

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THURGOLAND PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT THURGOLAND SCHOOL, HALIFAX ROAD, THURGOLAND, ON WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT

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

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

2007/093. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

2007/094. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 JUNE 2007, 4 JULY 2007 AND 1 AUGUST 2007

The amended minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6 June 2007 had been circulated to all Councillors. The minutes were now proposed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by Councillor Methley, seconded by Councillor Oxley and agreed by all present.

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 July 2007 had been circulated to all Councillors. The minutes were proposed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by Councillor Methley, seconded by Councillor Oxley and agreed by all present.

The minutes of the additional meeting held on Wednesday 1 August 2007 had been circulated to all Councillors. The minutes were proposed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by Councillor Methley, seconded by Councillor Oxley and agreed by all present.

Councillor Blythe signed all of the minutes.

2007/095. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Methley advised the meeting that the bushes near the War Memorial on Halifax Road have now been cut back by Neighbourhood Pride. This was noted. There were no other matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

2007/096. CRIME AND SAFETY

Councillor Methley advised the meeting that a wall is crumbling onto the road at the top of Sim Hill, and the stones in the road are dangerous. Councillor Barnard advised the meeting that this matter should be reported to Andrea Jackson at the Highways Department of Barnsley MBC and copied to him so that it can be dealt with immediately. The Clerk is to attend to this matter.

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that a number of stone flags have been stolen from Crane Moor Nook. The thieves were spoken to by a resident but still took the flags. South Yorkshire Police have been notified and a crime number given. This was noted.

2007/097 REPORT FROM THE CLERK ON ITEMS ON APPENDIX 'A'

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the Agenda was produced there have not been any responses to the items outstanding on Appendix A. This was noted.

2007/098. PARISH PATHS

i) Crossing over the River Don

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that she has spoken to Trevor Mayne who has advised that no date has been set for a meeting of all interested parties to discuss the proposed footbridge across the River Don. As a temporary measure the stepping stones are to be moved back into position within the next week or so. This was noted

ii) Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Barnsley

Councillor Rowley had provided each Councillor with a summary and her views on the proposed Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Councillor Blythe expressed the thanks of the Council to Councillor Rowley for undertaking this task. After discussion it was agreed that Councillor Rowley respond on behalf of the Parish Council. Any specific comments from individual Councillors can be sent in, and it was resolved that Thurgoland Parish Council accept the document in principle, but wish to note their concern about the ongoing maintenance issues regarding Rights of Way in the Parish.

iii) Rights of Way – A Guide to Law and Practice

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had considered the information provided at the last meeting on the above publication and that she felt it would be useful to have in the Parish Council book collection. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hamblen that the publication be purchased. This was seconded by Councillor Methley and agreed by all present.

iv) Licence for the use of Ordnance Survey Data

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has looked at the CD Rom provided by Barnsley MBC which gives the definitive map for the Parish. She recommended to the Parish Council that the licence be signed and returned so that the Parish Council has permission to use the data provided. This was agreed to be acceptable by all present.

v) Footpath 22c

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that Mr John Wade has kindly cleared the above footpath. Thanks were expressed to Mr Wade for carrying out this work.

vi) Waymarking at footpath 28a and 27c

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that the waymarking on the above footpaths is incorrect and could mislead walkers. A stone stile on the footpath requires attention. This is to be advised to Trevor Mayne along with a suggestion that if it is not possible for the waymarking to be carried out by rangers, Councillor Rowley is willing to do the work if templates and yellow paint can be provided to her.

vii) Footpath 12a from Pog Lane to Toad Hall

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that a resident has reported various problems on the above footpath as follows:-

- i) There appears to have been a diversion at the start of the footpath at Pog Lane.
- ii) There is a lot of water evident at the start of the footpath, possibly caused by a broken drain.
- iii) The barbed wire fencing reported in April 2007 is still in place and is dangerous.
- iv) Saplings have been planted by the landowner adjacent to the footpath and once they are fully grown they will obstruct the footpath.
- v) The tree reported in April 2007 is still growing across the footbridge, which is now impassable.
- vi) The second bridge along the footpath is rotten and dangerous.

