

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THURGOLAND PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT THURGOLAND SCHOOL, HALIFAX ROAD, THURGOLAND, ON WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2007 AT 7.45 P.M.

PRESENT

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

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

2007/001. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Apologies had been received from Councillors Warttig and Wilkinson. There were no Declarations of Interest in any items on the Agenda.

2007/002. ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN TO THURGOLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Methley proposed that Councillor Blythe be re-elected as Chairman to the Council for the next year. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and agreed by all present.

2007/003. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Blythe thanked Councillors for his nomination and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2007/004. ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIRMAN TO THURGOLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Rowley proposed that Councillor Methley be re-elected as Vice Chairman to the Council for the next year. This was seconded by Councillor Oxley and agreed by all present.

2007/005. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AND CODE OF CONDUCT

All Councillors present signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. It was noted that Councillors Warttig and Wilkinson will be required to sign their Declaration at the beginning of the meeting to be held in June 2007. All Councillors had been provided with a copy of The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 prior to the meeting. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hamblen the Thurgoland Parish Council resolve to adopt the Model Code of Conduct including paragraph 12(2). This was seconded by Councillor Berry and agreed by all present. For clarity it was noted that paragraph 12(2) gives members with a prejudicial interest the same rights as members of the public to speak to a meeting on the issue and then leave before the main discussion and vote. The Clerk is to advise the Standards Board for England that Thurgoland Parish Council has adopted the Code.

2007/006. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The following appointments to outside bodies were agreed upon:-

i) Thurgoland School Governors

It was noted that Councillor Oxley is a School Governor, but that there is now no Parish Council representation on School Governing bodies. It was therefore agreed that as this post no longer exists, it will be disregarded in future years, although Councillor Oxley will continue to advise the Parish Council of any issues raised by the Governors at the appropriate time.

ii) Penistone Rural Road Safety Committee

Councillors Methley and Oxley are the two representatives on this outside body. They agreed to continue in this role as Thurgoland Parish Council representatives.

iii) Penistone Paramount

Councillor Blythe is the representative on this outside body. He agreed to continue in this role as the Thurgoland Parish Council representative.

iv) Thurgoland Charities

The issue of Parish Council representation on Thurgoland Parish Group of Charities was discussed at length and the rules were very unclear. It was agreed that the Clerk will try to find a governing document for the charities and that the subject will be discussed at the next meeting.

v) Thurgoland Pre-School

Councillor Berry is the representative on this outside body. She agreed to continue in this role as the Thurgoland Parish Council representative.

vi) Penistone Community Partnership

It was noted that there is currently no official representation for Thurgoland Parish Council, although Councillor Rowley had previously asked for notification of meetings, but had not received any information. It was agreed that it may be beneficial in the future to ask if the Parish Council could have representation, but that no action is to be taken at the present time.

2007/007 PAYMENTS FALLING ANNUALLY

The Clerk advised the meeting that the following two annual payments have been received:-

i) Allianz Cornhill – annual insurance premium

The annual premium from 1 June 2007 to 31 May 2008 is £955.42. The increase from last year (£83.33) includes the addition of the play equipment at Crane Moor Recreation Ground. Payment of this invoice was agreed by all present.

ii) Yorkshire Local Councils Associations

The annual premium based on a Parish Electorate of 1506 is £346.00, an increase of £11.00 on last year. Payment of this invoice was agreed by all present.

2007/008. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 April 2007 had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Methley proposed that they 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.

2007/009. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The following items were raised as Matters Arising from the Minutes which were not covered on the Agenda of the meeting:-

i) Litter Bin at Smithy Hill

This item had been on the Agenda of a previous meeting and was raised again by Councillor Methley. There is still a litter problem on Smithy Hill around the bus stop and, after discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk look out previous correspondence relating to the provision of a lamp-post mounted litter bin. This item is to be placed on the Agenda of the meeting to be held in June.

ii) Thurgoland Village Clock

Councillor Berry noted that the Village Clock on the Old Co-op Store has recently been very erratic in its timekeeping. The Clerk concurred with this and agreed to visit Mr Khan to ask if he is aware of any power interruptions which may affect the clock.

2007/010. CRIME AND SAFETY

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that a resident of Roper Lane had advised him that, since the re-opening of The Horse and Jockey, there have been occasions when there have been people drinking in the street on Roper Lane, causing a nuisance for anyone with children using the play equipment in the Recreation Ground. It was noted that it is an offence to consume alcohol on Roper Lane and it was therefore agreed that the Clerk contact South Yorkshire Police to ask them to patrol this area on a more frequent basis. Councillor Methley advised the meeting that youths congregating around the crossroads are also drinking and this is also to be advised to South Yorkshire Police.

2007/011 REPORT FROM THE CLERK ON ITEMS ON APPENDIX 'A'

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the Agenda was drawn up there has not been a response to any of the items listed. However, upon reading the minutes of an Area Forum Meeting held on 14 March 2007 it was noted that 'The Area Forum Officer suggested a meeting between himself, Ward Councillors and the Chair of Thurgoland Parish Council may be necessary to resolve outstanding issues raised, most of which related to speeding, road conditions, etc.' Councillor Blythe suggested that he contact Nigel Bath to progress this suggestion and that items 1,2,3,4,5,6,10,11,12 and 13 (all Highways issues) should be addressed at such a meeting. This was agreed to be acceptable by all present.

Councillor Methley advised the meeting that it would appear that Councillor Warttig has cleared the nettles at the exit from the Recreation Ground opposite Thurgoland School, but that they require a small amount of further attention. Councillor Methley is to speak to Councillor Warttig to ask him if he is able to attend to this matter.

2007/012. PARISH PATHS

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

i) Thurgoland Boundary Walk

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that a record number of 100 walkers had taken part in the Boundary Walk on Monday 7 May 2007. Thanks were expressed to everyone who helped in any way, particularly Mark Goldthorpe who mended a stile at short notice. It was noted that all the walkers kept to the footpath, particularly through a farmer's field and this is to be put into an article in the July newsletter. The cost of food provided by The Bridge Inn was £418.75 and a cheque is to be raised later in the

meeting in order that Councillor Rowley can deliver it. Councillor Blythe asked that thanks to Councillor Rowley be minuted for organising the walk and this was echoed by all present.

ii) Footpath 10/6a to 10/7c – Partridge Dale

The Clerk had received an e-mail which she had forward to Councillor Rowley, which was from a resident of Partridge Dale, advising of the possible blockage of a footpath by new residents of Partridge Dale. It was agreed that the e-mail should be forwarded to Trevor Mayne in order that he can look into the matter and take whatever action in necessary. It was also noted that, whilst the footpath in question is not exactly on the Boundary Walk, it is very close, and it had been noted during the Boundary Walk that the way marking in this area is not particularly good. This will also be brought to the attention of Trevor Mayne.

iii) Footpath at Tinkers Farm

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that she has received a report concerning a problem with the footpath from Thurgoland School to Huthwaite Lane, via Tinkers Farm. Mr John Wade advised the meeting that he has walked the footpath recently and did not encounter any problems. Councillor Rowley is to investigate this matter and make a report to the next Parish Council meeting.

2007/013. HERITAGE PROJECTS IN THE VILLAGE

Councillor Berry provided a verbal update on the project, and Mr John Wade provided a written update for the Parish Council records. A pre-application form has been forwarded to the Heritage Lottery Fund for an amount of £46,000 and a response should have been received before the next Parish Council meeting. However, one item which requires urgent attention is the involvement of the Highways Department of Barnsley MBC in making a safe walkway to the Halifax Road Pump from the traffic lights. As no response has been received to the initial request, it was agreed that the Clerk write again and ask them to respond as a matter of urgency.

2007/014. ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that he and the Clerk had attended a meeting of all the allotment holders during which a tenancy agreement which was acceptable to all parties had been agreed upon. A copy had been provided to all Councillors in order that it could be ratified by the Parish Council and provided for signature to all the new allotment holders. After discussion it was agreed that the only amendment should be that the annual rent become due and payable in April of each year (in advance) rather than March of each year (in arrears). The Clerk advised the meeting that she has actually received payment from two allotment holders already. With this one amendment it was agreed that the new agreement be adopted, all allotment holders notified accordingly and rent for the current year collected as soon as possible. It was noted by Councillor Blythe that the group are meeting again on 18 June 2007 and that he is sure that the group will thrive and prosper. The invoice for the refurbishment has been received for payment and it was agreed by all present that the project has been a great success thus far.

2007/015. LAND AT HUTHWAITE LANE/MOUNT PLEASANT

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a letter from Barnsley MBC advising 'I can now inform you that Enforcement Notices were served on the Rollinsons at 12.05 p.m. and the Cottons at 12.15 p.m. on 20th April 2007. The recipients have a month to appeal and 14 days to comply, which in effect means the containers should be removed by 5th May at the latest.' It was noted that the containers are still in place, four days after their removal should have taken place. Councillor Berry asked if it would be possible for the Clerk to ask if the Rollinsons and Cottons have made an appeal and, if they have, how long it will take to hear the appeal and secure the removal of the containers and fencing.

2007/016. NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIDE

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that, at the site meeting at Halifax Pump, it had been asked if it would be possible to request that Neighbourhood Pride cut back the overgrown bushes from the War Memorial to the pump. This will mean that it is easier to see where the pavement should be extended to if the project is to progress. It was agreed that the Clerk make this request to Neighbourhood Pride.

2007/017. HUTHWAITE QUARRY

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that a site meeting had taken place at Huthwaite Quarry to look at the problems being encountered by walkers using the quarry as a right of way and effectively trespassing on private land adjacent to the land owned by the Parish Council. A lengthy discussion took place after which time it was proposed by Councillor Methley that the Clerk write to Yorkshire Local Councils Association to ask for their advice on the subject. This was seconded by Councillor Hamblen and agreed by all present. The advice sought is to be concerning the access path to the quarry from Old Mill Lane, and whether it should be fenced off so that walkers cannot use it to access the private land adjacent. A further site visit was arranged for Wednesday 16 May 2007 at 7.00 p.m., when the situation can be seen

more clearly by Councillors. A report will be made at the next meeting, by which time a response should have been received from Yorkshire Local Councils Association.

2007/018. PARISH WEBSITE

The Clerk advised the meeting that Mr King of Cote Lane has continued to update the Parish website and is in agreement with a payment of £30 per month to continue doing so. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hamblen that £30 each month was paid to Mr King for this task. This was seconded by Councillor Methley and agreed by all present.

2007/019. OLD MILL LANE

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a letter from Barnsley MBC advising that Old Mill Lane is not currently on the schedule to be swept, but that it can now be included into the sweeping rounds. As it is not kerbed it does not need to be swept with the same frequency as other routes and therefore it will be done twice a year, on a six monthly schedule. This news was warmly received by two residents of Old Mill Lane.

2007/020. THURGOLAND YOUTH CENTRE

Councillor Blythe asked Mrs M Denton to make a report on a recent meeting which had taken place concerning the future of the Youth Centre at Thurgoland Welfare Association. Mrs Denton advised the meeting that a very productive meeting had taken place, at which Councillors Blythe and Oxley were in attendance. Lots of suggestions had been made regarding the use of the building and it was agreed that a Youth Club be re-started as soon as possible. £2000 has been granted from the Area Forum and further funding is being sought. However, the project cannot progress until ownership has been transferred to the Welfare Association and this matter is currently being dealt with by solicitors. Once a date for the transfer of ownership has been agreed, further meetings will take place and progress to re-start the Youth Club made. Councillor Blythe thanked Mrs Denton for her contribution.

2007/021. INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Clerk advised the meeting that Mr David Horsfall acted as Internal Auditor for the last financial year and in the past a small remuneration has been agreed upon for him carrying out this service. It is now necessary to ask him if he will continue in this role as the accounts for year ended 31 March 2007 are ready for audit. It was proposed by Councillor Methley that an amount of £20.00 be paid to Mr Horsfall and that he be asked to act again for the Parish Council. This was seconded by Councillor Oxley and agreed by all present.

The accounts for year ended 31 March 2007 had been presented to the Parish at the Annual Meeting which had been held prior to this meeting and they were now approved and accepted to be sent for audit.

2007/022. DOG FOULING

The Clerk advised the meeting that a resident of Cote Lane had asked if the Parish Council could offer any assistance regarding the amount of dog fouling on Cote Lane. It was noted that this problem is not confined to Cote Lane, but is an issue on many other streets in the Parish. It was agreed that the Clerk contact Mr D Simpson, the Barnsley MBC dog warden, to ask for his assistance in this matter.

2007/023. ROAD SURFACE AT PINFOLD LANE

This item had been placed on the Agenda by Councillor Warttig. In his absence Councillor Hamblen advised the meeting that the road surface along Pinfold Lane is badly eroded at both edges, resulting in vehicles having to drive in what is effectively a ditch in certain areas. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Highways Department at Barnsley MBC to ask if they can assess this road for possible resurfacing.

2007/024. PAVEMENT AT FIR TREE/ROPER LANE

Councillor Methley advised the meeting that a stretch of pavement at the top of Fir Tree Estate on Roper Lane has become worn and dangerous. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Highways Department at Barnsley MBC to ask if they can attend to this matter as soon as possible.

2007/025. BARNSELY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

The Clerk advised the meeting that an invitation to the Barnsley Environment Forum on 5 June 2007 has been received. It was agreed that Councillor Hamblen represent the Parish Council at this event.

2007/026. 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) Mrs Kathleen Potter

Mr John Wade advised the meeting that Mrs Potter had received her birthday card from the Parish Council and sent her thanks.

ii) Crane Moor Chapel

Mr John Wade asked if there was any possibility of the Chapel at Crane Moor providing an outside light as the entrance is poorly lit. Councillor Oxley advised the meeting that once the works take place to upgrade the Chapel, a light will be installed.

iii) Neighbourhood Watch

Mr John Wade asked if any response had been received following the note in the newsletter about the setting up of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the Parish. The Clerk advised the meeting that one response had been received and that the details of the respondent had been kept on file for possible future use.

iv) Thanks

Mr Fred Roebuck wished to place on record his personal thanks to all who have served on the Parish Council or done any voluntary work within the Parish during the past twelve months. This was noted.

2007/027. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**Erection of first floor front extension over existing garages to 1, 3 and 5 Mount Pleasant Court and additional single storey rear extension to 1 Mount Pleasant Court.
1, 3 and 5 Mount Pleasant Court, Crane Moor, Sheffield**

No comments or observations were made on this application.

2007/028. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS PRODUCED

No further Planning Applications had been received since the Agenda had been produced.

2007/029. APPROVED/DECLINED APPLICATIONS AS NOTIFIED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

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

2007/030. REQUEST FROM STAINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk advised the meeting that Stainborough Parish Council had asked for help in objecting to a Planning Application for a green waste composting site and the storage of 100 touring caravans on Bagger Wood Hill in Hood Green. This application would affect Thurgoland as the touring caravans would be using roads in the vicinity. However, since the request had been received the application had been put to the Planning Board and had been refused because it is in a Nature Conservation Site and would have an impact of Great Crested Newts as well as having an adverse impact on the natural environment. This was noted. It was also noted that after the refusal, the applicant had withdrawn the application.

2007/031. 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.

Councillor Oxley advised the meeting of the latest plans for Rural Post Offices as outlined in a circular given to her at the last meeting. Her comments were noted.

2007/032. NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has recently been made aware that there has been a mix-up with the new mandate signed by all Councillors last year. However, it has now been rectified and the Parish Council can now progress the decision made to have a current account for the day-to-day running of the Parish (with no interest) and a savings account for all other funds which will gain a better rate of interest on the larger balances that will be in it as a result of merging all the accounts into one. Councillors were asked to sign a mandate to set this new savings account up but the mandate cannot be actioned until after the next meeting as Councillors Warttig and Wilkinson will also need to sign.

2007/033. ACCOUNTS.

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

Allianz Cornhill Insurance	Annual premium	955.42
Yorkshire Local Councils Association	Annual subscription	346.00
Mr A King	Monthly website fee	30.00
R Atkinson	Salary – May	363.44
Thurgoland School	Room Hire	15.00
Thurgoland Welfare Association	Grant towards grass cutting	500.00

Barnsley MBC
The Bridge Inn

Allotment refurbishment	9350.00
Refreshments for Boundary Walk	418.75

2007/034. 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 June:-

i) Belmont Terrace Garden

2007/035. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 6 June 2007 at Thurgoland School, Thurgoland and will commence at 7.00 p.m.

2007/036. 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.

All Councillors had been provided with a Curriculum Vita from Mrs Jane Patzelt of Lionel Hill, Crane Moor. Mrs Patzelt had obtained Nomination Forms from the Clerk prior to the recent election but had not returned them in time. After discussion it was agreed that the remaining vacancy be advertised on the website, in the Parish Notice Boards and via the local press and that Mrs Patzelt be informed of this decision. The Clerk would also ask her to confirm that she is still interested in becoming a Parish Councillor and, if she is, a decision will be made at the next meeting, taking into account any further applications.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

RUTH ATKINSON
Parish Clerk