

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THURGOLAND PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT CRANE MOOR CHAPEL, CRANE MOOR ROAD, CRANE MOOR, ON WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL 2008 AT 7.00 P.M.**

**PRESENT**

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

Councillor Blythe opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance. He also asked that congratulations be sent to Thurgoland Local History Group on their recent success in obtaining a grant from Heritage Lottery Fund for a project which will preserve the history of the village for future generations. A letter of congratulations is to be sent to Maurice Williams (Chair of the group), and particular thanks expressed to Mr & Mrs John Wade and Councillor Berry for their hard work in submitting the bid.

Councillor Wilkinson asked that the death of David Marsh, whose family are from Thurgoland, be recorded, along with the deepest sympathy of the Parish Council. Mr Marsh was serving in Afghanistan and was killed in action two weeks before he was to return from his tour of duty. This was agreed to be acceptable by all present.

**2007/269. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor Wilkinson advised the meeting that Councillor Warttig would be attending, but would be late. Apologies had been received from Councillor Cuerden. There were no Declarations of Interest in any items on the Agenda.

**2007/270. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH 2008**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5 March 2008 had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Methley noted that the request to place 'Locations of future meetings' on the Agenda had been made by Councillor Blythe, not herself. This was amended by the Clerk. Councillor Blythe noted that in item 2007/242 Barnsley MBC had considered the wrong location. This was amended by the Clerk and the minutes were proposed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by Councillor Berry. Councillor Rowley seconded the proposal and Councillor Blythe signed the minutes.

**2007/271. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes that were not covered in the Agenda.

**2007/272. PENISTONE EAST CRIME AND SAFETY SUB-GROUP**

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that he had attended a meeting of the Penistone East Crime and Safety Sub-Group and asked the Clerk if, since that time, a formal invitation for the Parish Council to appoint a representative had been received. No invitation had been forwarded to the Clerk. Crime reports had been given at the meeting, recording one crime in Thurgoland and no crimes in Crane Moor. An event is to be held at some time in the future, focusing on the problems of 'cold calling'. Funding is to be sought to provide a security marking service and a security camera which can be loaned to any organisation which may require it. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for Monday 14 April 2008. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk e-mail Merryl Liddell, the Chair of the group, to request that formal invitations be sent to all Parish Councils in the Penistone East area as soon as possible. Once that invitation is received, the item will be placed on the Agenda of the next meeting for further discussion.

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received an e-mail from a resident of Hollin Moor View, advising that young people are congregating at the junction of Roper Lane and Hollin Moor View, playing football in the street and causing damage to resident's property in the process. The Clerk has already reported this to PC Silcock who has visited the location in question and seen the problem at first hand. He has spoken to the young people and will continue to monitor the situation. Councillor Methley advised the meeting that she has been aware of the problems but that since the visit of PC Silcock there have been less young people congregating. The Clerk is to contact the resident who raised the issue and advise her of the action taken.

Councillor Hamblen advised the meeting that the daffodils planted on Hand Lane were in full bloom on the morning of Wednesday 2 April 2008 and had all been beheaded by the evening of the same day. This was noted.

**2007/273 REPORT FROM THE CLERK ON ITEMS ON APPENDIX 'A'**

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the Agenda was produced there had been responses to the following items on Appendix 'A':-

**i) Crane Moor Recreation Ground**

The Clerk advised the meeting that a mining engineer from South Yorkshire Mining Advisory Services has visited the Recreation Ground at Crane Moor to inspect the 'hole' that has appeared adjacent to the play equipment. He has also looked at a Geological Plan of the area which shows that the site is located on coal measures sandstones and there are no coal seams indicated to be present beneath the site at a shallow depth. It is therefore considered very unlikely that an old mine shaft or bell pit is present as there is no suggestion of any mining activity of the site. The most probable explanation for this 'hole' is that sandstone bedrock can contain natural fissures which can open leading to minor subsidence of subsoil and soil, especially towards the bottom sloping ground where water may accumulate. Following the receipt of this information the Clerk has spoken to the engineer who advises that the Parish Council do not need to take any action on this matter. The hole was filled with top soil when the play equipment was installed and is now being mowed by Mr Dickinson along with the rest of the ground. This information was noted.

**ii) Road surface at Thurgoland Bank**

Councillor Oxley noted that the road from the junction of Halifax Road and Thurgoland Bank, going towards Oxspring has been resurfaced and the 'Thurgoland Bank' section of Item 1 on Appendix A should therefore be removed.

**2007/274. PARISH PATHS**

**i) Boundary Walk**

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that she will walk the Boundary before Monday 5 May 2008 to ensure that there are no problems. Any Councillor wishing to assist on the day should arrive at The Bridge Inn just after 9.30 a.m. The walk has been advertised in the newsletter, on the website, in the Barnsley Chronicle and in the Parish Notice Boards.

**iii) Bridleway number 16 from Crane Moor Nook**

Councillor Hamblen advised the meeting that the bridleway from Crane Moor Nook to Sim Hill has been cleared as advised. This was noted.

**iii) Stile at 'Long Jack'**

Councillor Methley advised the meeting that the repairs and improvements to the stile at 'Long Jack' have been carried out.

**iv) Bridge over the River Don**

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that he has been made aware of the availability of one or two bridges, which are roughly 10-12 yards in length. Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that the span of the River Don is longer than this, hence the increase in cost. This was noted.

**2007/275. NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIDE**

**i) Fly tipping at Hermit Hill Lane**

Councillor Hamblen noted that there has been an amount of fly tipping on Hermit Hill Lane. It was noted that this is, in fact, in Wortley Parish, but the Clerk will contact Elaine Down and advise her of this.

**ii) Fir Tree**

Councillor Methley noted that Neighbourhood Pride have recently carried out work at Fir Tree, clearing vegetation from various areas. This was noted.

**2007/276. PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

Councillor Blythe reported the following sequence of events in connection with parking restrictions:-

- i) A request was made in July 2007 for restrictions to be made at the junction of Smithy Hill/Roper Lane, following issues raised by residents and the proposed affordable housing scheme.
- ii) A response was received in August 2007 advising that the site had been visited and it was proposed to implement restrictions, but the process could take up to twelve months.
- iii) Notices were observed in February 2008 at the junction of Roper Lane/Thurgoland Hall Lane advising that restrictions were to be implemented.
- iv) Following discussions with Barnsley MBC it was verbally accepted that the wrong location had been considered, but that the process would be stopped.
- v) A letter was received dated 12 March 2008 advising that the legal process for the restrictions at Roper Lane/Thurgoland Hall Lane has commenced and will continue. However, the original request made has been assessed and has been given 'low' priority which means that it will not receive consideration at the present time.

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that he has responded personally to object to the proposed restrictions at Roper Lane/Thurgoland Hall Lane. After discussion it was agreed by all present that the Parish Council object to the proposals for the following reasons:-

- i) The implementation of restrictions will mean that cars using the Welfare Hall, or dropping children off to walk to school will park further along Roper Lane towards Penistone,

(where the road is narrower and therefore more dangerous) or further along Roper Lane near the Post Office, where there are two bus stops and houses where residents park outside their homes, or on Thurgoland Hall Lane, approaching a blind 'hill'. It will not stop cars parking in the area, but will move the problem to different locations.

- ii) Cars parking in the area adjacent to the Welfare Hall at school times mean that there are less cars parking on the A629 outside the school, which has already been identified as a 'problem' area. Implementing the restrictions could mean that more cars choose to park along the A629, once again moving the problem.
- iii) Consultation on the new order has not taken place with the Parish Council.
- iv) The four houses on Watch House Row do not have garages and parking restrictions outside their houses will result in them having to park elsewhere in the village, a distance from their properties.

Councillor Blythe further advised the meeting that he has verbally agreed an extension of the timetable for new order, bearing in mind the errors made by Barnsley MBC in locating the area identified by the Parish Council. It was further agreed that, when responding, the Clerk make a request that a new sign be erected at the junction of Roper Lane/Smithy Hill in order to eliminate confusion in the future. It was also agreed that the Clerk copy the objections made to District Councillors for their information.

#### **2007/277. VILLAGE CLOCK**

Councillor Warttig joined the meeting and apologised for being late.

The Clerk advised the meeting that Councillor Rowley has found a local contractor, Andrew Bates of Bygone Times, who has provided a quotation for servicing the Village Clock electrical mechanism, supplying and fitting new hands and travel costs. The cost is £250.00.

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that it is likely that the Old Co-op Superstore is closing down, giving the Parish Council a potential problem with access to the electricity supply and mechanism. However, as it is not certain that the shop will close it was agreed that no action can be taken other than Councillors calling in when it is open and asking for clarification. In the meantime it was agreed that the insurance claim be sent off.

#### **2007/278. PLAY EQUIPMENT AT CRANE MOOR RECREATION GROUND**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a quotation for the annual inspection of the playground equipment at Crane Moor Recreation Ground. The fee is £100 plus VAT. Councillor Wilkinson proposed that this quotation be accepted. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and agreed by all present. The Clerk is to arrange for the inspection to take place as soon as possible.

#### **2007/279. HUTHWAITE LANE WATER PUMP**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence from Yorkshire Local Council Association in response to a request for advice on the responsibility of the Parish Council once the pump at Huthwaite Lane is restored. The advice given is that it would be sensible, upon completion of the project, for the Parish Council to undertake a Risk Assessment and record its findings. It will look at access to members of the public and, if they were to gain access, any risks that would be presented to them. The Clerk further advised the meeting that she can undertake a Risk Assessment if required to do so. It was agreed that this would be acceptable, once the project is completed.

#### **2007/280. GRASS CUTTING AT THURGOLAND RECREATION GROUND**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a request from Thurgoland Village Welfare, requesting financial assistance towards the grass cutting at the Recreation Ground. The amount quoted by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council is £1136.27 plus VAT. An amount of £750 is requested towards this sum. Councillor Wilkinson proposed that £500 be granted towards the cost. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and agreed by all present. The Clerk is to draw up a cheque to be signed at the meeting to be held in May 2008.

#### **2007/281. HUTHWAITE QUARRY**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence from Allianz Cornhill, advising the following:-

- i) The Public Liability Insurance for Huthwaite Quarry can be extended, but a Risk Assessment must be undertaken, along with photographs, a map and dimensions of the quarry.
- ii) The Parish Council has a 'Duty of Care' to prevent accidents, injury or damage, to make good any defect which becomes apparent and to observe and comply with statutory or local authority laws, obligations and requirements.

A lengthy discussion took place during which it was agreed that the quarry as it is at present is a liability and requires some form of ongoing management. Councillor Hamblen suggested that it may be possible

for a Charitable Trust such as the Woodland Trust or Yorkshire Wildlife Trust may wish to take over the responsibility of the quarry, managing it as a nature reserve. Councillor Warttig suggested that it may be worth considering selling the quarry, perhaps to the residents of Old Mill Lane whose gardens adjoin it, so that they can extend their gardens. In any eventuality, it was acknowledged that legal advice is required in the first instance, to find out if there are any restrictions on the possible disposal of the quarry and the Clerk agreed to look out any documentation and contact a solicitor to obtain the relevant advice.

**2007/282. CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL PASSES**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence from South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, advising that, although the new National Concessions Scheme covers 9.30 a.m. to 11.00 p.m., because of long-standing arrangements already in place, South Yorkshire residents are also entitled to free travel from 9.00 a.m. on weekdays and all day at weekends. After discussion it was agreed that the information received should be copied to all Councillors in order that they can pass it on to any resident who enquires and that it will be reported in the next Parish Newsletter.

**2007/283. APRIL NEWSLETTER**

The Clerk advised the meeting that items for inclusion in the April newsletter should be sent to her within the next two weeks. The following items were agreed upon for inclusion:-

- i) Article about Thurgoland Baby and Toddler Group
- ii) Thurgoland Tuesday Group
- iii) Boundary Walk
- iv) Dog Fouling

**2007/284. ALLOTMENTS AT THURGOLAND HALL LANE**

The Clerk advised the meeting that one allotment holder has not paid his annual fee and, despite three letters, has not responded to a request to advise the Clerk whether or not he wishes to continue his tenancy. It was agreed that the Clerk write to him again, advising him that his tenancy is terminated on 31 March 2008 and that his allotment has been allocated to the next person on the waiting list. It was noted that there are currently eight residents on the waiting list.

It was noted that payment for the new financial year is due in April 2008 for all allotment holders. The Clerk advised the meeting that Nigel Labdon, Chair of the Allotment Society has advised her that he can no longer continue in this post and that he wishes to give up his allotment from 1 April 2008. The Clerk suggested that a meeting be organised, to which all allotment holders are invited, to find a new Chair of the group and to collect the annual rent due. This was agreed to be acceptable and the Clerk is to book a venue and invite all allotment holders. The Clerk further advised the meeting that she has been made aware of potential fly-tipping taking place from the roadway at the allotment site, as the gate is sometimes left open. It was agreed that a lock be purchased and that all allotment holders are given a key upon payment of their annual rent. This will be attended to at the meeting.

**2007/285. UNADOPTED ROADS IN THE PARISH**

This item had been placed on the Agenda following a newspaper report that an unadopted road in Staincross has been resurfaced using funds from the Darton and Dodworth Area Forum. The three unadopted roads in the Parish, Crane Moor Nook, Pog Lane and Huthwaite Lane, were discussed and Councillor Wilkinson agreed to speak to District Councillor Barnard on this subject. In the meantime, Councillor Rowley asked if it would be possible for the Clerk to request that 'shavings' be put down on Crane Moor Nook and Pog Lane by the Highways Department. This was considered to be acceptable and the Clerk is to make this request.

**2007/286. FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Councillor Methley advised the meeting that she has been informally advised that the cost of hiring Crane Moor Chapel for meetings is to be increased. However, no formal notification has been received. Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that he has received correspondence from Revd Eileen A Sanderson that a Community Users' Group is to be formed. The group will meet two or three times a year and it has been suggested that a Parish Councillor be invited to join the group. It was agreed that this would be a good idea, as matters of finance will be discussed at these meetings. Councillor Hamblen volunteered to be the Parish Council representative on the group and this was agreed to be acceptable by all present. The Clerk is to advise Revd Sanderson of this decision.

**2007/287. SITE VISITS FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

This item had been placed on the Agenda for discussion. It was felt that it may be a good idea for Councillors to make site visits for Planning Applications received so that they can report any concerns or observations to the Parish Council prior to comments being sent to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Councillor Wilkinson advised the meeting that it would not be appropriate for him to conduct site

visits as there are times when he is involved in making applications. This was considered to be acceptable. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk will telephone Councillors Berry, Rowley and Oxley to give them the location of applications received in order that they can make site visits prior to each meeting. Councillors Berry, Rowley and Oxley will perform this duty for three months and a review will take place in July 2008.

**2007/288. 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) Village Pump on Halifax Road**

Mr John Wade asked if it would be possible for the Parish Council to contact Neighbourhood Pride to ask if they will be able to clear the foliage and other debris created once work begins on the refurbishment of the Village Pump as discussed earlier in the meeting. The Clerk advised the meeting that, as Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council are carrying out the work to the pavement, steps and surrounding area, they should attend to clearing the site. Councillor Blythe echoed these sentiments but added that if a problem occurred, the History Group should contact the Clerk and she will ask Neighbourhood Pride to attend to the matter.

**ii) Planning Application at High House Farm.**

Mr John Campbell of High House Farm asked if he should bring a Planning Application to the attention of the Parish Council at this time. He was advised that this should be done when the next Agenda item is discussed.

**iii) Bus shelter on Halifax Road, Thurgoland**

Mrs Margaret Denton advised the meeting that the bus shelter at the junction of Crane Moor Road and Halifax Road has recently been removed by South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive and the area tarmaced over. The bus shelter is in a very open position and Mrs Denton asked if the Parish Council could ask for it to be re-instated. This was considered to be acceptable and the Clerk is to make this request.

**2007/289. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS PRODUCED**

There had been no applications received since the Agenda was produced.

**Erection of two storey extension to dwelling**

**High House Farm, Crane Moor Nook, Crane Moor**

Mr John Campbell, of High House Farm, Crane Moor Nook, Crane Moor asked if the Clerk had received an amended application for the above location. No application had been received since the original application in November 2007. No comments had been made by the Parish Council on the original application. Mr Campbell advised the meeting that the application had been refused at the end of January 2008. It was noted that the Parish Council had not been informed of this decision. Mr Campbell provided amended plans to the Clerk, and advised the Parish Council that they had been submitted to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council on 27 March 2008. He asked if, even though the amended plans had not been received, the Parish Council would be prepared to make comment, in order that the matter could be dealt with before the meeting to be held in May. Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that Mr Campbell should not be present whilst this request was being discussed and Mr Campbell left the meeting. After a brief discussion Councillor Wilkinson proposed that, as the amended plans had not been received via the official channels, they should not be discussed at this meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Methley and agreed by all present. Mr Campbell was called back into the meeting and informed of this decision. He thanked the Parish Council for their consideration.

**2007/290. APPROVED/DECLINED APPLICATIONS AS NOTIFIED SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

**i) Erection of two detached dwellings (Amended Submission) (Reserved Matters)**

**Land adjoining Hand Lane, Crane Moor**

The Clerk advised the meeting that the above Planning Application had been granted with five conditions attached. This was noted.

**ii) Residential Development of four town houses (Outline)**

**Thurgoland Methodist Church, Cote Lane, Thurgoland**

The Clerk advised the meeting that the above Planning Application had been refused on 28 January 2008. There were five reasons given for refusal, one of which was that the proposed layout fails to adequately provide for the well used pedestrian routeway that crosses the site. The routeway referred to is Chapel Walk and it was noted that a response is still awaited following the request for clarification of its status.

**2007/291. 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.

**2007/292. ACCOUNTS.**

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the production of the Agenda, two further items had been presented for payment.

Councillor Oxley proposed that the cheques on the list, and the additional two items were approved for payment. This was seconded by Councillor Wilkinson and agreed by all present. The following items were therefore signed:-

Andrew King	Website updating	30.00
Ruth Atkinson	Salary – April	372.45
Crane Moor Chapel	Room Hire	15.00
Howlett Gardening	Belmont Terrace Garden	150.00
Wentworth Estates	Allotment rent 2008/2009	287.50

**2007/293. MATTERS TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The following item was requested to be placed on the Agenda for the meeting to be held in May:-

Drains on Roper Lane and Hand Lane - Councillor Methley

**2007/294. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 7 May 2008 at Thurgoland School, Thurgoland and will commence after the conclusion of the Annual Parish Meeting. Councillor Oxley proposed that the Annual Parish Meeting be held at 6.45 p.m. rather than 7.00 p.m. This was seconded by Councillor Warttig and agreed by all present.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

RUTH ATKINSON  
Parish Clerk