

THRIPLow PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of a meeting on the 27th September 2018@Thriplow Village Hall

**Present – Cllrs Jane Gough, Mark Brogan, David Easthope, Charlotte Kirby,
Owen Mackay, Barry Radley, Carly Richman, Terry Smith;
Parish Clerk – Martyn Corbet
Residents of Heathfield Ward
Kelly Austin, Harriet Bannington-Howell, Carlos Cardoso,
Helen Evans, Sasha Kerrigan, Sabrina Melvin, Jayne Pashley,
David Schneider, Gerda Tyler, Jenny Webb, Stephen Woodard,
Karen Yates
Also in Attendance
Amber Gough (part-time)**

Glossary of abbreviations used:

TPC = Thriplow Parish Council;

CCC= Cambridgeshire County Council;

HRA = Heathfield Residents Association Limited;

IWM = Imperial War Museum;

SCDC = South Cambridgeshire District Council;

Cllr Gough took the chair for the meeting and welcomed all those present

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Kit Jackson and Austin Flynn;

2. Questions relating to Heathfield

1. Double Yellow Lines

Cllr Richman referred to a proposal to put yellow lines opposite the bus stop in Hurdles Way. The cost is £500 for the lines plus a further £3000 for legal expenses. Unfortunately yellow lines will also limit the parking available to residents. Jenny Webb referred to a problem with parking at the entrance to Pepperslade. This causes an obstruction of vision. There is a danger of an accident. This problem is becoming increasingly frequent. Cllr Gough suggested that this is something Peter Topping might take up. The road is adopted. Cllr Easthope referred to the fact that the £3000 legal costs could cover several roads in one application.

Sebrina Melvin referred to parking opposite the bus stop. The issue is most serious when there is period during which 3 buses come onto Heathfield and use the bus stop. It was agreed that parking opposite causes delays.

Cllr Kirby stated there is plenty parking for residents on Hurdles Way and Ringstone. Sebrina Melvin referred to an incident in the summer during which an altercation took place between the drivers of a bus and a van. There was very nearly a fight. This was a result of parking.

Cllr Gough said that single yellow lines and a “timed” area might work. Cllr Kirby was concerned about policing this. Cllr Gough thought that the PCO (Community Police Officers) might be asked to attend from time to time. Kelly Austin said that restrictions can be enforced if there is a time and evidence.

Cllr Gough said this matter would be on the agenda for the TPC meeting in November. She pointed out that obtaining the yellow lines at the village school took 2 years. Cllr Easthope said there has to be discussion then a Highways Report. The strongest possible evidence is required. Cllr Brogan said that this should be photographs with the date and time. Sabrina Melvin said she would send her photographs to Cllr Brogan;

2. Opening of the blocked road

Cllr Kirby said this matter is not much further forward. At the APM there was a reference to a poll. The results have not materialised. David Schneider stated that the result was 55 in favour and 4 against. *(Thanks are due to Rowan Pashley who has since the meeting forwarded copies of contemporaneous emails he sent to the parish council. These indicate a result of 55 in favour and 5 against. Apologies are due to all concerned for this oversight.* Cllr Kirby said that the road is not an issue for the TPC. It is not within its powers to deal with it. Cllr Gough has spoken to Cllr Topping he is going to ask SCDC to deal with it. David Schneider has written to Cllr Topping about the road.

Sabrina Melvin referred to a rat infection based upon the Heathfield House site. Cllr Gough said this is the responsibility of the owners of the site. Cllr Kirby will speak to the agents. The parish clerk referred to the fact that there are bins on Heathfield Play Park and wondered if they are being emptied regularly. If not, this might encourage the rats in that particular area. Some have been seen. Cllr Gough said that SCDC Environmental Health should also be contacted.

Harriet Bannington-Howell has seen 4 or 5 rats in Hurdles Way. Cllr Kirby will contact Heathfield House agents;

3. Trees

Cllr Richman has contacted Croudace and the trees overhanging Heathfield Way have been cut back. They will maintain those trees and need to be contacted if there is a problem. This should be done through Cllr Richman.

Harriet Bannington-Howell asked about the trees overhanging the short footpath leading from Kingsway to the start of The Greenway. The parish clerk explained that these trees belong to householders in Kingsway. HRA should be notified and they should contact the householders. Cllr Easthope explained this is not a public footpath. It is a permitted footpath. It is owned by a farmer. TPC used S106 monies to pay for the construction of this footpath but it owned by the farmer. The parish clerk will contact HRA about these trees;

4. Community Speedwatch

Cllr Gough explained about the Community Speedwatch Scheme. It is an attempt to combat speeding. The group has been set up by village residents. Funding for the equipment it needs has been raised from The Daffodil Weekend Trust, The Green Man Public House and TPC. The main equipment is special camera. This was being purchased via TPC as a community asset. At the recent meeting between TPC and the directors of HRA interest was expressed in being able to operate the scheme on Heathfield and in particular Kingsway. Some instruction and help is provided to get volunteers going. In addition the police would look at the Heathfield roads to ascertain whether they met the criteria for the scheme. Nothing has been heard back from the police so far.

Unfortunately Community Speedwatch do not want to cover both wards. If this continues to be the case then the equipment cannot be a community asset. If this continues to be the case then TPC will consider withdrawing its support and the monies it has agreed to donate to the project. Cllr Brogan pointed out that not only is

the funding in place but the scheme was discussed at several TPC meetings. Cllr Gough emphasised we are one parish and TPC cannot support one ward above the other. Karen Yates asked what happens when someone is caught speeding. The camera is used and the person is sent a letter. Cllr Gough said that Cambridgeshire Police and Highways have indicated they feel the scheme must be community led;

5. Sewage Lorries

Cllr Brogan referred to concerns about the use by lorries using the roads on Heathfield of the sewage processing facility near Crows Parlour. He has spoken to Cambridgeshire Water and been re-assured that the usage of the roads has not increased, It is about 1 lorry per week. Cllr Brogan also referred to the work done by Derek Pinner in obtaining a reduction of the use of the facility by lorries on air show days. Everything is now sent to the facility on the north part of the IWM site. If anyone sees more than 1 lorry a week they should contact Cllr Brogan;

6. Pepperslade POS

Cllr Smith said that Darren Mullett is seeking funds to purchase the equipment. Most of the items to be purchased have been identified. There will be adult equipment such as Trim Trails. The trend of the equipment will be for youth and adults. Funding issues have led to the plans being put on hold. A survey has been conducted to ascertain the type of equipment needed. In March/April funding issues developed. The land is owned by TPC. It is legally impossible for TPC to allow HeART to have equipment located upon the site. HeART is a charity and cannot give money to TPC. Darren is working with TPC as part of a working party. This is how the matter will go ahead. Carlos Cardoso asked who would be maintaining the equipment. Cllr Brogan confirmed that TPC will maintain it. Cllr Smith confirmed that even after 6 years since the completion of the Thriplow Rec Project TPC still has to report to some of the organisations who gave grants. Darren Mullett's work on the project was recognised by the meeting and he was thanked;

7. Heathfield Ward Representation

Cllr Gough said that David Schneider had a meeting at his home which was attended by Martin Johnston of HRA, as well as Siobhan Mellon and Kirstin Donaldson of SCDC. She had attended as an observer.

Heathfield is larger than the village. It currently has seats out of 9 on TPC. These 2 seats are filled by Cllrs Brogan and Kirby. Cllr Richman fills a village seat. Previously Barbara Pointon (who was formerly a village councillor) filled the vacant Heathfield seat for 2 years. She had been very active on behalf of Heathfield residents.

Options had been put forward at the meeting. One option was that there should be 2 more seats on TPC specifically for Heathfield thereby increasing the total number of members of TPC to 11. This would be 4 seats for Heathfield and 7 for the village.

This change can be affected in 12 months. If residents want this then they must contact TPC. SCDC would fund the change. The other option is for there to be one parish to be called "The Parish of Thriplow and Heathfield". No seats would be specifically allocated to each ward. This could result in all the parish councillors coming from one area of the parish.

David Schneider said that if there were one parish with no wards then the Heathfield polling station would disappear. This is the case and voting would take place at the village hall.

Cllr Gough said that if a change is wanted then TPC needs to be approached and it will conduct a survey. The representatives from SCDC would then be asked to advise TPC. She emphasised that TPC are waiting on Heathfield residents. TPC would like to know what they think. TPC has no bias in favour of a particular ward.

Cllr Easthope confirmed this and said that everyone lives in the same parish and can stand for either ward. The particular ward a person is standing for needs to be specified at the election. Harriet Bannington-Howells asked how often elections are held. This was confirmed as being 4 years. Cllr Gough emphasised that the number of parish councillors may be increased by co-option.

A question was asked about the results of the Neighbourhood Plan survey. Cllr Easthope said that these would soon be available.

Cllr Gough said that TPC is obliged to carry out a survey. This will not be done on Facebook.

Cllr Brogan stated that the current trend at SCDC is to amalgamate parishes where it can. It does not favour creation new parishes. It is not possible to make a parish out of a private estate.

Cllr Gough re-iterated that TPC have to do a survey. Something from those wanting change has to be in writing. This can be done by sending a letter to the parish clerk. Stephen Woodard said that it is important people should be fully informed.

Cllr Gough said that any change will not make much difference to the way in which TPC conducts its business. Until recently there have been problems in getting people from Heathfield to join TPC. Cllr Brogan confirmed it has been a struggle.

3. Questions relating to Hurdles Way

Sasha Kerrigan referred to cutting grass and trimming trees on Hurdles Way. Someone maintains these (other than the area maintained by TPC). They put the cuttings etc in residents green bins. Cllr Kirby said she is trying to contact the Hurdles Way management company. David Schneider will provide the address. Cllr Smith said that TPC's contractor cuts the "village green" which is the area which begins at Kingsway and ends at the electricity sub-station;

4. Questions relating to Pepperslade

Jenny Webb referred to dog fouling on the Pepperslade POS. Cllr Brogan agreed there is a problem and suggested there might be another sign. Cllr Smith said he will order another one. This will be put up at the entrance to the POS. Stephen Woodard referred to the state of the roads at the entrance to Pepperslade. Cllr Gough said she has been contacted on several occasions by another resident about this. The road is adopted and should be cleaned regularly by SCDC. TPC will contact SCDC to ask them to sweep the road;

5. Questions relating to Ringstone

There were no questions relating to Ringstone;

6. Any Other Business

Sabrina Melvin referred to last year when there was snow and the fact that there were problems getting on and off the estate. Cllr Kirby confirmed she has checked the grit boxes (as part of her regular Health & Safety Check) and they are full. The parish clerk referred to the fact that spreading of salt should be organised by residents. He had circulated an email a couple of years ago about this to David Schneider. David Schneider stated that he is no longer involved with HRA. The parish clerk will contact HRA. TPC will ask CCC Highways to grit the entrance to Heathfield. A question was raised about liability for spreading grit if someone falls and injures themselves. Cllr Brogan confirmed that a liability is incurred only when a path is cleared not gritted where grit is put over the icy/snowy surface.

David Schneider mentioned some raised flower beds at Woburn Mews. These are in the Woburn Mews parking area. The parish clerk will obtain details of ownership via the Land Registry.

David Schneider asked about the plan to install a defibrillator in the village. Cllr Gough said this is being dealt with by Cllr Kit Jackson. He was not able to attend the meeting. The cost will depend on the different types of schemes available and which on TPC chooses to use. It is anticipated to be in the region of £2,500. It will be sited outside of the village hall. Some discussion ensued about the installation of a defibrillator on Heathfield. Cllr Smith explained that there needs to be access and a supply of electricity. The BP garage was suggested as a suitable site. It was pointed out by Amber Gough that the IWM Fire Brigade is open 24/7 and they are all paramedics. Another site suggested was the bus stop. The wall belongs to the owner of Heathfield House. The bus stop itself is not a stable site for a defibrillator. It was agreed there should be further investigation.

Any Other Business then ended. The Chairman brought the meeting to a close at approximately 9.10 pm. She thanked everyone for attending.

Please note that these notes are not intended to be minutes or a verbatim account of what transpired. They are purely an engrossment of the writers notes taken at the meeting.