

# Thriplow Parish Council

**Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th September 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:**

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

**Action**

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**1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Colin Rothwell.

**2. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 July 2008**

The clerk had received an e-mail from Peter Topping in which he suggested some re-wording of the neighbourhood watch item in his report would better reflect what he said. After discussion it was felt by all that the minutes should remain unchanged. The minutes, having previously been distributed, were agreed and were signed by the chairman.

**3. Matters Arising from above minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda - None**

**4. Display Panels from the Cambridge Folk Museum**

The clerk had received a letter from the Folk Museum offering the Parish Council, free of charge, three A1 sized panels featuring both text and photographs relating to the history of Thriplow which they no longer required. The clerk had accepted the offer and, with Cllr Easthope, had collected the panels which were shown to Councillors. It was agreed that these should be given to the Thriplow Society for safe keeping on the Parish Councils' behalf and that they may be used for displays, etc, as required by the Society. Clerk

**5. Request to install a memorial plaque**

A request had been made to the clerk by Bill and Shirley Wittering that they be allowed to put a plaque on the seat near the village hall in memory of Peter Speak. They will meet all expenses. This was unanimously agreed, clerk to inform Bill & Shirley. Clerk  
It was also pointed out that this seat is in need of repair, however, this should not delay the installation of the plaque which can always be moved to a replacement seat if repair is not possible.

**6. Hanley Grange Update**

See County Councillors report for a full update.

Cllr Clarke asked that thanks be recorded for all the effort put in by Tim Stone, Peter Topping, Andrew Lansley and all who signed the petition, wrote letters, or helped in any way.

KC also mentioned that there was some money remaining in the fighting fund which may be divided between Parish Councils who contributed to the fund on a pro rata basis.

General discussion that followed revealed that it is not known whether Tesco would be seeking to amend the existing Regional Spatial Strategy as applicable up to 2021 or if they are seeking to include their future plans for Hanley Grange after 2021. Tesco could also try to bring their plans to life in 2012. Neither is it known how Tesco's case will be put, because if put as an objection to the RSS no-one else can object to an objection. Plans to move sewage works from Arbury had been changed and there was now a shortfall in planned houses as the Arbury site would not now be available. However Ashwells, another large developer, have put in a proposal to develop a site to the west of Cambridge which might 'soak up' the number of houses lost from the Arbury site.

Cllr Pointon felt that it is Tesco's aim to get a store in this area - their first attempt was with the Duxford Initiative some years ago and they will keep on trying.

## 7. Health & Safety

Some councillors handed H & S reports to Cllr Pinner. DP asked for all other reports to be given to him so that he can collate them and report back to the next meeting. DP/All

Cllr Gough again mentioned the overhanging trees & bushes outside 38 & 40 Church Street. These are now causing severe visibility problems in that part of Church Street, particularly as vehicles leave driveways. Cllr Smith will speak to the owners of these properties. TSm

There are also bushes/hedging around the boundary of Thriplow House which overhang into Middle Street and restrict visibility. Cllr Clarke offered to speak to the owner. KC

Cllr Cooper mentioned that the ivy needs clearing from the Church Street bus shelter. It was agreed that the clerk will provide all village councillors with a map on which they can mark any areas where they feel there are tree or verge problems. Clerk

## 8. Highway Matters

a) District Cllr Topping had e-mailed the clerk to say that he has heard from the District Council that with effect from 12 August the road leading into Heathfield is to be known as Heathfield Way. No road name plate has yet been erected.

It was also noted that the 'Duxford' signs on the A505 still had not been changed. Clerk

b) Cllr Cooper is concerned that the water in the drainage ditch that passes in front of his property is stagnant. Cllr Smith said that the water was flowing out of the culvert in front of 7 The Green so there is water movement. It was suggested that clearing the debris in front of the grating at the entrance to the culvert opposite the Green Man would improve the flow. It is understood the spinney at the northern end of Lower Street and the ditch in front of it is now the responsibility of Oliver Walston.

