

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THURGOLAND PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT THURGOLAND SCHOOL, HALIFAX ROAD, THURGOLAND, ON WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2007 AT 7.00 P.M.**

**PRESENT**

Councillors Berry, Blythe, Methley, Oxley, and Wilkinson. Also present Ruth Atkinson (Parish Clerk), and three members of the public.

**2007/177. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Hamblen (illness) and Warttig (work commitments) and there were no Declarations of Interest on any items on the Agenda. Apologies were received from Councillors Cuerden and Rowley by telephone, but were received after the Clerk had left to attend the meeting.

**2007/178. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2007**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7 November 2007 had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Methley noted that minute 2007/162 stated that the play equipment at Crane Moor is NOT installed, and that it should read NOW installed. This was amended by the Clerk. Following this amendment Councillor Wilkinson proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Methley and agreed by all present. Councillor Blythe signed the minutes.

**2007/179. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**i) Remembrance Sunday**

Councillor Oxley proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Dr and Mrs Kershaw of Cote for the work they carried out at the War Memorial, which looked lovely once again. She also proposed that a small note of thanks be placed in the January newsletter to the same effect. This was agreed by all present and the Clerk is to attend to it.

**ii) Draft Home to School Transport Policy**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a response to the comments made by the Parish Council to the draft Home to School Policy which states that 'children with a statement of special educational needs because of behavioural issues can be provided with two Escorts in order that they are able to access their statutory entitlement to education. Withdrawal of free transport is associated with secondary pupils traveling to mainstream schools who deliberately commit acts of vandalism on buses.' These comments were noted and it was agreed that the Clerk provide Councillor Hamblen with a copy of this response as it was she who had made the comments via the Parish Council.

**iii) Penistone Group Practice**

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that he has spoken to Dr Morris who has submitted documents to the Primary Care Trust to try to begin the process of building a new surgery at Thurgoland. She asked Councillor Blythe if the Parish Council could provide a letter of support and a draft was provided for her to comment upon. However, extracts from the draft were used in the submission as it had to be in by the end of November. A copy of the submission, along with the draft letter will be provided to the Parish Council for their approval at a later date.

**iv) Trees at The Bridge Inn**

Councillor Wilkinson asked if the Clerk had contacted the Landlord of The Bridge Inn as stated in the minutes. The Clerk confirmed that she had.

**2007/180. CRIME AND SAFETY**

There were no items to be reported to South Yorkshire Police at this time.

**2007/181 REPORT FROM THE CLERK ON ITEMS ON APPENDIX 'A'**

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the Agenda was produced there have been responses to the following items on Appendix A:-

**i) Speeding along the A629**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a letter from Mr Carnall, following the site meeting attended by Councillors Blythe and Oxley in which the following matters were raised:-

- a) A rusting post at the back of the footway near the Village Hall will be removed.
- b) The grass verges on Roper Lane will be tidied up and maintained in the future.
- c) An old street nameplate outside Number 1 Roper Lane will be removed or renewed.
- d) A speed measuring device is to be installed outside number 18 Roper Lane, and a further device installed on the A629 from Wortley just inside the 30 mph limit. Surveys will be undertaken as soon as the equipment is available.

- e) The '30' signs are to be made more distinct and 'dragons teeth' and a red area of road will be installed. This work will be done in spring 2008.
- f) The other items on Appendix A will be assessed as part of next year's local road maintenance programme.

These points were noted.

**ii) Stepping Stones across the River Don**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she and Councillor Rowley attended a meeting at Barnsley Town Hall at which representatives of Hunshelf Parish Council, Highway and Engineering and the Countryside Team were present. The ongoing problems with crossing the River Don were discussed and it was agreed that, finances permitting, a bridge at this location would be the best long-term solution. The initial quote for a bridge was £13500, but once a structural engineer visited the site it was realised that a longer span was needed and this would cost £100,000. Sarah Ford, the Acting Senior Countryside Officer agreed to lead the project and to set up a further meeting early in 2008 when she has spoken to Peak and Northern (possible funders), a structural engineer and the landowners at both sides of the river bank. Following the meeting the Clerk has received an e-mail advising that Peak and Northern still have funding for crossing projects and would consider the stepping stones option if a bridge is too expensive. However, they have only funded bridges of 8 metres in the past, with project costs of £4,000.

All of this was noted.

**iii) Trees at Churchfield**

Councillor Oxley advised the meeting that this matter has been attended to.

**iv) Removal of leaves**

Councillor Oxley advised the meeting that this matter has been attended to.

**v) The Old Co-op Superstore**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a letter from The Co-operative advising that the property was sold in excess of ten years ago and therefore they cannot assist in gaining access to turn the Village Clock back on. It was agreed that, in line with the suggestion made at the November meeting by Councillor Wilkinson, the Clerk contact the Land Registry to ascertain who owns the land.

**2007/182. PARISH PATHS**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received an e-mail from Sarah Ford advising of updates from the Countryside Team:-

- i) The Rights of Way Improvement Plan has been approved and published.
- ii) As a result of the plan being approved, the Cabinet has agreed additional capital and revenue resources to implement it.
- iii) Additional resources have been provided for erecting and replacing signposts and vegetation clearance.
- iv) Restructuring has taken place and the Countryside Team is moving into Highways and Neighbourhood Pride. This will mean additional staffing and possible funding increases.

As a result of this update, Councillor Blythe asked the meeting if anyone could suggest areas that require clearing of vegetation. Councillor Methley suggested the bridleway between Crane Moor Nook and Toad Hall Farm, as this is very often overgrown. It was agreed that the Clerk make this request as soon as possible.

**2007/183. NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIDE**

**i) Pavement at Fir Tree**

The Clerk advised the meeting that this item had been first reported in May 2007 and that a response had been received advising that 'repairs will then be considered in accordance with our assessment and prioritisation for highway repairs.' It was agreed that the Clerk write again, asking when this work may be carried out.

**2007/184. CONCESSIONARY BUS TRAVEL IN CRANE MOOR**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a response from South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive advising that, although the National Travel Passes will only be valid from 9.30 a.m., it is hoped that South Yorkshire will be able to keep their existing local enhancements, which means that local residents would be able to travel from 9.00 a.m. (this is the case at the present time). Final confirmation of this arrangement is awaited, but if this is not the case the 9.21 service from Crane Moor will be reviewed. Councillor Methley advised the meeting that she is aware that some drivers think that the time for using passes is 9.30 a.m. and that is why residents of Crane Moor are having problems. It was agreed that the Clerk write again to South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, advising them of this situation.

**2007/185. ANNUAL RETURN**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received the Annual Return from the Auditors who make just one comment regarding Fidelity Guarantee Cover:-

'The level of fidelity guarantee cover obtained by the Council appears to be insufficient in light of the bank balance held at 31 March 2007 and the amount of precept then subsequently received in April 2007.'

The recommendation made is that the amount is sufficient to cover the maximum amount of money the council holds at any one time during the year.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the bank balances as at 31 March 2007 were £42970, although since that time expenditure has meant that it is unlikely that this figure will be reached again. The current level of cover is for £38,000. Councillor Wilkinson proposed that the level of cover be increased to £45,000, to cover all eventualities. This was seconded by Councillor Methley and agreed by all present.

Based on this recommendation Councillor Wilkinson further proposed that the Annual Return be approved and accepted by the Council. This was seconded by Councillor Methley and agreed by all present. The relevant notice to this effect is to be displayed for fourteen days in the Parish Notice Board at The Green Dragon, to meet current legislation and the Clerk is to contact the insurance company to obtain the relevant forms to increase the fidelity guarantee cover.

**2007/186. PRECEPT 2008/2009**

The Clerk provided all present with a budget planning document for consideration, in order that the precept can be agreed at the meeting to be held in January 2008. A discussion took place concerning charitable donations made by the Parish Council to local organisations. Councillor Wilkinson suggested that, where funds are requested to purchase a specific item, the Parish Council request that the item be purchased and the invoice passed to the Parish Council for payment, thus ensuring that funds are expended on the item requested. This was agreed to be acceptable and will be considered when the next request for financial assistance is made. It was further agreed that the Clerk provide all absent Councillors with the budget planning document and that the item be placed on the Agenda for the meeting in January 2008, by which time the request for the 2008/2009 precept should have been received from Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

**2007/187. BENCH AT CHURCHFIELD**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence from Berneslai Homes, giving permission for the Parish Council to place a bench at Churchfield, on the grass adjacent to number 49. The Parish Council will be totally responsible for the siting of the bench and for any future repair and maintenance to the bench. A discussion followed during which Councillor Wilkinson suggested that, in light of the vandalism suffered by the original bench placed in the Welfare Ground, quotations be obtained by the Clerk for a bench made from recycled materials which requires little or no maintenance. The benches that Councillor Wilkinson has seen would prove very difficult to vandalise and thus should be suitable for the purpose required. This was agreed to be acceptable by all present and the Clerk is to obtain quotations as soon as possible and place the item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

**2007/188. HUTHWAITE QUARRY**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has met with Mr Landman of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council concerning the provision of suitable signage for Huthwaite Quarry to advise members of the public that there is no public footpath through the Quarry. Mr Landman is obtaining advice from the Legal Department upon suitable wording, and whether or not fencing is required to demark the western extent of the Quarry. Once this information has been received the item will be placed on the Agenda of the next meeting for further consideration.

**2007/189. BELMONT TERRACE GARDEN**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received two quotations for the ongoing maintenance of the garden at Belmont Terrace to include two cuts per month from March to September, cutting the grass, weeding of borders, keeping the shrubs on the boundary cut and trimmed and removing all waste from the site:-

- i) **Handyman Garden Services £200 per month (£100 per fortnight)**
- ii) **Thyme Garden Maintenance £110 per month**

After discussion it was agreed that these amounts were excessive and that it would be preferable to employ the services of a local person if at all possible. Councillor Wilkinson suggested that a local resident called Mr Howlett may be interested in quoting and offered to contact him to discuss the matter and, if necessary, refer him to the Clerk.

The Clerk advised the meeting that she also obtained quotations for a one-off quotation to cut back the shrubs at the perimeter of the garden to a maintainable level and removing the waste from the site. The shrubs have become very overgrown and this work could be done as soon as possible:-

- i) **Handyman Garden Services £180**
- ii) **Thyme Garden Maintenance £500**

After discussion it was agreed that Councillor Wilkinson contact Mr Anthony Galloway, a local person, to ask if he would be interested in quoting for this one-off job, and refer him to the Clerk if necessary. A decision on both of these items will be made once Mr Howlett and Mr Galloway have been contacted and their quotations obtained.

#### **2007/190. CAROL SERVICES**

Invitations to all Councillors, Chairman and Clerk had been received as follows:-

- i) **Penistone Town Council Civic Carol Service – Sunday 16 December 2007 at St Baptist Church, Penistone, at 6.00 p.m.**
- ii) **Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Civic Carol Service – Thursday 13 December 2007 at St Mary’s Church, Barnsley, at 4.00 p.m.**

The Clerk asked that, if any Councillor wishes to attend either service, they contact her in order that she can provide numbers to each organisation.

#### **2007/191. NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2008**

The Clerk advised the meeting that items for the January 2008 newsletter should be provided to her by Christmas. Councillor Methley raised concern that a number of residents have not received newsletters, and that every effort should be made to ensure that all houses are provided with a newsletter in the future. The areas in question were Crane Moor, the bottom of Cote Lane, and Tontine House. These comments were noted. The following items were agreed for inclusion:-

- i) **Thurgoland Tuesday Group – Councillor Methley**
- ii) **Thurgoland History Group – Mr Maurice Williams**
- iii) **Thurgoland Thespians – Councillor Methley**
- iv) **Thanks to Dr & Mrs Kershaw – as agreed earlier**
- v) **District Councillors Surgery at the end of January – District Councillor Wilson**

It was also agreed that spare copies of the newsletter be provided to Thurgoland Post Office, Thorpes Garage, The Green Dragon and The Bridge Inn.

#### **2007/192. CHRISTMAS TREES**

The Clerk advised the meeting that Christmas Trees are to be delivered to Churchfield and Thurgoland Welfare Hall on Monday 10 December 2007 and the one at Churchfield will be erected by Neighbourhood Pride on Tuesday 11 December 2007. Mr H Denton has kindly offered to put the lights on the tree at Churchfield and the Clerk is to provide him with lights, cables and the key to the electricity supply.

#### **2007/193. 10 MINUTE ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The following items were raised by members of the public:-

- i) **Heritage Lottery Bid from Thurgoland History Group**

Mr Maurice Williams advised the meeting that the bid for the History Project is almost ready for submission. However, he asked if it would be possible for the website that will be set up to be linked to the Parish Council website at the appropriate time. This was considered to be acceptable and the Clerk is to speak to Mr King to ask him if he is prepared to do this work. Mr Williams further commented that Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council has stated that they will only maintain the new footpath to the pump at Halifax Road if they do the initial work. It was noted that, as they own the land, they have to do the work anyway. The amount being applied for to Heritage Lottery is £38,000.

- ii) **Sharp Ford Bridge – Cote Lane**

Mr Maurice Williams advised the meeting that it is apparent that some signage is required at Sharp Ford Bridge, Cote Lane, as the bridge is very narrow and motorists do not know who has the right of way. It was noted that this item has been raised previously, but it was felt that it should be raised again, with a request for priority signs to be erected giving motorists coming from Wortley Top Forge priority over the ones coming down Cote Lane.

- iii) **Bridleway at Crane Moor Nook and bus passes**

Mr Campbell introduced himself as a new resident of the Parish, living at High House Farm. He commented that he has recently walked the bridleway discussed earlier in the meeting and confirmed that it is in need of trimming back. He also confirmed that bus passes are valid from 9.00 a.m. as he has recently collected his! These comments were noted.

- iv) **Pump at Huthwaite Lane**

Mr John Wade asked if it would be possible to look at doing cosmetic work on the pump at Huthwaite Lane. After discussion it was agreed that this item be placed on the Agenda for the January meeting, and a decision made at that time.

**2007/194. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- i) **Erection of rear extension to dwelling**  
**Bank Barn, Sheffield Road, Thurgoland Bank, Sheffield**

It was noted that this application is for an extension to house units for both ground source heat pumps and wind turbine. After discussion it was agreed that no comments would be made.

- ii) **Erection of two storey side extension to dwelling**  
**17 Hollin Moor View, Thurgoland, Sheffield**

There were no comments or observations to be made on this application.

- iii) **Erection of a two storey extension to dwelling**  
**High House Farm, Crane Moor Nook, Crane Moor, Sheffield**

There were no comments or observations to be made on this application.

**2007/195. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS PRODUCED**

- i) **Erection of detached garage**  
**Plot 15, Garage Site, Churchfield, Thurgoland**

There were no comments or observations to be made on this application.

- ii) **Formation of horse riding exercise menage**  
**Land at Roper House Lane, Thurgoland**

Councillor Wilkinson declared an interest in this application and took no part in the discussion.

There were no comments or observations to be made on this application.

- iii) **Erection of two storey rear extension to dwelling (resubmission)**  
**1 Cliffe Avenue, Crane Moor, Thurgoland**

Councillor Wilkinson declared an interest in this application and took no part in the discussion, other than to provide information. He advised the meeting that the original application was refused because of the potential impact on the adjoining property. However, the residents of the adjoining property have since submitted a Planning Application of their own, to build a 'mirror' extension, which means that the original reason for refusal has been removed. The application has not changed at all in light of this development. There were no comments or observations to be made on this application.

**2007/195. APPROVED/DECLINED APPLICATIONS AS NOTIFIED SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

- i) **Installation of a 6.5m high wind turbine supporting a 3 blade rotor of 3.5m**  
**Bank Barn, Sheffield Road, Thurgoland**

This application has been approved with conditions:

- i) **The turbine will be removed in 20 years' time**  
ii) **If the turbine ceases to be operational for 6 months, it will be dismantled and the site returned to agricultural use.**  
iii) **The rota blades will have a matt finish**  
iv) **Noise levels will be monitored to protect the amenity of the occupiers of nearby dwellings.**

These conditions were noted.

- ii) **Erection of six dwellings with associated parking**  
**Smithy Hill, Thurgoland**

This application has been approved with many conditions. The Clerk advised the meeting that if anyone wishes to read the conditions they should contact her and she will provide copies.

**2007/196. NEWSLETTERS/CIRCULARS**

All newsletters and circulars received since the last meeting were passed on to Councillor Oxley for her to read and report any items to the next meeting.

**2007/197. ACCOUNTS.**

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the production of the Agenda, one further item had been presented for payment, an amount of £52.87 for replacement Christmas Tree bulbs.

Cheques for the following items were therefore signed:-

|                      |                      |         |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Andrew King          | Website updating     | 30.00   |
| Ruth Atkinson        | Salary – December    | 363.44  |
| Thurgoland School    | Room Hire            | 15.00   |
| BDO Stoy Hayward     | Audit Fee            | 158.63. |
| Symantec             | Computer updates     | 45.98   |
| Cartridge World      | Ink jet cartridges   | 31.90   |
| Edmundson Electrical | Christmas Tree Bulbs | 52.87   |

**2007/198. MATTERS TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The following items were requested to be placed on the Agenda for the meeting to be held in January:-

- i) Clerks salary annual increase

**2007/199. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 2 January 2008 at Crane Moor Chapel, Crane Moor and will commence at 7.00 p.m.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

RUTH ATKINSON  
Parish Clerk