

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THURGOLAND PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT CRANE MOOR CHAPEL, CRANE MOOR, ON WEDNESDAY 3 JANUARY 2007 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT

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

Councillor Blythe opened the meeting by wishing everyone present a Happy New Year. He also asked for permission to move Agenda item 13 and place it between Agenda items 8 and 9. This was agreed to be acceptable.

2006/212. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Apologies had been received by the Clerk from Councillor Berry (family illness) and District Councillor Rowley (previously arranged meeting). There were no Declarations of Interest in any items on the Agenda.

2006/213. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6 December 2006 had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Methley asked that a small amendment be made to the minutes. Minutes 2006/189 vi) stated that the entrance to the footpath through the Welfare Ground came out opposite the Church on Halifax Road. The entrance referred to was in actual fact the one opposite the school. It was agreed that this amendment be made to the minutes and that the Clerk advise Neighbourhood Pride accordingly. Following this amendment Councillor Methley proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Oxley, agreed by all present and the minutes were signed by Councillor Blythe.

2006/214. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Wilkinson advised the meeting that an Enforcement Notice has been issued for the removal of containers on the land at Huthwaite Lane. This was noted.

2006/215. CRIME AND SAFETY

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence from Barnsley Neighbourhood Watch Partnership concerning Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the Borough. It was agreed that this item be discussed under Agenda item 13 as it would be more appropriate to do so.

2006/216. REPORT FROM THE CLERK ON ITEMS ON APPENDIX 'A'

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the Agenda was drawn up there has been a response to item 11 on the Appendix as follows:-

'I have carried out an inspection and a detailed feasibility study would need to be carried out to see if it was possible to provide additional spaces. The funding to carry out this study is not available in the Council's highway budgets due to other priorities which need to be addressed first. I will now ask the local area forum if they have any finance available to carry out these investigations into producing a scheme and estimate.'

These comments were noted and the disappointment of the Parish Council was also noted.

2006/217. NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIDE

Councillor Rowley asked that it be noted that large amounts of litter seem to congregate on the A629 between Wortley and the top of Crane Moor Nook, particularly in the lay-by. Whilst it was noted that this area is just outside the Parish Boundary and is in Wortley, it was agreed that the Clerk write to Neighbourhood Pride to advise them of this and to ask if this lay-by has a recognised collection system.

2006/218. LAND AT HUTHWAITE LANE/MOUNT PLEASANT

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received telephone calls from District Councillors Wilson and Barnard who are concerned about the activity on this site. Both District Councillors have promised their help and support in monitoring the situation and have asked that any further activity be reported to them as soon as it occurs. An Enforcement Notice has been served which requires the removal of the containers before 20 December 2006. It was noted that this has not taken place at the present time. It was agreed that the situation be monitored as suggested and that the item be placed on the Agenda of the next meeting.

2006/219. PROVISION OF WEBSITE UPDATING

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a quotation from Effective Internet who will update the website for a monthly fee of £80.00. There is also an annual hosting fee of £150.00 which will make a total annual charge of £1110.00. Discussion took place regarding the website and it was noted that twenty one households who responded to the recent questionnaire look at the site for local news and events. It was agreed that a decision would not be made at this meeting and that the item be deferred until February 2007. It was noted that the site is currently being updated with the funds made available from the Parish Plan project via the Rural Target Fund.

2006/220. PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRES

This item had been moved up the Agenda at the request of Councillor Blythe.

Councillor Blythe provided all Councillors with a copy of the results of the questionnaire. It was noted that the response was disappointing at 126, but nevertheless the results were valid and will form the Parish Plan in due course.

As there was a question referring to Neighbourhood Watch, it was felt appropriate to discuss the content of the letter received by the Clerk from the Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Group. In the survey, 43 households suggested that they would join a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, with 24 households thinking that a scheme already existed. The letter received raised concern that there are a number of groups being set up that are not part of the structured organisation of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and therefore are not registered and do not abide by a proper constitution. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk contact the Chairperson of the group to ascertain how many constituted schemes exist in Thurgoland in order that an informed decision can be made on the way forward on this subject.

The section concerning bus services in the Parish was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk should respond to the letter received from Mr M Clapham MP on this subject.

Councillor Blythe went through the results of the questionnaire and discussion took place on many issues raised. Councillor Wilkinson offered a vote of thanks to Councillor Blythe for his hard work in producing the results and this was echoed by all present. He also proposed that the results be accepted as the basis for the production of a Parish Plan and that they be sent out with the newsletter which will be produced in February 2007. This was agreed by all present.

2006/221. AUDIT OPINION FROM BDO STOY HAYWARD

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received the Audit Opinion for year ended 31 March 2006 and the following issues were raised by the auditors:-

i) Fidelity Guarantee Insurance

'We strongly recommend that the Council considers the level of Fidelity Guarantee Insurance it has and sets this to a level so that it is adequate for this purpose.'

After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Methley that the level of Fidelity Guarantee Insurance be increased to £40,000. This was seconded by Councillor Hamblen and agreed by all present.

ii) Reserves held by the Parish Council

'We note that the balances held by the Council appear high and have been building up over the years.'

After discussion it was agreed that this comment be noted.

iii) Annual Return

Bearing in mind the two issues raised by the auditors which had been addressed, Councillor Wilkinson proposed that the Annual Return be approved and accepted by the Council. This was seconded by Councillor Hamblen and agreed by all present. The Clerk is to display the relevant notice to this effect at the appropriate time.

2006/222. PRECEPT REQUEST 2007/2008

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received the official request from Barnsley MBC for the precept to be raised for 2007/2008. A document had been circulated to all Councillors outlining projected expenditure, net assets, available funds to carry forward and a proposal from the Clerk that the precept be set at £14,000. The subject was discussed at length and following this discussion Councillor Blythe proposed that the precept be set at £9,500. This was seconded by Councillor Methley and agreed by all present. The Clerk is to advise Barnsley MBC of this decision.

It was noted that the Parish Council must ensure that Thurgoland Parish receives the basic service from Barnsley MBC that all other areas within the Borough receive and that funds are used to provide additional services where and when necessary.

2006/223. PARISH PATHS

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received two letters from Trevor Mayne following his attendance at the meeting held in December 2006. The following items were reported:-

i) Footpath 39 at Bird Lane

Mr Mayne enclosed some waymarking discs and asked if the Parish Council could put them up until such time as the signpost can be replaced. Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that there is nothing to attach them to apart from trees and she is sure that it is unacceptable to attach signs to trees. This was noted.

ii) Footpath 12 from Crane Moor to Sim Hill

This was cut back by rangers on 3 October 2006.

iii) Footpath 23 from Old Mill Lane to Huthwaite Lane

There is only one stile in need of repair and as most walkers can access the footpath on the top side it is only logged as medium priority at present.

iv) Volunteers cutting back vegetation

It has been established in case law that a member of the public may take a pair of secateurs to vegetation across a path, but to take loppers or a bow saw they should be acting on behalf of BMBC and gain their permission. It would be best if agreement could be reached by both parties in advance as to which paths the Parish Council can cut back on behalf of BMBC. Councillor Rowley suggested that this should be addressed in the spring and asked if it would be possible for an article to appear in the newsletter asking for potential volunteers to re-form the Parish Paths Group to contact her so that progress can be made on getting a group together. This was agreed to be acceptable.

v) Footpaths 16 and 17

These two footpaths have been logged for cutting. A volunteer group has cut the section of path north of Toad Hall Farm and there is now a drainage problem to solve. The obstruction of footpath 17 is being dealt with by the Enforcement Officer who has given it high priority.

vi) Stepping stones across the River Don

The public right of way could be either the stones or a footbridge. A feasibility study will not be undertaken until Councillor Rowley has met with the residents to decide upon their preferred course of action.

vii) Footpath 29 at Romtickle

Mr Mayne has met with Mr John Wade and has agreed to add signs to correctly identify the bridleway and footpath for walkers from both directions. Mr Wade confirmed that this meeting had taken place and would keep the Parish Council informed of progress on this matter.

All of the above points were noted

2006/224. PLAY EQUIPMENT AT CRANE MOOR RECREATION GROUND

The Clerk advised the meeting that all three tenders will be received by 5 January 2007. At that time the Clerk will contact Jo Birch to ask her to either meet with the Clerk or attend the next meeting in order to progress the matter and prepare the funding bid as soon as possible.

