

Thriplow Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th January 2009 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
District Cllr: Peter Topping
Clerk: Pat Easthope
Others: Melanie Godfrey & Diane Fuller (Sheralds Croft Lane residents)
Marc Carmel (Pepperslade, Heathfield)

Action

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1. **Apologies for Absence:** County Cllr Tim Stone
 2. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 November 2008**
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**
Web Domain: Cllr Clarke reported that he would be attending a meeting of the Thriplow Daffodil Weekend Committee on Wednesday 14th Jan at which he would formally request that they sell the "Thriplow.org.uk" domain to the Parish Council. There would be space available on the site for Daffodil w/e as well as for other village organisations. He suggested that we offer £200. Cllr Smith proposed that we make this approach and this was agreed by all.
Cllr Clarke said that if successful he would then work with Nicky Wittering to get the site up and running. KC proposed an honorarium of £200 be paid to NW to cover expenses, etc. This was agreed.
 4. **Post Office / Shop Update**
Cllr Clarke reported that the post office will be now be closing tomorrow afternoon, 13th January. It is important that people realise that the shop is not viable without the post office unless is it used more. The TVSA are taking the lead on this and will be making some changes in the shop once the post office equipment has been removed. The chairman thanked Cllr Clarke for all his hard work during the 'save the post office' campaign.
 5. **Community Transport Scheme**
The chairman reported that he had been contacted by Mr Pat Rowley of Fowlmere. Thriplow residents are starting to use the Community Transport scheme now and the scheme needs more drivers. There is a minimum charge of £4 per journey (for up to 9 miles travelling) which can be shared between passengers. There is an additional mileage charge for longer journeys. Drivers receive 40p per mile with the remaining money going to the central fund. Drivers generally use their own cars although the scheme does have a mini-bus available. It was agreed that the clerk will mention this in the next village newsletter. Clerk
 6. **Representative to serve on the Thriplow Village Hall Management Committee**
Cllr Gough is willing to continue and this was agreed by all.
 7. **Health & Safety**
Cllr Pinner said that he would be e-mailing a form to all councillors for completion and return when the H & S checks had been carried out. All

The clerk reported that the new litter bin had been installed by the bus shelter at Heathfield. The roads have also been swept again.
 8. **Highway Matters**
 - a) **Potholes:** Cllr Cooper said that the potholes in Farm Lane were reappearing and that Church Street was crumbling again at the edges.

- b) Cllr Cooper said that the chalky coloured deposits in the ditch in Lower Street still had not been cleared. Cllr Easthope had spoken to the builders working for Mr & Mrs Keyworth at Pecks Half Acre when these deposits happened and was told that the deposits were an emulsion used to lubricate the drill and that they would disappear naturally. It is now thought that these deposits are chalk. It was agreed that Cllr Smith would speak to Mr & Mrs Keyworth and ask them to speak to their builders regarding clearing the ditch. He would also speak to Mike Cooper of County Council Highways. TSM
- c) Gritting: Cllr Smith had contacted Mike Cooper during the recent cold weather to say that School Lane and Brook Road had not been gritted despite being on a bus route. MC told him that these roads are not on the primary gritting route but are included on the secondary route. Primary routes are gritted when freezing temperatures are forecast, secondary routes are gritted after a prolonged spell of cold weather (2 days), and both of these roads had been gritted when the cold spell continued. The Parish Council can make a case to have these roads included on the primary gritting list and the clerk was asked to look into this. Clerk

9. Heathfield

a) Progress with Anglian Water re sewers

The full report on the condition of the sewers has now been received. There are 7 areas where excavation is needed. These are mainly minor but there is one larger area, however this is in a field which won't inconvenience anyone. A lot of drains need re-lining. The drain in the field is not straightforward as the field is run by Natural England who need a Derogation notice. The forms need the signature of an independent advisor.

Dist Cllr Topping suggested that the District Council's drainage manager may be able to help.

UK Drainage Networks have quoted £32000 + VAT for carrying out the necessary works. It was agreed that two further quotations are needed. Cllr Pinner suggested we obtain the services of an independent consultant prior to getting further quotes, Cllrs Smith, Pointon & Cooper felt we should get further quotes and then ask for independent advice on all of the quotations prior to making a decision, Cllr Easthope suggested we ask Anglian Water for their approved list and only ask for quotations from those on the list.

Cllr Smith proposed, & Cllr Clarke seconded, that we ask Anglian Water for their approved list of contractors and ask two further contractors from that list to quote for the works, using the UK Drainage report as our guide. This was agreed. Cllr Pinner will follow this up but asked for it to be recorded that he believes this is the wrong way to go and that we should seek independent advice first. DP

Cllr Pinner reported that he has a meeting on Friday to discuss the tanker situation and then a meeting the following week with the IWM & Victoria Collins of Anglian Water. He believes we can eliminate the tankers going through Heathfield. Cllr Clarke said he would like to be present at these meetings. DP/KC

b) Meeting with Solicitors re S 106 spending

Cllrs Clarke, Cooper and Easthope had met with Roger Covell of King & Co, Solicitors. It was reported that this meeting had been helpful in giving the guidance needed.

c) Heathfield Residents public meeting 26/11/08

Cllr Clarke reported that three decisions had been made at the meeting, to improve the woodland area, improve the play areas and to arrange for a new survey to be carried out. Volunteers were sought at the meeting and a committee of 6 is now preparing the new survey in which various options will be offered. 5 illustrations would be needed for the questionnaire and a quotation of £200 had been obtained from an illustrator. Cllr Pinner proposed, seconded by Cllr Easthope, that a budget of £500 is allowed for the survey. All agreed.

d) Roads Update

Jim Best (of Wormald Burrows) had met with Cllrs Clarke, Easthope and Pinner on 13 November. His work plan and fee proposals were received yesterday and the sub committee will follow this up.

e) Public Open Spaces See (c) above.

f) Street Lighting

The clerk is still awaiting a map of Heathfield showing the street lights from Cllr Spicer. When this has been received clerk will be able to progress this further with a view to putting the lights on a maintenance contract with the County Council. TSp

g) Transfer of POS land from Croudace

The District Councils planning officer, Ray McMurray, did eventually contact the clerk. He admitted that the District Council had been wrong in asking for a Local Area for Play (LAP) as a planning condition. They should have asked for a Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP). His view was that if Croudace are offering cash to the Parish Council to provide some equipment for the area their offer should be seriously considered. The clerk had asked Croudaces legal department the sum being offered and was told £6,700. It was unanimously agreed to accept this offer. Clerk will ask Croudace to put their offer in writing and then respond accordingly. The Parish Council will then be in a position to sign the land transfer documents. Clerk

h) Letter from HRA requesting money to repair potholes

A letter dated 30/12/08 was received from Martyn Corbet, secretary to the Heathfield Residents Association. This letter states that pothole repairs need to be carried out urgently in Kingsway. At the beginning of January Cllr Easthope had received a phone call from John Cobb (8a Woburn Place) saying that he is in the business of road works and would like to quote for the repairs. His quotation dated 12 January gives two alternative repair methods priced at £1410 or £1000 (both + VAT). After discussion the Parish Council agreed to allow the sum of £1000 towards these repairs. HRA should decide which price they want to accept, and if it is the higher price then they would be required to pay the extra. Clerk to speak to HRA Clerk

j) New Parish Council for Heathfield

Cllr Cooper suggested that as half of our meetings seem to be taken up dealing with Heathfield matters perhaps a Heathfield Parish Council would be appropriate. It was acknowledged that Heathfield residents must demonstrate that they want this. Cllr Pointon said that Heathfield residents had been asked on more than one occasion whether they wanted their own parish council but the answer had always been negative. It was felt that it would be worthwhile mentioning this in the annual report. Clerk

k) Footpath

Cllr Easthope reported that a quotation has been received from John Cobb & Sons for providing a hard surface, together with associated ground works, to the footpath from Kingsway to the south eastern corner of the public open space. The sum quoted is £6646.00 + VAT. The footpath currently does not run immediately beside the Kingsway fence because of trees and bushes that have pushed it slightly into the field owned by Mr. R Smith. Cllrs were happy with the quotation and Cllr Clarke proposed, seconded by Cllr Smith, that Cllr Easthope should take this matter forward with Robert Smith. DE

At this point the chairman closed the meeting to allow members of the public to speak.

Marc Carmel stated that his house backed onto the public open space and he would be very concerned if traffic was allowed onto the field. It was pointed out that the District Council had always hoped that some sort of community facilities would be provided on the land and, whilst it is not yet known whether parking facilities will be required, the vehicular access to the field was always intended to be from Pepperslade and the roadway has already been constructed to the edge of the field.

Melanie Godfrey and Diane Fuller asked for another street light at the western end of Sheralds Croft Lane in the vicinity of No.19 as this area is very dark. This land is owned by the District Council but it is not known whether they have to request a new light from the County Council or whether the County Council have to ask the permission of the District Council to erect one. District Cllr Topping agreed to look into this and the clerk will find out whether the existing Sheralds Croft Lane lights are included in the maintenance contract with the County Council. PT/Clerk

Post Meeting Note: There are 4 lights in Sheralds Croft Lane and these are included in the maintenance contract. The clerk has advised PT.

It was also stated that the lights outside 5 Middle St and 1 Foreman's Road were not working- these faults have been reported.

Members of the public had no other matters they wished to raise and the Parish Council meeting was resumed.

10. Tree Planting & Tree Work

- a) Tree Work Applications - There were no objections to a 20% crown reduction of a Sycamore in the front garden of 18 Middle St.

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b) Other tree matters

- (i) Repairs to fence of 16 Middle St. following clearance of fallen tree:- Cllr Smith will repair the fence.
TSm

(ii) Tree Preservation Orders

Bill Wittering, tree warden, has checked with the District Council and found that there are 5 TPO's in the village:-

44/72 small block of elm, ash, sycamore & thorn in Lower St, opposite The Green Man.

18/73 Horse chestnut at Saracens, Fowlmere Rd

17/80 Willow on Pigeons Close

14/89 Yew at The Old Rectory, Church St

01/08 Beech, ash x 2, sycamore at 1 Foreman's Rd. This is not in the conservation area.

BW says that SCDC's attitude to TPO's in conservation areas is that being in a conservation area should, in itself, give enough protection but this does not explain why TPO's have been put on trees within the conservation area in the past. His view is that the big oak at Gowards in Middle St ought to have a TPO put on it.

Cllr Easthope said that the TPO's were probably put on before the sites were included in a conservation area.

11. Planning Matters

a) Responses to Applications

S/1958/08/F - Extensions at 16 Middle St. - No objections

S/2013/08/F New House & Garage on land south of Woburn Mews, Heathfield Way

Strongly & unanimously object. Design does not fit in with surrounding properties, no provision for vehicles to leave site in forward gear and even then access would be dangerous. Sewers may not be able to cope. PC would like to see this area landscaped with trees & shrubs to give a softer access to Heathfield & a bus bay created to make vehicular travel in Heathfield Way safer.

b) Planning decisions received

S/1723/08/F - Growth Room for KWS Ltd off Gravel Pit Hill - Approved

S/1713/08/F - House & garages (amended design) adjacent Bassets, Lower St. -Approved

S/1958/08/F - Extensions at 16 Middle St. - Refused

c) Planning appeals - None notified

d) Other planning matters - None

12. Financial Matters

a) Payments made since last meeting:

| | Net | VAT | Total |
|------------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Richmonds Coaches | 140.00 | - | 140.00 |
| Dockerill Construction | 2468.53 | 431.99 | 2900.52 |

b) Authority was given to pay the following:

| | | | |
|--|---------|--------|---------|
| Cambridgeshire ACRE (membership renewal) | 25.00 | - | 25.00 |
| UK Drainage Network (CCTV Survey at Heathfield) | 3880.00 | 679.00 | 4559.00 |
| Herald Contract Services (trim hedge at Heathfield POS) | 200.00 | 35.00 | 235.00 |
| Herald Contract Services (trim hedge at Hurdles Way) | 75.00 | 13.13 | 88.13 |
| TVHMC (hall hire - all PC meetings to 11.5.09) | 32.00 | - | 32.00 |
| P J Easthope (clerks salary Oct - Dec + repayment of ex's to KC) | 900.13 | - | 900.13 |
| King & Co. | 115.00 | 17.25 | 132.25 |

The last invoice listed, from King & Co, was received after the agenda had been prepared but it was agreed this should be paid.

c) Credits Received

£1552.52 - grass cutting grant from Cambridgeshire County Council

£3144.54 - interest on 2nd investment

d) Section 106 Funds

1st investment matures 16 Mar 09 - interest £3260.44 - maturity sum £146,028.88

2nd investment matures 29 May 09 - interest £1711.82 - maturity sum £139,033.99

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 interest from the 1st investment will be retained and the sum of £142,768.44 will be reinvested for a further 181 days.

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e) Street Lighting Maintenance Charges

Letter from CCC clarifying charges for next year.

The maintenance charge is £17.85 per lamp @ 26 lamps = £464.10

The energy charge for the year is £712.66

Total due = £1176.76. CCCC will be invoicing street light payments from 19th January

f) Purchase of Guidance Book

It was agreed to purchase a copy of 'Local Council Administration' by Charles Arnold-Baker when the 8th edition is published. This is scheduled to be in June '09 and the price is expected to be approx. £67
Clerk

g) Precept

The clerk issued copies of the current financial situation and the predicted figures for the next financial year. These showed an increase in the precept to £12000 would be needed. Cllr Smith proposed & Cllr Pointon seconded that the precept be increased to £12000, this was unanimously agreed - clerk to write to SCDC informing them of our requirement for 2009/10
Clerk

The clerk was thanked for producing the precept calculations.

13. Reports

a) Duxford Airfield Liaison Committee -

Cllr Pinner reported that attendance was down last year. A wayward firework at the Flying Proms concert had set fire to a field. The IWM's incident procedures had passed with flying colours. A plane had to make an emergency landing and fell short of the runway. This raised concerns about the field on the other side of the runway where lots of people congregate. The proposed service station development will not be going ahead - the field has been designated part of the 'no-go' zone.

Cllr Cooper said that the chevrons on the A505 on the IWM side of the M11 roundabout needed re-painting and asked Cllr Pinner to raise this at the next Liaison Committee meeting.

b) Thriplow Recreation Ground - Cllr Smith had nothing to report except an infestation of moles.

c) Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Gough reported that the committee chairman, Malcolm Perry had died shortly after Christmas. Geoff Coleman would be acting chairman until the AGM at the end of January. New hire charges had now been agreed.

d) School Governors

Cllr Gough reported that Sharon McGinty was now chairman of the governors and pupil numbers were rising with more children coming from outside the village.

e) Police & Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Gough had not been able to attend the last meeting. There were problems with vehicles using the Thriplow/Whittlesford footpath as a race track at weekends.

Cllr Smith reported that he had made more enquiries about "Speedwatch". About 5 villages are interested in taking part and volunteers are needed to use speed guns and make a note of speeding vehicles. He had put himself forward as a volunteer, Cllr Pinner said he would also be happy to volunteer.

f) Village Maintenance

The clerk reported that she had e-mailed Mike Cooper to say that the salt bin needed refilling and it had been filled later the same morning.

g) District Council Information

District Councillor Peter Topping reported that he had been keeping an eye on the planners and their lack of response to queries. The formation of a Parish Plan could be advantageous. Cllrs Clarke & Pinner said that they had recently attended a 'Cambridge Together' meeting, the aim of which was to help with parish plans.

h) County Council Information - County Cllr. Tim Stone reported the following via e-mail

Hanley Grange - TSt had sent a set of questions to the Cambs Regional Spatial Review Panel for their meeting on 9 Jan. The responses will give a better idea of how and whether the Joint Action Group should continue the Stop Hanley Grange campaign. The Joint Action Group has made its own representations and has been given a tentative invitation to speak at the Panel meeting in March. It is not clear whether the County and the Panel will be given enough time to complete a thorough study of all options as the deadlines appear to be far too tight.

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Formula One at Duxford About 40 people attended the meeting at the IWM on 15 Dec. The response was overwhelmingly positive and it is therefore likely that Renault will be testing cars on the airfield this year. There will be a number of clauses to the agreement, which will allow the IWM to pull out if necessary.

Citi 7 The County seem uninterested in doing anything about this service, the key element for them is money. Traffic lights at Moorfield Rd crossroads with the A505 would allow the Citi 7 to "reverse the loop" allowing alternate buses from Duxford to Cambridge to avoid calling first at Heathfield and Whittlesford and to call at Whittlesford on the way back from Cambridge before calling at Duxford & Heathfield. The County says it can't afford to install lights, or still less a roundabout. It doesn't like the idea of lights because of potential back-ups to Junction 10 and the Sawston roundabout at peak times. The District Councillor for The Shelfords supports the reinstatement of the service through Little Shelford to Whittlesford but the County is unlikely to accept this plan because it would need subsidy. Stagecoach think that, apart from the occasional problem of traffic jams, the services works fine but this is not what Tim is being told by its users.

Sale of County land to the IWM A meeting on 6 Jan tried to iron out the remaining differences between the County and the IWM regarding the 150 acres to be sold. The main sticking point is money - the County's valuers say the land is worth £1.6 million and IWM say it is worth £1.5 million. TSt hopes a way has been found to bridge the gap and will report the outcome to the next meeting.

14. Other Correspondence and Information received to 12.01.09

- a) Herald Contract Services - do we want any grass cutting in Jan/Feb - No
- b) IWM - invite to briefing on 15.12.08 covering 2009 activities at Duxford
- c) Leaflet - Future for Council Housing in S Cambs
- d) Cambs City Centre management re Walkit.com - the new on-line route planner for Cambridge.
- e) P O - final decisions booklet
- f) SCDC - Register of Electors
- g) COPE magazines January 09 (handed to Cllr Pointon)
- h) CPALC re Parish Forum meeting 19.1.09 at SCDC Cambourne 6 - 8p
- i) Cambs CC re Parish Paths Partnership
- l) Wildlife Trust re training workshops 2009
- m) Communities & Local Government - Consultation on code of recommended practice on local authority publicity
- n) Cambs CC - Annual report financial year 07-08
- o) Cambs CC - - info on how they support people applying for welfare benefits
- p) MD Landscapes - offering grass cutting services
- q) JW Maintenance & Tree surgery - offering their services
- r) P O _ acknowledging PC's submission re proposed PO closure
- s) Information Commissioners Office - re fulfilling your obligation to disclose information
- t) SCDC - Housing Futures magazine
- u) SCDC re Xmas waste & recycling collections
- v) Charity Commission News
- w) NHS _ In Touch magazine
- x) Highways agency -road works Dec 08 - Feb 09
- y) Local Council Review & Clerks & Councils Direct magazines
- z) Cambs ACRE- Community Action magazine
- aa) Various sundry advertising

15. Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 9th March 2009 - Parish Council

Thursday 26th March 2009 - Annual Parish Meeting

The clerk asked if all reports for the APM booklet could be with her by 2nd March.

All

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

Cllr Cooper asked whether Parish Councils had been consulted regarding the proposal by Cambridgeshire County Council to introduce congestion charges in Cambridge. The clerk recalled

that some time ago there had been a questionnaire sent out. Thriplow P C had opposed the proposal.

Cllr Pointon said that the Eco Towns report is due to be published in a weeks time.

There being no further business, the chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 10.40 p.m.