Cllr Smith suggested that he and the clerk get together to formulate a letter that can be sent to various owners of ditches/hedges/trees where there is a problem. This was agreed. TSm/Clerk

Cllr Cooper had also e-mailed photos of Farm Lane verges to councillors. The clerk reported that following the last meeting she has asked Herald Contract Services to cut these the next time they did the village verges (which had very recently been cut). They are not the responsibility of the County Council as they are included in the areas that the County Council pay the parish council to maintain. The clerk had spoken again to Herald today and agreed that they will cut the verges the next time they cut Pepperslade which, weather permitting, should be in about a week. It was also agreed that the clerk should ask for the Farm Lane verges to be cut twice a year, the first time in July and again in September. Clerk

## 9. Heathfield

a) Progress with Anglian Water re sewers (see County Councillors Report)

County Cllr Stone has managed to contact Anglian Water who say there is no statutory obligation for them to adopt the sewers however they would be happy to consider adoption but would first insist on a CCTV survey being carried out. It was agreed that TSt will maintain his contact with Anglian Water and it was suggested that he ask Anglian Water if they are prepared to carry out the CCTV survey and, if so, how much it would cost. TSt

b) Road re-surfacing quotations

In the absence of Cllr Spicer nothing further was known.

Cllr Clarke had been to Heathfield during the air show the previous weekend and had seen the sewage lorries going through Heathfield. He had also taken photographs of the damage they had caused to the verges. KC will e-mail the photos to County Cllr Stone who will take this matter up with the IWM & County Council KC/TSt

c) Street lighting

District Cllr Topping reported that a light in Woburn Place is not working. Clerk to establish which one and negotiate with County Council to fix (there should not have been a failure so soon after all the lights had been altered to bring them up to standard) Clerk

No quote yet received from the County Council for putting the lights onto a maintenance contract. Clerk to chase. Clerk

d) Replacement notice board

Still in clerks garage. Cllrs Smith & Pinner will collect it on Wednesday morning so that TSm can apply a coat of preservative. A date for its erection will then be agreed, KC offered to help with this if needed. DP/TSm

e) Public Open Spaces

In the absence of Cllr Rothwell there was no report on the current situation.

Councillor Clarke said that now Hanley Grange had 'gone away' for the time being he would be happy to help CR with this project. Cllr Pinner said that as he was newly retired he now had more time and would also like to help. It was agreed that KC will contact CR to arrange a convenient time them all to meet. KC

It was also agreed that initial proposals for the Heathfield Public Open Spaces should be brought to the November meeting, it will be established when the village hall is free for a Heathfield public meeting towards the end of Nov/early Dec. to which all Heathfield residents will be invited. The possibility of providing transport was discussed and this will be decided upon at the November PC meeting. KC/DP/CR

The clerk read a letter from Mrs Fachechi of 43 Pepperslade concerning the POS behind Pepperslade/Kingsway and also asks for a meeting date to be arranged. Clerk to respond.  
Clerk

**Post Meeting Note:** KC has booked the village hall on Wednesday November 26 for the Heathfield public meeting.

f) Pedestrian link - Pepperslade to Whitehall Gardens

Cllr Pinner has spoken with Dockerill Construction today to say that the handrail is still loose. Dockerill promised to look at this during this week.

g) Transfer of POS land from Croudace

The provision of a play area and play equipment within the land to be transferred is a condition of Croudace's planning approval. Clerk has written and e-mailed Ray McMurray (planning officer dealing with this) asking for confirmation this planning condition has not yet been satisfied but has had no response. She has also spoken to David Rush (planning officer in charge of this area) who promised to ask RMcM to make contact - this hasn't happened. Clerk asked District Cllr Topping if he could do anything to help elicit a response. Croudace solicitors have written demanding the signed transfer form - clerk replied that as far as we are concerned a planning condition is still outstanding therefore the land transfer cannot take place. Solicitors are now taking this back to Croudace and a further response is awaited.

h) Weed treatment of Public Open Space r/o Pepperslade & Kingsway

Herald Contract Services have written to say that weeds are now smothering the grass and the cylinder mower cannot cope. To cut with a rotary mower will be more expensive. They recommend weed treatment and have quoted £400 plus VAT. The chairman proposed the quotation be accepted and this was agreed - clerk to inform Herald C.S. Clerk

i) Repair of Vehicular gate at entrance of P.O.S.

