

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

**PRESENT**

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

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

**2006/265. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Berry and Councillor Wilkinson. Councillor Blythe advised the meeting of the passing away of Councillor Berry's husband, Keith and proposed that a letter of condolence be sent to Councillor Berry from the Parish Council. This was agreed by all present. There were no Declarations of Interest in any items on the Agenda.

**2006/266. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2007**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7 February 2007 had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Oxley proposed that they be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Hamblen, agreed by all present and the minutes were signed by Councillor Blythe.

**2006/267. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The Clerk advised the meeting that the funding application for the replacement of the play equipment at Crane Moor Recreation Ground has now been submitted in time for the deadline of 31 March 2007. A decision on the application will be made in April and a report submitted at the first appropriate meeting after that time.

**2006/268. CRIME AND SAFETY**

Councillor Oxley advised the meeting that crime figures reported via the Area Forum meeting were recorded as 38 crimes in Thurgoland in 2005, with 59 in 2006 and 5 crimes in Crane Moor in 2005, with 5 in 2006. It was also noted that any confiscated vehicles are now crushed after a period of 21 days if they are not claimed by the owner. These details were noted.

**2006/269. REPORT FROM THE CLERK ON ITEMS ON APPENDIX 'A'**

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the Agenda was drawn up there have been no responses to any of the outstanding items on the Appendix. It was noted that the first six items relating to Highways issues have been outstanding for well over a year, despite Nigel Bath 'chasing them up' on behalf of the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk contact Nigel Bath to ask him to provide an update on progress on these and other Highways matters on the Appendix.

It was noted that one of the items on the Appendix related to drainage problems in the Parish. The following related items were reported in order that the Clerk can bring them to the attention of the Highways Department:-

- i) The drains along Roper Lane require clearing out.
- ii) The perennial problem of flooding at the bottom of Thurgoland Bank has been in evidence recently.
- iii) Surface water running down Hand Lane at Crane Moor is causing problems with debris and erosion of the road surface in the Mount Pleasant area.

**2006/270. NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIDE**

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that the grass verge between Crane Moor Nook and Halifax Road is once again full of litter. It was noted that although this area is not on the litter picking route, Neighbourhood Pride have agreed to litter pick it when notified. It was also suggested by Councillor Rowley that a sign about dropping litter and the associated fines should be requested. This was agreed to be acceptable.

**2006/271. LAND AT HUTHWAITE LANE/MOUNT PLEASANT**

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that he has received information from Councillor Berry concerning the land at Huthwaite Lane/Mount Pleasant as follows:-

- i) The containers and fencing have not yet been removed as the Enforcement Notice served was not served on the correct owners and has had to be re-served.
- ii) The only 'offences' that can be dealt with by the Police are ones relating to smoke drifting onto the highway if anything is burned on the land.

- iii) Councillor Barnard is aware of the ongoing developments and continues to monitor the situation carefully.

A resident advised the meeting that since the last meeting, more fencing has been erected on the boundary of the land adjacent to Huthwaite Quarry. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk contact the Enforcement Officer to ask for an update on the situation before the next meeting.

#### **2006/272. PROVISION OF WEBSITE UPDATING**

The Clerk advised the meeting that a decision on the provision of keeping the website updated is required as the two enquiries made of residents were unsuccessful. Effective Internet has continued to update the site but will require a fee of £80.00 per month from April 2007. A member of the public present, Mr Andrew King, from Cote Lane, offered his services to the Parish Council, subject to discussing the project further with the Parish Clerk. A monthly 'fee' of £30 was suggested and this will be agreed by the Clerk and Mr King in due course. A report on this subject will be made by the Clerk to the next meeting.

