

THRUSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Thrussington Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16th June 2015 at 7.30 PM at the Village Hall, Thrussington

Present:

Cllr Tom Prior, Cllr Colin Bell, Cllr Edward Guest and Cllr Mark Thistlethwaite
1 member of the public
Mr D Houseman
Cllr J Poland
The clerk

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00 PM

121/2015 - Resolution to receive apologies for absence

- Cllr Bev Kearns and PSCO Brian Geeson

122/2015 – Resolution to receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda

- N/A

123/2015 – County Council/Borough Council & Police reports

- The police officer in attendance reported that there have been developments following the vandalism and burglary in the village over the May Bank Holiday weekend, the investigation is ongoing. Concerns were raised about the parking issues in the village and councillors were informed that this falls between the police and the council. A request was made for a street warden to visit the village and it was suggested that this was sent to Highways, however, street wardens only have authority to issue tickets if there are lines painted on the road.
- Cllr D Houseman circulated his report prior to the meeting and confirmed that the main areas for concern were the possible closure of the Catherine Dalley house in Melton because it requires a £315,000 upgrade. The council believes it can find appropriate alternative care in Melton for people who need it.
- Cllr Poland reported that the consultation period for the amendments to the Core Strategy has ended and it is hoped that the inspectors report will be submitted to the council for adoption in September.

124/2015 - Public Questions

Members of the public were asked to declare their name when addressing the Chairman if they wished for their name to be minuted in this section of the meeting, if they did not want their name mentioned they need not declare it.

- Nich Stanyard asked whether the Parish Council had any plans to develop a village plan. Cllr Prior reported that the council had previously discussed this and agreed to review what it would entail and discuss it at a future meeting. The council agreed that it was important to understand the benefits of developing such a plan, to review costs associated and funds available to support the process.

125/2015 – Resolution to approve and sign minutes of the full council meeting of the 19th May 2015

The minutes of the meeting were circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting for them to be reviewed. Councillors were reminded to check through the minutes fully before the meeting in order to resolve any queries that may arise.

Resolved: The minutes of the May meeting were approved and signed and will be uploaded onto the parish website.

126/2015 – Resolution to approve payment of outstanding accounts and agree to the change of signatories on the council bank account

- Current account balance = £6,640.02
 - First instalment of the precept received = £3,110.00
 - Interest on account received during May = £0.54

The following cheques were agreed:

200061	• ATV Contract Services, mowing invoices for April & May	£300.00
200062	• Helen Chadwick, clerks quarterly salary and expenses	£621.53
	Total outgoing cheques:	£921.53

Resolved: Cheques and invoices approved and signed and will be sent out by the clerk at earliest convenience. Councillors agreed to remove Alan Heath and Ian Procter-Blain as signatories on the bank account following their resignation as councillors. Councillors agreed to add Edward Guest and Mark Thistlethwaite as signatories on the bank account following their recent appointment as councillors. The bank mandate will be completed at the July meeting and new councillors have been asked to provide two forms of ID.

127/2015 – Clerks report

The clerk reported that new councillors, Edward Guest and Mark Thistlethwaite have been registered to attend the LRALC councillor training.

The clerk proposed that the council article for Thrussington Life should include an update on Superfast Broadband and a summary of the annual accounts. This was agreed and the clerk confirmed that she would draft the article and email it to the chair for approval before submitting it to Thrussington Life.

128/2015 – To discuss and agree any amendments to the Parish Council Standing Order

The clerk circulated a copy of the updated standing orders prior to the meeting which councillors approved in principle.

Cllr Guest suggested that under item 1.a. the length of time the meeting can be extended by be removed so that it reads that the meeting can be extended.

Cllr Guest reported that in line with the Transparency Code the council should be publishing draft minutes from the meetings and that this should be included in the standing orders. The clerk thought it was only the approved minutes that needed to be published and it was agreed that this would be clarified before the document was approved.

Resolved: The clerk will seek clarification on whether draft minutes need to be published and the standing orders will be amended accordingly.

129/2015 – To discuss and agree amendments to the Parish Council Financial Orders

The clerk circulated a copy of the updated financial orders prior to the meeting which councillors approved in principle.

Cllr Guest suggested that the clerk should provide the council with an update on income and expenditure every month rather than every year. The clerk explained that a financial update is provided at every meeting and that this was relating to the year end budget. It was suggested a small amendment be made to item 4.4.1 to clarify this.

