

Thriplow Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th July 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Terry Smith
Councillors: David Easthope, Jane Gough, Barbara Pointon, Derek Pinner,
Anthony Cooper, Kevin Clarke, Colin Rothwell
County Cllr. Tim Stone
District Cllr: Peter Topping (late arrival)
Clerk: Pat Easthope

Action

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- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Tim Spicer. Peter Topping had apologised - he will be coming but will be late due to a prior meeting.
 - 2. Minutes of Annual Parish Council meeting held on 12 May 2008**
The minutes, having previously been distributed, were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the chairman
 - 3. Matters Arising from above minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda**
The clerk gave copies of their declaration of interest forms to Cllrs Rothwell, Cooper & Clarke
 - 4. Hanley Grange Update**
A donation of £500 had been given. Since the May parish council meeting the clerk had learned that because the closing date for making representations on Hanley Grange was 30th June it was important that donations to the opposition campaign were received before that date. This donation had been agreed in principle at the last meeting and the e-mail to residents had received only one response in favour of Hanley Grange - all others supported the Parish Council in their objection. Before making the payment the clerk e-mailed all councillors to confirm their agreement to this payment - there had been no objections. The petitions in the shop and at Duxford Service station had been very successful. Notices had also been distributed to every house in the parish. Cllr Clarke had produced an excellent letter which the chairman had signed - no response has yet been received although one was requested. Cllr Cooper had attended the first Hanley Grange meeting and Cllr Clarke had attended the presentation meeting with the developers. He felt there were potentially good schemes within the proposal but they were experimental "pipe-dream" schemes which had not been tried and tested. Tesco's are funding the proposals directly. The developers have had no contact with the landowners but will have to form a consortium to put forward the scheme. It has already been confirmed that part of the land originally proposed to be used is no longer available but it is still proposed to build more houses on less land. It is understood that one proposed eco-town has dropped out, leaving 14 from which the government will choose 10, therefore the odds have just worsened. The IWM have written a good letter in opposition to the scheme, the Wellcome Trusts views are still awaited. On the last day of the consultation period the developers produced a new document proposing more houses on less land. The consultation period has now been extended until September. County Cllr Stone said the Wellcome Trust have had a survey carried out which they may make public at the end of July with their views. Wellcome are being pushed to make up their minds and if they pull out there will not be much land left. In July there are two more consultations coming out which will each have a 13 week consultation period. Probably by January 2009 a revised and reduced list for proposed eco towns should come out. It is rumoured that the government are now saying **up to** 10 eco towns and that they would be happy with 7. Cllr Stone is meeting with Horizon, the County Council and the District Council tomorrow and Andrew Lansley has a meeting scheduled for Thursday of this week which Cllr Clarke will be attending. Cllr Cooper had heard that of the original 15 proposed sites, 2 were dummies and whether the one that had withdrawn was one of them he doesn't know. Tim Stone thanked Thriplow Parish Council for spearheading the drive in this area and the chairman in turn thanked Tim Stone and Kevin Clarke for everything they had done.

5. Health & Safety

Cllr Pinner reminded everyone that Health & Safety checks should be carried out before the September parish council meeting. All

The clerk handed Health and Safety check list folders to Cllrs Clarke & Cooper.

6. Highway Matters

- a) Naming of road between A505 and Heathfield/Hurdles Way - The clerk had e-mailed the District Council again and they had replied that comments from Royal Mail and the Fire Service were still awaited. They would chase for these replies and come back to us as soon as possible.
- b) Zigzag markings by school - These had now been re-done.

