

THRILOW AND HEATHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in The Barbara Pointon Room , Village Hall on the 10th March 2025 at 7.30 pm

Present Jane Gough , Sonya Cooper, David Easthope, Tom Harvey, Carly Richman,

District Councillor - Richard Williams (Part- time)
Parish Clerk - Martyn Corbet
RFO - Austin Flynn

Members of the Public also present - Richard Taylor

1. Co-option of a new parish councillor

Richard Taylor was proposed by Cllr Gough and seconded by Cllr Cooper and duly co-opted. Mr Taylor had previously indicated his willingness to serve as a parish councillor.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr McDonald

2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 20th January 2025

The minutes having been previously circulated were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the above-mentioned minutes not otherwise covered by this Agenda

There were no matters arising.

4. Health & Safety Reports, Health & Safety and Environmental Issues

a) Heath & Safety Reports

Some reports are still outstanding the parish clerk will chase these;

b) Damage to the footpath in School Lane

Cllr Easthope said that the damaged drain cover in Fowlmere Road has still not been repaired. This is now urgent and poses a risk during Daffodil Weekend. Someone could well break a leg. It was agreed that the parish clerk should contact the Chief Executive Officer of Cambridgeshire County Council about this and the remaining unfilled potholes tomorrow morning. Cllr Harvey will inform the Daffodil Weekend Health & Safety Meeting on Thursday. **TH/MC**

5. Parish Recreation Grounds and Maintenance

a) Work Required on Thriplow Rec

Ian Wilson collected the key this evening and will work on the Roundabout tomorrow

b) Replacement of the Middle Street and Fowlmere Road Signs

The parish clerk has received an email saying the Middle Street sign is being dealt with. He mentioned the Fowlmere Road sign. He received an email back today saying no request for a sign had been received. He wrote an appropriate email back! Cllr Williams has taken up the issue again. He has been assured that the issue is being dealt with. Apparently the form on the website has been superseded and should have been removed.

Post Meeting Note – another email has been sent to Cllr Williams asking for a completed form!

c) Broken Fences on Heathfield Open Space

This work will be dealt with when the new Precept is paid. The parish clerk received an email from Heathfields Residents Association about nails protruding from a part of the broken fence. These were removed by Cllr Harvey

d) Repairs to The Green and prevention of future encroachment by vehicles

Cllr Harvey reported that damage caused by workmen working at The Green has not been fully repaired. The parish clerk will write to the householders. Cllr Harvey suggested that The Green should become a "One Way System". This will need to be done formally to carry legal significance and be enforceable. Steps will be taken to ascertain the procedure **MC**

e) Repair and Emptying of the HOS Rubbish Bins

Cllr Richman reported that the rubbish bins on the HOS have been removed by Cllr Harvey. The replacements have been installed. These will be emptied by South Cambridgeshire DC

f) Work Required on the Heathfield Open Space

- 1) The parish clerk reported that he had arranged to meet Russell Bowlby of Flights of Fantasy this morning to afford him access to carry out work. Unfortunately Mr Bowlby's vehicle had

broken down. In addition a vehicle is parked at the entrance to the HOS which the parish clerk was unable to get moved. Matters will reconvene next Monday (17th) when hopefully the work will be done

- 2) Cllr Harvey has renovated the Outdoor Multi-Gym and the Multi-Goal. He will also renovate the Trampoline.

g) Painting the Telephone Box in the Village

Cllr Harvey will provide a quote. The Serial Number for the paint is known.

h) Ditches in Lower Street and beside the War Memorial

Cllr Easthope explained there is a problem with the ditches. A drain runs across The Green to the Hursts Property. This is blocked. Owen Mackay arranged for it to be unblocked the last time this happened. A hole was dug in The Green. Cllr Easthope said the ditches are more or less level and there is not much fall. In a lot of ditches the water level is lower than the outlet. Sediment builds up. He suggested we go back to whoever Owen Mackay used and ask them to do the work. Cllr Gough and the parish clerk will contact Owen Mackay.

JG/MC

Post Meeting Note – It has been agreed that this matter will be pursued and a campaign to clear the ditches planned.

