

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THURGOLAND PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT THURGOLAND SCHOOL, HALIFAX ROAD, THURGOLAND, ON WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2008 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT

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

Councillor Blythe opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance.

2008/180. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Oxley (family commitments) and Warttig (work commitments). There were no Declarations of Interest in any items on the Agenda.

2008/181. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5 November 2008 had been circulated to all Councillors. The Clerk advised the meeting that she had noticed an omission. Councillor Warttig was present at the meeting, but not listed as such. This was amended. Councillor Rowley proposed that the amended minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Berry and agreed by all present. Councillor Blythe signed the minutes.

2008/182. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising that were not covered on the Agenda of the meeting.

2008/183. PENISTONE EAST CRIME AND SAFETY SUB-GROUP

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that the Crime and Safety Sub-Group had not met since the last Parish Council meeting. This was noted. Councillor Methley advised the meeting that a new Chair and Secretary have been found and that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 10 December 2008. This was noted. There were no items to bring to the attention of South Yorkshire Police at this time.

2008/184 REPORT FROM THE CLERK ON ITEMS ON APPENDIX 'A'

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the Agenda was produced there had been a response to the following items on Appendix A.

i) Christmas Tree at Churchfield

The Clerk advised the meeting that, following a telephone conversation with Alan Wilson at Neighbourhood Services, the damaged tree at Churchfield has been replaced with a rooted Christmas Tree that is approximately four feet tall. This was noted.

ii) Pavements in Thurgoland

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence advising that the accumulations of leaves along Roper Lane and Halifax Road have been removed. Councillor Methley confirmed that this work has been carried out.

The following items on Appendix A were commented upon as follows:-

i) Grit bin location

Councillor Methley noted that a grit bins at Churchfield had not been re-located for the winter. This was also the case at Fir Tree. It was agreed that the Clerk contact Highway Department and ask for this bin to be located at the first possible opportunity.

ii) Sweeping of Old Mill Lane

Mr John Wade of Old Mill Lane advised the meeting that Old Mill Lane has been swept. This was noted and the item removed from Appendix A.

iii) Planning appeal – The Telephone Exchange – Halifax Road

It was noted that the appeal to the Planning Inspectorate was scheduled for the end of November 2008. It was also noted that a site cabin is on site, and work is still continuing. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk contact the Planning Department of Barnsley MBC to ask if they have received notification of the outcome of the appeal and to advise them again that work continues apace.

It was agreed that the whole of Appendix A be assessed in January 2009 and items that have been outstanding for many months be re-visited.

2008/185. PARISH PATHS

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received an e-mail from Sarah Ford, the Rights of Way Officer, advising that the sign for footpath 30 at Thurgoland Bank will be replaced when the rangers are next in the area. This was noted.

2008/186. 10 MINUTE ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL

There were no items raised by members of the public present.

2008/187. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS PRODUCED
Erection of front porch and conservatory, a front balcony and rear extension to dwelling
(resubmission)

Rock Cottage, The Old Rock Inn, Crane Moor Road, Crane Moor

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the last meeting, the original application at the above location had been refused as 'the proposed rear extension and the introduction of a habitable first floor side window would be materially detrimental to the amenities of the occupants of the adjoining dwellings by reason of overlooking, and loss of privacy.' The revised application was considered and no comments were made.

2008/188. APPROVED/DECLINED APPLICATIONS AS NOTIFIED SINCE THE LAST MEETING
i) Erection of side two storey and rear single extensions to dwelling
3 Lionel Hill, Crane Moor Road, Crane Moor

This application had been refused on 27 November 2008 for the following reasons:-

- i) The site lies within Green Belt. The development would mean that the proposed and previous extensions would exceed the size of the original dwelling, and no special circumstances exist that would justify the granting of permission.
- ii) The proposed garage fails to provide an adequate driveway between it and the main road, resulting in inadequate manoeuvring space and visibility which would lead to reversing and turning in the highway.
- iii) The design of the proposed extension featuring a garage door is considered to be disproportionate in size relative to the small scale and simple architecture that characterises the existing property.

ii) Conversion of church into dwelling, including demolition of adjoining church hall
Thurgoland Methodist Church, Cote Lane, Thurgoland

This application had been granted on 21 November 2008. Councillor Rowley asked for clarification on the status of Chapel Walk, the footpath that runs at the side of the church and links Cote Lane to Churchfields. Condition 9 of the grant states 'The public footpath shall be retained as shown on the approved plans for the lifetime of the development unless permission is granted for otherwise.' This was noted.

2008/189. GREEN WASTE COMPOSTING SITE AT HOOD GREEN

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence from the Clerk of Stainborough Parish Council advising that an application for a green waste composting site at Hood Green is likely to be presented on 16 December 2008 and that Stainborough Parish Council are asking for support from neighbouring Councils by sending a letter of objection before that date. This site had been the subject of a controversial application in February 2008. After discussion it was agreed that no objection could be sent to the Planning Department for an application that has not yet been submitted. However, it was agreed that a letter be sent to Stainborough Parish Council re-affirming the comments made by Thurgoland Parish Council for the original application:-

'Thurgoland Parish Council wish to comment upon this proposed application as it is felt that it will have an impact on Thurgoland Parish, even though it is in the Parish of Stainborough. Concern is raised about the possible increased number of heavy vehicles traveling to and from the site through Thurgoland and the detrimental impact that this will have on the road infrastructure, as many of the roads in the Parish of Thurgoland are not suitable for heavy vehicles.'

2008/190. NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIDE

i) War Memorial at Thurgoland

Councillor Berry advised the meeting that she has been informed by Dr Kershaw that when he was attending to the War Memorial before Armistice Day, he tried to clear behind the retaining wall, only to find it full of cans, bottles and other rubbish. He felt that it was too big a job for him to undertake and wished to report the matter to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Neighbourhood Services to ask if they can attend to clearing the debris from behind the wall as soon as possible. Councillor Blythe proposed that a letter be sent to The Kershaw family, thanking them for tending the garden at the War Memorial. This was agreed to be acceptable.

ii) Bulb planting in the Parish

Councillor Methley advised the meeting that Councillor Oxley had dropped off some of the bulbs that were distributed at the last meeting. Unfortunately Councillor Methley had been unable to plant them, but had given them to Thurgoland School for use in their garden. This was noted.

2008/191. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

i) Pinfold Lane, Bird Lane and Hopping Lane

These items had been placed on the Agenda by Councillor Warttig who was not in attendance at the meeting. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk contact Councillor Warttig to ask what issues he wished to raise and take the appropriate action.

ii) Speed limits on A629 Halifax Road, Thurgoland

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence from Highways and Engineering advising of the following:-

'It is proposed to extend the existing 30 mph speed limit near the garage and hauliers by some 75 metres eastwards, towards Wortley. In addition, it is proposed to introduce a 600metre long 40 mph speed limit buffer zone on the approach to the village. The proposals should increase drive awareness of the speed limits on the approach to the village.'

These proposals were discussed and agreed to be acceptable. However, as the 40 mph buffer zone goes across the top of Crane Moor Road where it exits on to Halifax Road, it was felt that the Give Way sign at the top of Crane Moor Road needs to be made more visible as it is obscured by foliage and requires repainting. This information is to be provided to Highways and Engineering as soon as possible. In addition to this, the Clerk was asked to look out the information concerning the provision of traffic calming measures on Halifax Road in time for the next meeting. A letter from Thurgoland School supporting any traffic calming initiative has been received and this will be used in conjunction with whatever measures are considered necessary at the meeting to be held in January 2009.

2008/192. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BARNSELY MBC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Clerk advised the meeting that Councillor Blythe has been elected to represent Parish and Town Councils in the Barnsley Area (Western) on the Barnsley MBC Standards Committee. This was noted.

2008/193. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received information concerning The Freedom of Information Act which states that all public sector organisations must adopt a new model publication scheme with effect from 1 January 2009. A template has been provided for all Parish Councils which gives information to members of the public about the documents that are published and how they can be accessed. The Clerk is to complete the template and make it available in time for 1 January 2009. A copy will be provided to all Councillors at the January 2009 meeting.

2008/194. RATS AT CHURCHFIELD

This item had been placed on the Agenda by Councillor Berry. In July 2008 problems were experienced at Churchfield because of rats. Advice was sought from Regulatory Services at Barnsley MBC and the information provided was replicated in the July 2008 newsletter which was circulated to all houses. The problem has increased, despite the best endeavour of the Parish Council. It was noted that some residents of Churchfield do not have a dustbin and rubbish is placed on the pavement in a black bin bag. This encourages rats. A discussion took place and the following action was agreed upon:-

- i) A further item be placed in the January 2009 newsletter.
- ii) The Clerk contact Regulatory Services again and ask if they can offer a solution.
- iii) The Clerk suggests that dustbins be provided to all residents of Churchfield.

2008/195. JANUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

The Clerk advised the meeting that items are required by Christmas for inclusion in the January 2009 newsletter. The following items were agreed upon:-

- i) Rats at Churchfield
- ii) Thurgoland Thespians pantomime information
- iii) Thurgoland Tuesday Group information
- iv) Thurgoland History Group information
- v) Brief details of mobile services in the Parish, along with the Clerk's details for residents to contact the Clerk for further information.
- vi) Details of the Freedom of Information Act publication scheme.

2008/196. AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT SMITHY HILL

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received information about the reduction of the rental part of the shared ownership properties as follows:-

- i) Three bedroom property – was £159.59, reduced to £114.29
- ii) Two bedroom property – was £140.62, reduced to £100.53

This information was noted.

2008/197. SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a consultation document on the Single Equality Scheme from Barnsley MBC. After discussion it was agreed that Councillor Hamblen look through the document and pass any comments to the Clerk for consideration before 19 December 2008.

2008/198. JOINT STRATEGIC WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a consultation document on the Joint Strategic Waste Development Plan. Once again it was agreed that Councillor Hamblen look through the document and pass any comments to the Clerk for consideration.

2008/199. THURGOLAND BOWLING CLUB

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a letter from Thurgoland Bowling Club advising that the new floodlights, to which the Parish Council contributed, will be operational from Spring 2009. An invitation will be forwarded in due course to the 'turning on' ceremony. This was noted.

2008/200. THURGOLAND CRICKET CLUB

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a letter from Mr G Ducker of Thurgoland Cricket Club, advising that the club has annual outgoings of approximately £1000, which it is struggling to meet. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Clerk contact Mr Ducker to ask if he would like to place an article in the January 2009 newsletter on behalf of the Club. When the precept for the next financial year is considered, this issue can be taken into account.

2008/201. THURGOLAND VILLAGE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a letter from Thurgoland Village Welfare Association advising that a new kitchen is presently being installed at the Welfare Hall, to comply with a recent Health and Food Hygiene Inspection. The cost of the kitchen is approximately £3,400 and a request for £1,000 towards this cost is requested from the Parish Council. After discussion it was agreed that, as this sum was not requested when the current budget was set, it is not possible to assist in the current financial year. However, it was suggested that the Clerk write to the Welfare Association advising that they apply to the Area Forum and other local funds to try and secure the amount requested.

2008/202. INVITATIONS TO CAROL SERVICES

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received the following invitations:-

- i) Penistone Town Council Carol Service – Sunday 14 December at 6.00 p.m. (to the Chairman)
- ii) Barnsley MBC Civic Carol Service – Thursday 18 December at 4.00 p.m. (to the Chairman and Councillors)

These were noted and any Councillor wishing to attend the Civic Carol Service should advise the Clerk.

2008/203. NEWSLETTERS/CIRCULARS

All newsletters and circulars received since the last meeting were passed on to Councillor Berry for her to deliver to Councillor Oxley for her to read and report any items to the next meeting.

2008/204. ACCOUNTS.

The Clerk advised the meeting that there was one additional item to be paid since the Agenda was produced. Councillor Hamblen proposed that the cheques on the list and the additional item be approved for payment. This was seconded by Councillor Methley and agreed by all present. The following items were therefore signed:-

Ruth Atkinson	Salary – December	372.45
Thurgoland School	Room Hire	15.00
Andy King	Website updating	30.00
Amberol Limited	Bench at Huthwaite Lane	740.25
Costco	Ink jet cartridges	17.14
Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual membership	94.00
M Jackson	Tennis Tournament prizes	26.00
Tony Frank	Fixing of bench at Huthwaite Lane	200.00

2008/205. 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 January:-
Precept 2009/2010 Ruth Atkinson

Councillor Warttig had already offered his apologies for the meeting in January. This was noted.

2008/206. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 7 January 2009 at Thurgoland School, Halifax Road, Thurgoland, at 7.00 p.m.

2008/207. NATIONAL INTERIM SALARY AWARD

It was resolved to exclude members of the public and the Clerk whilst this item was discussed. The two members of the public present and the Clerk left the meeting.

The proposed increase in the hourly pay for part-time Clerks was discussed. It was proposed that the increase be awarded to the Clerk in accordance with the scale proposed by the National Association of Local Councils. This was agreed by all present and advised verbally to the Clerk who came back into the meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

RUTH ATKINSON
Parish Clerk