#### **2006/273. PARISH PATHS**

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting of the following items relating to Parish Paths:-

- i) **Crossing – River Don**  
Trevor Mayne has indicated that it will be at least two months before any progress can be made on producing a feasibility study for a bridge across the River Don. This was noted.
- ii) **Maintenance of Parish Paths**  
Two residents have contacted Councillor Rowley to express interest in helping with footpath clearance. However, Councillor Rowley proposed that she contact Barnsley Conservation Trust Volunteers as they do work on footpaths in other Parished areas and are not expensive. After discussion it was agreed that Councillor Rowley contact them and ask them to provide a quote to clear the bridleway from Crane Moor Nook to Toad Hall. Councillor Hamblen proposed that an upper limit of £75.00 be set in order that Councillor Rowley can engage their services without coming back to a meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Oxley and agreed by all present. Once they have completed this project, a decision will be made on approaching them to do other jobs on an 'as-and when' basis.
- iii) **Boundary Walk**  
The annual Boundary Walk will take place on Monday 7 May 2007, starting from The Bridge Inn, Cote Lane at 10.00 a.m. Councillor Rowley is to confirm all the details and pass them on to the Clerk in order that they can be included in the next Parish Newsletter.

The Clerk asked at this point if she could discuss the next Parish Newsletter. As the last newsletter was one month late in going out, the Clerk asked if Councillors would like to put all future newsletters forward a month or revert to the original schedule which would mean the next newsletter being published in April. It was agreed that the next newsletter be published in April in order that details of the Boundary Walk can be included and the agreed schedule be adhered to. Bearing this in mind, the following items were out forward for inclusion:-

- i) Boundary Walk – information to be provided by Councillor Rowley
- ii) Thurgoland Charities annual trip to the coast – information to be provided by Councillor Methley
- iii) An appeal for dog owners to be more responsible about dog mess
- iv) History Group – meeting dates and details – already provided

Any other items should be provided to the Clerk by Wednesday 21 March 2007. The newsletter will be distributed to all Councillors at the April meeting.

#### **2006/274. PARISH PLAN**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a letter from Yorkshire Rural Community Council asking for a copy of the completed Parish Plan and the website address. Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that he is still working on the Parish Plan. The Clerk will provide YRCC with the website address and advise them that the Parish Plan will be forwarded to them as soon as it is available.

#### **2006/275. HERITAGE PROJECTS IN THE VILLAGE**

Mr John Wade provided an update on the Heritage Project in the absence of Councillor Berry. He had provided a report which the Clerk read out, which outlined progress to date:-

- i) The History Group are willing to be the lead organisation in bidding to the Heritage

- Lottery Fund for funding for a Heritage Trail.
- ii) A rough plan of a proposed trail has been drawn up and will be presented to John Hislop and an illustrator at a meeting as yet to be arranged.
  - iii) Also included in the bid is a history book on Thurgoland, which is to be produced by Maurice Williams.
  - iv) Confirmation of ownership of the pump on Halifax Road is needed before it can be included as part of the project. The Clerk is to contact the Land Registry to ascertain this information and make a report to the next Parish Council meeting.

Councillor Blythe thanked members of the History Group for their hard work so far and asked that, if any resident has any information or suggestions on locations to be included on the trail, they contact either the Parish Clerk or a member of the History Group.

**2006/276. ALLOTMENT REFURBISHMENT**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she arranged a meeting with Wendy Royffe to discuss the refurbishment and to arrange to write to the current and prospective allotment holders to advise them of progress and the new rent. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Warttig that the rental for each 'half' allotment be £20.00 per annum. This means that current allotment holders who requested to keep a full plot will be charged £40.00. This was seconded by Councillor Methley and agreed by all present. The Clerk is to advise all relevant parties of this decision.

**2006/277. PENISTONE FM**

The Clerk had forwarded a letter to each Parish Councillor, from Penistone FM, outlining their proposals to bring a full time community radio service to Penistone. The letter asked for assistance from the Parish Council in the form of a letter of support, which can be used to support the application for a licence which will be submitted very soon. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk provide a letter of support on behalf of the Parish Council and that any Councillor who wishes to provide a personal letter of support should do so on an individual basis.

**2006/278. THURGOLAND VILLAGE WELFARE**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a request from Thurgoland Village Welfare for a grant towards the cost of grass cutting at the Recreation Ground. The total cost quoted by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council to Thurgoland Welfare Association is £1296.22 and the Welfare Committee has requested a grant of £750.00. After discussion Councillor Methley proposed that a grant of £500 be awarded. This was seconded by Councillor Warttig. A vote was taken and the proposal was carried by a majority decision of three votes for, two against and one abstention. The Clerk is to advise Thurgoland Welfare Committee of this decision and the cheque will be drawn up at the next meeting.

**2006/279. PENISTONE PARAMOUNT**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a request from Penistone Paramount for a grant towards upgrading the cinema website and the purchase of a PA system. Councillor Blythe proposed that this request should not be supported at the present time. This was agreed by all present and the Clerk is to advise Penistone Paramount accordingly.

**2006/280. PARISH NEWSLETTER**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received an e-mail from a resident thanking the Parish Council for the production of the newsletter and the results of the questionnaire. These thanks were noted and the Clerk is to respond to the resident concerned.

**2006/281. MOTTRAM BY PASS**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a copy of the draft orders for the Mottram/Tintwistle by pass for information. Any Councillor who wishes to inspect the papers can contact the Clerk and she will provide them.

**2006/282. APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence from the Audit Commission advising that they intend to extend the appointment of BDO Stoy Hayward as External Auditors for the financial year 2006/2007. It was agreed that the Parish Council are happy with this extended appointment.

**2006/283. ENVIRONMENT FORUM**

Councillor Hamblen advised the meeting that she had attended a very informative Environment Forum recently. The focus of the event was to advise delegates about grants and support available to domestic

properties to save energy. There was also a presentation about biomass installations in the Barnsley area and notification that Barnsley has received the prestigious Ashton Award. This was noted and thanks expressed to Councillor Hamblen for representing the Parish Council at this event.

**2006/284. 10 MINUTE ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL**

A resident of Thurgoland raised the subject of responsibilities of land owners who have public footpaths running through their land. The land in question runs along the banks of the River Don from Sharp Ford Bridge towards the Wortley boundary. The questions asked by the resident related to liability if someone walking the public footpath has an accident, responsibility for repairing and maintaining stiles and bridges on a public footpath and responsibility for litter along the footpath and on the privately owned land at either side of the footpath. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Trevor Mayne at Barnsley MBC to ask for his advice on these matters and forward a copy of his response to the resident in question.

**2006/285. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Erection of 1 detached dwelling**

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

The following comments were made on the above application:-

Access onto Crane Moor Road from this site will be difficult as it is at a narrow part of the road and directly opposite Mount Pleasant Court. There is already a lack of suitable car parking spaces in Crane Moor and further housing will make the situation worse.

**2006/286. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS PRODUCED**

**Erection of 1 dwelling and double garage**

**Land to the rear of Aspland House, 20 Crane Moor Road, Crane Moor**

The following comments were made on the above application:-

Access onto Crane Moor Road from this site will be difficult as it is at a narrow part of the road and directly opposite Mount Pleasant Court. There is already a lack of suitable car parking spaces in Crane Moor and further housing will make the situation worse.

**2006/287. APPROVED/DECLINED APPLICATIONS AS NOTIFIED SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

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

**Change of use of former Telephone Exchange to dwelling**

**Former Telephone Exchange, Halifax Road, Thurgoland**

The approval had the following conditions attached:-

**2006/288. 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.

**2006/289. ACCOUNTS.**

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

R Atkinson	Salary – March	363.44
Thurgoland School	Room Hire	15.00
Holy Trinity Church	Photocopying of newsletter	100.00
Easyspace	Annual website fee	56.40

**2006/290. 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 April:-

- i) D Horsfall – Internal Auditor

**2006/291. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 4 April 2007 at Crane Moor Chapel, Crane Moor at 7.00 p.m.

Councillor Hamblen offered her apologies for the meeting in April.

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

RUTH ATKINSON

Parish Clerk