

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THURGOLAND PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT THURGOLAND SCHOOL, HALIFAX ROAD, THURGOLAND, ON WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT

Councillors Berry, Blythe, Hamblen, Methley, Oxley, Rowley and Warttig. Also present District Councillors Barnard and Wilson, Mrs R Davies (Thurgoland School), Ms E Hunt (Barnsley MBC), R Atkinson (Parish Clerk), and six members of the public.

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

Councillor Blythe requested that two items not on the Agenda be allowed to be discussed. The first was an update on the affordable housing scheme in Thurgoland and the second was Thurgoland Tennis Tournament. It was agreed that as both of these items require action before September, they could be discussed.

2007/062. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Wilkinson. There were no Declarations of Interest in any items on the Agenda.

2007/063. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 JUNE 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6 June 2007 had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Blythe requested that minute 2007/052 (i) be amended and that items i-vi be deleted as these points were not yet in the public domain and not Parish Council business. This was agreed to be acceptable by all present.

Councillor Berry requested that minute 2007/061 be amended and that the second paragraph should read 'The Clerk advised the meeting that she had recently received an application via e-mail, a copy of which was provided to each Councillor. Consideration was given to both applications and it was agreed that the item be placed on the Agenda of the July meeting, when further consideration would be given.' This was agreed to be acceptable by all present.

The minutes were not signed at this time in light of these two amendments. Copies of the amended minutes are to be provided to each Councillor and they will be approved at the meeting to be held in September.

2007/064. THURGOLAND CHARITIES

Mrs R Davies had contacted the Clerk to ask if she could give a presentation on Thurgoland Charities to the Parish Council. The presentation outlined the work of the Charities and clarification was given on the issue of representatives to sit on the Charities. Three Trustees are recommended by the Parish Council, one is appointed by Thurgoland School and three are co-opted by the Trustees. The appointed Trustees serve a four year term of office and the co-opted Trustees a six year term of office. A timetable outlining when each Trustee is approaching the end of their term of office is to be provided prior to the Annual Parish Meeting. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Davies for her presentation and she left the meeting.

2007/065. AFFORDALE HOUSING SCHEME IN THURGOLAND

Ms E Hunt had contacted the Clerk to ask if she could attend the meeting to update the Parish Council on the proposed scheme at Fir Tree. This was considered acceptable and Ms Hunt outlined the current situation. Planning Permission is likely to be sought during July or August for the scheme, in order that building can commence in November, ending in April 2008. It was agreed that information be provided to the Clerk for inclusion in the October Parish Newsletter in order that residents can be kept fully informed on progress. Questions were raised by members of the public and were addressed as follows:-

- i) Residents who live within the vicinity of the proposed development will be able to raise specific concerns via the planning system.
- ii) Tenants of the garages on the plot in question will be notified of their notice in the very near future.
- iii) Concerns about the increased traffic on Smithy Hill/Roper Lane should be raised via the planning process.

Thanks were expressed to Ms Hunt for her presentation and she left the meeting.

2007/066. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The following 'Matters Arising from the Minutes' were raised:-

i) Huthwaite Quarry

This item did not appear on the Agenda as no response had been received. It will be placed on the Agenda of the meeting to be held in September and a response sought before that time.

ii) Planting of bulbs in the Parish

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a catalogue our bulbs and flowers suitable for planting around the Parish. After discussion it was agreed that Councillor Rowley, in conjunction with the Clerk should choose bulbs to the value of the £250 grant received and place the order for delivery in September. A decision on where to plant the bulbs will be made at the September meeting.

iii) Litter on Smithy Hill

The Clerk and Councillor Methley had both received information concerning the placing of rubbish in the bus shelter on Smithy Hill as follows:-

Regulatory Services checked the bus shelter and found no sign of waste being illegally tipped. However, Neighbourhood Pride are to monitor the situation and report any instances of tipping and any Councillor who sees any evidence should contact the Clerk who will report it immediately. Also, the Waste and Recycling Officer is to visit The Old Co-Op Superstore to ascertain if there are sufficient waste bins allocated to the premises for their commercial waste and take whatever steps are necessary to ensure their compliance. These points were noted.

2007/067. CRIME AND SAFETY

Councillor Methley advised the meeting that she has received reports that The Old Co-op Superstore has had its alcohol licence revoked, but that alcohol is still being sold. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk contact The Licensing Officer of South Yorkshire Police to ask if this is the case.

It had also been reported that alcohol is being sold from a car near the kick-wall at Thurgoland School.

This is also to be brought to the attention of the Licensing Officer at South Yorkshire Police.

2007/068 REPORT FROM THE CLERK ON ITEMS ON APPENDIX 'A'

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that he has spoken to Nigel Bath and that a meeting is to be arranged to consider all of the Highway matters currently on Appendix 'A'. District Councillor Wilson advised the meeting that at the present time the resurfacing of Halifax Road is not on the list of work to be done. Councillor Hamblen asked if, following the recent problems throughout the Borough caused by flooding, routine work on Highways will be delayed or re-prioritised. Councillor Wilson responded that this may be the case but that the Parish Council should still raise the long-term issues and try to have them resolved as soon as possible.

Councillor Hamblen asked if the problem of road erosion at Crane Moor could be raised as a matter of urgency. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Highways again to ask them to respond to this request.

2007/069. PARISH PATHS

i) Crossing over the River Don

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received an e-mail from Hunshelth Parish Council outlining their concern at the lack of progress on this subject, and the new 'price' of in excess of £100,000 for a bridge. No response has been received from Trevor Mayne since the meeting. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk write to Trevor Mayne again, requesting a meeting, and providing copies to Hunshelth Parish Council and District Councillors Wilson and Barnard.

ii) Damage to footpath from Cote Lane to Trans Pennine Trail

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received an e-mail from Mrs Barbara Bramall, advising of damage to a public footpath that runs through her land adjacent to the Trans Pennine Trail near Cote Lane. Mr John Wade advised the meeting that a notice has been erected advising that the footpath is unsafe. Mrs Bramall has contacted Barnsley MBC to advise them of the situation. It was noted that a response concerning responsibilities of land owners when footpaths run through their land is still awaited. However, as the landowner has reported the damage it was felt that no action should be taken by the Parish Council at this time.

iii) Rights of Way publication

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that she has received a leaflet advertising a publication called 'Rights of Way – a Guide to Law and Practice'. She felt that this publication will be an asset to the Parish Council. The cost is £29.95. This item is to be placed on the Agenda for the September meeting.

iv) Definitive map of Rights of Way

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that she has received a copy of a disc and licence agreement which gives the definitive map for Thurgoland on a CD ROM. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk look at this information and make a report to the September meeting.

2007/070. LAND ADJECENT TO HUTHWAITE LANE

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received an e-mail from the Legal Department at Barnsley MBC advising of the appeal being made concerning the Enforcement Notice served on the land at Huthwaite Lane/Mount Pleasant. It was noted that the Parish Council should be given an opportunity to

make comments to the appeal board and that no further action can be taken until comments are requested.

2007/071. HERITAGE PROJECTS IN THE VILLAGE

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received telephone information advising that a site visit has been made to the pump at Halifax Road by the Highways Department who have confirmed that they are in agreement with the provision of extending the footway from the War Memorial, including a handrail and work on the steps to make them safe. As the land in question is owned by the Highway Department, planning permission is not required. A contact is being sourced for an estimate for the work to be carried out and once this has been received the Clerk is to arrange for an estimate to be provided at the first possible opportunity.

The pump on Huthwaite Lane is posing more of a problem as the ownership of the land cannot be ascertained and it was noted that it is likely that cosmetic work only is to be carried out at this site. Any funds raised from the sale of the proposed book and DVD will be used to fund this work.

Mr Maurice Williams asked what level of financial support the Parish Council can give to the project, as this needs to be included in the bid. After discussion it was agreed that as this item was not on the Agenda, an amount cannot be agreed upon at this meeting and therefore this will be placed on the Agenda of the September meeting. Mr Williams asked if, in the meantime, a letter of support can be provided from the Parish Council. It was agreed that this was acceptable and the Clerk is to provide a suitable letter to Mr Williams.

2007/072. NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIDE

It was noted by Councillor Methley that the request to trim back the bushes near the War Memorial has not been carried out. It was agreed that the Clerk write again to Neighbourhood Pride to ask them to cut back the bushes immediately around the War Memorial as soon as possible.

2007/073. WORTLEY TOP FORGE

The Clerk had provided all Councillors with a copy of a document from South Yorkshire Trades Historical Trust Limited, outlining their work at Wortley Top Forge and inviting representatives to attend a meeting on 12 July 2007. After discussion it was agreed that Councillor Berry attend the meeting.

2007/074. CRANE MOOR RECREATION GROUND

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence from the Community Green Space Fund advising that the Parish Council has been successful in securing £24,000 to replace and improve the play equipment at Crane Moor Recreation Ground. Councillor Hamblen proposed that the Clerk now arrange for work to commence on the project as soon as possible and this was seconded by Councillor Oxley and agreed by all present. An agreement form for the grant is to be signed by the Clerk and returned as soon as possible. For clarification, the contractor chosen for the project is Play and Leisure.

2007/075. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The Clerk had provided all Councillors with copies of information concerning a review of all polling districts and places. It was noted by Councillor Blythe that the review does not affect any boundaries and is unlikely to affect where residents in Thurgoland Parish vote. It was agreed that Thurgoland Parish Council had no comment to make.

2007/076. JULY NEWSLETTER

The Clerk provided each Parish Councillor with copies of the July Newsletter for distribution around the Parish.

2007/077. THE QUEENS AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received information concerning the nomination process for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service which recognise outstanding voluntary activities by groups and individuals in the community. It was agreed that these details be placed in the Parish Notice Boards.

2007/078. 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) Bench in Welfare Ground

Mr Maurice Williams advised the meeting that the bench placed in Thurgoland Welfare Ground by the Parish Council to commemorate the work done by the Scout Leaders in the village has been vandalised and is in need of repair. He also suggested that it may be worth considering moving it to a place where it is less likely to suffer vandalism in the future. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk arrange for the bench to be removed to a safe location as soon as possible and for it to be repaired and re-stained and then to ask for permission for it to be re-located on Churchfield. Councillor Berry suggested a suitable location and the Clerk is to liaise with her to ask permission of Berneslai Homes.

ii) Footpath through Welfare Ground

A member of the public advised the meeting that the trees and bushes along the route of the footpath from the Post Office through the Welfare Ground to Halifax Road are obscuring the footpath and that nettles are growing over the footpath. It was agreed that the Clerk contact Neighbourhood Pride to ask them to trim back the bushes and cut down the nettles as soon as possible.

iii) Car parking at Roper Lane/Smithy Hill

A resident of Smithy Hill advised the meeting that, in his opinion, the car parking situation on Smithy Hill/Roper Lane on the bend is becoming increasingly difficult and an accident is likely to happen. Cars park on the bend, sometimes on both sides of the road, making it difficult for drivers to see around the bend. If the affordable housing scheme proposed at this location goes ahead it will make the situation worse. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk bring this matter to the attention of the Highways Department of Barnsley MBC for their comments.

iv) Planning Permission for stables

A member of the public asked if it was necessary to obtain Planning Permission for a stable. District Councillor Barnard advised that, on the whole, it is better to ask the Planning Department for their advice on any kind of building. They will advise if Planning Permission is required and therefore avoid any problems later on.

v) Water on Cote Lane

District Councillor Barnard asked if clarification could be given on the possible source of the running water down Cote Lane. It was noted that the water is not coming from the Cricket Ground, but comes from what is believed to be a spring near the bridge across the Trans Pennine Trail. District Councillor Barnard noted this and agreed to let the Clerk know when progress is made in dealing with this problem.

2007/079 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Erection of rear conservatory extension to dwelling.

10 Trinity Meadows, Thurgoland, Sheffield

No comments or observations were made on this application.

Erection of detached bungalow with integral garage (Outline),

Land adjacent 5 Lionel Hill, Crane Moor, Sheffield

It was noted that this application is for development within Green Belt and therefore comment made that it should be refused. If permission is granted it would set a precedent for the future.

Increasing height and design of roof to provide additional bedroom and ensuite to dwelling

12 Trinity Meadows, Thurgoland, Sheffield

It was noted that the proposed development would have a height implication in relation to the adjacent properties.

2007/080. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS PRODUCED

Conversion and extension to former telephone exchange to form one dwelling (amended scheme)

Former telephone exchange, Halifax Road, Thurgoland, Sheffield

It was noted that the original development, whilst in Green Belt, was on the same footprint as the original Telephone Exchange. This development will be on a larger footprint and therefore should be looked at carefully. It states on the application that there is no alteration of the existing access to the highway. The access has already been altered significantly.

**Residential development of one detached dwelling and garage
Site of former Men's Institute, Smithy Hill, Thurgoland, Sheffield**

It was noted that the access to this development will be onto Smithy Hill, which is very close to the Bus Stop and traffic lights. Concerns were also raised that there may be additional cars on Smithy Hill, which is already very congested at times.

2007/081. APPROVED/DECLINED APPLICATIONS AS NOTIFIED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

No notification of approved or declined applications had been notified since the last meeting.

2007/082. 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.

2007/083. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Clerk had provided all Councillors with a copy of the Annual Governance Statement for consideration. All questions on the Statement were answered in the affirmative and it was proposed by Councillor Berry that the Chairman sign the Statement so that it can be forwarded to the Auditors at the appropriate time. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and agreed by all present. Councillor Blythe signed and dated the Statement.

2007/084. ACCOUNTS.

Councillor Methley proposed that the items listed on the document provided to all Councillors be approved for payment. This was seconded by Councillor Hamblen and agreed by all present. Cheques for the following items were therefore signed:-

Mr Andrew King	Website updating	30.00
Ruth Atkinson	Salary – July and August	726.88
Tesco	Ink jet cartridge	14.97
P C World	Ink jet cartridge and paper	67.61
David Horsfall	Internal Audit Fee	20.00
Thurgoland School	Room Hire	15.00

Councillor Blythe asked if it would be possible to approve payment of £35.00 to Thurgoland Tennis Tournament as prizes for the winners. This was agreed to be acceptable and a cheque for this amount is to be drawn up for signature at the September meeting.

2007/085. 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 September:-

- i) Post Box at Crane Moor Nook - Councillor Rowley
- ii) Items for October newsletter - Clerk

2007/086. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council should be held on Wednesday 5 September 2007 at Crane Moor Chapel, Crane Moor and will commence at 7.00 p.m.

2007/087. VACANCY ON PARISH COUNCIL

It was resolved to exclude all members of the public at this time in order that an application for the remaining vacancy could be discussed.

After discussion it was agreed that both candidates for the remaining post of Councillor be advised of the time, date and place of the next meeting and invited to come along to observe. A decision will be made at the end of the meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

RUTH ATKINSON
Parish Clerk