

THORNHACKETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting on Wednesday 20th September 2023

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

Also in attendance: Mrs S E Hillier (Clerk), Cllr R Legg (Dorset Council) from 7.45pm 6 members of the public.

1. In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Hillier took the chair and welcomed all to the meeting. Cllr Hillier also noted that item 10 would be brought forward.
2. **Apologies for absence and Declarations of Interest:**
Apologies: Cllrs B Taylor-Wade will be late (arrived 7.30pm), J Axten, Cllr Parker
Declarations of Interest: Cllr Lewis declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 6a as the applicant is a family member.
Cllr Hillier declared a pecuniary interest in item 4a
3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 19th July 2023 were accepted, Cllr Bromell abstained.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) **Thornford Halt** – Cllr Parker had distributed a copy of his report to Councillors via e-mail. Councillors were asked if they had any questions, none were expressed. The survey questionnaire was not as yet on-line due to web site problems.
 - b) **Web site** – the web site is now up and running. Councillors should use the dedicated e-mail addresses from now on rather than their personal e-mails for Parish Council business, the Clerk will only circulate on this address from now on. Some Councillors requested help on accessing their e-mails on the Parish Council address. (Cllr.firstname.surname@thornhackettpc.org.uk)
 - c) **D-Day Celebrations.** This would remain an agenda item to remind Councillors that planning for the event was required, some members had mentioned that they had some resources available that could be used.
 - d) **Environmental Emergency report** – Deferred until Ian Young the Council representative arrived.
5. **Public Forum:** a) Several members of the public asked questions regarding the Halt. i) Why couldn't the track on the other side of the railway be used? It was explained that this would mean that pedestrians would have to cross the track to the platform and Network Rail would not permit this. ii) could another platform be built and then the track could be used – Unlikely due to cost. iii) when would the survey be available – as soon as the questionnaire could be compiled. The Council was thanked for getting a cowl on the light at the top of that stairs. This light had now been superseded by lighting under the handrail. There was also new lighting on the platform. b) Other questions related to 20's Plenty it was noted that some cyclists were travelling too fast along the straight stretch of road from the Village Hall to the edge of the village. c) The Thornford sign had been moved 10m who did it and why? It is now close to the footpath entrance. d) Comments on speeding on the approach to the village. The Clerk had contacted Dorset on this matter and a speed survey would have to be conducted as speed is often one of perception rather than actual. The 40mph sign is skewed.

Item 10 was brought forward at this time.

10. Footpath request. Two members of the public presented a proposal to the Council regarding the construction of a footpath from the corner of Wingfield Close to the start of the fields on the left hand side as you leave the village and on the right-hand side from Wingfield Close to the footpath entrance going towards Lake. This was a point of pedestrian safety as there are two footpaths regularly used by dog walkers, and others, that can only be accessed by walking in the road. The path would not have to be metalled, a hoggin path would be adequate. Councillors expressed support for the idea and Dorset Council would be contacted for their views. A vote was taken and agreed *nem com*. *Cllr. Taylor-Wade arrived and took the chair at 7.30pm*