7. Heathfield

- a) Progress with Anglian Water re sewers
Still nothing further heard from Anglian Water. Clerk had written to Andrew Lansley asking for his help again. It was suggested the clerk obtain as much detail as possible from Cllr Spicer and then draft a letter to Offwat. Clerk
- b) Road re-surfacing quotations
Cllr Easthope reported that he had seen Cllr Spicer earlier and had been told that a quotation had been received. It is large - TS is trying to get 2 more quotes.
Cllr Pinner was asked to bring up the matter of the 'loo emptying' lorries driving through the estate on air show days at the next Liaison committee meeting. The drivers should be reminded that this is a private estate and asked to slow down, drive more carefully and not run over the edges of lawns, etc.
- c) Street lighting
The clerk apologised that she had not had time to make the necessary enquiries regarding putting the Heathfield lights on contract but would do so. Clerk
- d) Replacement notice board
Still in clerks garage. Cllr Smith said he would collect it and put on a coat of preservative before agreeing a date with Cllr Pinner for its installation.
- e) Public Open Spaces
Cllr Rothwell said that he had prices for a multi-purpose sports pitch -some with fencing - some without -which he would collate. He will call a meeting of the residents and hopes to put a proposal to the parish council after the summer holiday period.
Cllr Easthope said that any proposal should include the future management of the proposed facilities.
- f) Pedestrian link - Pepperslade to Whitehall Gardens
The handrail has been installed. Cllr Easthope said that it was very loose but Cllr Pinner said that the work had only just been done and the bolts couldn't be tightened until the concrete had set.
- g) Transfer of POS land from Croudace
Transfer documents not yet signed. Cllr Easthope reported that all looks good but the area where the play equipment was proposed is empty. Clerk will find out whether providing play equipment for this area was one of the planning or S. 106 conditions. Clerk
- h) Venue for residents meetings
The IWM have replied that they cannot help with a venue for meetings for Heathfield residents. They do offer a room to the HRA in which to hold their annual AGM but they cannot offer anything further. They suggest the parish council consider hiring buses to get Heathfield residents down to Thriplow village hall for meetings. It was generally felt that the IWM had "missed the point" on this matter.

8. Tree Planting & Tree Work

- a) Tree Work Applications - None
- b) Other tree matters
Clerk had received an e-mail from the tree warden, Bill Wittering. He says that he was asked to look at trees in front of No.13 The Green by Helen Augar. The trees are both so tall that

telephone wires, etc run through the branches. He suggests removing the lower branches of the willow, removing branches to clear around any wires and felling the Lawsons Cypress as it is an inappropriate tree for that position. 293

Helen Augar has since told the clerk that she doesn't want the cypress removed - it will expose the telegraph pole that it was planted to hide.

It was agreed that the chairman will ask Dave Thomas to provide a quotation for removing lower branches of the willow, taking out the top of the cypress and ensuring that any wiring is free from obstruction. At the same time he will ask for quotes for trimming the tree at the south west corner of The Green as it is encroaching on the Smithy and also for trimming the yew behind the memorial. TSm

9. Planning Matters

- a) Responses to Applications - None
- b) Planning decisions received
 S/0588/08/F Canopy at Thriplow Primary School - Approved
 S/0667/08/F Extension at 6 Fowlmere Road - Approved
 S/0338/08/F Erection of Chalet bungalow with 1st floor accommodation following demolition of existing bungalow at 23 Church Street - Approved
- c) Planning appeals - None notified
- d) Other planning matters - None

