

THRUSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Thrussington Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th September 2015 at 7.30 PM at the Village Hall, Thrussington

Present:

Cllr Tom Prior, Cllr Edward Guest and Cllr Mark Thistlethwaite
1 member of the public
The clerk

154/2015 - Resolution to receive apologies for absence

- Cllr Bev Kearns, Cllr Colin Bell, Cllr Dave Houseman, Cllr James Poland and PSCO Brian Geeson

155/2015 – Resolution to receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda

- N/A

156/2015 – County Council/Borough Council & Police reports

- PSCO Brian Geeson emailed to follow-up on the article he had included in Thrussington Life and explained that he had spoken with residents about parking in the village and what enforcement could be carried out. He reminded all residents to be mindful when parking to avoid causing an obstruction and that vehicles found to be parked on pavements would receive a fixed penalty notice.

157/2015 - 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.

- N/A

158/2015 – Resolution to approve and sign minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting of the 21st July 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 July meeting were approved and signed and will be uploaded onto the parish website.

159/2015 – Resolution to approve payment of outstanding accounts

- Current account balance = £5,531.39
 - Interest on account received on the account = £1.25
 - Income received = £241.65, VAT return

The following cheques were agreed:

200066	• ATV Contract Services, mowing for August & September	£300.00
200067	• Charnwood Borough Council, election costs	£670.67
200068	• Helen Chadwick, clerks salary and expenses	£505.90
	Total outgoing cheques:	£1,476.57

Resolved: Councillors approved the payments, however, as there was only one authorised signatory at the meeting it was agreed that they would sign the cheques at the meeting and the second signature would take place outside of the meeting so that the cheques could be passed to clerk for distribution to avoid any delay in making payments.

160/2015 – Clerks report

The clerk reported that funding is going to be available through via NALC which will support the implementation of the transparency code for parish councils. The clerk has draft an application which will need to be submitted by the closing date of the 14th October. The funding application came through too late to be added to the agenda but the do council need to agree to the submission of the application. *Councillors reviewed the application and agreed that the clerk could submit it prior to the deadline.*

The clerk circulated an email regarding the parish improvements projects and proposes that this is added as an item on the October agenda. *Councillors agreed to add this as an item to the October agenda.*

The clerk reminded councillors that we have not followed up with Thrussington in Bloom, we were waiting for a proposal. *Councillors agreed for the clerk to follow this up.*

The clerk proposed that the article for Thrussington Life could include; the availability of litter pickers, volunteers for speed watch and the newly painted phone box. *These were agreed by the council and the clerk will draft the article for approval by the Chair.*

161/2015 – To receive an update on the Community Speed Watch Scheme

Councillors confirmed that the next speed watch scheme will take place in October and anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Cllr Bev Kearns.

It was suggested that following the October speed watch the council should have a formal discussion regarding future plans for traffic calming in the village and it was agreed to add this to the November agenda.

162/2015 – To review the Neighbourhood Plan processes and agree actions

Cllr Thistlethwaite presented details regarding the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) and its importance, a NHP is a way of protecting the parish from inappropriate development and it can help define the conservation area. It is important that as well as creating the plan that it is reviewed annually and used as a development tool for the parish. Cllr Thistlethwaite informed that the council that the parish clerk at Hoby had the contact for someone based in Uppingham who had become a 'champion' of NHP and asked the clerk to contact them.

Councillors agreed that despite their being a cost involved, some of which can be supported by a grant, the parish should move forward with a NHP, however, it is important that local business and residents are involved in the process.

Cllr Prior proposed that the council should proceed with the first stage of creating a NHP and this was seconded by Cllr Guest. It was agreed that involvement from outside the parish council was vital and that village and local business support would be needed. It was suggested that an article be included in the November edition of Thrussington Life to raise awareness.

Councillors thanked Cllr Thistlethwaite for taking the time to carry out the research and for making a start on a working document to support the development of the plan.

Resolved: The clerk will source contact details for the person in Uppingham and contact them in relation to developing a NHP.

163/2015 – To discuss the use of personal email accounts by councillors and agree actions

The council discussed the use of their personal email accounts for parish council work.

Concerns had been raised that when an enquiry is logged through the Freedom of Information Act, if councillors are using a personal email account, then all councillors' emails can be viewed and this would include any private confidential emails.

The clerk reported that she had spoken with the LRALC and circulated a paper regarding official information held in private email accounts.

Councillors agreed that they should all use a specific email address for parish council business and it was suggested that councillors set up a Gmail account and use the following for their address where possible – firstname.tpc@gmail.com

Resolution: Councillors will arrange to set up Gmail accounts for parish council business and provide their email addresses to clerk for future use.