2006/225. FEBRUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER

The Clerk advised the meeting that she will be working on the newsletter on Sunday 14 January 2007 and all items to be included should be forwarded to her before that date. Councillor Blythe is to provide the report from the questionnaire to be included and the following items are also to appear:-

- i) Volunteers for re-formation of Parish Paths Group
- ii) Information about the Tuesday Group
- iii) Thanks to Dr & Mrs Kershaw for their work on the War Memorial
- iv) A note that the organ refurbishment at Holy Trinity Church will take place in the Spring.
- v) Dates of the History Group meetings in the Spring
- vi) Useful contact numbers for BMBC
- vii) Dance activities at Thurgoland Chapel and Crane Moor Chapel

2006/226. HERITAGE PROJECTS IN THE VILLAGE

Councillor Berry was not present at the meeting but had left a message with the Clerk advising that she has been unable to progress this item since last meeting. The Clerk has written to the History Group to ask if they wish to progress a joint venture project, but is still awaiting their response. This item will be placed on the Agenda of the next meeting.

2006/227. PROVISION OF BULBS TO BE PLANTED AROUND THE PARISH

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received an application form from Nigel Bath to apply to the Community Chest for funds to purchase bulbs. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Wilkinson that the Clerk make the application for £250.00. This was seconded by Councillor Methley and agreed by all present.

2006/228. THURGOLAND SCHOOL

Councillor Oxley advised the meeting that during a recent storm, damage had been caused to the roof of Thurgoland School. The estimated cost of repairing the damage is £4800 and the school does not have the funds to meet this bill. A discussion took place concerning the provision of a grant towards this cost and it was agreed that it was not appropriate to assist financially for a number of reasons.

2006/229. CE ELECTRIC UK

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received information and posters from CE Electric UK advising residents of the action they should take during the winter in the event of power failure. Each Councillor was given a copy of the leaflet, the Clerk is to place posters in the notice boards and a small article will be put in the Parish Newsletter.

2006/230. 10 MINUTE ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL

i) Lights on bollards on A629 at Oxspring crossroads

Councillor Methley spoke as a member of the public to advise the meeting that the lights around the bollards in the middle of the road at Oxspring crossroads have been out for some time, and the crossroads are dark as a result. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the street lighting department of Barnsley MBC to advise them of this.

ii) Allotment site at Thurgoland Hall Lane

Mr John Wade asked what progress has been made on the allotment site refurbishment. It was noted that the site has been clear to a point and weed killer applied in the appropriate places, but that no work has taken place for a few weeks. Councillor Wilkinson proposed that the Clerk pursue this project with vigour and report progress to the next meeting. This was agreed by all present.

iii) Old Mill Lane

Mrs Wade raised the subject of the speed limit on Old Mill Lane. The lane is signed as a bridleway although it has been adopted as a highway for many years. This is incongruous as there is a 30mph speed limit along the lane which changes to 60mph half way along. If it is a bridleway, surely there cannot be a speed restriction. If it is a highway, the bridleway sign is incorrect and the speed limit restrictions require re-assessing. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Highways Department at Barnsley MBC to ask for their comments on this matter.

2006/231. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**i) Erection of side extension and a first floor balcony
The Old Mill, Old Mill Lane, Thurgoland**

No comments or observations were made on this application.

**ii) Erection of a single storey rear, front and side extensions to bungalow
Highfields, Halifax Road, Thurgoland**

No comments or observations were made on this application.

2006/232. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS PRODUCED

The Clerk advised the meeting that no additional Planning Applications had been received since the Agenda was produced.

2006/233. APPROVED/DECLINED APPLICATIONS AS NOTIFIED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

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

Land within the cartilage of Ingle Mount, off Halifax Road, Thurgoland, S35 7AL

The reasons for refusal were:-

'It would introduce an undesirable form of backland development, materially detrimental to the amenities of the adjoining properties by reason of loss of outlook, privacy and disturbance from increased residential activity.

It would detract from the appearance of 'Ingle Mount' which is characterised by its impressive front elevation and setting within substantial gardens. In addition 'Ingle Mount' makes an important visual contribution to the village the loss of which would result in harm to the street scene and village character.'

2006/234. 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.

2006/235. ACCOUNTS.

Councillor Wilkinson proposed that the following items were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly. This was seconded by Councillor Hamblen and agreed by all present:-

R Atkinson	Salary – January	363.44
Crane Moor Chapel	Room Hire	12.00
BDO Stoy Hayward	Annual Audit Fee	141.00
Barnsley MBC	Provision of Dog Bin	117.50
Tom Horsfield	Provision of Christmas Trees	97.00

2006/236. 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 February:-

- i) Christmas Trees - Councillor Blythe
- ii) Provision of salt box at Hand Lane - Councillor Hamblen

2006/237. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

RUTH ATKINSON
Parish Clerk