Councillor Rowley suggested that these items be brought to the attention of Trevor Mayne, and that she will volunteer to meet a ranger on site to walk the path if necessary.

2007/099. HUTHWAITE QUARRY

All Councillors had been provided with a copy of a reply from Yorkshire Local Councils Association concerning access to and from Huthwaite Quarry and the issues surrounding it. Mr Fred Roebuck, a member of the public present, advised the meeting that over thirty years ago the quarry was designated as a wildlife area by Barnsley MBC and as such, that designation still stands. After discussion it was agreed that a further site meeting is necessary to ascertain what course of action should be taken. It was also agreed that a representative of Barnsley MBC should be invited to the meeting to give advice on what signage would be suitable. The Clerk is to make this request and advise Councillors of the time and date of the site meeting if a response is received before the next meeting.

2007/100. BULB PLANTING IN THE PARISH

The Clerk advised the meeting that, in conjunction with Councillor Rowley, she has ordered 1400 daffodil bulbs for planting around the Parish in the Autumn. It was noted that a resident of Old Mill Lane has volunteered to plant bulbs on Old Mill Lane, Councillor Hamblen volunteered to plant on Sim Hill, Councillor Wilkinson volunteered for Huthwaite Lane and the Clerk volunteered for Belmont Terrace. After discussion it was agreed that an article be sent to the Barnsley Chronicle and Sheffield Star asking for further volunteers to contact the Clerk. The article is also to be placed on the website. The bulbs will be brought to the meeting in October for distribution.

2007/101. LITTER BIN AT SMITHY HILL

Councillor Methley advised the meeting that a lamp-post-mounted litter bin has now been provided at Smithy Hill, opposite the bus stop. This was noted.

2007/102. THE OLD CO-OP SUPERSTORE

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has spoken to South Yorkshire Police who have confirmed that until recently the Old Co-op Superstore on Halifax Road did not have a new licence to sell alcohol. However, Mrs Khan has now completed the appropriate course and obtained a licence in her name. She is the designated premises licence holder and it is her responsibility to ensure that alcohol is not sold to underage persons. This was noted.

2007/103. HERITAGE PROJECTS IN THE VILLAGE

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a quotation from Barnsley MBC for the work to make a safe footpath from the War Memorial to the pump on Huthwaite Lane. The quotation is for £13,266.63 plus VAT, and has been passed to Mr Maurice Williams for inclusion in the Heritage Lottery bid to be made in the near future. The Clerk also advised the meeting that she has received a letter from Mr Williams asking for financial assistance with the project in the sum of £2000. The total project will cost £35,000 and will consist of the following:-

- i) Restoration of the pump on Huthwaite Lane, and associated works.
- ii) A Heritage Trail around the village, and 5000 leaflets.
- iii) A book on the history of the Parish.
- iv) A DVD on the history of the Parish
- v) A website for Thurgoland History Group.

After discussion it was agreed that this item be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting, at which time a decision can be made.

2007/104. OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

The Clerk asked for items to include in the October newsletter and the following was agreed upon:-

- i) Affordable housing update provided by Barnsley MBC
- ii) Request for volunteers to plant bulbs
- iii) An article provided by Barnsley MBC advising on the current position concerning road repairs following the recent flooding.
- iv) Litter – an article to be provided by Councillor Blythe.

2007/105. BENCH IN WELFARE GROUND

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has arranged for the bench currently situated in Thurgoland Welfare Ground to be removed for safekeeping until permission is granted from Berneslai Homes for it to be placed on Churchfield. This was noted and will be placed on the Agenda of the next meeting if a response is received.

2007/106. FOOTPATH THROUGH WELFARE GROUND

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a response from Neighbourhood Pride dated 31 July 2007 advising that the request for the footpath through the Welfare Ground to be cleared has been passed to Mike Egner. Mr Fred Roebuck advised the meeting that the footpath has not been cleared and is proving difficult to negotiate without tripping or being nettled. It was agreed that the Clerk contact Barnsley MBC to ask them to deal with this matter urgently.

2007/107. CAR PARKING AT SMITHY HILL/ROPER LANE

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had received correspondence from Barnsley MBC advising that a site survey of the road at Smithy Hill/Roper Lane and had concluded that parking restrictions should be implemented. The process can take up to twelve months and progress will be reported at the appropriate time. This was noted.

2007/108. POST BOX AT CRANE MOOR NOOK

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that the small wall adjacent to the post box at Crane Moor Nook has once again been damaged by a vehicle. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Rowley that the best solution was for the stone slab to be moved back into position. A member of the public present volunteered to arrange for this to be done. Councillor Blythe thanked the lady in question.

2007/109. ROAD SURFACE AT PINFOLD LANE AND PAVEMENT AT FIR TREE ESTATE

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence from Barnsley MBC advising that an inspector is to look at the road surface at Pinfold Lane and the pavement at Fir Tree Estate and, if necessary, repairs will be considered in accordance with the assessment and prioritisation system currently in place. These comments were noted.

2007/110. CHRISTMAS TREE AT CHURCHFIELD

The Clerk advised the meeting that she and Councillor Oxley had planted a Christmas Tree at Churchfield, but that, after consultation with the street lighting engineer at Barnsley MBC, it had been agreed that it was not possible to put it on the right hand side of Churchfield, as there is no lamp post conveniently placed that the lights can be plugged into. It has therefore been planted on the left hand side, adjacent to the post box and bus stop. A quotation is to be provided for the re-location of the electricity box, but as the tree will not be big enough to put lights on for this Christmas, it was

recommended that a cut tree is purchased as in previous years and placed in the hole that is further down Churchfield. The electricity box will then be re-located during 2008, and by Christmas the tree should be big enough to have lights put on it. Councillor Oxley has been watering the tree since it was planted and Councillor Blythe thanked her for her efforts. The subject of Christmas Trees will be placed on the Agenda for the October meeting in order that arrangements can be made for Christmas 2007.

2007/111. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

i) Crane Moor Community Chapel Project

All Councillors had been provided with a letter requesting funds to help complete the refurbishment of Crane Moor Chapel. The cost of the work required to complete the project is £2,500. The Clerk advised the meeting that the funds currently 'ring-fenced' for use in Crane Moor amount to £1396.90, with £1,000 earmarked for the Parish Council contribution to the replacement of the playground equipment. Councillor Wilkinson proposed that £2,000 of Parish Council funds, plus the remaining £396.90 be granted to the project. This was seconded by Councillor Warttig and agreed by all other Councillors present. The Clerk is to advise Mr Stamper of this decision and a cheque will be drawn up to be signed at the October meeting.

ii) Thurgoland Bowling Club

All Councillors had been provided with a letter requesting a donation towards the installation of floodlights at the bowling green. Councillor Wilkinson asked if the provision of floodlighting will be to enable the bowling season to be extended or to enable matches to take place during the existing season. Mrs Margaret Denton advised the meeting that the reason for the installation of floodlights is so that matches can be played during the existing season, and, during the season, a club can be formed to train and encourage new members. Councillor Rowley proposed that £1500 be awarded to the Club. This was seconded by Councillor Oxley and agreed by all other Councillors present. The Clerk is to advise Mr Denton of this decision and a cheque will be drawn up to be signed at the October meeting.

2007/112. RAIL-BASED ALTERNATIVE TO MOTTRAM BY-PASS

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence from Persona Associates advising that Translink UK Limited have submitted a rail-based alternative to the proposed Mottram By-Pass, which will affect Thurgoland Parish as it will use the old train track route, currently the Trans Pennine Trail. The Clerk asked permission of the Parish Council to place this item on the Agenda of the October meeting as comments on the proposal are not required until 8 October 2007. This will enable the Clerk to copy the documentation and provide all Councillors with the information received. This was agreed to be acceptable.

2007/113. BALL GAMES AT HEIGHTS VIEW

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence from a resident of Heights View, Thurgoland, advising that young people are playing ball games in the street and causing annoyance to the residents. The resident asks if it would be possible for a sign to be erected advising that ball games are not allowed. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk pass the letter on to Barnsley MBC for their consideration as the land in question is owned by them. A letter to this effect is also to be forwarded to the resident in question.

2007/114. NATIONAL CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL PASSES

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence from South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive advising of the arrangements in place for providing new concessionary travel passes to those eligible for a national pass when they come into force in April 2008. It was agreed that this information be communicated to all residents via the October newsletter.

2007/115. USE OF ELECTRONIC FORMS OF COMMUNICATION

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence from The Chief Executive of Barnsley MBC advising that he would like to ask each Parish Council to consider using electronic forms of communication whenever possible. It was agreed that the Clerk will use e-mail whenever possible in communicating with Councillors and other statutory bodies.

2007/116. DEMOCRATIC DISENGAGEMENT AMONG YOUNG ADULTS

The Clerk had provided all Councillors with a copy of a letter advising of a workshop on Democratic Disengagement Among Young Adults to be held on Tuesday 11 September 2007 at 10.00 a.m. As the meeting was scheduled during the working day, it was not possible for anyone to attend from Thurgoland Parish Council.

2007/117. PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL CHARTER

The Clerk had provided all Councillors with a copy of the proposed Parish and Town Council Charter for discussion and comment. The following comments were made:-

- i) Local Governance – Area Forum Meetings
It was noted that most Area Forum Meetings take place on the same day as Thurgoland Parish Council meetings and therefore it is not always possible for Councillors to attend.
- ii) Point 9 states that the Borough Council will help administer the holding of Town and Parish Council elections. The Borough Council is actually responsible for administering elections and this point should be amended accordingly.
- iii) Point 31(c) advises that the Borough Council will inform and consult Parish Councils on planning applications that are relevant to their Parish. As this is a legal requirement it was felt that this point is irrelevant.
- iv) Bearing the above points in mind, it was noted that the introduction of such a Charter is an excellent initiative and should prove mutually beneficial.

These comments are to be relayed to the Borough Council at the next Liaison Meeting in October. It was also noted that District Councillors are willing to receive Agenda and Minutes by e-mail and the Clerk will attend to this matter. Point 19 which states that responses to requests made by Parish Councils will be made within seven days, and a full response within twenty eight days was noted!

2007/118. NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIDE

The following two issues were advised to by Councillors to be reported to Neighbourhood Pride:-

i) Chapel Walk, Thurgoland

Councillor Oxley advised the meeting that amounts of litter are collecting in Chapel Walk, between Cote Lane and Churchfield. The Clerk is to advise Neighbourhood Pride of this.

ii) Fly tipping

Councillor Warttig advised the meeting that there has been recent evidence of fly tipping on Bird Lane and Hopping Lane. The Clerk is to advise Neighbourhood Pride of this.

2007/119. 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) Parish benches

Mrs M Denton advised the Parish Council that during a recent visit to Scotland she came across benches made from recycled tyres. They appeared to be very hardwearing and difficult to vandalise. Councillor Wilkinson had also seen such benches and it was agreed that this be borne in mind when new benches are purchased by the Parish Council.

ii) Thurgoland Youth Centre

Mrs M Denton advised the meeting that on 3 September 2007 Thurgoland Village Welfare Association signed documents transferring ownership of Thurgoland Youth Centre to them from Barnsley MBC. This was noted.

iii) Affordable Housing at Smithy Hill/Roper Lane

A number of residents present raised concerns about the proposed affordable housing scheme at Smithy Hill/Roper Lane. The residents in attendance live on Fir Tree, in the houses whose gardens back onto the proposed development. They raised concerns about the car parking issues associated with six houses, and the access being onto a sharp bend. They were also concerned about possible overshadowing of their homes by the new houses and the possible loss of the footpath that currently exists between Smithy Hill and Fir Tree. Councillor Blythe advised the residents that their comments would be taken into consideration when the application was discussed at a later point in the meeting.

iv) Thurgoland Chapel/Chapel Walk

It was noted that Thurgoland Methodist Chapel is now for sale and a resident asked if Chapel Walk belongs to the Chapel or Barnsley MBC. Councillor Oxley agreed to speak to a member of the Chapel to ask if they have any information on the ownership of Chapel Walk and the Clerk is to write to Barnsley MBC Estates Department to ask for their confirmation on this matter.

v) Stepping Stones across River Don

Mr John Wade asked if which set of stepping stones are to be moved back into place. Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that the set at New Mill are to be moved.

2007/120. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**Erection of two detached dwellings with integral garages (Reserved Matters).
Land adjoining Hand Lane, Crane Moor, Sheffield**

Councillor Hamblen advised the meeting that the area of Hand Lane in question is already prone to flooding as the drains cannot cope with the surface water, and as the plans indicate that the surface water for these additional houses will go into the existing drains, concern should be raised. It was also noted that the access point onto Hand Lane is already problematical and it is felt that a further access will exacerbate the situation. It was agreed that these comments should be made to the Planning Board.

**Erection of six dwellings with associated parking
Smithy Hill, Thurgoland, Sheffield**

The comments made by residents earlier in the meeting were taken into consideration and, after discussion, the following comments were proposed by Councillor Methley, seconded by Councillor Oxley and agreed upon by a majority vote:-

Thurgoland Parish Council fully supports the principle of affordable housing in the Parish, but it is felt that six houses on the site in question is inappropriate, particularly bearing in mind that the access is onto an already congested bend. It is felt that a more appropriate scheme would be for two pairs of semi-detached dwellings with the access route being via the existing access onto Fir Tree Estate currently used by the garage owners. It was also noted that the Parish Council have recently been advised that parking restrictions are to be implemented at the proposed access onto Smithy Hill, confirming that there is already a problem at this location.

**Erection of timber lean-to smoking shelter and formation of patio area (Retrospective)
The Horse and Jockey Public House, Roper Lane, Thurgoland, Sheffield**

There were no comments or observations on this application.

**Erection of rear two-storey extension to dwelling
5 Cliffe Avenue, Crane Moor, Sheffield**

There were no comments or observations on this application.

2007/121. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS PRODUCED

**Erection of front porch, rear single storey extension and side two storey extension
(Resubmission)**

Hill Top Farm House, Eastfield Lane, Thurgoland, Sheffield

There were no comments or observations on this application.

2007/122. APPROVED/DECLINED APPLICATIONS AS NOTIFIED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Erection of a garage

The Croft, Lionel Hill, Crane Moor Road, Crane Moor

This application was refused because the proposed garage lies adjacent to an area allocated as Green Belt and is of a scale and siting harmful to the open character of the adjoining Green Belt, contrary to UDP Policy GS9. This was noted.

**Conversion and extension to former telephone exchange to form one dwelling (amended scheme)
Former telephone exchange, Halifax Road, Thurgoland**

This application was refused because it is considered that the proposed development would involve substantial changes to the original building including new external walls, changes to the design and overall appearance, and would effectively involve the construction of a new building. This would be contrary to Policy GS8 and detrimental to the open character of the countryside. This was noted.

2007/123. 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.

2007/124. ACCOUNTS.

Councillor Hamblen proposed that the items listed on the document provided to all Councillors be approved for payment. This was seconded by Councillor Methley and agreed by all present.

Cheques for the following items were therefore signed:-

Mr M Jackson	Thurgoland Tennis Tournament	35.00
Mr Andrew King	Website updating	30.00
Ruth Atkinson	Salary – September	363.44
Thurgoland School	Room Hire	15.00
Crane Moor WMC	Room Hire	15.00
J Parker Bulbs	Daffodil Bulbs	246.75
Yorkshire Rural CC	Annual Subscriptions	35.00

2007/125. 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 October:-

- i) Benches in the Parish - Councillor Oxley
- ii) Parish Boundary Stones - Councillor Blythe

2007/126. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council should be held on Wednesday 3 October 2007 at Crane Moor Chapel, Crane Moor and will commence at 7.00 p.m. However, if the Chapel is not ready for use, the Clerk will book a room at Thurgoland School and notify Councillors accordingly.

2007/127. 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.

Mrs Carol Cuerden had been in attendance at the meeting and was invited to speak to Councillors about her application. She was then asked to leave the meeting in order that both applications could be assessed and a decision made. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hamblen that Mrs Cuerden be invited to become a Parish Councillor. This was seconded by Councillor Wilkinson. A vote was taken and Mrs Cuerden was co-opted onto the Parish Council by a majority vote.

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

RUTH ATKINSON
Parish Clerk