Cllr Legg arrived. 7.45pm

6. Planning Matters –

- a) P/PAAC/2023/03741 – Change of use and conversion of an agricultural building. *Refused 24/08/2023* It was noted that this application may be taken further. Councillors were not against the application.
- b) P/HOU/2023/04456 – Higher Farm Bungalow – Erect Double Garage – *No decision*.
- c) P/TRC/2023/04900 – Triscombe Church Road – T1 Silver Birch Fell
- d) P/TRC/2023/04767 – Glebe Cottage Church Road – T1 Cherry, T2 Hawthorn, T3 & T4 Prunus, T5 Yew, T6 Cherry – Fell
- e) P/TRT/2023/04743 – St Mary Magdelene Church – T1 Hawthorn, T2 & T3 Yew – Fell. Councillors expressed concern at the number of Yew trees being felled in the applications.
- f) P/FUL/2023/05125 – Bembury Field, Bembury Lane – Erect 1.No. Self-build dwelling and Garage Carry out associated landscape works. The applicants representative gave a short presentation on the application which is for 1 self-build thatched 2 bed dwelling with timber cladding that was to be eco sustainable with no concrete and scope for water re-cycling and re-use, insulated with straw, solar panels to provide electricity. It would also be constructed above the ground on steel piles to reduce the likelihood of flooding. There would be a biodigester sewage plant, new pond and planting of trees and shrubs. Removal of trees would be minimal, it was anticipated that there would be a net biodiversity gain
Concerns were raised that the applicants had tried to exaggerate their non-reliance on outside resources, it was felt that the vegetable plot would not be large enough for all needs, especially when extended beneath the solar panels. Two water-butts would probably be insufficient for their needs. It was agreed that there were no planning grounds for refusal but Councillors did not want this to create a precedent as a means of avoiding building affordable homes. Councillors and members of the public also expressed concerns re access by lorries as Bembury Lane is very narrow and also members of the public using the lane to walk and ride along. It was hoped that the applicants and their construction company would honour the plan in their application regarding access. Councillors agreed not to object to the application but to highlight to the authority their concerns *nem com*.

7. Finance Report

- Payments due - Appendix 1 were agreed. The clerk requested expenditure for a poppy wreath an a ‘Tommy’ to be erected by the clock tower – agreed 5 For.
- Annual Play Inspection contract for next year – slight increase in rate – agreed. Sherborne Castle Estates had written raising the annual rent for the Recreation Ground by £200 there had not been an increase since 2019. It was agreed that the Clerk write requesting a partial reduction this year as both the allotments had increased and the Recreation Ground outside our Budgeting Cycle.
- Progress to Date on Expenditure

4d) Carried over from earlier in the meeting. Ian Young (Climate Emergency rep) had previously circulated a report to Councillors.

- The re-wilding project was extending beyond a wild life focus and looking for other projects around the village. There was to be a meeting on 7th November in the Village Hall where it was hoped that the action plan would start to be developed. The Council was asked if they would fund the hall hire – *this was agreed*
- Mr Young also requested access to the DAPTC web site. *The Clerk agreed to make enquiries.*
- Practical steps for Communities to reach net zero course costing £95 over six hours in November. He would attend but asked if Councillors may be interested too.
- October notes from CPRE
- Wild flower planting of the ‘hills’ in the play area

8. 20’s Plenty There followed a discussion regarding the traffic on the main road. It was felt that too many people ignored the speed signs, lowering to 20mph would make no difference, painting warning lines would have no effect, would speed cameras help (?). What about a community speed-watch. (?) Cllr Hillier noted that there were two issues 1) Speeding Traffic 2) The motion which may or may not make a difference. Cllr Baxter proposed the motion, Cllr Hillier seconded.

Motion: Thornhackett Parish Council:

- *Supports 20's plenty for Dorset campaign;*
- *Calls on Dorset Council to implement 20mph Thornford and Beer Hackett; and*
- *Will write to Dorset Council to request 20mph speed limits on streets throughout Dorset where people live, work, shop, play or learn, with 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.*

Motion carried 4 For, 2 Against

9. Yetminster Bus Initiative - Leigh Parish Council had circulated information regarding the NORCAT bus service, copies will be placed in the noticeboard.

10. See after Public Forum - Public Footpath Request

11. Budget 2023-2024 Councillors were asked to consider items for the Budget for next year, items already listed were the improvements to the clock face, possible tree surgery to the lime tree. Street name plates were also added to the list (Grange Park, The Bungalows, Church indicator sign which had gone missing)

12. Correspondence – A list had been circulated

15. Dates for Parish Meetings - carried forward to the next meeting.

16. Date of next Ordinary Council Meeting – 15th November 2023 Thornford Village Hall 7.00pm