

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THURGOLAND PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT THURGOLAND SCHOOL, THURGOLAND, ON WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2007 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT

Councillors Berry, Blythe, Hamblen, Methley, Oxley, Rowley, Warttig and Wilkinson. Also present R Atkinson (Parish Clerk) and four members of the public.

Councillor Blythe opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

2006/238. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Apologies had been received by Councillor Berry from District Councillor Barnard. There were no Declarations of Interest in any items on the Agenda.

2006/239. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 JANUARY 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 January 2007 had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Blythe noted that a small amendment should be made to the minutes. Minute 2006/222 stated that Councillor Blythe had proposed the precept to be set at £9,500. In actual fact the proposal had been made by Councillor Methley and had been seconded by Councillor Oxley. Following this amendment Councillor Oxley proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Methley, agreed by all present and the minutes were signed by Councillor Blythe.

2006/240. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising that were not covered on the Agenda.

2006/241. CRIME AND SAFETY

Councillor Hamblen advised the meeting that there has been a spight of car break-ins in Crane Moor. The Police had been called and the residents of Crane Moor were very impressed by their actions. They had pushed notes through letterboxes advising residents to be aware of the car crimes and to ask for any help in detecting who was responsible. Councillor Wilkinson advised the meeting that he has been made aware of car crime involving placing a piece of paper on the rear windscreen of a car. When the driver sees it and gets out of the car to remove it, usually leaving the engine running, someone jumps into the car and steals it, along with all the contents, which can be things like handbags and house keys. This timely advice was noted.

2006/242. REPORT FROM THE CLERK ON ITEMS ON APPENDIX 'A'

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the Agenda was drawn up she has received responses to items 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 on the Appendix as follows:-

i) Nettles at entrance to Welfare Ground

'The Local Neighbourhood Pride Supervisor has now visited this site and determined that the footpath concerned is in fact a designated public footpath under the control of the Countryside Section. The matter has therefore been referred to them for consideration.' This was noted.

ii) Entrance to Crane Moor Recreation Ground, Crane Moor

'The hedge in question has recently been flailed using a tractor mounted side-arm flail and a warning sign has been requested. The Highways Traffic section will consider the request and erect a warning sign if they consider it necessary. In the meantime we will continue to carry out routine hedge cutting in this area.' This was noted.

iii) Footpath along the A629 at Thurgoland

'The Local Neighbourhood Pride Supervisor has inspected the recently resurfaced sections of the footpath but can find no sections that are overgrown. If the problem is still persisting, can you identify the exact location to enable us to deal with the issue.' Councillor Methley advised the meeting that the Supervisor must have been looking at the wrong section as the weeds are showing through the new surface. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Neighbourhood Pride to advise them of this and, if necessary to arrange for Councillor Methley to meet the Supervisor on site.

iv) Litter in lay-by along A629 towards Wortley

'Apparently there are two lay-bys in the vicinity and both are litter picked on a routine basis. The larger lay-by has recently had a litter bin installed which should also help with the litter problem. The local

Neighbourhood Pride team are aware of the litter and will be dealing with any problems as they occur.' This was noted.

v) Defective lighting on A629 at Oxspring crossroads

'The lighting was repaired on Friday 19 January, following the receipt of your letter.' This was noted.

2006/243. NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIDE

There were no items to report to Neighbourhood Pride and no responses other than the ones noted in minute 2006/242.

2006/244. LAND AT HUTHWAITE LANE/MOUNT PLEASANT

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a letter advising the following:-

'I wrote to Mr Rollinson on 12 December 2006 requesting that he remove the steel containers from the land referred to. As you are no doubt aware, Mr Rollinson has chosen to ignore that request and as a result I have now instructed the Council legal department to prepare a formal Enforcement Notice. That Notice requires the removal of the containers and the reduction of the section of fence bounding Huthwaite Lane to 1 metre in height. However, given the various issues and constraints in legal services these Notices can take quite a while to prepare. I will, of course, keep you informed regarding the service date for the Notice and any other developments.' This was noted. Councillor Berry advised the meeting that District Councillor Barnard is to contact her in due course to advise her of any further developments as they happen. This was also noted.

