

Thriplow Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th November 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, Colin Rothwell, Tim Spicer
County Cllr. Tim Stone
District Cllr: Peter Topping
Clerk: Pat Easthope
Others: Kevin Rochfort, Heathfield resident

Action

1. **Apologies for Absence:** none
2. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 September 2008**
The minutes, having previously been distributed, were agreed and were signed by the chairman.
3. **Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 20 September 2008**
These minutes, having previously been distributed, were agreed and were signed by the chairman.
4. **Matters Arising from above minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda**
Cllr Cooper reported that he had not yet had the opportunity to pursue safer road crossings.
5. **Save the Post Office Campaign Update**
It was reported that Laura Tarling (P O representative) had said that Thriplow's presentation was one of the best they had received. Over 150 letters had been sent in, we had done our very best and all we could do now was to wait.
The chairman proposed, Anthony Cooper seconded and all agreed, that a vote of thanks be recorded to Kevin Clarke who had worked extremely hard and had led the campaign.
Barbara Pointon asked that thanks also be recorded to the clerk for all the extra work she had done.
6. **Health & Safety**
Cllr Pinner said that there were some items from the H & S reports that needed to be discussed:-
Church Street, outside No. 40, still needs to be scraped back, could this be added to the list of items for consideration by Mike Cooper of the Highways Dept.
Flooding in Farm Lane and at the southern end of Lower St. - grips need re-cutting and overhanging trees need trimming back.
Trees in the spinney at the northern end of Lower Street that overhang the road also needed trimming back and the ditch needs clearing. These items are the responsibility of Oliver Walston.
The seat on the public open space at Heathfield has broken and needs replacing. It was suggested that this might be dealt with in the plans for the public open space.

A litter bin is needed by the bus shelter at Heathfield. The District Council have said they will install one - clerk to chase them. Clerk

Cllr Cooper said that the street light opposite 47 Church St is obscured by overhanging branches which need trimming. The roads had been swept last week but the work was unsatisfactorily done. It was suggested that when the leaves have fallen the road sweepers are asked to come again. Clerk to write and also to include Farm Lane. Clerk

The clerk provided maps on which councillors can mark any areas where they feel there are tree or verge problems.

7. Highway Matters

- a) Minor Highways Improvements Bids. Mike Cooper has stated that a deceleration lane on the A505 is a non-starter due to cost; the minimum cost would be in the £60 - £70 K range.
- b) Duxford signs on the A505. Mike Cooper informs us that Development Control were under the impression these signs had been changed. They will contact the developer and they also confirmed that the site will not be adopted until remedial works (including the replacement of these signs) had been carried out. MC will also arrange for the removal of the "new traffic lights ahead" signs during the next few days.

8. Heathfield

- a) Progress with Anglian Water re sewers

Andrew Lansley had chased Anglian Water again on our behalf and received a reply from Peter Simpson, the chief operating officer of Anglian Water stating that he had written to Tim Spicer in January asking for a plan indicating the location of the private sewers because they needed this before they could determine which sewers are available for adoption. They had not received a reply. Cllr Spicer said that he has not received this letter but that a plan of the sewers was sent to Anglian Water at the outset. Clerk will reply to AL. and get a further copy of the sewer map to Anglian Water. Clerk

Cllr Clarke now has drawings showing the private sewer layout at Heathfield.

Kevin Rochfort offered to provide 6 copies of the sewer map and this offer was accepted with thanks.

Quotes had been sought asking for a CCTV survey to be carried out with a verbal report provided by 26th November and a written report to follow.

The quotes received were:-

Metro Rod	£2500
Dyno Rod	£3650
UK Drainage Network	£3880
Drainco	£4500

After discussion (some councillors have had dealings with some of these companies before and felt the service could have been better) it was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Easthope, that the quotation from UK Drainage Network be accepted. This was unanimously agreed. Cllr Clarke will accept the quotation. KC

A letter informing residents that the survey will be taking place very soon will be drafted by KC and sent to the clerk for copying. Clerk will then deliver them to Cllr Spicer for distribution.

KC/Clerk

Cllrs Clarke, Pinner & Spicer had met with Victoria Collins from Anglian Water on 5th November. Matt Rolph, a water services engineer, was also present. During their discussions it was mentioned that Anglian Water tanker lorries do not cause any problems, it is the JK Environmental tankers that are used on IWM event days that drive too quickly, cut corners, etc. There are two tankers used on event days, sewage from the airfield goes direct to the pumping station which cannot cope with the extra volume, hence the tankers are used to take the excess from the pumping station to Sawston. We have also asked to know the volume of sewage being moved. Victoria Collins will take this matter further and will copy any correspondence to the Parish clerk.

The chairman, with agreement from all councillors, closed the meeting at this point to allow Kevin Rochfort to speak on the next item.

- b) Road re-surfacing quotations

The Heathfield Residents Association had obtained three new quotations but no standard specification had been provided to the companies on which they should base their quotations. The HRA had provided the companies with maps identifying roads, parking areas and footpaths and asked for these to be quoted for separately. No quotations can be supplied for the provision of new soakaways until a percolation test had been carried out. General discussion followed and it was eventually agreed that an independent highways consultant should be appointed to write a specification against which these companies, and perhaps others, would be asked to quote. Cllr Easthope said that Jim Best of Wormald Burrows was available on Thursday morning at 10 and DE was asked to confirm this meeting. Cllrs Easthope, Clarke & Pinner and Kevin Rochfort will attend. DE/KC/DP

Cllr Clarke will send the coloured plans provided by the HRA to the clerk for copying. KC/Clerk

- c) Street lighting

The clerk reported that the two broken street lights in Woburn Place have now been repaired.

The County Council have asked for a map indicating the position of all the street lights that should be included in the maintenance contract. Cllr Spicer has a map showing these and will let the clerk have it to copy. Clerk will then get the maintenance contract under way. TSp

- d) Replacement notice board
This has now been erected. Cllr Rothwell asked if he could have a spare key so that HRA notices could be put in the parish councils half of the notice board. The key is not a standard key that allows a duplicate to be cut but the clerk will try to obtain another key from a locksmith. The clerk pointed out, however, that there were some Parish Council notices that we had a legal obligation to display and they must always take priority over HRA notices. Clerk
- e) Public Open Spaces
At the public meeting on 26th November a two part questionnaire will be issued, one part dealing with minor public open spaces and the other with the large POS behind Pepperslade & Kingsway. Various positions for an all weather pitch will be illustrated and Cllr Rothwell will mount displays illustrating pitches, fencing options, equipment, etc.
- f) Pedestrian link - Pepperslade to Whitehall Gardens
The work has now been finished and the invoice is awaited.
- g) Transfer of POS land from Croudace
There has still been no reply from the District Council planning department.
Post Meeting Note: on 12/11/08 Croudace's solicitor telephoned the clerk to ask whether the parish council would consider accepting a financial donation instead of Croudace providing equipment for the play space. Clerk explained that this could be put to the Parish Council at the next meeting January, but we still needed a reply from the District Council as we could not take over the land until we know whether or not the planning conditions have been satisfied. Croudace have also been chasing the District Council but they have not received a reply either.
- h) Public Meeting for Heathfield Residents on 26.11.08
The village hall has been booked for Wednesday November 26 for the Heathfield public meeting. It was agreed to accept a quotation from Richmond Coaches in the sum of £140 to provide transport from Heathfield to Thriplow and back after the meeting. Cllr Spicer offered to wait at Heathfield until the last minute and bring anyone who had missed the coach to the meeting. Cllr Clarke outlined his proposals for the meeting procedure. This would concentrate on the provisions for the public open spaces although the proposals for the roads and sewers would also be presented.
- A letter had been received from Sharon McGinty suggesting that there was some support for a paved and lit footpath/cycleway linking Heathfield to Thriplow village and asking if this could be raised at the public meeting. It was agreed that the clerk will reply stating that this meeting is mainly to show the proposals for roads & sewers and for equipping the public open space. The Parish Council would support the idea of a paved footpath/cycleway but the land concerned was not in the PC's ownership and the cost of providing a paved footpath is likely to be excessive. Clerk

9. Tree Planting & Tree Work

- a) Tree Work Applications - None
- b) Other tree matters
- (i) A letter had been received from Mr Fisher of 16 Middle St. asking when the fallen tree in the Middle Street to Lower Street footpath would be cleared. It had fallen on his fence which was now damaged. When Dave Thomas was carrying out the work to the trees on The Green the clerk asked him to quote for clearing this fallen tree. DT's quote was for £40 per hour & the clerk asked him to go ahead. The tree was cleared the following day (cost £70). Terry Smith will look to see what repairs are needed to the fence of No. 16. TSm
- (ii) The clerk has received a telephone call from Ros Richardson (SCDC trees officer) concerning the dead trees on the footpath linking Fowlmere Rd & Sheralds Croft Lane. Clerk confirmed that these trees were the responsibility of SCDC and RR said that she will get someone out to look at them and decide what action should be taken.
- (iii) Letter received from SCDC giving deemed consent to the removal of a horse chestnut and apple tree and the trimming of a yew tree at The Bury, Lodge Road.
- (iv) Terry Smith reported that the Daffodil Weekend committee would like to plant a tree to commemorate the 40th Daffodil weekend. It was felt that there were no suitable sites within the centre of the village but two alternative sites were suggested - the school and Pigeons Close.

Daffodil weekend committee might like to investigate these. TSm to speak to Daffodil weekend committee.

TSm

308

- (v) Letter from Herald Contract Services offering to clear the leaves around Hurdles Way for £100 + VAT and trim the hedge around the POS behind Pepperslade for £200 + VAT. It was agreed not to have the leaves cleared but to accept the quote for trimming the hedge. Clerk to notify.
Clerk

10. Planning Matters

a) Responses to Applications

S/1723/08/F - Erection of a Growth Room for KWS off Gravel Pit Hill.

One councillor is concerned that this could open doors for further developments at this end of the village and therefore objects. No objections from other councillors.

S/1713/08/F House & Garage (amended design) adjacent Bassets, Lower Street.
No objections

b) Planning decisions received - None

c) Planning appeals - None notified

d) Other planning matters - None

11. Financial Matters

a) Authority was given to pay the following:

	Net	VAT	Total
Herald Contract Services (POS & Hurdles Way 95.00; Farm Lane 75 Weed treatment of POS 400)	570.00	99.76	669.76
T V H M C (hall hire 25/9 £13; 23 & 30/10 £28.50 (all re P O); 26/11 £13 H/fld)	54.50	-	54.50
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (wreath)	30.00	-	30.00
D J Thomas (tree works- incl. clearing fallen tree)	300.00	-	300.00

b) Authority was also given to pay the following :-

D J Thomas (clearing fallen tree - work done 4/11/08 -total added to above chq)	70.00	-	70.00
Dockerill Construction (ramp Pepperslade / Whitehall Gardens) If invoice received prior to 12.01.09 and work satisfactorily completed	2468.53	431.99	2900.52

Post Meeting Note: The Dockerill invoice was paid on 24.11.08

c) Credits Received

£5250 - 2nd half of precept
£3325.54 interest on 1st investment received 15.9.08
£1267.24 interest on 3rd investment received 10.11.08
£4867.77 interest on 4th investment received 17.10.08

d) Section 106 Funds

1st investment matures 16 Mar 09 - interest £3260.44 - maturity sum £146,028.88
2nd investment matures 28 Nov 08 - interest £3144.54 - maturity sum £137,322.17
3rd investment matures 10 May 09 - interest £791.08 - maturity sum £60,433.82
4th investment matures 17 Apr 09 - interest £5872.47 - maturity sum £244,761.17

It was agreed that the 2nd investment will be renewed for a further 181 days when it matures. The £26,565 from Croudace (re phase 2 Hurdles Way) has been added to the 4th Investment

The clerk handed out sheets detailing the current financial position.

12. Reports

a) Duxford Airfield Liaison Committee -

Cllr Pinner had no report as the meeting originally scheduled for 7th November had been moved to 18th November.

b) Thriplow Recreation Ground - Nothing to report

c) Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Gough reported that it had been agreed to advertise the village hall in the "Royston Listings" magazine. The committee are currently trying to simplify the hire charges. Penny Grant has some more crockery which she would like collected and taken to the hall. Kevin Morris had resigned from the committee.

d) School Governors
Cllr Gough said that the ball was a great success and had raised some £9000.

e) Police & Neighbourhood Watch
Cllr Gough reported that a 'Speedwatch' meeting is being arranged to train people to use speed guns in their own community. The school have asked JG to mention parking problems near the school. JG felt that the quad biking which had caused problems along the Whittlesford footpath should stop during the winter.

309

f) Village Maintenance
The clerk reported that she had been told about damage to the verge opposite 1 Sheralds Croft Lane which had been caused by the sugar beet lorries. TSm offered to look at this. TSm

g) District Council Information

District Councillor Peter Topping's report is reproduced below:-

Thriplow Post Office

- I have written to Postwatch opposing the closure of the Post Office, and attended a number of meetings in the village organised by the sub-committee of the Parish Council, including the presentation to the Post Office manager in charge of the closure programme.
- I contacted Andrew Lansley's office and ensured that as the local MP, he was able to attend the Post Office presentation meeting.
- I gave a number of interviews to local media when the announcement was first made.
- During the weekend of 19 September I leafleted every house in Thriplow to ensure that people were aware of the public meeting the following week.
- Although rather late in the day, I was asked last Thursday to see if the District Council would formally oppose the closure, additional to my own letter – I have contacted the District Council.

C7 bus: proposed reduction to frequency

I have written to the County Council opposing the possible reduction of the frequency of the C7 and I have alerted a number of people in Heathfield who I know are concerned about the current service. The main reason for the under usage of the service is the way that the bus performs a "loop" which makes the journey from Sawston to Heathfield at least 30 minutes.

Poor lighting in Heathfield

I have again been contacted by a visitor to Woburn Close asking if the lighting in that area can be checked by the county council as at least one of the street lights is not working. I have visited Woburn Close in the evening and it is very dark there. The street lighting seems to me to be inadequate given the unevenness of the ground. I have asked the parish clerk for Thriplow (on 16 Sept) to contact the county council's lighting department as they will not carry out checks without due notification from the parish council.

Post Meeting Note: The lights have been repaired - see Item 8c of these minutes.

Thriplow School

I attended the school's fund-raising ball on 4th October and was very impressed by the effort that had gone into the event, and the support that was evident on the night.

District Council

I have replied on behalf of S Cambs District Council to the consultation on proposals for **Comprehensive Area Assessments**. This is in my capacity as chair of the district council's corporate governance committee. These proposals set out the way that local authorities will be monitored and inspected in the future. I have made the point that in terms of taking views on how local authorities are meeting the needs of residents, parish council views should be particularly taken into account, as they constitute informed, democratically elected bodies in close touch with local communities. I have also made the point that the new assessments aggregate a number of performance indicators, making it actually more difficult to see how one particular council is performing, and this is not helpful for residents and ratepayers!

I will be attending the district council's **climate change working group** – of which I am the vice-chair, this Thursday. One of the items for discussion will be the way in which parish councils can support local practical steps to reduce carbon emissions and manage climate change.

The district council is continuing with its proposal to consult its tenants asking them to decide if there should be a **transfer of its housing stock to a housing association** – to be known as South Cambridgeshire Village Homes. I am on a working group looking at the detail of what the housing association would need to have in place, such as the detail of its business plan, if the proposal went ahead. I have attended a number of workshops with council housing tenants to assess what are the priorities for repairs and improvements going forward, and also on how the payment resulting from the transfer would represent a fair return for the council and its

ratepayers on the one hand, and provide a sufficiently resourced housing association able to invest in its properties on the other.

I have dealt with a number of queries from people in Thriplow regarding planning applications and other matters relevant to the district council's work.

310

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

Hanley Grange

Tesco have put the HG site into the mix for the next Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) review, in a bid which looks similar to their last version. The new proposal is for 14,100 houses, which presupposes that Tesco will gain control over the Wellcome Land.

Incidentally Wellcome have put forward a proposal to include the disused gravel extraction area into the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan. This is something of a last-minute proposal. The idea would be to extract 170,000 tonnes from the site. I have had a word with Robert Smith about the idea and he says that it had long been suggested that the site would be good for an agricultural reservoir. I have a meeting organised with Wellcome for 25th November.

The County is setting up a panel to discuss all the sites proposed in the RSS review. No details have yet been released (there aren't any) but we have been told that the panel will meet in public. It is likely that the panel will include County and District Councillors, Cambridgeshire Horizons and officers of the County and the Districts, but nothing is clear yet.

I have kept the Joint Action Group informed of what is happening and the Joint Action Group has the intention of attending Panel meetings, lobbying members of the Panel and putting forward the views of local communities. It seems that the Hanley Grange site has now been studied to death and is regarded as a poor one in any case, as you will have seen from the latest edition of the South Cambridgeshire magazine. But we still need to be vigilant.

If the revised RSS recommendations include the principle that there should be no new settlements south of Cambridge, then we are relatively safe, barring any Tesco appeal. But we have to ensure that the recommendations do include that sort of stipulation or we shall be campaigning forever.

Village Wardens

The first meeting of Village Wardens is took place on 28th October. Three parish councils were represented. It was a good meeting with the parishes explaining some of their frustration with the County on planning issues. It is noted that Thriplow would like to be included in future meetings and it is just a pity that this one fell at half term.

Formula One at Duxford

The Renault Formula One team are interested in using the Imperial War Museum at Duxford for testing their cars. The idea would be to spend up to five days in 2009 at the airfield.

On 30th October the Chairman of Duxford Parish Council, a representative of the Imperial War Museum, two Heathfield residents and I travelled to Kemble airfield in Gloucestershire to find out more.

The key is the noise. Formula One cars are not quiet. In the event the car was not as noisy as the visitors had expected. Even the sound engineer engaged to take readings was surprised. In fact the car seemed to spend most of the time in a tent, surrounded by mechanics.

No decision will be taken until there has been an opportunity for all local residents to learn more and have their say. A meeting will be arranged, probably in the week beginning 15th December. The Renault team are keen to involve the local community and provide educational projects for schools.

Iceland

You will be happy to hear that the County had no money tied up in Icelandic banks. But there are serious mid-term impacts foreseen on the County's budget. As Chairman of the Audit and Accounts Committee I can assure you that these are being taken very seriously as we approach next year's budget round.

Citi7

One possible cut is in the schedule of the Citi 7 from two an hour to one an hour. I am fighting this suggestion.

Following this report Cllr Pointon said that she believed a Government audit trail was needed through private care homes. The old and vulnerable are suffering and a 1 star home could charge as much as £875 per week for disgusting conditions.

13. Other Correspondence and Information received to 10.11.2008

- a) Invitation to the Cambridgeshire Together event on Wed 19th Nov. Clerk has responded that Cllrs Clarke & Pinner will be attending. 311
- b) Cambs County Council - street lighting charges for 2008/09. Maintenance charge £17.85 per lamp to March 09. April 09 to March 2010 £18.39 per lamp. Energy charge from 1.4.08 to 31.3.09 £712.66, from 1.4.09 to 31.3.2010 £770.90.
- c) Carillion WSP re overnight road works on M11 during November
- d) Herald Contract Services detailing the winter services they offer.
- e) Nicky Wittering - suggesting that the Parish Council consider purchasing the domain Thriplow.co.uk. Cllr Clarke offered to speak to NW and find out more information about this. KC
- f) Cambs & P/boro Assn of Local Councils (CPALC) - next South Cambs Parish Liaison meeting is Monday 1 Dec.
- g) COPE magazines Sept & Oct - handed to BP
- h) Ipsos MORI - National survey of third sector organisations. Clerk has dealt with this.
- i) Jacquie Wilson (ex CPALC office manager & trainer) offering independent internal audit & parish clerk & councillor training.
- l) CPALC - stating that one of their ex-officers is offering services but that organisation is not recognised by them, there is no connection between the organisations & CPALC take no responsibility nor do they offer any guarantees as to the standard of training given. CPALC also enclose a list of training courses offered by them.
- m) Buchans - offering to tender for grounds maintenance
- n) SCDC 'Housing Futures' magazine & DVD
- o) CPALC - Notice of AGM Sat Dec 6 at Bluntisham Village Hall 10.00 a.m. & draft accounts
- p) Communities & Local Govt.consultation booklet "Communities in Control"
- q) SCambs Local Development Framework - responding to a housing shortfall public consultation
- r) Clerks & Councils Direct & Local Council Review magazines
- s) Rural Housing Trust invitation to an open day at Leaden Roding on 14.11.08
- t) Standards Board for England - Town & Parish Standards Issue 3
- u) Sue Ryder Care Home seeking donations
- v) Cambs CC public roadshows during October
- w) Cambs ACRE Annual Review 07/08
- x) Various sundry advertising

14. Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 12th January 2009

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

Cllr Clarke apologised for being late and thanked everyone for the help that had been given during the Post Office campaign, we had put up an excellent fight and all we can do now is wait for the PO decision.

Cllr Pointon asked whether there could be a calendar in the shop for local organisations to enter event dates in order that clashes could be avoided. Clerk will look into this. Clerk

There being no further business, the chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 11.15

