

THRILOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Thursday 18th March 2010 in the Village Hall at 7.35 pm

Present-

Chairman: Derek Pinner

Councillors: Kevin Clarke, Anthony Cooper, David Easthope, Jane Gough, Barbara Pointon, Terry Smith, Tim Spicer

County Cllr: Tim Stone

District Cllr: Peter Topping

Clerk: Martyn Corbet

Others: Helen Augur, Dale Coss, Pat Easthope, Geoff and Tina Creek, Rita and Gordon Dennison, Steve and Ann Dye, Sue Pinner, Kevin Rochfort, Gary Thomas, Bob and Jean Tomlinson

Prior to the start of the meeting the chairman apologised for the fact that Cllr Smith had been omitted from the list of councillors in the leaflet circulated about the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Rothwell and Peter Duff

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on the 26th March 2009

David Easthope proposed and Terry Smith seconded that the minutes, having been previously circulated, be accepted as a correct record of the meeting. This was agreed and the minutes were duly signed by the chairman. There were no matters arising.

3. Comments on the report from Parish Council Chairman Derek Pinner

Cllr Easthope referred to the fact that parish councillors are contactable through the parish website. It is possible to send emails to individual parish councillors through the parish website. Cllr Clarke said the parish website is still under construction. Any club, society or other organisation may use the website as a free service. Help will be provided for those seeking to make use of this. Cllr Cooper referred to the restoration of the War Memorial. He detailed the work that is being done. He is gathering quotes for the work. One has been obtained from Ivett & Reed in Cambridge another is being obtained from conservators in London. The matter needs full investigation. Cllr Cooper is prepared to contribute toward the restoration and hopes others will do so as well. The War Memorials Trust may help.

4. Comments on the report from County Councillor Tim Stone

Cllr Stone said that last year the talk was about Hanley Grange and keeping post offices alive. He mentioned that the post office has just re-opened in The Queen's Head at Fowlmere. Cllr Stone is concerned about the Consultations on the Cambridgeshire Transport Plan. He mentioned the state of the roads. A questionnaire should have been delivered to all households. This has not happened. He recommended that once it is received it should be completed and returned. He mentioned the dangerous potholes. These are a problem for cyclists and pedestrians as well as cars. Cllr Stone also referred to the Guided Bus Scheme. The northern part may be tested by the end of April. Our bit from Trumpington to the station is still not finished.

5. Comments on the report from District Councillor Peter Topping

Kevin Rochfort asked about the application to build houses next to the former bus stop at Heathfield. He wanted to know when the decision will be officially notified. Cllr Topping said that time is being taken on the decision as the developer will more than likely go to appeal if the application is being rejected. Hopefully, if the developer appeals and loses, this will stop further applications. Cllr Topping mentioned the conditions set by the District Council in relation to Formula One testing at the IWM. These give a structure and represent a compromise so that the

testing may take place. The District Council have backed the bid by Thriplow Cricket Club for a grant to improve their premises.

6. Comments on the Thriplow School Governors' Report

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

7. Comments on the Village Hall Management Committee Report

Cllr Gough said the village hall is holding its own. There is a steady increase in bookings. There is space for a permanent Wednesday morning club. There are vacancies for voluntary treasurer and secretary. Anyone interested should contact Jeremy Murray. Cllr Easthope mentioned problems which had recently occurred with the drains. These were due to incursion of the roots of a willow tree. The present village hall utilises the drainage system of the previous village hall. The work needed was carried out urgently due to the forthcoming Daffodil Weekend. A CCTV survey of the drains was carried out. The drain had been cleared of roots and lined in both directions from the manhole in the carpark to the main sewer to prolong its life.

8. Comments on the St Georges Church Report

There were no comments or questions regarding this report

9. Comments on the Thriplow and Heathfield Recreation Grounds Report

There were no comments or questions on this report

10. Comments on the Heathfield Ward Report

Roads

Kevin Rochfort thanked the parish council (particularly Cllr Clarke) for the work they had put into organising the work. The outcome of the work represented a fantastic improvement to the Heathfield estate. Cllr Pinner invited people from Thriplow to take a look at the transformation. Kevin Rochfort said that the previous state of the roads could be viewed on GoogleStreetview. Steve Dye mentioned that some gravel stones might become embedded in the tarmac where they had spread onto it. Cllr Clarke has received a maintenance schedule from the engineer. The first item was that the roads needed to be swept twice yearly and gravel returned to the carparking spaces. This was now the responsibility to Heathfield residents. Cllr Pinner re-iterated the need for self-help and that residents should deal with problems themselves. Where cars drag gravel from the parking spaces. Loose gravel will also block drains.

Drains

Cllr Pinner has been responsible for overseeing the drainage work. There was now a good drainage system on Heathfield. It is important not to pour things such as chip fat down the drains. This is one of the worst things for blocking drains. Hopefully the need for the maintenance of the system by the HRA will cease when Anglian Water take on the responsibility for the drains but for the moment maintenance was with the residents of Heathfield.

Footpath

Cllr Stone thanked the parish council for the superb way it had organised this work from the County Council point of view. There had been wide consultations. The next stage was to put the proposal out to statutory consultations. There would be no further consultations after that. Notices would be fixed at either end of the footpath. People opposed might comment if they wished. (At this stage Cllr Clarke left the meeting to attend a meeting with the Ramblers Association). Cllr Pointon mentioned the involvement of the Ramblers' Association and their reservations about the scheme. She made the point that the proposed footpath is for everyday use. Cllr Pinner said that bringing the Ramblers on board was important. The preferred surface is concrete. It is better than gravel especially for things such as child buggies. The concrete will facilitate disabled access. Cllr Pinner said Robert Smith had given an undertaking to sweep the footpath in the winter. Pat Easthope mentioned the dangers of the present footpath which goes through the KWS yard. Cllr Pinner said the Ramblers seem to be objecting to the diversion of the footpath but they usually only walk it at weekends and do not see the lorries and forklifts in the yard during the week. There is a need to remove this risk point. KWS will pay for the diversion. The new route is marginally shorter. Cllr Easthope referred the fact that KWS staff wore high

visibility clothing and hard hats in an area where children are at risk. Cllr Stone said that the Ramblers' Association do not have a vote. The County Council will decide upon the scheme on the basis of their officer's reports. Cllr Pointon believes the scheme creates a nice circular type of walk which would be enjoyable.

11. Comments on the Duxford Airfield Liaison Committee Report

Cllr Cooper mentioned the road markings at junction 10 of the A505 were badly worn. Cllr Stone reported this to Highways last summer. Unfortunately their one approved contractor prefers to do larger jobs. He will continue to press for the work to be done. The County Council is responsible for clearing the gravel in the middle of the road. The District Council clears the side of the road. Cllr Stone is trying to get the middle of the road cleared. Cllr Cooper referred to cars running the new traffic lights at Heathfield. Kevin Rochfort said that since he had contacted Highways the timing of the lights had been adjusted. People are still going through on red. Cllr Pinner is pursuing the County Council about the Gravel Pit Hill junction. It is dangerous. The refuge in the middle of the road is inadequate. There is no right hand turn sign and a bush partially obscures the sign to Thriplow. The lines are worn out. Cllr Pinner believes there should be two traffic islands like those on the A505 allowing access for the County Council Whittlesford Roads Depot. Cllr Pinner said that parishioners might like to write to Highways in support of this scheme. The Gravel Pit Hill junction is also the primary access to a major waste disposal facility.

12. Comments on the Neighbourhood Watch Report

Cllr Gough had additions to the report. There are possible bogus gardeners in the vicinity. They come touting for business at the door. They drive a white van. There have been burglaries at Heathfield. Cllr Gough has received no information from the police. The only information received has come from the parish clerk.

13. Any other business

Cllr Pinner introduced Martyn Corbet who has taken over as parish clerk. Pat Easthope has retired after thirteen years in the job. The parish is grateful for her long and illustrious service.

Cllr Pinner referred to part of his report. The community is one parish and we look after each other. Councillor Spicer raised the issue of "tankerage on air show days". He reminded the meeting that for twenty years the people living at Kingsway in Heathfield have been subjected to the "tankering out of waste" on air show days. The sewage treatment works cannot cope with the flow from the IWM on such days. Councillor Pinner said that he is trying to persuade the IWM to take suggestions for an alternative arrangement on board. It is socially unacceptable that tankers should be using Kingsway every twenty minutes during airshow days to tanker waste. Considering that there are lots of children in the area.

Cllr Spicer said that he has lived in Heathfield since 1987 and been involved with Heathfield Residents Association since 1989. The tankers have been the biggest source of complaint after the state of the roads. He congratulated Cllr Pinner on trying to resolve the situation.

Kevin Rochfort mentioned problems experienced by residents in Heathfield with a property which appears to be being used as office accommodation. Cllr Stone said that this was a matter for the District Council to resolve by way of planning enforcement. Cllr Topping will raise the issue.

Councillor Easthope congratulated those responsible for the production of the leaflet for the meeting.

There being no further business, the chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed Chairman

Dated

