased for the event Proposed Cllr Lewis, Seconded Cllr Axten - **Carried unanimously.**
- 15. Parish Meetings** - There had not been a Parish Meeting in Beer Hackett or Thornford since COVID. It was agreed that they be held in the autumn and dates agreed following the Annual Meeting of the Council.
- 16. CIL Grants**
- a) Thornford halt already discussed
 - b) Village Hall - The Village Hall committee were seeking to upgrade the Ladies toilets to make them hygienic and easier to keep clean. It was envisaged that the project would cost between £8k and £8.5k to replace toilets, flooring

wash hand basins and decoration. Cllr Hillier proposed that the Parish Council provide up to 50% of the funding subject to viewing plans, costings and quotations for the cost of the work. **Carried unanimously**

c) Streetlights - nothing to report.

d) Yetminster Scout Hall - several local children attend Yetminster Scouts and following a request for assistance towards the Hall rebuild it was agreed in principle to provide up to £5000 subject to seeing quotations and reassurance that other funding was in place. Proposed Cllr Baxter Seconded Cllr Lewis - **carried unanimously**.

The guillotine was lifted in order that Business could be completed.

17. Correspondence - A list of e-mails received, papers etc had been circulated to Councillors. There were no further questions.

18. Policy Documents -

a) Recreation Ground Letting Policy - An amendment had been circulated to Councillors to bring the policy in line with actual practice. Adoption of the amended policy Proposed Cllr Hillier, Seconded Cllr Parker, **Carried unanimously**.

b) Grant Awarding Policy - This policy had been running for a year and it was felt that at this time it did not require alteration. That the policy be re-adopted proposed by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Parker, **Carried unanimously**.

19. Reports on Meetings/Courses attended - Nothing to report.
At this point Item 21 was brought forward.

20. Allotment Agreement -

At this point Cllr Hillier and Cllr Baxter left the room for the duration of the next item.

Cllr Lewis took the Chair. A Draft Agreement between JKWD Will Trust T/A Home Farm Partnership and Thornhackett Parish Council has been received to commence on 25th March 2023. The agreement is in line with previous agreements save for the requested rent which is raised from £660.00 per annum to £800.00 per annum subject to a biannual rent review. Concern was expressed at the size of the increase especially as many allotment holders are retired and on fixed or low incomes. Also, even though a meeting had been requested there had been no notice of the increase. Indeed, an invoice for £660 had been received, it was agreed to pay the invoice enclosing a copy of the invoice and request again a meeting with the Agent. Proposed Cllr Lewis, seconded Cllr Parker - **carried unanimously**. Councillors requested that the Clerk draw up an agreement between Thornhackett Parish Council and Thornford and Beer Hackett Allotment Association for the management of the allotments.

21. Date of next meeting Wednesday 17th May 2023 Thornford Village Hall 7pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed:

Date:

DRAFT

Decision Made at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 15th March 2023

1. Dogs would be banned from the Recreation Ground for the duration of the cricket season 1st May to mid-October. Children play in the area and it can be unpleasant for cricketers. Notices would be posted.
2. Thornford Church granted £200 towards grass cutting and graveyard clearance
3. Public consultation on proposed Thornford Halt possible improvements.
4. The Parish Council would purchase wild flower seed to 'kick start' the Sustainable Thornford wild flower river project.
5. Volunteers are needed to help inspect the play area on a rota basis.
6. The Parish Council adopted the Civility and Respect Project Protocol.
7. The Council agreed to host a **Picnic in the Park** on May 7th for the Coronation. Start at 2pm - 4pm in case of inclement weather the village Hall would be made available as for the Jubilee. Bring your own picnic and join it!
8. It was agreed to assist the Village Hall with their project of upgrading the Ladies toilets.
9. It was agreed to help Yetminster Scout group with some funding towards their new Scout Hall. A number of local children attend the Group.
10. Financial Regulations, Recreation Ground Policy and Grant Awarding Policies were re-adopted.