10. Financial Matters

- | | Net | VAT | Total |
|--|---------|-------|---------|
| a) Cheques paid between meetings :
Authority had been given to pay the following:-
Hinxton Parish Council (Hanley Grange fighting fund) | 500.00 | - | 500.00 |
| b) Authority was given to pay the following: | | | |
| TVHMC (P.C. bookings May - Nov 08 - 4 bookings) | 20.00 | - | 20.00 |
| TVHMC (S.137 precepted donation) | 1000.00 | - | 1000.00 |
| Thriplow PCC (churchyard upkeep - precepted S. 137 donation) | 135.00 | - | 135.00 |
| St. Georges Church (church fabric - precepted donation) | 250.00 | - | 250.00 |
| SCDC (uncontested election) | 90.00 | - | 90.00 |
| Allianz Insurance (mower) | 135.10 | - | 135.10 |
| Herald Contract Services (POS & Hurdles Way 285; verges £183) | 468.00 | 81.91 | 549.91 |
| LGS Services (internal audit) | 175.00 | 30.63 | 205.63 |
| Moore Stephens (external audit) | 550.00 | 96.25 | 646.25 |
| PJ Easthope (clerks salary Apr - Jun 08) | 515.97 | - | 515.97 |
| E Simpkins (mower service) | 130.28 | 22.80 | 153.08 |
| c) <u>Credits Received</u>
£26,565.00 Section 106 payment from Croudace re Plots 1 - 7 Phase 2 Hurdles Way
Clerk to invest this for 181 days in the same manner as investments 1 - 4
Clerk
£3599.49 Interest on 2nd investment (received 30.5.08) & put to current account | | | |
| d) <u>Section 106 Funds</u>
1st investment matures 15 Sept 08 - interest £3325.54 - maturity sum £142,768.44
2nd investment matures 28 Nov 08 - interest £3144.54 - maturity sum £137,322.17
3rd investment matures 10 Nov 08 - interest £1267.24 - maturity sum £59,642.74
4th investment matures 17 Oct 08 - interest £4867.77 - maturity sum £212,323.70 | | | |
| e) <u>Audit 2008</u>
The clerk reported that once again there the external auditor had approved our accounts without comment. | | | |
| (i) <u>Internal auditors recommendation that clerks salary and contract is reviewed.</u>
The clerk had obtained a model contract from CALC and will check through this and prepare a draft contract for consideration at the next meeting. Clerk
The clerk had also obtained from CALC the current recommended salary scales. It was explained that at the last clerks salary review 5 years ago it had been agreed that the clerks salary should be accordance with spinal column point 21 at £8.82 per hour for 4.5 hours per week.
Cllr Easthope declared an interest in this matter and he and the clerk left the room whilst discussions took place. | | | |

It was agreed that, with effect from May 2008, the clerks salary would be paid in accordance with spinal column point 26 at a rate of £11.13 per hour and that the clerk would be paid for 6 hours per week.

The clerk expressed her thanks for these increases.

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f) Amount of fuel allowance or mileage paid to parish councillors

Cllr Cooper has requested a payment towards fuel costs for attending a meeting outside the parish. The clerk had obtained the recommended rates payable to local council clerks. The highest rate shown on the table was for casual users with vehicles between 1200 - 1450 cc where the rate for the first 8,500 miles is given as 55.8p per mile. Payments of 40p per mile or less are tax free, however, it was made clear that it is the recipients duty to declare, for income tax purposes, any amount over 40p per mile received by them. After discussion it was agreed that 55.8p per mile would be paid.

As no petty cash is held the clerk will pay the £6.70 due and reclaim it on her next invoice to the parish council. Clerk

g) Cllr Cooper asked for it to be minuted that he felt the payment to the Hanley Grange fighting fund had not been properly authorised.

It was suggested that, as the consultation period had been extended, further donations may be sought. It was agreed that future funding for the Stop Hanley Grange fight should be made an agenda item for the next meeting. Clerk

11. Reports

a) Duxford Airfield Liaison Committee -

Cllr Pinner said that part of his report has already been covered (item 8 [h]). Airfield movements Feb - Apr 08 were 25% down on the same period last year, pleasure flights were 50-60% below the same period last year - these decreases in activity were due to inclement weather conditions. There had been 6 noise complaints during this time, all regarding a British Aerobatic Team training event.

The clerk had now received a copy of the letter from IWM regarding alternative air show exiting arrangements through Thriplow village. The letter states that it is now the intention that traffic will exit via Middle Street, which has been recognised as a more substantial street than Church Street, and that these arrangements are as originally proposed by Derek Pinner and Terry Smith in March 2007 on behalf of the parish council. The plan will remain in situ for one year unless substantial issues not previously foreseen are raised, whereupon the museum will revert back to the original plan. It should be registered that this redirection has been put in place directly as a result of concerns raised by Thriplow Parish Council and that the additional monies required for directional signage will be borne by the museum.

Cllrs Pinner and Smith said that some statements in the IWM's letter were inaccurate and Cllr Pinner asked for a copy of the letter. Clerk

The IWM had promised a copy of the traffic survey that had been carried out but this has never been received.

Traffic through the village had not been too bad following the recent air show and Cllr Smith said that vehicles parked in Fowlmere Road had formed a natural chicane, slowing down the traffic. A request was made by Cllr Smith that Cllr Pinner ask the IWM if they are prepared to provide portable 30mph signs that could be put out when necessary. DP

Cllr Gough felt that the IWM reports gave a 'negative' impression and hoped that Thriplow parish council's views did not appear to be all negative at the liaison meetings. Cllr Pinner assured her they did not, however, he pointed out that the matters he was asked to raise at IWM meetings were generally matters that negatively affected the parish

b) Thriplow Recreation Ground - Cllr Smith had nothing to report.

c) Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Gough reported that the next main meeting will be later this week, however, a mini meeting had been held at which Denise Lea (31 Sheralds Croft Lane) had been appointed the new treasurer.

d) School Governors - Nothing to report

e) Police & Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Gough had attended an area meeting last Monday, however nothing came up that related to Thriplow. The clerk passed a Crime & Disorder questionnaire to JG for completion. JG

Peter Topping said that the police have been withdrawing from Neighbourhood Watch over the past couple of years but the government have now instructed that they must get involved again.

f) Village Maintenance

Cllr Cooper mentioned that the verges in Farm Lane were so overgrown that visibility was impaired. Clerk will write to County Council highways asking for a verge cut. Clerk

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The clerk reported that, following several reports of one person consistently refusing to pick up her dog's mess, a request had been made to SCDC's Environmental Health department asking for a warning letter to be sent to the dog owner. SCDC had agreed to this.

g) District Council Information

Peter Topping referred to the possible transfer of housing stock and said that the housing committee may make appointments with tenants to explain the proposed stock transfer. He also reported that he had received one e-mail from a Heathfield resident objecting to a multi-purpose sports pitch.

h) County Council Information .

Tim Stone first congratulated Thriplow on retaining its post office in the latest round of cuts. He then ran through his report picking out relevant items. His full report had been e-mailed to the clerk and is reproduced below:-

Community Engagement Arrangements

Two bees in my bonnet at the County have been the lack of proper arrangements for Councillor training and development and adequate engagement with parishes. Both have taken me three years to get going but finally seems to be moving. I have been part of a member-led review on Councillor development, which has now reported. Up until now we had no proper job descriptions. While training in council activities is good, we have virtually none in improving the ways individual councillors work.

Now I believe that we have also managed to get the County to move on improving the way it engages with communities.

Taking examples from a number of other local authorities a proposal was taken to cabinet last week. It includes beefing up Neighbourhood Panels to get better consultation with parishes, better on-line consultation and community "fun events" which have been shown in other places to get more people to attend than would normally turn up to a consultation meeting.

Parish Plans remain a cornerstone of the effort to consult and there is a possibility of getting a number of neighbouring parishes to combine to give a neighbourhood overview of how people would like their wider area to develop. The experience of Hanley Grange demonstrates the advantages of parishes working together on issues which cover more than one village.

A side issue here is that the County seems to have gone overboard in its consultation on the Transport Innovation Fund bid. The Leader of the Council announced that the process would be delegated to an outside commission, including private sector companies such as Stagecoach and Marshalls. This would potentially get the County of the hook of making an unpopular decision. Not only was this announcement made without proper council approval it also dodged the council's responsibility to take decisions and in addition by-passed the Joint Traffic Forum, a partnership set up by the County, the City and South Cambs.