6. Updates and Progress Reports of:

a) Wooded Area at Hurdles Way

No progress has been made on this item. It will be taken forward at the next meeting.

b) Application re 20 mph Speed Limit

The parish clerk confirmed that this is being submitted very soon

MC

c) Village Sign

The sign is now back in situ. Mr Carver has done a good job but the work cost more than expected. Thriplow Society is paying for this together with the installation of the Weather Vane using monies obtained via a grant from The Daffodil Weekend Trust. Any monies left over are being returned to them

d) Progress on Parking on the Ringstone Open Space

Cllr Richman said that part of the area is in a state. Any action will wait until the receipt of the next instalment of the Precept

7. Tree Works & Tree Protection Orders

a) Tree Works

25/00025/TTCA – 25 Middle Street - no objections

b) Suggested Tree Survey for Trees on The Green

The Tree Survey has been carried out and a report provided. This has been circulated to parish councillors. One tree in particular needs work. Cllr Easthope will call the Tree Surgeon to find out whether this needs to be undertaken by a specialist

DE

8. Footpaths

Cllr Harvey is undertaking work on the footpaths as part of the preparations for Daffodil Weekend

9. Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications Received

24/04829/FUL – *new potato store to serve existing crisp factory Manor Farm – no objections;*
24/04712/ SCOP – *E/A scoping opinion request pursuant to Reg 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended) for the construction of Anaerobic digestion plant and associated structures – land to the North of the A505 – no comment made because insufficient information provided;*
25/00323/HFUL - *single storey rear extension and two storey side extension including associated fenestration with rear dormer window, first floor terrace, 2 PV solar panels and veranda to the rear elevation – 43 Church Street – comments made by one pc*
no objections from the others

b) Planning Decisions Received

None

c) Planning Appeals

None

d) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Easthope said he has received no further information since the preparation of the report for the Annual Parish Meeting

e) The Grain Store

No further information has been received

f) Meridian BioGas

Cllr Easthope has had discussions with Cllrs Ramsay and Williams. Cllr Williams has concerns about the “industrialization” of this end of the A505. Cllr Easthope said that we cannot do anything until the application is received. Once this happens quick action must be taken. The parish council does not have the expertise and obtaining the same will be expensive. Other parish councils where installations already exist have offered to help. The parish clerk has been approached by Fowlmere PC with a view to participating in any Public meeting which takes place

10. Financial Matters

a) Authority was given to pay the following

	Amount	VAT	Total
Payroll – March	1,300.00		1,300.00
Parish Clerk's expenses	38.78		38.78
BWP creative Ltd – Parish Council Website hosting	228.60	45.60	273.60
Langham Press	369.00		369.00

b) The following payments were ratified having been paid between meetings

	Amount	VAT	Total
British Gas – The Smithy	23.28	1.16	24.44
Tom Harvey – Materials HOS	1,125.00	0.00	1,125.00
OMC Associates – Tree Survey	735.43	147.08	882.51
Tom Harvey – Repairs to Village Green	150.00		150.00
Npower – Street Lights	193.12	9.66	202.78
Payroll – February	1,300.00	0.00	1,300.00
British Gas – The Smithy	22.61	1.13	23.74
SSE – Street Lights	636.16	31.81	667.97

c) Item received after publication of the Agenda but authorised for payment

	Amount	VAT	Total
Tom Harvey – Bin Removal	400.00		400.00

d) Credits Received

Interest of £620.80 has been received from the Cambridge Building Society. The interest figure from Saffron Building Society has yet to be obtained. Interest from NS&I is £34,66. Interest from Lloyds Bank is £21.89

e) Section 106 monies

The S106 monies remain invested in accounts with Cambridge Building Society and Saffron Building Society.

These monies are utilised for maintenance purposes and appropriate amounts to cover such expenditure are withdrawn on an annual basis. In line with present economic conditions the rate of interest payable is in accordance with prevailing market rates

f) Financial Records

This year's Accounting Records will be circulated to parish councillors for comment before they sent to the Internal Auditor

11. Reports (if any)-

a) Neighbourhood Forum

Cllr Richman had nothing to report. A newsletter has been circulated by the IWM. A Community Evening is being held on the 25th March 11

b) Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Gough said that the insurance premium has increased £120. The fire extinguishers will be tested in April. There have been problems with a leak in the Disabled Toilet. A tap is being replaced by a local plumber. A new Carbon Monoxide tester is being installed for the boiler. The WiFi system is being tested by moving it around to obtain the best reception. Daffodil Weekend are rigging a connection up so that traders can use the WiFi to operate payment devices on their stalls during Daffodil Weekend.

