

THRILOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held via Zoom Thursday 10th December 2020 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Mark Brogan (Chairman), David Easthope, Terry Smith, Carly Richman, Charlotte Kirby, David Schneider

District Councillor - Richard Williams

In attendance: Luigi Murton

Parish Clerk - Sue Meehan

1.Apologies for Absence

Jane Gough

2.Co-option of Luigi Murton onto the parish council.

Mr Murton reiterated again why he would like to become a parish councillor. Cllr Kirby asked him to clarify his desire to work for Heathfield residents as well as representing Thriplow. Mr Murton confirmed that he would be equally serving Heathfield and Thriplow, although his position is as a councillor for Thriplow. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. The necessary forms will have been signed and published this month.

3.Precept discussions for 2020-21

a) **Planned Expenditure.** A first draft of expenditure items expected was presented by the parish clerk with a comparison for the 2019-20 out turn. Further discussion on all figures will be presented at the Finance Advisory Group later this month to support the parish clerk in calculating the Precept. Cllr Easthope asked if Mrs Easthope could attend these meetings due to her working financial background. This was agreed.

b) **Expected credits.** There are again certain credits that can be expected such as CCC contribution to grass cutting and the return of VAT paid out in 19/20. The Precept being the greatest expected credit is the main discussion point for this evening.

c) **Project requests** and costs for 2020-2021. Cllr Easthope said that whilst the figures were helpful, the main reason for this meeting was to table projects and services that could be considered for the Precept. The examination of all figures would be made by the Finance Advisory Group later this month and then presented with recommendations at the 2-monthly meeting on 11th January 2021. Cllr Schneider provided a spreadsheet of current Precepts across SCDC. Our costs to residents are presently in the lowest 10%

3. Continued

(c) Project requests

Cllr Smith requested the provision of a 'handyman' services to carry out general repair work throughout the parish. Cllr Schneider said that current costs would be approx. £35 per hour or £150 per day. Cllr Brogan suggested that this might be covered under S106 monies 'repair and maintenance' and so the Finance Advisory Group would check to see the provision of these monies to see if this was appropriate use of these funds rather than making provision under the Precept. Cllr Smith said that an outside contractor would need to be engaged going forward in any case.

TS

Cllr Easthope suggested a provision for training be included. After general discussion of councillor and parish clerk training, one off and ongoing, a sum of £600 is to be considered.

DE

Cllr Easthope suggested the provision of audit costs, After reviewing the costs for 2019-20 a sum of £500 is to be considered.

DE

Cllr Easthope suggested that a sum of £500 be included for Neighbourhood plan costs. Although TPC has been promised £7631 grant to assist in his plan it is expected that the costs will exceed this grant so this could provide a contingency sum.

DE

DE

Cllr Easthope suggested that the Parish Development Fund had been depleted in recent years. The parish clerk confirmed that £197.20 was currently in this account. Again, this sum would form a contingency buffer for the unexpected costs across the parish. After general discussion a sum of £1000 was put forward by Cllr Brogan and supported by Cllr Schneider.

CR

Cllr Richman and Kirby suggested that the Ringstone parking project be considered again as the parking area is now very damaged. Cllr Smith had provided 2 quotes for this work ranging between 5k – 8k. He said he would refresh those quotes. Cllr Brogan suggested that this project could be funded from S106 money rather than the Precept as it could be considered repair/maintenance work relating to Ringstone. Again, this would be checked by the Finance Advisory Group to see if this was an appropriate use of funds.

CK

Cllr Easthope requested investigation to see if we could financially assist the church in the maintenance of the burial ground. There are rules precluding parish councils from financially supporting churches in many aspects, but these would be checked. In its planning request to extend the burial ground, the church has had to fund a biodiversity study to ensure any changes to the location provides a net gain rather than a loss to the wildlife habitat. This will be a costly exercise. Cllr Williams suggested a link regarding parish council funding restrictions.

DE

No further suggestions were made at this time. Cllr Brogan said that other projects could be looked at in January after the council had had time to reflect.

(d) Contingency

The Neighbourhood plan and the Parish Development Fund sums could be considered contingency items

12.Date of next meeting

2- monthly Parish Council Meeting – Monday 11th January 2021

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.30pm. The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

SignedChairman

Dated