2006/245. PROVISION OF WEBSITE UPDATING

The Clerk advised the meeting that a decision on the provision of keeping the website updated is required as the initial £500 provided from the Parish Plan Funds has now been used up. The annual cost quoted from Effective Internet is £1110.00. A discussion took place and the following course of action was agreed upon:-

- i) That Councillor Oxley contact a local person to ask if he would be prepared to take on the responsibility of updating the site for a modest honorarium of approximately £40.00 per month. Councillor Oxley is to advise the Clerk of his decision.
- ii) That Councillor Wilkinson also contact a local person to ask the same question and to advise the Clerk of his decision.
- iii) That if neither of these persons are prepared to take on this responsibility, Councillor Blythe is given authority to instruct the Clerk to arrange for Effective Internet to update the site for one month until the next meeting at a cost of £80.00.
- iv) That this item be placed on the Agenda of the next meeting for further discussion.

2006/246. PARISH PATHS

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that she attended a meeting on 24 January 2007 to discuss the crossing of the River Don at the stepping stones. The meeting was attended by representatives on Hunshel Parish Council, Trevor Mayne (BMBC), Chris Davison (Peak and Northern Footpath Society and local residents. Hunshel Parish Council have passed a resolution that they support the proposal to provide a bridge across the River Don. A local resident, whose land adjoins the river bank, gave a report in which it was noted that approximately 600 walkers and runners a year use the stepping stones. During the past year many walkers have required help to get across and the stones are considered very dangerous. Trevor Mayne agreed that within a month he will provide details of a survey and costings for a bridge, along with details of how much finance and 'man-hours' Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council can put into the project. Peak and Northern Footpath Society are willing to provide finance for the project and details of the group were provided to the Clerk to keep on file. Once a survey and costings are available a site visit will be arranged at which Councillors Rowley and Blythe will represent Thurgoland Parish Council. Councillor Hamblen proposed that Thurgoland Parish Council become affiliated to The Peak and Northern Footpath Society as it is run on a contribution basis. The annual cost for a group is £10.00. Councillor Wilkinson counter proposed that a decision on this matter should be made at the next meeting when further information on the project should be available. This item is to be placed on the Agenda of the March meeting.

2006/247. PLAY EQUIPMENT AT CRANE MOOR RECREATION GROUND

The Clerk had provided all Councillors with an evaluation of the three tenders received for the replacement of the play equipment at Crane Moor Recreation Ground. The prices quoted were:-

i)	Playdale	£28,765.18
ii)	Play and Leisure	£24,999.93
iii)	Record	£24,999.93

Playdale can offer timber equipment and both Playdale and Record can offer woodland colours. Play and Leisure only offer bright colours. However, Play and Leisure included 2 springies and a nattertube in their quotation, which neither of the other companies offered for the price quoted. The Clerk provided colour artists impressions of each scheme and a discussion took place which took into account all the options offered. The Clerk reminded the Council that the maximum grant available is £25,000. Councillor Rowley asked how much of the money 'ring-fenced' for Crane Moor was still available. The Clerk advised that an amount of £1396.90 was still available and, based on this information, Councillor Wilkinson proposed that £1000 of these funds be put as the Parish Council contribution to the project. This was seconded by Councillor Oxley and agreed by all present. Councillor Wilkinson further proposed that the tender from Play and Leisure be accepted as the one on which the bid should be based. This was seconded by Councillor Oxley and agreed by all present. The Clerk advised the meeting that the funding bid has to be submitted by the end of March and a decision will be made in April. The Clerk is to complete the application within the timescale and advise the Council further at the appropriate time.

2006/248. PARISH NEWSLETTER

The Clerk handed out newsletters to all Councillors to distribute in their area.

2006/249. PARISH PLAN

The Clerk advised the meeting that the next stage in the preparation of a Parish Plan is to look at which issues have been identified by residents via the questionnaire and to draw up a timetable and action plan. The Silkstone Parish Plan is a good example of this and Councillor Blythe offered to take their plan and begin work on the Thurgoland Plan, using this as a template. This was agreed to be acceptable by all present. Councillor Blythe suggested that, whilst the Plan is in preparation, any information relating to third parties should be passed to them where appropriate. He particularly felt that the answers to questions 18 and 19 relating to Thurgoland Welfare Committee should be made available to them as soon as possible. This was agreed to be acceptable. Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that a number of Councillors had met with Dr Morris from Penistone Group Practice to discuss possible improvements to the Surgery in Thurgoland. Dr Morris had thought that funding for such a project may be available from the Rural Target Fund but she has since contact Councillor Blythe to advise him that this source of funding has now finished and therefore any major project for the Surgery is currently on hold. If an alternative funding source is identified Dr Morris will contact the Clerk to arrange to attend a meeting of the Parish Council and progress the matter further. All of this information was noted.

2006/250. HERITAGE PROJECTS IN THE VILLAGE

Councillor Berry advised the meeting that a meeting has been held at which Maurice Williams (Thurgoland History Group), Councillor Berry, John Wade (local resident) and John Hislop (Penistone Partnership Heritage and Tourism Officer) discussed the possibility of a Heritage Project being undertaken in the Parish. Mr Hislop suggested that once a suitable project has been identified, a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund could be made. A meeting has been arranged with Torres Pumps on Monday 12 February 2007 to look at the village pump on Halifax Road. A revised quotation of £2745.00 has been received for the work needed to restore the pump at Huthwaite Lane to working order. A discussion took place at which it became clear that the History Group are willing to take on the project and would like to see a Heritage Trail in the Parish, taking in such items as the pumps, various troughs and other items of heritage and historical interest. It was noted that the pump on Halifax Road, whilst insured by the Parish Council, who appear to be 'ownerless' and the Clerk agreed to check the insurance documents to try to find out further information on this matter. At this stage it has been suggested that a leaflet of the Heritage Trail be produced, along with a booklet of photographs. Mr John Wade suggested that if anyone had any ideas for other projects which can be undertaken as part of a trail, they contact the History Group with their ideas. One suggestion was the railway line at Crane Moor. It was agreed that, following the meeting on 12 February 2007, the item will be placed on the Agenda of the next meeting for further discussion.

2006/251. SOUTH YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE

The Clerk had provided each Councillor with a copy of a response received from South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, which gave a detailed response to the questions raised by Parishioners via the recent questionnaire. It was agreed that the response be kept on file and referred to in the future should questions concerning bus services be raised.

2006/252. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEMES

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a letter from the Barnsley Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Group advising that at present there are approximately seven schemes in Thurgoland and non in Crane Moor. Further information was also received concerning the setting up and running of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. After discussion it was agreed that, as many residents had said that they would be interested in becoming part of a scheme, details of how to set up and run one will be included in the next Parish newsletter so that any resident who wishes to progress this matter can do so.

2006/253. GRIT BIN PROVISION

This item had been placed on the Agenda so that the locations of grit bins in Crane Moor and Old Mill Lane can be identified. The Clerk advised the meeting that in January 2006 a letter had been received advising of the following locations:-

- i) Old Mill Lane
Where the road splits into two levels
Top of the land to New Millhouse
Adjacent to the bridge abutments

- ii) Crane Moor
Outside High House Farm
Outside the Old School
At the junction of Crane Moor Road and Pog Lane
Cliffe Avenue

These locations were noted. However, Mr John Wade of Old Mill Lane asked if it would be possible to raise the subject of providing an additional bin along the stretch of Old Mill Lane between Cote Lane and the end of the built up area. The Clerk advised the meeting that this request had been made in October 2005 and it was agreed that a further request be made.

2006/254. RURAL POST OFFICES

The Clerk had provided all Councillors with a copy of a response received from Jim Fitzpatrick, MP, on the subject of Rural Post Offices. It was agreed that the letter be kept on file for future reference should it be necessary.

2006/255. PLANTERS ON PAVEMENT AT COTE LANE

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a letter advising 'that an Inspector will visit the location and arrange for the removal of the planters'. This was noted.

2006/256. ALLOTMENT REFURBISHMENT

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a letter advising 'We are currently working on the site and should have the works completed in the next few weeks, weather permitting. It was always going to be slow going carrying out this sort of work during winter months as we are dependant on ground conditions, however, I am confident the works will be completed shortly allowing your allotment tenants time to carry out preparatory works on their plots.' This was noted and it was agreed to put this item on the Agenda of the next meeting as agreement needs to be reached on the subject of rents for the year 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

2006/257. CHRISTMAS TREE AT CHURCHFIELD

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that the tree had been located in the original position during last December as it had not been possible to move the 'hole' to a location nearer to Halifax Road. Also, the lights were on 24 hours a day, despite the street lamp working correctly during the period in question. A discussion followed and the following was agreed upon:-

- i) That the Clerk contact Mr Barry Goodyear to ask him to provide a quote to move the supply box to a move convenient location nearer to Halifax Road.

- ii) That the Clerk purchase the 'growing' tree that has already been agreed upon and plant it in the area of grass nearer to Halifax Road.
- iii) That once a quotation has been received for the re-siting of the supply box, a request be made to re-locate the hole for the tree.

2006/258. 10 MINUTE ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL

i) Surface water at Cote Lane

Mr John Wade advised the Parish Council that during wet weather there is an excessive amount of surface water running from the Cricket Field on Cote Lane, under the bridge, and down to the junction with Old Mill Lane. Councillor Wilkinson confirmed this information and it was agreed that the Clerk write to Highways Department at Barnsley MBC to ask them to look at this problem.

ii) Speeding along Old Mill Lane

Mrs Wade of Old Mill Lane asked if any progress had been made since the last meeting on the subject of speeding along Old Mill Lane and the confusion about whether it is a bridleway or a highway. The Clerk advised the meeting that no response had been received from the Highways Department on this subject.

iii) Copster Lane, Thurgoland

Mrs Margaret Denton advised the meeting that, once again, the 'old road' i.e. Copster Lane out of Thurgoland is very difficult to walk on as it is covered with mud and farm debris. This matter has been raised previously and it was agreed that the Clerk write to Barnsley MBC to ask if they can inspect the path and take the necessary action to ensure that it is clear of the excessive debris.

iii) Land at Huthwaite Lane/Mount Pleasant

A resident of Huthwaite Lane thanked the Parish Council for their ongoing monitoring of the situation and was pleased that progress is being made in the removal of the containers and fencing.

2006/259. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS PRODUCED
Change of use of former Telephone Exchange to dwelling
Former Telephone Exchange, Halifax Road, Thurgoland

No comments or observations were made on this application.

2006/260. APPROVED/DECLINED APPLICATIONS AS NOTIFIED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The Clerk advised the meeting that the following grant of Planning Consent had been received:-

Outline application for erection of a detached dwelling.

Land adjacent to Ayton Wood Cottage, Crane Moor Road, Crane Moor

The approval had the following conditions attached:-

'The development hereby permitted shall not be commenced unless and until approval of the following Reserved Matters has been obtained in writing from the Local Planning Authority:-

- (a) The design of the proposed development.
- (b) The external appearance of the proposed development.
- (c) Landscaping.

Reason: In order to allow the Local Planning Authority to assess the details of the Reserved Matters with regard to the development plan and other material considerations.

2006/261. 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.

2006/262. ACCOUNTS.

The following items were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly:-

R Atkinson	Salary – February	363.44
Thurgoland School	Room Hire	15.00

2006/263. 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 March:-

- i) Report on Environmental Forum - Councillor Hamblen
- ii) Request for financial assistance towards grass cutting – Thurgoland Welfare Association - Parish Clerk

2006/264. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 7 March 2007 at Thurgoland School, Thurgoland at 7.00 p.m.

Councillor Wilkinson offered his apologies for the meeting in March.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

RUTH ATKINSON
Parish Clerk