The proposed alteration of the electrical system in the kitchen has not taken place. Cllr Richman will check with Kit Jackson on the current state of the defibrillator.

c) Police and Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Gough has received no information. She believes the PCSO is now on reduced hours.

d) District Council Information

Cllr Williams has prepared a report a copy of which is attached

e) County Council Report

Cllr McDonald has prepared a report a copy of which is attached

12. Incursion of Lorries onto Hurdles Way

Cllr Richman has contacted EMG but has yet to receive a reply. She will report the damaged traffic light to Cambridgeshire County Council

CR

13. Area on the Village Green outside of The Green Man

Cllr Easthope declared an interest and left the room.

Cllr Gough and the parish clerk explained that further negotiations have taken place with Thriplow Green Man Limited during which a broad measure of agreement appears to have been reached. There are some elements to be resolved. Parish Councillors received a copy of the proposed terms and agreed them

Cllr Easthope rejoined the meeting.

14. Problems with flooding in parts of the Village

The parish clerk has not had a response to his request to Anglian Water that they allow the report which is Data Protected to be published. This will be pursued.

MC

15. Annual Parish Meeting MC

This will take place on Thursday 20th March at 8.00 pm. All parish councillors should endeavour to attend.

16. Correspondence

A list of correspondence received has been circulated to parish councillors

17. Date of next meeting

Annual Parish Meeting – 20th March 2025

Annual Parish Council Meeting – 12th May 2025

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

..... Chairman

..... Date

District Council Report

Cllr Richard Williams

District Council Budget 2025-26

The District approved its budget in late February. The District part of the Council Tax will rise by £5.09 per year rise for the average Band D property, bringing the annual charge to £175.40 from April 2025. Social rents and affordable rents are also being raised by the maximum amount possible. An allocation of £519,000 was been approved in the budget to enhance the Council's digital services. The Council is also planning to introduce weekly food waste collections as part of its efforts to promote environmental sustainability and improve waste management practices.

The Council Cabinet has also agreed a new set of 'Priorities' for the Council. Though set for the whole Council, the 'priorities' represent a political statement by the ruling political group. The new set of priorities are:

- **Healthy and Supported Communities** - Supporting and engaging with our communities is key to tackling the challenges we face as a district. Our diversity is our strength and helping everyone live freely and independently is essential to promoting healthy and supported communities.
- **Sustainable Homes and Vibrant Places** - A home is more than a roof over your head, it is the foundation on which people build their lives. In light of the housing crisis, we are committed to strengthening our communities by delivering sustainable, affordable homes and vibrant places to live.
- **Being Green to our Core** - Being green is at the heart of everything we do. We're tackling the climate and ecological crises head-on, ensuring our district is ready for the challenges of climate change.
- **Helping Businesses to Thrive in South Cambridgeshire** - Already recognised as a nationally significant area for development, helping local businesses thrive is key to the development of our district - bringing new jobs and opportunities into people's communities.
- **Financially Secure and Fit for the Future** - We have a duty to provide high quality cost-efficient services. Being open, transparent, and inclusive and letting evidence guide our decisions is critical to putting residents first.

Further information is available here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/district-councils-cabinet-outlines-aspirations-for-years-ahead>

5 Year land Supply

As councillors will have seen from a recent message sent to Parishes, South Cambs and Cambridge no longer have a 5-year land supply. The supply has been lost as result of the Labour Government's decision to raise housing targets in December, which has had knock on consequences for the land supply calculation. In the short term the loss of the land supply means a tilted balance is applied in deciding planning applications, with Local Plan policies (e.g. those seeking to restrict building outside of development frameworks), carrying less weight in planning decisions. It seems likely that there will be rise in 'speculative' planning application over the next few months if developers wish to take advantage of the tilted balance.

Four Day Week

The District Council's consultation on the 'Four Day Week' for council staff is now live and the Parish Council has been asked to comment. Further information is available here:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/councils-four-day-week-public-consultation-begins>

Parish Council Report March 2025

Unfortunately problems have been countered in downloading this report. Consequently it has had to be omitted from these minutes.