Cllr Guest suggested that the word capital be removed from item 4.4.2 so that it reads expenditure.

Cllr Guest and Cllr Thistlethwaite suggested that clarification should be provided on the length of time that documentation needs to be kept. The clerk reported that there is a paper outlining which documents need to be kept and for what period of time.

Resolved: The clerk will amend the financial orders accordingly.

130/2015 – Clerks report

The clerk presented the year end accounts for 2014/2015 which showed an income of £4,858.20 and expenditure of £4,545.41. The council has a carry forward balance of £5,266.26. Councillors reviewed the documentation and agreed that they were a true reflection of the accounts for 2014/2015.

Resolution: The year end accounts were signed by the Chair and the clerk, the clerk will submit them to the auditor, Grant Thornton, to ensure we meet the June deadline.

131/2015 – To discuss and agree response to planning application P/15/1037/2 – removal of condition 1 of planning permission (P/92/1085/2) at 44 Hoby Road, Thrussington

A copy of the planning application was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

Councillors discussed the application and following a considerable amount of research carried out by Cllr Thisthlethwaite it was agreed that whilst the applicant suggests that the previous application is *ultra vires* and quotes many instances in which the original permission was not followed, the council do not agree with this on a number of grounds.

Councillors felt that the applicant had been erroneous in stating that the previous permission is *ultra vires*. There is a law, the first law of evidence, that involves *presumption of regularity* that requires us to assume that the correct forms were followed in the initial permission (where it has been proved that an "official act" has been done, it will be presumed, until the contrary is proved, that the said act "complied with any necessary formalities" and that the person who did it was "duly appointed".)

Cllr Thisthlethwaite reported that due to the number of applications and refusals before the permission in 1992 was granted we must believe that there was a good reason for the condition and it is also true that there were no objections at the time by the applicant further reinforcing the fact that the permission was acceptable.

Councillors agreed that as the applicant quite forcefully points out, the planning conditions on many occasions were not enforced. This is not a failure of the permission but on the enforcement of the condition(s) by the borough council and they should now ensure enforcement rather than try to change the permission, or, reject the application.

The council agreed that the removal of condition one would set an unfortunate precedent suggesting that planning conditions are not important and can therefore be removed at a later date if found inconvenient.

Resolved: The clerk will submit the council's response by the given deadline.

132/2015 – To discuss and agree to the purchase of litter pickers for the village

Cllr Prior proposed that following on from the successful litter pick and the amount of ongoing litter in the village that the council purchase a supply of litter pickers that can be used at any time.

Resolved: The council agreed that the clerk should source costs and report back at the July meeting.

133/2015 – To discuss the condition of the village signs and agree actions

Councillors discussed the condition of the sign within the village and despite the village sign on Rearsby Road being repaired that are still various concerns:

- The village school sign is in need of repair and is currently a safety issue
- The 20 mph speed sign on Hoby Road is in need of repair
- There is a need for a 'keep clear' sign at the top of Regent Street, cars are currently having to reverse onto the main round as they cannot turn around

Resolved: It was agreed that the clerk would report the council's concerns to Highways.

134/2015 – Parish Councillor updates

- Cllr Bell reported that following the recent resurfacing of the roads in the village there was a need for the pavements to be swept so that the loose gravel was kept on the roads.
- Cllr Prior reminded colleagues about the skittles event and asked the clerk to ensure that the green was mowed at the beginning of the week. Cllr Prior also asked that our thanks be passed to the mowing company as they are providing an excellent service.
- Cllr Guest reported that there is a grant available to source IT equipment following the implementation of the Transparency Code. Cllr Guest requested that an item regarding personal emails be added to the July agenda so that a detailed discussion could be held about the implications of councillors using their own email address.
- Cllr Guest reported ongoing concerns about the speed of vehicles on the Hoby Road and the implications of the new development on the village and the need for possible traffic calming systems to be reviewed.
- Cllr Thisthlethwaite asked whether it would be possible to arrange for the telephone box to

be painted and it was agreed to add this as an item to the July agenda. Cllr Prior will investigate costings in preparation for the meeting.

135/2015 - Date of next full parish council meeting

Resolved: The chair confirmed that next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 21st July commencing at 7.30 PM in the village hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.05 PM.

Signed:

Date: