

Thriplow Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th March 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Terry Smith
Councillors: Kevin Clarke, Anthony Cooper, David Easthope, Barbara Pointon,
Derek Pinner, Colin Rothwell, Tim Spicer
County Cllr: Tim Stone
District Cllr: Peter Topping
Clerk: Pat Easthope

Action

1. Apologies for Absence: Jane Gough

2. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 January 2009

The minutes, having previously been distributed, were agreed and were signed by the chairman.

Cllr Cooper suggested that Item 9J (own Parish Council for Heathfield) should also be publicised on the Parish Council's web site.

3. Matters Arising from above minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda

Item 8(a) - Potholes. There are still potholes in Farm Lane. There are also potholes in Gravel Pit hill on both sides of the road. Clerk to notify Mike Cooper at S Cambs Highways. Clerk

4. Web Domain for Thriplow

The Parish Council's offer to Daffodil Weekend of £200 for the web domain has been accepted. Cllr Clarke will be the registered domain keeper, Nicholas Wittering will be the web master. NW will need a piece of software costing £65 + £5.20 postage & packing and permission was given to purchase this. KC will buy it and then seek reimbursement. Nothing will be done to change the site before the forthcoming Daffodil Weekend.

5. Health & Safety

Cllr Pinner has e-mailed a master sheet and asked that everyone amend the details shown in bold to create a new sheet for reporting on each item they are responsible for. Councillors should then complete the sheets and e-mail them to DP. Cllr Clarke offered to help out with creating the new sheets.

Cllr Clarke reported that the benches in the Heathfield play area are in a poor state and the litter bins are full and one of these is broken. It is believed that the litter bins in this area are the responsibility of the Heathfield Residents Association. Cllrs Spicer & Rothwell to look into this. TSp/CR

6. Highway Matters

a) Drainage problems in Lodge Road - The chairman reported that there had been problems with flooding in Lodge Road and County Council South Highways division had become involved. It was found that the farm had been pumping from the grain store and the drain had become blocked. The farm has been told that it is illegal for the grain store to be pumped out into the storm water drains. Clerk to ask Mike Cooper if there have been any further developments or if the matter is now closed. Clerk

b) Ditch outside 3 Lower Street - It was reported that Mr Keyworth (7 Lower St) has a report from the Environment Agency who say that there is nothing wrong. The Environment Agency had contacted the contractors building beside No. 7 & they understand that everything was done correctly. Cllr Cooper said that there is still white gunge beneath the brown 'muck' on top of the water. He is not the riparian owner as this ditch and the hedge behind it were excluded when the land was sold for development. The ditch is owned by Thriplow Farms. Cllr Clarke suggested that AC makes contact with Thriplow Farms.

Cllr Pointon said that the trees in the spinney opposite The Green Man had been trimmed and the branches left to fall in the ditch. It was agreed that this should be mentioned to Oliver Walston Clerk

7. Heathfield

- a) Progress with Anglian Water re sewers - Nothing further

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- b) Drains/Sewers - quotations for works

We still have not got 3 quotes. One of the two firms recommended by Anglian Water has declined to quote. We have quotes from Claret and UK Drainage so far. Cllr Pinner is trying to get another recommended contractor from Anglian Water.

Cllr Pinner reported that there has been a modicum of success with the IWM. He had met with Malcolm Prime, the IWM Facilities Manager and had pushed to have the tankers empty from the IWM rather than from Heathfield. MP did not know of any problems with the tankers, nor did Richard Ashton who DP and Tim Stone met later. RA is supportive in our attempts to eliminate the need for the tankers to go through Heathfield but his budget is being cut back. The main problem is that the IWM estimate that they need £100,000 to make their road suitable for the tankers. There is currently a "gentleman's agreement" that RA will look into the matter further. DP undertook to telephone Lesley Taylor (visitors' manager) in a few weeks if we have not heard anything further. DP

Cllr Pinner has also met with Anglian Water's road tankering services who have given a promise that there will be no further problems with speeding tankers. They will, in future, observe the 15mph limit.

Cllr Pinner also reported that we have gained the derogation order allowing us to dig up Robert Smiths' field in order to repair the drain that runs underneath.

- c) Public Open Spaces - Survey, etc.

The survey has been distributed and responses will be collected in up to 21st March.

The chairman suggested that Cllr Clarke go back to Icen Waters as we have not heard anything from them regarding the possible lease of part of their building.

Cllr Clarke has looked at the wooded area to the west of Hurdles Way and feels there are far too many hawthorn planted there and not enough other trees. It was agreed that he should contact Ros Richardson (SCDC Trees Officer) to get her 'on side'. The eventual aim would be to thin out the hawthorn and plant a selection of other suitable trees in order to make this a pleasant and attractive area rather than an area of hawthorn 'scrub'.

- d) Roads Update & Pothole Repairs - These have now been repaired. It was noted that HRA chose the more expensive option so they will reimburse the Parish Council the sum of £410. TSp

Cllr Clarke produced a 'Process for Road Improvement - Heathfield' chart (attached to these minutes as Appendix A). KC suggested that a budget be considered to cover the first 4 items listed. After discussion Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Easthope, a budget of £10,000 to cover items 1 - 4, this sum allows a small extra for contingencies. This was unanimously agreed.

KC said that we should receive invoices for the first two items shortly.

- e) Street Lighting - The clerk reminded Cllr Spicer that she is still waiting for the map showing all the lights in Heathfield that we would like put onto a contract agreement with the County Council. TSp

- f) Surfacing of Footpath from Kingsway to POS - Cllr Easthope reported that Robert Smith had agreed that we can carry out this work. DE will speak to John Cobb

- g) Transfer of POS land from Croudace - The clerk has received a letter from Croudace formally offering the sum of £6,700 in lieu of their providing play equipment on the open space to the west of Ringstone. The transfer documents were signed by Cllrs Smith and Spicer and witnessed by the clerk. The clerk will forward them to Croudace and accept their offer. Clerk

8. Tree Planting & Tree Work

- a) Tree Work Applications -

Tree reduction works at 4 Middle St - No objections

Removal of 3 Ash trees at Rectory Farm, Middle St. - No objections

Removal of Walnut tree at rear of 42 Church St - No objections

- b) Other tree matters

- (i) Repairs to fence of 16 Middle St. following clearance of fallen tree:- This is still outstanding TSm

9. Planning Matters

- a) Responses to Applications

S/0025/09/F - New house & garage adj. Bassets, Lower St. - Amended design - No objections

- b) Planning decisions received

S/2013/08/F - New house on land south of 8 Woburn Mews (in Heathfield Way) - Refused

c) Planning appeals - None notified

d) Other planning matters - None

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10. Financial Matters

	Net	VAT	Total
a) Authority was given to pay the following:			
Thriplow Daffodil Weekend (for web domain)	200.00	-	200.00
Cheffins (derogation order)	274.19	41.13	315.32
John Cobb & sons Ltd (pothole repairs - Heathfield)	1410.00	211.50	1621.50
Norman Coates Design (Heathfield survey illustrations)	240.00	-	240.00
Cambs CC (street lighting Thriplow village)	1176.76	-	1176.76
Ryecroft Data (colour printing Heathfield survey leaflets)	237.00	35.55	272.55
Local Council Review (magazine subs)	17.00	-	17.00
Easthope Associates (photocopying 5.3.08 to 3.3.09)	155.85	23.38	179.23
P J Easthope (clerks salary Jan - Mar 09)	868.14	-	868.14
P J Easthope (postage costs 1.3.08 to 3.3.09)	38.32	-	38.32

b) Credits Received

£100 from St Georges Church for hire of mower

£1133.87 interest on the Post Office national savings account

c) 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

Discussion took place on the investments and it was felt that it would be wiser to spread the funds around several banks rather than have everything with Lloyds. It was agreed that the clerk would arrange for the first investment not to be reinvested but to be put back into our current account. Meanwhile KC offered to research other possible banks to use, bearing in mind that the money should not be tied up for any length of time as we are likely to be needing most of this first sum before the end of the year.

KC/Clerk

d) Other financial matters

Notification has been received from Cambs. County Council that the grass cutting payment will increase by 5% for 2009. Clerk will invoice CCC in the sum of £1630.14 after 1st April. Clerk

11. Reports

a) Duxford Airfield Liaison Committee -

Cllr Pinner reported that the IWM have asked Parish Councils whether they feel the "Neighbours of Duxford" scheme allowing free entry to local residents should be changed by asking residents to pay for entry or to contribute towards the scheme. It was felt that this is not a matter for Parish Councils to decide, however it was felt that if the scheme was changed to allow for charging in some form then a lot of goodwill would be lost. DP will convey this to the IWM at the next meeting. DP

The IWM have produced "Gross Value Added" figures which estimates how much the museum puts into the local economy. The GVA for the IWM in the eastern region is estimated at £23 million.

Following the accident in which a T51 fell short of the runway and landed in a field to the east of the M11, consultation is ongoing to stop the public watching from this field. The proposal to put a service station in this area has now also ceased.

The remarking of the chevrons on the road approaching the museum from the M11 roundabout is to be taken up with Highways. Clerk

b) Thriplow Recreation Ground - Cllr Smith reported that the RoSPA inspection will be carried out some time in April and moles are currently a problem in the recreation ground.

c) Village Hall Management Committee

In the absence of Cllr Gough, Cllr Pointon reported that the new TVHMC chairman is Jeremy Murray.

d) School Governors - Nothing to report

e) Police & Neighbourhood Watch - No report

f) Village Maintenance

The 'Give Way' sign at the top of Middle St has been knocked over. Clerk
There are potholes in Gravel Pit Hill and Farm Lane - clerk to report Clerk
Cllr Cooper reported that the steps in front of the bus shelter in Brook Road are very worn and the area around the shelter needs general tidying up.

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g) District Council Information

District Cllr Peter Topping said that he had attended the Duxford Liaison meeting where the IWM master plan was spoken about. The IWM have hired consultants for this. The District Council needs to be involved in any plans the IWM may have for development on our side of the A505.

PT has received several complaints about the Citi 7 bus service.

He asked to be kept informed of any further planning applications for the land in Heathfield Way. Clerk
The District Council's budget has been increased by 4.5%. The District Council do not want to see all the traffic improvements being carried out in Cambridge with the wider district not benefitting.

h) County Council Information -

County Cllr Tim Stone reported that following the frosts, etc, most of the potholes in the area have now been repaired, he advised reporting any that had not been repaired by phoning 0345 045 1360. David Lines has informed him that he now has some spare 40mph signs and will replace the signs on the A505 that refer to Duxford.

Post Meeting Note: These signs have now been replaced.

The Hanley Grange consultation was to have ended on 6 March but has now been extended to 30 April. TSt has e-mailed his response to all parish councils in case anyone would like to use any of his information in their reply. An invitation was sent (via blackberry device) to the secretary of the Joint Action Group to address the Joint Cambridgeshire Regional Spatial Strategy Review Panel (CReSSP), however this was not conveyed to the officers. The first opportunity that the Joint Action Group will have to address CReSSP is therefore on 7 April. TSt attended the CReSSP meeting on 6 March but did not ask to speak - ha may do so next time.

On Feb 24 he attended a conference around the Regional Spatial Strategy which should help inform the County Council's work on the Cambridgeshire Development study which is to be finished by 20 March. There was a good exchange of views but it would be difficult to extrapolate any single trend. There is a planning proposal to replace the portakabins at the HWRC with a permanent structure and erect 2 additional lighting columns. This can be dealt with by officers without going to Development Control. TSt hasn't seen the whole proposal and has not responded before finding out the parish council's views.

The clerk reported that this application is currently circulating and the views so far indicate that there are no objections to the replacement building but the need for extra lighting is questioned. The site closes at dusk and the planning conditions on the original planning approval for the HWRC had strict conditions regarding lighting which have not been adhered to.

The first public meeting of the Cambridgeshire Transport Commission was held on 4 March and TSt was surprised that nobody from the County's cabinet was present. Some of the background information was fairly stark:

- 45% more traffic is expected on the strategic road network by 2021
- Cambridgeshire's population is expected to grow by a third between 2006 & 2031 to reach 600,000
- The cost of local congestion, currently estimated at £1bn, will double by 2021
- After construction of Chesterton Station, due for completion by the end of 2016, there is about £80 million left over for total transport schemes costed at about £1bn.
- By 2021 there will be 20,350 more morning peak trips into and within Cambridge (on a base thought to be in the region of 90,000, though that was not clear)
- That will bring an 84% increase in junction delays, a 30% increase in distance travelled and a 40% increase in travel time.
- 40% of greenhouse gases come from transport
- Only demand management will bring about a reduction in private car traffic in and around Cambridge. The main lines of enquiry were:-
- Whether, in view of the economic crisis, the projected growth in and around Cambridge will actually happen, and if so, when. Current plans estimate there will be 30,000 more jobs than houses by 2031.

- Whether the proposed £500 million is just an attempt by government to paper over gaping holes in how much Cambridgeshire needs to finance infrastructure. The costs are estimated at £4bn, of which £2bn is for transport. Within the city a contribution of £500 million will leave a gap of £760 million.
- What kind of increase in congestion could be regarded as "acceptable"
- Why increase in traffic should be inevitable when over the past few years blocking off the city centre and successful Park & Ride services had actually reduced traffic.

The elephant in the room was what £500 million can buy. Private discussions suggested that the County has done a very poor job in showing what the carrot could be and everyone is fixated on the stick. This will be rectified.

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Cambridge has been awarded 3 stars (out of 4) for its overall operations. This is the last year in which local authorities will be rated in this way. Next year the main judgements will be made by residents, combining their views on all local services including police, NHS, county and district councils.

For the 2nd year in a row the county has received 4 stars (out of 4) for use of resources. TSt is chairman of the Audit & Accounts Committee & is pleased to see that finances are properly & safely controlled and that the risks which the county faces are understood and dealt with. Cambridgeshire ranks in the top third of county councils across the country

The county's Trading Standards have received a Beacon Award for cutting red tape and delivering real economic & social benefit through better local regulation.

Last, but not least, the Liberal Democrat group were highly commended at the recent conference in Harrogate. It is very unusual for an opposition group to be given an award as they tend to go to ruling council groups. TSt would like to think that the reason is the full budget which they prepare and the way that they balance their opposition role with trying to make life better for everyone who lives in , works in or visits Cambridgeshire, i.e. not opposition for opposition's sake.

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12. Other Correspondence and Information received to 12.01.09

- a) Invitation to Melbourn VC Preview & workshop for their 50th Anniversary window on 31.3.09
- b) Cambs CC re countryside access issues
- c) Cambs CC - changes to the 139 bus service
- d) Church of England - table of parochial fees.
- e) Nat Assn for Voluntary & Community action - pay scales 08/09
- f) SCDC - Community Chest - small grant scheme
- g) Cambs & P/boro Councils - New sites proposed for mineral waste development
- h) SCDC re Community Facilities Audit in S Cambs villages
- i) SCDC - Art News - invitation to a showcase of dance, music, drama & visual arts at Comberton on 28.3.09
- l) COPE - Newsletters 52 & 53
- m) CPALC - Bulletin
- n) SCDC Local Development Framework Supplementary planning documents public participation
- o) CGM (Cambridge) Ltd. - Herald Contract Services merging with them from 1.3.09
- p) Highways Agency- Planned roadworks March - May 09
- q) Cambs City Council - Additional consultation on Inspectors Larger Site Option for the North west Cambridge Area Action Plan
- r) SCDC - Register of Electors update
- s) Town & Parish Standard issue 4
- t) SCDC - Housing Futures magazine
- u) SCDC Local Development Framework - Adoption of Supplementary planning documents
- v) Cambs Transport Commission
- w) CPALC - minutes of AGM held on 6.12.08
- x) Cambridge Housing Society - In Focus newsletter
- y) Local Council Review & Clerks & Councils Direct magazines
- z) Various sundry advertising

13. Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 26th March 2009 - Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 11 May 2009 - Annual Parish Council Meeting

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

Cllr Clarke said that he would like to attend some councillor training sessions, these are usually listed in the CALC bulletin or in the correspondence section of the minutes. It was mentioned that the latest plan is that trainers should come to parishes in future rather than all trainees going to one venue.

Cllr Pointon reminded everyone that Arts in Cambs on Tour would be visiting Thriplow on Thursday 19th March where Shoo-Shoo-Baby will be performing a selection of music and songs. Tickets are available from the shop.

DE mentioned that in Mike Petty's "memories" section of today's Cambridge News there was an old photo showing Mr Skillings working in Thriplow Smithy.

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