There seems to have been a certain amount of backtracking after severe criticism from the opposition.

Highways Village Wardens

The Village Wardens scheme is progressing. The idea is for nominated parish councillors to get a much better idea of how County Highways works and what it can and can't do. The intention is also to give Village Wardens better insight into planning matters so it is easier for them to follow the process of County input into planning applications.

In the event councillors from six parishes were present, including Terry Smith from your council, and the trial is now beginning with Richard Preston setting up an induction session.

Hanley Grange

Thanks to all those in Thriplow who have made a huge effort to get Hanley Grange removed from the list of potential eco-towns. The Campaign continued with a meeting last week in

Pampisford with representatives of the Joint Action Group, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Government Office East and the promoters. The Joint Action Group will be meeting Cambridgeshire Horizons, the County and District Councils tomorrow morning at Shire Hall to plan the way forward.

Tim

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12. Other Correspondence and Information received to 14.07.2008

- a) DVLA - renewal road licence form for the mower. There is no charge and clerk will renew when insurance documents are received. Clerk
- b) SCDC acknowledging receipt of members interest forms (new and amended) for 2008
- c) Carillion - URS regarding resurfacing of northbound and southbound carriageways of the M11 between Junctions 11 & 12 and 9 - 9A link road
- d) Post Office - informing us that the post office will be re-opening (a week after it reopened)
- e) SCDC regarding proposed boundary changes between Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire. Thriplow is unaffected by these.
- f) SCDC regarding a review of Street Trading Consent. The proposal is to make the whole of the South Cambridgeshire District "Consent Street Status". Some villages already have "consent streets" although there are none in Thriplow. If the proposals are implemented then all street traders will need SCDC's consent to trade and will have to pay the necessary trading fees.
- g) Cambs CC re changes to Emmanuel Street, Drummer St and the bus station
- h) SCDC re the Local Development Framework - Supplementary planning documents public participation. (CD included)
- i) Cambridge City Council - Consultation on the North West Cambridge Submission Draft Area Action Plan (CD included)
- k) Cambridgeshire County Council enclosing a copy of their Short Term Strategy for Post Office Closures
- l) Highways Agency - leaflets re planned roadworks in East of England June - August 08, also leaflet "Summer Getaway 2008 - help to reduce your journey times in the South West of England .
- m) King & Co., Solicitors, confirming that they hold various parish council documents in their safe keeping
- n) Cambridge Water re the Village Life Fund
- o) COPE newsletter June 2008
- p) Cambridgeshire ACRE Community Action magazine summer 2008
- q) PS Consultants - leaflet entitled 'The Future for Council Housing in S Cambs'
- r) Clerks & Councils Direct & Local Council Review magazines
- s) Booklet - Cambridgeshire's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2007 - 8 - A Summary
- t) CCC Booklet - The childcare Picture - Bassingbourn, Melbourn, Comberton & Gamilngay locality
- u) Charity Commission Annual Return for completion Clerk
- v) CALC - booklet 'Guide to becoming a quality council - 2nd edition 2008'
- w) Various sundry advertising

13. Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 8th September 2008

The chairman asked each councillor in turn if they had anything further they wished to mention.

Cllr Pointon said that on reading the small print on her water bill she found a rebate could be claimed if surface water drained to a soakaway rather than the mains sewer. Cllr Easthope said he had claimed this rebate a few years ago. The Water board will require a map showing where the soakaways are that serve your house. It was suggested that this might be an item worth putting in a future newsletter to residents. Clerk

Cllr Cooper said that on Saturday last the Trumpington Park & Ride was almost full to capacity because of the free park and ride service offered to the IWM on air show days.

Cllr Gough said that Betty Parker had asked her to mention the state of the road outside 19 & 21 Church Street where it has been damaged by the contractors building the new houses. Clerk will follow this up. Clerk

Councillors gave their holiday dates to the clerk.

There being no further business, the chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.