Clerk had received a phone call from a Pepperslade resident saying that the gate had been broken, was hanging on one hinge and it would be easy for anyone to remove the gate and take vehicles onto the field. Clerk asked Simon Hitchcock (a local builder) to ascertain whether the gate could be repaired. SH said he could repair it at a cost of £75. The clerk felt this repair should not be left until the September meeting as the gate was in a dangerous condition so asked for it to be fixed. The gate was repaired the next day.

Cllr Clarke reported that the footpath link from Kingsway to the public open space was overgrown and in need of clearing.

## 10. **Tree Planting & Tree Work**

a) **Tree Work Applications** - There were no objections to the proposed tree works at 3 Lower Street. The chairman has received an e-mail from SCDC confirming that it is also OK to remove the existing conifer hedge and replace it with native species.

b) Other tree matters

A quotation of £300 has been received from D J Thomas for the following works to trees on The Green: Top 1 conifer tree, lift lower branches of willow, (both outside No.13) lift lower branches of acer next to Smithy, cut yew hedge around memorial. It was agreed to accept this quotation. Clerk

The clerk has received an e-mail from the tree warden, Bill Wittering, stating that there are two dead trees at the Fowlmere Road end of the footpath between Fowlmere Rd and Sheralds Croft Lane. He is concerned that they could fall in a strong wind. It was agreed the clerk should bring this to the attention of the District Council as these trees are on their land.  
Clerk

## 11. Planning Matters

- a) Responses to Applications - None
- b) Planning decisions received - None
- c) Planning appeals - None notified
- d) Other planning matters - Notification has been received from the District Council that planning application S/0118/08/F (new house on land adj. 4 Woburn Place) has been amended by the introduction of a stainless steel flue on the front roof slope.

The chairman said that Robert Smith, of Russell Smith Farms, had asked that he be invited to attend a parish council meeting to explain a proposed planning application that he has asked Easthope Associates to submit on his behalf for an organic farm shop and dairy unit adjacent to the recycling centre in Gravel Pit Hill. Cllr Easthope declared an interest and offered to leave the room but the chairman said this would not be necessary - he had spoken to most councillors individually and their view was that Robert Smith should not be invited. It was felt that to invite one applicant would set an unwanted precedent and that the planning application should be considered by councillors in the usual manner. Cllr Easthope was asked to convey this decision to Robert Smith. DE

## 12. Financial Matters

	Net	VAT	Total
a) Authority was given to pay the following itemised on the agenda:			
Herald Contract Services (POS & Hurdles Way 125; verges £183)	383.00	67.04	450.04
P J Easthope	1018.39	-	1018.39
P J Easthope (reimbursement of expenses)	81.70	-	81.70

- b) Authority was also given to pay:-
 

Herald Contract Services (POS & Hurdles Way August cuts)	220.00	38.50	258.50
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 No invoice has yet been received from Dockerill Construction for the ramp

- c) Credits Received - None

- d) Section 106 Funds

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

It was agreed that all of the above investments will be renewed for a further 181 days as they mature.

The clerk had telephoned to invest the £26565 from Croudace (re phase 2 Hurdles Way) but the minimum investment for fixed term deposits with Lloyds is £50,000. Lloyds suggested waiting until another investment matures and adding to that. This was agreed and the clerk will add it to the 2nd or 4th investment. (The 1st is earmarked for improvements to the original part of Heathfield, the 3rd is public open space maintenance funding).

Clerk

- e) The clerk handed to councillors sheets detailing the current financial situation. The clerk has also prepared the new bank signature document and will get this to councillors for their signatures. It is understood that new signatories will have to visit a branch of Lloyds bank, taking the document and proof of identity, unless they already bank with Lloyds.

