

THRIPLow PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday the 24th March 2011 in the Village Hall at 7.33pm

Present

Chairman: Derek Pinner

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

County Cllr: Tim Stone

District Cllr: Peter Topping

Clerk: Martyn Corbet

Others: Helen Auger, K. Brooker, Pat Easthope, Clive Fisher, Austin Flynn, Gordon Hill, Gail Hill, R. Lowe, S. Murray, M. Parkinson, Sue Pinner, Ian Seaton, Keith Evans, J. Tomlinson, K T, David Wherrall

1. Apologies for absence

Colin Rothwell, Tim Spicer, Rita and Gordon Denison

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on the 18th March 2010

Terry Smith proposed and Pat Easthope 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 Pointon commented that the war memorial looks splendid now that it has been renovated. She did however feel that the names were hard to pick out and wondered whether something can be done about this. It was decided that this will be an item for the next parish council meeting agenda.

Clive Fisher raised anti-social behaviour outside the Village Hall. He accused the Parish Council of "abdicating its responsibility". Cllr Pinner said that he had taken advice and that the position of the Parish Council was clear. Cllr Pinner made it clear that any issues about the Village Hall were not for the meeting but involved the Village Hall Management Committee and/or Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

Cllr Cooper introduced David Wherrall of Royston District Community Transport.

Cllr Pinner mentioned anti-social parking outside the school. This creates a safety issue. At the last Parish Council meeting it was decided to pursue the provision of double yellow lines opposite the school. Cllr Pinner has written to Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) on the Parish Council's behalf to pursue this. It is a shame that some parents are not public spirited enough to stop parking there.

Cllr Pinner strongly recommended parishioners to use the bridleway. It is a pleasant walk and a nice round route.

4. Comments on the report from County Councillor, Tim Stone

Cllr Clarke asked whether there is danger of losing the waste disposal facility. Cllr Stone said that it is unlikely to go. Cllr Pinner asked about the buses. Cllr Stone referred to a meeting he had convened on the 9th March to discuss the possibilities for future public transport in the area. There are presently two bus routes the Citi 7 serving Heathfield and the 31 serving Thriplow Village. Subsidies are paid in respect

of each service. Citi 7 costs approximately £250,000 pa and 31 costs approximately £87,000. They are not financially viable. The meeting on the 9th March began to explore what comes next. There were many ideas from South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). CCC had some proposals regarding the future of the bus services. Cllr Stone is holding another meeting on the 8th June to see what has been decided. The next round of bus services cuts will be in October. In April the cuts are being made without consultation. The 139 service which goes through Thriplow to Royston has already been cut. Stagecoach said it is no longer viable. It appears that the Citi 7 and 31 services might be curtailed. Cllr Stone said that CCC is not good at engaging with others. He admitted that SCDC does it better. He intends to investigate why this is the case. Cllr Topping said that SCDC had put in a bid for some funding which would help it support alternative means of transport if the bus services are cut back further. David Wherrall said that he manages Royston District Community Transport. This is a scheme with 80 local volunteer drivers. They are at the sharp end of community transport. He said it is impossible to run a voluntary organisation on "thin air". Traditionally his organisation and its counterparts have provided transport for the frail etc. to doctors, dentists and the like. Now he could see the need expanding to cover a wider section of the community. There is a need to look at the age groups being catered for. Drivers would need to be CRB checked because they could be dealing with vulnerable persons. He mentioned that the organisation has a mini-bus which recently cost £2000 to repair. The Chancellor has however increased the mileage allowance paid to drivers to £0.45 per mile. This was unlikely to help in the increasing need for volunteer drivers. He said his organisation operates in the parish. It is publicised by way of posters and word of mouth. He handed a leaflet to Cllr Clarke for the website. Cllr Pointon mentioned young adults going to Sixth Form College in Cambridge. She felt it was time to review the provision of a school bus. This would assist with congestion arising out of many individual journeys. Cllr Stone said that the provision of transport to post 16 year olds for travel to education is a statutory right. CCC has to produce something to get them to school. David Wherrall said that the input of the officer from SCDC had been excellent. School buses are put out to tender each year. Cllr Pointon said that years ago the Parish Council had considered the provision of a mini bus service from Thriplow. This had not gone ahead due to the cost.

5. Comments on the report from District Councillor Peter Topping

Cllr Topping referred to the proposed solar farm and stated that as a result of a review of payments by central government subsidies had been withdrawn. Cllr Pinner confirmed the project has been dropped. Cllr Topping referred to planning applications generally. Often planning applications are made and rejected. They might then go to appeal. If planning officers become involved earlier in the process there is a greater likelihood of success through compromise. He specifically referred to a planning application at Thriplow Heath as a classic example. This went to appeal when earlier consultations might have resolved any contentious issues.

5. Comments on the Thriplow School Governors report

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

6. Comments on the Thriplow Village Hall Management Committee report

Clive Fisher said the report did not mention complaints. Cllr Gough said that a meeting of the committee was planned for the 14th April when the complaints will be discussed. She said that after that meeting she will contact Mr Fisher. Clive Fisher then said he had made complaints over the last year. Cllr Gough said that she had just taken over as chair. She would be writing to Mr Fisher once the next meeting

had taken place and the matter had been discussed. Cllr Pinner confirmed that the Parish Council has no jurisdiction or interest in the running of the Village Hall. The Parish Council is the Custodian Trustee and has no say in the running of the Village Hall. It is run by the Village Hall Management Committee. Any issues should be taken up with that committee. Cllr Pointon referred to the installation of a sound limiter in the Village Hall which has been expensive. This represented a positive step taken by the committee to combat any noise problem within the Village Hall. Unfortunately the Village Hall Management Committee has no jurisdiction over what happens in the street outside the Village Hall. Cllr Pinner re-iterated that the Parish Council was not allowed to interfere in the running of the Village Hall.

7. Comments on the St Georges Church report

Pat Easthope was surprised to see a report from the church included in the leaflet. Cllr Pinner thought that it was correct to include the report as the church is an integral part of the village and it is a good way of telling everyone what is going on.

8. Comments on the Thriplow and Heathfields Recreation Grounds Report

Cllr Smith explained that TRIC are a group of six mothers in the village with children to five and six. They felt the recreation ground is sad and needs bringing up to scratch. TRIC has become an advisory group to the Parish Council. Cllrs Clarke and Smith were appointed to sit on TRIC. TRIC is investigating sources of funding and what is required for the recreation ground by children and parents. The Parish Council will decide what will eventually happen. Nothing will be done without the approval of the Parish Council. Cllr Pinner added that TRIC will bring a plan back to the Parish Council for improvements and changes to the recreation ground. Cllr Smith said that quite a lot of money has been spent at Heathfield. The need for a playground at Ringstone needs to be addressed. He re-iterated that the Thriplow Recreation Ground is sad and tired. It needs a boost. Cllr Clarke confirmed that TRIC is a Parish Council committee.

9. Comments on the report on the new bridleway between Heathfield and Thriplow

Cllr Cooper said it would be splendid if the part of the circular walk which came back on The Drift could be dealt with. The section of The Drift close to Church Street is in a muddy state. This is particularly the area from the pill box to Church Street. This stretch is potholed and muddy. Cllr Pinner said finger posts were being installed. Cllr Clarke said map displays had been installed in the past week. There is one display at each end of the bridleway. Some of the finger posts are already in position. There are also some disks. The whole project is close to being finished. Cllr Pinner confirmed that there is no public right of way through the KWS yard. This had been one of the primary reasons for the new bridleway being constructed. It is now a trespass to use the KWS yard. Sue Pinner asked whether there will be an official opening. Cllr Clarke said that this needs to be discussed. Cllr Easthope said the new bridleway is excellent. He was disappointed that the display boards are inaccurate. Longcroft Road does not exist. Pecks Close should be Peggs Close. There is no mention of The Green or Pidgeons Close. Cllr Smith said Mille Lane is referred to as Mill Line. Pat Easthope said that the display boards were not supposed to be historical. There are four historical names. Several persons made the point that the display boards should give the location of the viewer by saying something like "You are here" with an arrow or other indicator.

10. Comments on the Neighbourhood Watch report.

Cllr Gough said that she has recently spoken to Chris Wiseman and Gary Kendall. The situation continues to be quiet and nothing has been brought to their notice.

11. Any Other Business

Cllr Cooper said he is responsible for Health and Safety. Parish Councillors inspect facilities twice a year. Presently the facilities are in reasonable condition. If anyone spots anything would they contact Cllr Cooper or the Parish Clerk. Cllr Cooper paid warm tribute to his colleagues on the Parish Council who do a lot for the village. Next year there will be elections. Cllr Cooper hoped that they will stand again. He believes it is essential to maintain continuity with dedicated parish councillors. The Localism Bill will provide for more powers and responsibilities than at present. He particularly mentioned changes in planning and property purchase. The Localism Bill will provide for more responsibilities on the Parish Council than now. Cllr Cooper also mentioned that he is involved with Cambridgeshire Past Present and Future who are arranging a workshop in July with a view to working out how best to use the Localism Bill. It will be a whole new situation twelve months from May of this year. Pat Easthope suggested that (in response to Cllr Cooper's first point) there should be a reference in "Who is Who" for next year. Cllr Pinner confirmed this no longer being considered. David Wherrall said that his organisation is keen to hear from any local volunteers. He said that such volunteers will need to be CRB checked. One of the things that will be done is "begging letters" to all parish councils. One person present talked about an email site with 20,000 villages on it called "anymail.com". Cllr Clarke said that the village has its own website which is serviced by its own webmaster. Cllr Pointon asked whether the Annual Parish Meeting can start at 8.00 pm next year. Cllr Pinner said that the meeting started at 7.30 pm last year and that this had been carried on. The time of the meeting will be reviewed.

There being no further business, the chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed

Dated