

**Thriplow Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting**  
**To be held in Thriplow Village Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 8.00pm**

**Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019
3. Comments on the report from Parish Council Chairman - Mark Brogan
4. Comments on the report from Neighbourhood Watch – Jane Gough
5. Comments on the report on maintenance and parish recreation grounds – Terry Smith
6. Comments on the report on The Neighbourhood Plan – David Easthope
7. Comments on the report on Watercourses – David Easthope
8. Comments in the Thriplow Ladybird Playgroup – Sharon McGinty
9. Comments on the report from County Cllr Peter McDonald
10. Comments on the report on the website – Charlotte Kirby & Carly Richman
11. Comments on the report from District Cllr Richard Williams

The Thriplow Annual Parish Meeting minutes from March 2019 are set out below.

Due to COVID 19 restrictions no Annual Parish Meeting was held in 2020, so these minutes from 2019 are yet to be ratified.

The 2021 Annual Parish Meeting has been postponed to May 2021 due to current COVID 19 restrictions currently in place. It is hoped that by planning this date, the meeting will be able to be held in the Village Hall. Should guidelines at that time prevent us from holding an open meeting, we will advertise any changes as soon as possible.

## **THRIPLow PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 21st March 2019 in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm.**

**Present:**

Chairman: Jane Gough  
Councillors: David Easthope, Kit Jackson, Owen MacKay, Mark Brogan,  
Charlotte Kirby, Carly Richman,

County & District Cllr. Peter Topping

Others: Pat Easthope (acting minutes secretary) Angus Batey, Amber Gough, Barry Radley,  
Douglas Sheldrick, Peter Duff, Judy Murch, Chris Brearley, Stephen Woodard,  
Jean Tomlinson, Shirley Wittering, Hanna & Brian Roberts, Derek Pinner

**Action**

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Terry Smith, Parish Clerk Martyn Corbet
2. **Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018**  
Peter Duff pointed out that the date shown on the agenda for the 2019 APM meeting was wrong- it has been circulated throughout the parish showing last years date.  
There were no queries on the minutes of the 2018 APM and they were unanimously accepted. There were no matters arising.
3. **Comments on the report from Jane Gough, Parish Council Chairman**  
Peter Duff asked why the precept had risen by 7.5% this year which was a larger increase than usual and pointed out that Fowlmere's increase was lower than Thriplow's. He read out an extract from previous parish council minutes stating "*Cllr Gough said she would like to hold a separate meeting to discuss the parish precept. This would give parish councillors more time to discuss this as well as financial needs in future. Cllr Easthope said he feels the village should be consulted about the precept. There is a need to be upfront with residents and to tell them what things cost. A date for the meeting will be fixed. This will be before Christmas.*" PD said that he had heard nothing further and asked

whether any meeting had taken place. He went on to say that in his view the parish council had spent money on “luxury items” such as the defibrillator and a new noticeboard for Heathfield, each costing over £2000 and he felt this was a misuse of public funds. He stressed that he was not against precept increases if the money was spent sensibly on projects such as reducing the speed limit through the village to 20mph.

Cllr Gough said that the defibrillator was not a luxury item – just one use would prove its worth. She also said that the parish council had been trying to reduce the speed limit for some 2 years but it will cost more than £2000 and also has to be agreed by Highways, police, etc. She agreed that the new noticeboard was expensive but it was needed and the PC had to pay what it cost. Cllr Brogan pointed out that all 3 noticeboards at Heathfield were in a very bad condition. The new board will be in a more central position and will replace two of the old ones.

Cllr Easthope agreed that the public should be consulted regarding the precept and he believes this will happen in future. He pointed out that Fowlmere households pay twice as much as those in Thriplow. There are 96 parishes in South Cambridgeshire, 5 of these are too small to have a parish council or levy a precept. Of the remaining 91 parishes 86 have a higher precept than Thriplow. He also pointed out that money provided by Section 106 agreements for specific purposes had all been invested and the yearly interest used to cover the annual costs but over the past few years interest rates have dropped dramatically and the costs are no longer covered so original amounts invested are depleting.

Jean Tomlinson asked whether other parish councils consult with their residents and Cllr Topping said this did not usually happen.

Cllr Brogan said that councillors had met to discuss the precept and that this had to be increased as last years' expenses exceeded income.

Barry Radley asked about Section 106 agreements. These can be found in the planning section of the SCDC web site in the documents section of the planning application that they refer to. The S. 106 agreements give the details of any money payable and what it can be used for.

Cllr Easthope said that the cost of introducing a 20mph speed limit throughout the village would be approximately £6500. Cllr Kirby felt that this is something the parish council will address in the not too distant future. Cllr Topping suggested an application to the Local Highways Initiative as Thriplow had been successful this year with an application. Cllr Gough felt that the success may probably be because the parish council did not ask for too much.

Derek Pinner said that he had little faith in the LHI – they agreed to give a grant for signs that he had designed, and which the parish council had approved, for the junction of Gravel Pit Hill and the A505 then the LHI changed their minds and the signs provided are not as requested.

Cllr Topping felt that the junction would remain unsafe until the road was widened. Peter Duff thought the junction was safe if drivers had the patience to wait before turning out onto the A505. Amber Gough and Cllrs Kirby & Richman disagreed saying the junction was very dangerous when waiting to turn right into Gravel Pit Hill, and especially so when in a small car.

Angus Batey queried the current position with the Pet Crematorium's planning approval.

Cllr Gough said that she would ask the parish clerk to find out.

JG/MC

Any black smoke coming from the chimneys should be reported immediately.

Barry Radley asked about the parish council's progress re modernisation and efficiency.

Cllr Gough replied that this has to be dealt with properly and changes such as Barry refers to cannot be made immediately. She had previously explained to BR that this would be something for the new parish council to address after the next Annual Parish Council meeting in May.

#### **4. Comments on the Heathfield report from Mark Brogan**

Cllr Brogan said that he understands that Heathfield House (the former Icen building) has been sold and units will be let out to tenants. The parish council are trying to get the road alongside the building reopened again.

Tree works on land to the west of Hurdles Way were raised and Cllr Easthope confirmed that the land is owned by the parish council.

#### **5. Comments on the report from County & District Councillor Peter Topping**

Derek Pinner asked about the grain store site appeal. It was confirmed that the appeal relates to the new grain store at Foxton and not to the Thriplow site.

Cllr Topping felt that had there been fewer houses proposed for the Thriplow site a sensible agreement might have been reached. The planning committee rejected the application. Cllr Brogan pointed out that at a public meeting most people objected to the application because of the density of housing proposed but most would have supported some development of the site. Cllr Easthope felt that if the application had been made earlier it may have got through but wouldn't do so now since the District Local Plan has now been adopted. He also said that the Neighbourhood Plan may suggest that the site could be developed.

Cllr Jackson said that he had attended the planning meeting and spoke on behalf of the parish council objecting to the proposals. He said that David Easthope had worked very hard regarding the S. 106 agreement that would have been enforced had approval been granted. The village would have benefitted by some £250,000 for various projects, including improved parking at the school, traffic calming measures, etc. had the development been approved.

Cllr Topping mentioned the problem with travellers and that they might try to return when the better weather comes. The landowner has been served with a clean-up order and Peter is meeting with other officials to progress the matter.

Problems with the 7A bus service were raised by Angus Batey who feels it does not meet the needs of working people. There is no early or late service linking to the railway station for those who, for example, need to travel to London for work. Cllr Topping will take this point up as he has been trying to get Whittlesford Station more linked in with local bus services.

PT

Derek Pinner suggested that as there is an hourly service to Cambridge along the A10 the 31 bus through Thriplow could run more frequently to Harston with passengers changing there to go into the centre of Cambridge.

**6. Comments on the Watercourses Report from Owen Mackay**

Cllr MacKay said that despite 3 letters being sent out sadly some people are not signing up to deal with their responsibilities.

Barry Radley mentioned that the report says more houses will be built and asked whether Cllr MacKay had a crystal ball. Cllr MacKay replied that the Rectory Farm development was currently being considered, as was an application for two more houses in Church Street and the Grain Store site my eventually become another possibility.

**7. Comments on the Village & Heathfield Maintenance and Recreation Grounds Report from Terry Smith**

Cllr Easthope said that he hopes everyone realises just how much work Terry does around the village and thanked him for this. Hanna Roberts was also thanked for keeping the war memorial area looking so nice.

**8. Comments on the Village Hall Management Committee Report from Kit Jackson**

Cllr Gough asked for thanks to be passed on to Margaret Jackson for keeping the pots outside the hall looking beautiful all year round, this is much appreciated.

**9. Comments on the Pepperslade P.O.S. Report from Darren Mullett**

Darren reported that another grant towards the project has been offered this week, making a total amount promised to date of £74,000. As his report states, each grant has a shelf life so the group need to get the project moving in order to reap all the benefits.

Cllr Gough, on behalf of the parish council, thanked Darren and David Schneider for everything they have done and achieved.

**10. Comments on the Defibrillator Report by Kit Jackson**

Peter Duff asked whether the defibrillator was insured, the cost of maintenance and how many people have been trained to use it.

Cllr Jackson reiterated that the defibrillator was definitely not a luxury item. Although one could have been bought at a lower cost the one we have was the best overall deal available. The Community Heartbeat Trust is not the cheapest way but is the most sensible. The cost includes a support service, regular monitoring & full insurance. Pads last for approximately 2 years and replacements have to be paid for at about £26 each. New batteries are £260 but they have a long life. The annual electricity cost is minimal (i.e. less than £5)

There is a good group of people ready for a briefing to take place next month. CPR training should also be a necessity. It is expected that all hirers of the hall running any type of exercise group will be trained and some of the shop staff also wish to be involved.

Cllr Jackson said that this is one community enterprise which we hope is never used!

**11. Comments on the Thriplow C of E School Report from Victoria Penty**

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

**12. Comments on the St. George's Church Report from John Rimmer**

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

**13. Comments on the Ladybird Playgroup Report from Sharon McGinty**

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

**14. Comments on the Neighbourhood Watch Report from Jane Gough**

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

**15. Comments on the Health & Safety Report from David Easthope**

Trees & hedges were mentioned earlier in the meeting when Jean Tomlinson said that some hedges had grown so wide that there was nowhere to move to when traffic came along. Shirley Wittering agreed that trees and hedges were encroaching too much over roads and footpaths. Cllr Gough mentioned that the school hedge was too tall making it impossible, when turning from School Lane into Church Street, to see whether a vehicle was coming round the bend from Brook Road.

Cllr Easthope said that trees and hedges were looked at twice a year by councillors when carrying out Health & Safety checks. In the first instance the parish council can ask owners to trim back offending trees and hedges. However, the Parish Council have no powers to make owners comply, all we can do is ask owners to be reasonable. If no action is taken the County Council Highways department can be asked to write to the owners giving them a time limit in which to carry out any necessary work. If the owners do not do this then the County Council can carry out the works and invoice the owners. However, they seem reluctant to do this so it rarely happens.

Douglas Sheldrick suggested that a roundabout at the junction of Middle Street and School Lane would be a much safer option than the existing triangle. It would mean that traffic would have to slow down to turn into Middle Street from The Green.

Cllr Easthope replied that this had not been considered but it seemed to be a good idea, however, County Council Highways would have to agree to such a scheme.

**16. Comments on the Neighbourhood Plan Report from David Easthope**

Cllr Easthope said things had moved on a bit since his report. Enthusiasm waned somewhat after the Grain Store Site application was refused. He has been reluctantly leading the project but is incredibly busy and has not been able to give enough time to the project. However, Philippa MacGarry has recently agreed to lead the project if David will continue to chair the meetings. On Section 106 agreements the parish council get a bigger sum of money with a neighbourhood plan in place than without one.

**17. Comments on the Website Report from Carly Richman and Charlotte Kirby**

Cllr Kirby said that they need to know what people want to see on the web site. They are looking at other web sites for ideas as there are some good ones out there. Derek Pinner said that parishioners should be asked what they want to see on the site and Cllr Kirby agreed but how to get the information still has to be decided.

Pat Easthope said that there is a very good village email system but it has always been difficult to set up a similar system for Heathfield. The email system managed by Kevin Clarke is called the Village Email and Pat suggested that perhaps if it was called the Parish Email it may attract more Heathfield members.

**18. Any Other Business**

Peter Duff asked why a Mrs Jack was mentioned in several Parish Council minutes. Cllr Gough explained that this was regarding the position of the new dog poo bin in Fowlmere Road. Mrs Jack had objected to its siting and wanted a village survey carried out but the parish council had been advised that the siting of a litter bin did not justify the cost of carrying out a survey.

Cllr Gough thanked all Parish Councillors and our County and District Councillor for their work over the past year and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

There being no further business, the chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.