## 13. Reports

- a) Duxford Airfield Liaison Committee -  
 Cllr Pinner reported that the trees and verges at the A505 end of Pepperslade needed trimming back. This is not really a liaison committee matter so DP will find out who we should approach regarding this and will let Cllr Clarke know. DP  
 The overflow car park was not used for the air show last weekend as attendance was down due to bad weather. Cllr Clarke said that there were a lot of vehicles parked at the top of Gravel Pit Hill and that this was dangerous. He thought this area used to be coned off to prevent parking but this was not done this time.
- b) Thriplow Recreation Ground - Cllr Smith reported that he needs to finish trimming the hedge when weather permits. TSm
- c) Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Gough reported that a few committee members will be getting together with the aim of simplifying the letting fees. It had also been agreed to put an advert in "The Listing" a Royston based magazine that is delivered to all households in the area. 301

d) School Governors

Cllr Gough said that one teacher had retired and a new reception teacher had been appointed and that pupil numbers are increasing.

e) Police & Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Gough understands that there was an attempted distraction burglary in Sheralds Croft Lane although she has not had any official notification of this.

Cllr Pointon said that domestic heating oil was being stolen from household tanks shortly after delivery and that everyone should be vigilant. It was suggested that a warning could be included in a newsletter for residents information. Clerk

f) Village Maintenance - This has all been mentioned previously and no-one had anything further to raise.

g) District Council Information

Peter Topping reported that the District Council are in the process of recruiting a Section 106 officer to help advise on spending of S.106 funding. The proposed transfer of housing stock discussions continue. Cllr Pointon said that she understood that housing repairs took longer when carried out by housing associations. PT replied that future repairs are being considered now and that tenants would know what repairs to expect after any transfer of housing stock had taken place.

A bid is being put forward to enable a climate change working group to be set up. 3 or 4 parish councils are wanted to work with the district council to consider alternative energy sources for homes. PT will advise the district council that Thriplow parish council would be interested in this. PT

PT

h) County Council Information - Tim Stone's report is reproduced below:-

**Hanley Grange**

Much relief at Tesco's decision to withdraw Hanley Grange from the eco-town process. It comes as a culmination of the efforts of at least 16 parish councils, thousands of individuals, our MPs, the County and District Councils as well as Cambridgeshire Horizons.

Enormous thanks to your parish council and all your residents who have taken part in the campaign.

Nevertheless Hanley Grange has not gone away. Tesco is still determined to go ahead. But rather than use the eco-town initiative as a peg on which to hang its previously discredited efforts to build a new town, it will now use the conventional planning process.

Cambridgeshire is already covered by the Regional Spatial Strategy, a document endorsed by government in May this year, setting out the planning environment until 2021. The Regional Spatial Strategy is taken up in South Cambridgeshire's Local Development Framework, which has also already been published. The Local Development Framework has yet to be judged "sound" by the Planning Inspectorate. This is because of a shortfall of some 2,000 homes as a result of the decision not to move a sewage works from Arbury and consequently the unavailability of the site for housing.

In any event the Regional Spatial Strategy is being reviewed to take its time horizon from 2021 to 2031. Tesco has announced that it will seek to introduce Hanley Grange into the process. So while Hanley Grange has not gone away, at least the planning bodies directly concerned now understand and are masters of the system.

**Transport Innovation Fund**

The Joint Transport Forum of the County, City and South Cambridgeshire met this afternoon and Cambridgeshire's Transport Innovation Fund bid is moving forward. The County has admitted that its original announcements about creation of an independent commission to decide the way forward was "hasty." The proposal has now changed considerably as a result of vocal opposition to what was regarded in some quarters as an attempt to remove any hint of blame from the County Council if it supported an unpopular move.

The Commission is now purely an advisory body. Its exact composition has yet to be established. It will hear evidence from all interested parties. It is clear that any decisions will be taken by the County. The Commission is now expected to report after the County Council

elections next May or June, thus taking the heat off the current administration. The idea is that any decisions would be ratified by full council in October 2009.

Meanwhile a number of dead ends have been blocked off:

302

- ◆ It is pretty well established that the status quo will not do.
- ◆ The idea of a tax on work place parking would raise little money and would have a number of pernicious effects.
- ◆ Additional parking restraints in the city would have no measurable effect.

It is also clear that it will be impossible to deliver Cambridge East on the Marshalls airfield site without the £500million from the Transport Innovation Fund.

The Joint Transport Forum will meet monthly from now on and at last seems to have started concentrating on the major issues of what benefits can be delivered with £500million and the income from whatever congestion charge would be implemented. This seems to be much more positive than previous meeting which I have attended.

### **Heathfield Infrastructure**

I have been trying to get my head round the challenge of Heathfield's crumbling infrastructure. Pat and David Easthope have given me a lot of useful background information.

As this council is agreed, there is little sense in trying to tackle the roads and pavements until the sewage system has been sorted out.

I have approached Anglian Water through the County Council and Anglian Water's view is completely clear. While there is no statutory obligation for them to adopt the sewers within Heathfield after so many years, they would be happy to consider adoption. But before doing so they insist on a survey using CCTV cameras. The legislation is contained in Section 102 of the Water Industries Act 1991.

I have not finished my enquiries and, with your blessing, will continue enquiries direct with Anglian Water. Frankly, with the unsatisfactory position of joint funding within the original Heathfield community, it is hard to see how all this will end but I do believe that we need to achieve clarity to the extent that existing efforts have not produced the desired result.

### **14. Other Correspondence and Information received to 8.9.2008**

- a) East of England Regional Assembly - consultation on draft plan & statement of public participation
- b) Independent Examinations - Local Development Framework South Cambridgeshire - letter notifying that the Inspectors' report may not be available until spring 2009 because the inspectors consider the DPD lacks sufficient housing allocations to Make up the requirement identified in this & other plans for S. Cambs. They have asked the Council to carry out further work to make up the shortfall.
- c) Booklet - "A Guide to becoming a Quality Council"
- d) Cambs. ACRE - Cambs & Peterborough Rural Services Survey 2007 can be downloaded from [www.cambsacre.org.uk/news/latest.htm](http://www.cambsacre.org.uk/news/latest.htm) Details of their next conference on 25 Sept are also on the web site.
- e) Cambs ACRE - notification of AGM
- f) Cambs CC - Countryside Access Team Annual Report 2007-08
- g) COPE magazines July & August - handed to BP
- h) Cambridgeshire LINK (local involvement network) will be established on 25.9.08 as part of a government initiative to help communities have a stronger voice in their health & social care services. Information & registration form passed to BP
- i) CambsCC Minor Highways Improvement Scheme bids 2009/10. Cllr Clarke suggested a deceleration lane on the A505 from the Pet Crem. To Gravel Pit Hill. Clerk to find out whether it would be acceptable to put in a bid for this. Clerk
- l) Rural Housing Trust offering to give a presentation about the work of the trust & how, in partnership with parish councils, they help research & develop schemes of affordable local needs housing. This was not felt to be appropriate.
- m) Peterborough City Council - Cambs & P/boro Minerals & Waste Preferred Options 2 consultation 8/9/08 - 20/10/08
- n) Cambridgeshire Rural Forum Conference 25.9.08 at St Ivo Leisure Centre, 9.30am - 3pm
- o) Cambs ACRE - Community Action magazine
- p) Cambridge City Council - North West Cambridge Area Action Plan - Objection sites consultation

- q) Carillion WSP - as from 1.9.08 they will act in the capacity of managing agent to the Highways Agency Area 8
- r) Clerks & Councils Direct & Local Council Review magazines
- s) Cambs CC re changes to Stagecoach services north of Cambridge
- t) SCDC Housing Futures newsletter

- u) Cambs ACRE - Affordable Rural Housing - an overview & terms of service provided
- v) Newsletter - The future for Council Housing in South Cambs
- w) Various sundry advertising

**15. Date of the Next Meeting**

- a) Monday 10th November 2008
  
- b) Arts in Cambs on Tour have offered a production on 19th March 2009, which is the same night as the Annual Parish Meeting. The clerk had confirmation that the village hall is free the following week and it was agreed to change the date of the Annual Parish Meeting 2009 from March 19 to March 26. Clerk to confirm with village hall bookings secretary. Clerk

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

Cllr Cooper said that he intends to campaign for safe crossings on the A505 at Flint Cross and the A10 at Shepreth Cross Roads and both of these were extremely dangerous places for pedestrians or cyclists to cross. Cllr Easthope offered to find out which parishes these areas are in and let AC know. DE

There being no further business, the chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.