164/2015 – To discuss the Core Strategy and prepare any response

Councillors had viewed the Core Strategy documentation however it was agreed that further reading needed to be done prior to compiling a response.

Councillors thanked Cllr Poland for keeping the council up to date on the process and it was agreed that the council should compile a response in due course.

Resolved: It was agreed that councillors would forward their feedback to clerk so that it could be submitted to Charnwood Borough Council.

165/2015 – To discuss co-option of councillors

Councillors discussed the possibility of co-opting additional councillors and agreed that there was a need to review the skills of the council in order to ensure that any co-option met the needs of the council.

The clerk reported that she had all the documentation in place and a timescale for the process if the council agreed to co-opt.

Cllr Guest proposed that this be reviewed at the November meeting and this was seconded by Cllr Prior.

Resolved: It was agreed that co-option would be added to the November agenda.

166/2015 – To discuss the possibility of making the village green accessible by wheelchair users and agree actions

Cllr Prior reported that recently there had been an incident where someone in a wheelchair had wanted to gain access to the village green but had been unable to do so on their own because there was no access, i.e. dropped curb.

Councillors discussed the green and it was suggested that at one point there had been a footpath across it but councillors were unsure as to whether this was a Highways maintained footpath or just a thoroughfare that villagers had created.

It was suggested that research be done to ascertain whether the footpath was legitimate and to perhaps arrange a site visit to review the access.

Resolved: It was agreed that the clerk would contact Highways to ascertain whether the village green was a footpath and what the process would be if the curb needed to be dropped.

167/2015 – To discuss the purchase of litter pickers and hi-vis jackets and agree whether additional items should be purchased

The clerk reported that following the last meeting she had purchased 6 litter pickers and Cllr Kearns had purchased 4 hi-vis waistcoats.

Cllr Prior reminded councillors of the problems the council had in trying to access litter pickers from Charnwood Borough Council when they were needed for the annual litter pick and proposed that a further 24 litter pickers and hi-vis waistcoats should be purchased as this would enable residents to carry out litter picks on a more frequent basis, this was seconded by Cllr Thistlethwaite.

Resolved: It was agreed that the clerk would purchase an additional 24 litter pickers and liaise with Cllr Kearns about purchasing additional hi-vis waistcoats

168/2015 – Parish Councillor updates

Cllr Thistlethwaite reported that:

- Highways have said they will install a 'keep clear' sign, at present there is temporary markings on the road at the Hamer Head. Nich Stanyard had commented that on many of the roads in the village there is no alternative to parking on the pavement.
- He had no amendments to make to his Declaration of Interest form that had been circulated.
- Following his attendance at the Hoby Parish Council planning meeting their clerk maintained a word document which listed all relevant planning applications and the stage they were at and suggested that this would be a useful document for the parish to have. *The clerk confirmed that she already had a spreadsheet that listed all the applications that had been brought to the council and agreed to present this at each meeting so councillors were made aware of any outcome.*
- He had created the annual footpath audit and it was suggested that he and Cllr Prior review this in 2016. *The clerk confirmed that the asset register is usually reviewed and*

updated in March of each year so it would be useful if this could be carried out prior to that.

Cllr Guest reported that:

- Following his attendance at the Hoby Parish Council planning meeting he had concerns about the proposed development at Brooksby and asked whether Cllr Poland could liaise with the planning department at Melton Mowbray to register our concerns. *The clerk agreed to contact Cllr Poland.*
- He had not heard anything from Cllr Agar, the local MP, who had agreed to host a surgery in the village hall. *It was suggested that Cllr Agar could host the surgery prior to a parish council meeting and then attend the meeting.*

Cllr Prior reported that:

- He was still keen to review the insurance policy and to ascertain whether we could add on individual events being held on parish council land and to produce an information for anyone wishing to host an event on parish council land. *The clerk agreed to contact the insurance provider to find out whether it was possible to add a specific number of individual events to the policy and at what cost.*
- There is a need to review the trimming of hedges in the village and asked whether we should look to arrange to have them trimmed rather than waiting for Highways. There have been reports that people walking from Thrussington to Rearsby are having to walk on the road because the footpath is not passable. *The clerk informed the council that if we start to maintain Highways hedges then they will no longer cut them. The clerk agreed to report the condition of the hedges to Highways and to ask what could be done.*

169/2015 - Date of next full parish council meeting

Resolved: The date of the next full parish council meeting will take place on Tuesday 20th October 2015, commencing at 7.30 PM in the village hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.50 PM.

Signed:

Date: