

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THURGOLAND PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT THURGOLAND SCHOOL, HALIFAX ROAD, THURGOLAND, ON WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE 2008 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT

Councillors Blythe, Cuerden, Hamblen, Oxley, Rowley, Warttig 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.

2008/036. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

2008/037. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Clerk advised the meeting that Councillor Warttig had inadvertently omitted to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the meeting held in May 2008. Councillor Warttig signed the Declaration. Councillor Oxley suggested that she take the Declarations for Councillors Berry and Methley in order that they can be signed and returned to the Clerk as soon as possible. This was agreed to be acceptable.

2008/038. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7 May 2008 had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Hamblen proposed that these minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and agreed by all present. Councillor Blythe signed the minutes.

2008/039. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Oxley advised the meeting that the Youth Group at Thurgoland Welfare Hall is now meeting on a weekly basis. There were no other Matters Arising from the Minutes that were not covered in the Agenda.

2008/040. PENISTONE EAST CRIME AND SAFETY SUB-GROUP

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that he was unable to attend the last meeting of the Crime and Safety Sub-Group and has not yet received any minutes. Councillor Wilkinson advised the meeting that a 4 x 4 has been stolen from Huthwaite Lane recently. This was noted.

2008/041 REPORT FROM THE CLERK ON ITEMS ON APPENDIX 'A'

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the Agenda was produced a response has been received to item number 21. In response to a request for 'shavings' to be provided at Pog Lane and Crane Moor Nook it was noted that 'any planings from existing road construction are now taken to Smithies Lane Depot where they are recycled for use in a 'cold mix macadam' which is used in new footway construction'. This is a change in policy, as previously the 'planings' were distributed around the Borough for use on unadopted roads. However, a telephone number and contact name was given in the response, with an offer to meet a Councillor on site to discuss the matter further. It was agreed that the Clerk provide Councillor Rowley with a copy of the letter in order that she can contact Mr Handley of BMBC directly and arrange to meet him. There had not been any further responses to any of the items on Appendix 'A'.

Councillor Oxley suggested that, as some of the items on Appendix A have been outstanding for many months, it may be a good idea to look at the list in detail at the meeting to be held in July and to try to move progress on as many items as possible. This was considered to be an excellent suggestion and it was also suggested by Councillor Wilkinson that, as well as writing to the particular Directorates, copies should be sent to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, as this may expedite a response. It was therefore agreed that Appendix A will be looked at in detail at the meeting to be held in July.

2008/042. PARISH PATHS

i) Footpath in Hunshelf - Trunce

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that a footpath in Hunshelf Parish is very overgrown. The footpath in question is known as The Trunce and runs from the River Don into Hunshelf Parish. It was agreed that the Clerk contact David Horsfall, Clerk to Hunshelf, to advise him of this.

ii) Footpath number 39 – Highfield Farm to Bird Lane

Councillor Warttig advised the meeting that the footpath from Highfield Farm to Bird Lane is very muddy because of overflow from a septic tank and is difficult to negotiate. It was agreed that the Clerk contact Barnsley MBC to advise them of this.

iii) Lights in Thurgoland Tunnel – Trans-Pennine Trail

Councillor Cuerden noted that the lights in the tunnel at Thurgoland on the Trans-Pennine Trail are now in full working order after being out for many months.

2008/043. NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIDE

There were no items to bring to the attention of Neighbourhood Pride at this time. However, a member of the public asked if it would be appropriate to bring a matter concerning grass cutting to the attention of the Parish Council at this time. This was agreed to be acceptable. The grass in question is behind the goals in Thurgoland Welfare Ground. It has recently been cut down and it was suggested that Thurgoland Welfare Association ask their grass cutting team to cut this area in future to keep it neat and tidy. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Welfare Association to make this request.

2008/044. VILLAGE CLOCK

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has confirmation from the Land Registry that the Old Co-op Superstore is owned by Mr Khan. However, the address given is the business premises. Upon checking the file for the property however, the Clerk has found an address in Huddersfield which was given in 1995 when Mr Khan applied for a licence to sell alcohol. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Mr Khan at the address given, using Recorded Delivery, to try and obtain permission to access the premises in order that the clock can be repaired.

2008/045. PLAY EQUIPMENT AT CRANE MOOR RECREATION GROUND

The Clerk advised the meeting that the defects in the play equipment at Crane Moor which were highlighted in the annual inspection have now been attended to. This was noted.

2008/046. HUTHWAITE QUARRY

The Clerk had provided all Councillors with a copy of a letter from Barnsley MBC advising that Huthwaite Quarry is designated as a Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site within the currently UDP. The Clerk had also provided all Councillors with information on RIGS for their information. At the present time it has not been possible to ascertain the whereabouts of the Title Deeds for the site and the Clerk is to continue to progress this matter via the Land Registry and make a report to the next meeting. Once all relevant information is to hand a decision on the future of the quarry can be made.

2008/047. ALLOTMENT SITE

The Clerk advised the meeting that a meeting of the allotment group was held on 15 May 2008, at which approximately nineteen people were present. Wendy Royffe was elected as Chair of the group, with Richard Beevers being Vice Chair, Ben McArthur being Treasurer and Ruth Atkinson being Secretary. All allotments are now tenanted and a waiting list is still operational. Rents for the current year were collected at the meeting and keys are being provided to all allotment holders so that the gate to the site can be kept locked when no-one is present. The group will next meet in November when it is proposed that a representative of the Barnsley Allotment Society will be invited to attend to assist in progressing the group further. It was agreed that the allotment project has been a huge success, particularly bearing in mind the current trend towards allotment gardening.

2008/048. BUS SHELTER AT CRANE MOOR ROAD/HALIFAX ROAD

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received notification that the bus shelter on Halifax Road/Crane Moor Road is to have a 'front' fitted, but that it is currently on order and takes longer to obtain than the rest of the shelter. This was noted.

2008/049. COUNCILLOR TRAINING SEMINARS

The Clerk had provided all Councillors with details of training seminars available via the Yorkshire Local Councils Association. The most convenient location is Penistone, and a seminar for more experienced Councillors is scheduled for 6 August 2008. After discussion it was agreed that this item be placed on the Agenda of the meeting to be held in July, at which time a decision can be made on whether the Council wishes to provide this training for Councillors and, if so, which Councillors wish to attend.

2008/050. PARISH PATHS MAPS BOARDS

This item had been placed on the Agenda by Councillor Rowley. The Clerk advised the meeting that she has found correspondence from 2006 relating to the three Parish Paths Map Boards. One is on the Trans-Pennine Trail, one outside Crane Moor Chapel and one was blown down in 2005 and is somewhere in storage with Barnsley MBC. In July 2006 an offer was made for Barnsley MBC to provide new artwork, with the Parish Council paying for the image stabilising and laminating. This offer was accepted and a request made to locate the 'blown down' board and restore it to its original position outside Thurgoland Welfare Hall. No further correspondence has been received since that time and Nigel

Labdon, the officer dealing with the matter, has since left the employment of the Council. It was agreed that the Clerk forward copies of all the correspondence to Sarah Ford at Barnsley MBC and ask her to take up the matter as soon as possible.

2008/051. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Clerk had provided all Councillors with a copy of the Annual Governance Statement as part of the audit process for the year ended 31 March 2008. Councillor Blythe asked if all Councillors present had considered the answer to each question raised. All questions on the Statement were answered 'Yes' and Councillor Hamblen proposed that the Statement be signed as such by the Clerk and Chairman and sent for Internal Audit. This was seconded by Councillor Wilkinson and agreed by all present. It was also agreed that the Internal Audit will once again be carried out by Mr David Horsfall, Clerk to Hunshelf Parish Council.

2008/052. PROPOSED POST OFFICE BRANCH CLOSURES

The Clerk advised the meeting that, at the last Parish Clerks Liaison Meeting it had been noted that the next round of proposed Post Office Branch Closures, which includes South Yorkshire, is to be announced on Thursday 12 June 2008. The consultation period will begin on 5 August 2008, which is during the period when the Parish Council does not meet. A discussion took place concerning this matter during which the Clerk provided information from The Post Office stating that one of the aims of the closure programme is to ensure that 99% of the population live within a 3 mile radius of a Post Office and that 90% of the population live within a 1 mile radius of a Post Office. It was agreed that until it is known which branches are proposed for closure no further action is to be taken, but that should Thurgoland be on the list, this item will be placed on the Agenda for the meeting in July, at which time any appropriate action can be considered.

2008/053. THE ISLE OF SKYE

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a letter from Hunshelf Parish Council concerning a piece of land at Green Moor called The Isle of Skye. The land was purchased for £33,000 by a group of residents of Hunshelf, with the intent of selling it to Hunshelf Parish Council for the same price once funds could be raised by the Parish Council. This was in accordance with the wishes of Parishioners. However, finding funds to purchase the land has proved more difficult than anticipated and an appeal has been launched to raise £8,000, which is the amount needed to reach the £33,000 target. The request made by Hunshelf Parish Council is for a donation, however, small, towards this amount. The Clerk further advised the meeting that Mr Horsfall has asked that the honorarium normally given to him for auditing the Parish Council accounts should go to this fund. Councillor Warttig proposed that the £20.00 normally paid to Mr Horsfall be given to this fund. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and agreed by all present. Councillor Blythe asked that the matter of a donation from Parish Council funds be deferred until the July meeting to give Councillors time to consider the matter fully. This was agreed to be acceptable. However, it was agreed that in the meantime the Clerk contact Mr Horsfall and ask him to provide an article for use in the July newsletter on the subject. This would ensure that all residents of Thurgoland are aware of the appeal and can, if they so wish, make their own donation.

2008/054. MARINE DAVID MARSH

Councillor Wilkinson advised the meeting that he has spoken to the family of Marine David Marsh, the young soldier who was recently killed in action in Afghanistan. They would be very pleased if their sons name could be added to the War Memorial on Halifax Road. Councillor Wilkinson further advised the meeting that he has surveyed the War Memorial and can report that the three sides of the engraved section that are visible are all full of names, as are the plinths. However, there are two stone 'vases', one on each corner of the memorial. One is engraved and one is not. This would provide a suitable location for the name of Marine David Marsh to be placed. The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a booklet from the Department for Constitutional Affairs, entitled ' War Memorials in England and Wales – Guidance for Custodians'. This gives all the information required to progress this matter using the correct protocol. Under the War Memorials Act 1923 the Parish Council has the power to add new names, but it is recommended that the intention to add a name should be advertised in order that representations can be received before a final decision is made. Bearing this in mind Councillor Rowley proposed that the Parish Council advertises its intention to add the name of Marine David Marsh to the War Memorial in the July newsletter. This was seconded by Councillor Warttig and agreed by all present.

2008/055. DOG BIN PROVISION

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received an e-mail from Nigel Bath, the Area Forum Officer, advising that following the recent request from a resident for a dog bin at the junction of Rag Lane (A629) and Roper Lane, Elaine Down wishes to canvass the view of the Parish Council as to whether this is a priority location for a dog bin. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hamblen that the Clerk

contact Nigel Bath to advise that if the Area Forum have funds available to provide a bin at this location, the Parish Council would consider it a priority location. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and agreed by all present.

2008/056. 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) Affordable Housing Scheme at Smithy Hill/Roper Lane

Mr Fred Roebuck advised the meeting that at the present time no access has been made for site vehicles to the site of the affordable housing scheme at Smithy Hill/Roper Lane. He has spoken to the site manager who has advised him that until the street lamp is removed, no access can be made. This means that the road is reduced to single line traffic for most of the day, which is clearly a road safety issue. Also, the contractors private vehicles cannot be parked on the site until access is provided. This means that they are having to park on Roper Lane, again causing traffic problems. It was agreed that the Clerk e-mail the relevant person to ask if they can expedite the removal of the lamp post so that vehicles can access the site and help to alleviate road traffic issues at this location.

ii) Planning Application – Land at Dance Lane/Hand Lane, Crane Moor

Mr Roy Harris advised the meeting that the Planning Application for Land at Dance Lane/Hand Lane was refused at a Planning Board Meeting held on 3 June 2008. There were four reasons for the decision:-

- i) The site extends beyond the natural boundaries of Crane Moor and will extend the built form of the village into an area more characteristic of open countryside.
- ii) The height, design and form of the dwellings do not reflect the architectural context of the locality.
- iii) The site is very close to the sewerage works with possible nuisance from odours, flies and service vehicles accessing the site.
- iv) A public sewer may be affected by the dwellings which could potentially jeopardise the maintenance of the public sewerage network.

iii) Composting facility at Hood Green

Mr Roy Harris advised the meeting that, at the same Planning Board Meeting, the proposed composting site at Hood Green had been deferred, even though it had been recommended for approval by the Planning Officers. There had been lively debate, resulting in the deferral of a decision. The Clerk advised the meeting that she had received correspondence giving the recommendation for approval, which she had assumed meant that it had been approved. In actual fact, this same assumption must have been made by a newspaper, as it had been reported as such. This was noted for future reference.

iv) Grass verge at Roper Lane/Halifax Road junction

Mr F Roebuck advised the meeting that, in his opinion, a pavement should be installed on the large grass verge which runs from Newholme on Halifax Road to the junction with Roper Lane. At the present time children have to cross the main road at the end of Roper Lane to access the pavement at the opposite side of the road. This is on a bend, and the school crossing patrol is outside the school. The grass verge is so muddy that it is not appropriate for children, or indeed anyone else to walk on it to get to the start of the pavement outside Newholme. After discussion it was agreed that this was an excellent suggestion and the Clerk is to write to Barnsley MBC to make a request to this effect.

v) Telephone box at Cote Lane – adjacent to The Bridge Inn

Mr John Wade advised the meeting that the telephone box adjacent to The Bridge Inn on Cote Lane has been vandalised and is not operational. It was agreed that the Clerk write to British Telecom to advise them of this.

2008/057. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**i) Residential development of two houses (outline) (part demolition/redevelopment and part conversion)
Methodist Church, Cote Lane, Thurgoland.**

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Warttig that no comments or observations be made on this application. This was seconded by Councillor Hamblen and agreed by all present.

**ii) Fell two sycamore trees and Crown Lift two oak trees
1 Berry Moor Cottage, Pinfold Lane, Silkstone Common**

It was noted that a tree surgeons report was attached to the application, stating that the trees to be felled have severe decay, making them dangerous to the houses and road adjacent. Councillor Warttig proposed that no comments or observations be made. This was seconded by Councillor Wilkinson and agreed by all present.

2008/058. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS PRODUCED

**i) Erection of single storey rear extension to dwelling
9 Cliffe Avenue, Crane Moor, Sheffield**

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hamblen that no comments or observations be made on this application. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and agreed by all present.

2008/059. APPROVED/DECLINED APPLICATIONS AS NOTIFIED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

i) Land at Dance Lane/Hand Lane, Crane Moor

This refusal had already been reported during the public part of the meeting.

ii) Composting site at Hood Green

This deferral had already been reported during the public part of the meeting.

**iii) Erection of a two storey rear extension to dwelling
Old Farmhouse, Highfield Farm, Copster Lane, Oxspring**

This application had been granted with four conditions on 21 May 2008.

Councillor Blythe remarked that work seems to have re-commenced at the site of the Telephone Exchange on Halifax Road, Thurgoland. Planning permission was refused for this site in 2007. It was agreed that should any further information concerning this site come to hand, it should be advised to the next meeting.

2008/060. 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.

2008/061. ACCOUNTS.

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the production of the Agenda, no further items had been presented for payment.

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

Ruth Atkinson	Salary – June	372.45
Thurgoland School	Room Hire	15.00
Timpsons	Keys for allotment site	72.00
Wilkinsons	Padlock for allotment site	3.99
Thurgoland Welfare Association	Room hire for allotment meeting	17.00

2008/062. 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 July:-

Bench in memory of David Marsh	Councillor Wilkinson
July newsletter	Ruth Atkinson
Possible applications to Area Forum	Councillor Blythe
Pinfold Lane	Councillor Warttig

2008/063. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 2 July 2008 at Crane Moor Chapel, Crane Moor at 7.00 p.m.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

RUTH ATKINSON
Parish Clerk