

MINUTS OF THURGOLAND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THURGOLAND SCHOOL, HALIFAX ROAD, THURGOLAND, ON WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2008, AT 6.55 P.M.

1. OPENING

Councillor Blythe welcomed electors of the Parish to the Annual Parish Meeting. He reminded the assembled body that this meeting is NOT a Parish Council Meeting, but is the Annual Parish Meeting for Thurgoland and all persons present are electors, with the same opportunities to vote and contribute to any part of the meeting.

2. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present were Councillors Blythe, Cuerden, Hamblen, Oxley, Rowley, Warttig and Wilkinson. Also present were Ward Councillor Barnard, Ruth Atkinson (Parish Clerk) and eight members of the public. Apologies were received from Councillors Berry and Methley, and Ward Councillors Hand-Davis and Wilson.

3. MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2007.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 9 May 2007 had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Blythe noted one amendment which required to be made to minute 5 viii). The word Pensioner should read Penistone. Following this amendment Councillor Hamblen proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and the minutes were signed by Councillor Blythe.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE CHARITIES ACCOUNTS

Mrs Rebecca Davies was invited into the meeting to give a report on the Thurgoland Charities for the financial year ended 31 March 2008. She circulated copies of the Statement of Accounts to all present. The only item of expenditure from the Educational Foundation was a grant of £400 which had been made to Thurgoland School for the purchase of books for the library. Expenditure from the Scythe Wheel/William Burrows Charity was for coach travel for the summer outing to the coast and a winter outing to the pantomime, as well as tickets for the pantomime.

At the present time there is a full compliment of Trustees who meet three/four times a year. The tenancy of the land owned by the charities at Thurgoland Bank is reviewed annually by Wilbys and their comments regarding the rent to be charged are passed on to the Trustees.

It is anticipated that in the coming year there will be an increase in the cost of coach travel.

Mr F Roebuck asked for clarification on the amalgamation of the Scythe Wheel and William Burrows Charities. Mrs Davies advised the meeting that the William Burrows Charity was wound up some time ago on the advice of the Charities Commission, and that the funds in that Charity were paid into the

Scythe Wheel Charity. The Charities Commission also advised that the name be kept as part of the Scythe Wheel Charity in order that it could be noted for future reference.

Mr M Williams asked if the records relating to the Thurgoland Charities were available for viewing. Mrs Davies advised the meeting that they were all held at Thurgoland School and could be viewed at any time by prior arrangement. This point was raised by Mr Williams so that details of the Charities can be included in the archive to be made as a result of the recent Lottery Funding obtained by the Local History Group.

Councillor Blythe thanked Mrs Davies for her presentation and she left the meeting.

5. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Blythe gave a report on the business of the Parish Council for the past year:-

There is often confusion amongst Parishioners about what they think the Parish Council has the power to do and what it actually has the power to do. As a general rule, Thurgoland Parish Council seeks whenever possible to ensure that all statutory bodies meet their statutory duties and, in addition to this that Thurgoland is treated fairly. It also strives to help the community as much as possible and aims to achieve fair and proper services for all residents.

During the past year the Parish Council has:-

- i) Reported items of concern to Barnsley MBC on a range of issues such as highways, planning, Neighbourhood Services, Parish Paths, and problems with land at Huthwaite Lane, Hand Lane and Dance Lane.
- ii) Taken part in the consultation process with regard to an affordable housing scheme at Smithy Hill.
- iii) Raised issues concerning road safety at Smithy Hill/Roper Lane.
- iv) Raised concerns about road safety on the A629 through Thurgoland.
- v) Had representation on the newly-formed Penistone East Crime and Safety Sub-Group.
- vi) Had representation on Penistone Community Partnership.
- vii) Provided a letter of support for a proposed new doctors surgery in Thurgoland. This proposal is currently with the Primary Care Trust awaiting further developments.
- viii) Completed the refurbishment of the allotment site and allocated all allotments, as well as forming an allotment group.
- ix) Installed new playground equipment at Crane Moor Recreation Ground, with the help of a grant of £24,000.
- x) Begun to look at access and safety issues at Huthwaite Quarry and is in the process of agreeing upon an action plan for the site.
- xi) Organised a successful Boundary Walk on Monday 5 May 2008, which was attended by 125 walkers. Thanks were expressed to Councillor Rowley for organising this increasingly successful event.

- xii) Awarded grants to Crane Moor Community Chapel (building and improvement works), Thurgoland Bowling Club (floodlights), Thurgoland Welfare Association (grass cutting) and Penistone Paramount (running costs).
- xiii) Assisted the Local History Group in a successful bid for £38,500 to Heritage Lottery. Congratulations and thanks were expressed to Mr M Williams and all members of the group in the work involved in achieving this.

6. PRESENTATION OF THE PARISH ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1 APRIL 2007 TO 31 MARCH 2008

Copies of the Income and Expenditure, Asset Register and Bank Reconciliation Statement had been circulated to all Councillors. Mr F Roebuck commented that he did not feel that members of the public who had not had an opportunity to view these documents should approve them. Councillor Blythe suggested that copies be circulated to all present and that the item be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting. However, it was noted that in order for members of the public to be able to approve the accounts it must be done at an Annual Parish Meeting. As it was not possible to wait a full year to approve the accounts it was suggested that the meeting be suspended whilst the Clerk photocopy the documents. The Clerk apologised for this oversight and left the meeting to photocopy the documents. The documents were circulated to all present and time given for them to be digested.

Mr M Williams asked for a breakdown of the grants awarded. The Clerk advised the meeting that the £2035 was made up of £500 grass cutting (Thurgoland Welfare), £1500 floodlights (Thurgoland Bowling Club) and £35 prizes (Thurgoland Tennis Tournament). The £2000 agreed as part of the Heritage Project did not appear on these accounts as they were up to 31 March 2008 and the cheque for the History Group was to be signed later in the meeting. The £2000 will therefore appear on the accounts for year ending 31 March 2009.

Councillor Hamblen proposed that the accounts be accepted. This was seconded by Mr F Roebuck and agreed by all present. The Annual Return was signed by Councillor Blythe.

7. MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

- i) Mrs Davies asked if she could address the meeting at this time to advise all present that in a recent Ofsted Report Thurgoland Primary School has been marked as outstanding in all categories. This was clearly an excellent achievement and Councillor Hamblen asked that the congratulations of the Parish Council and all residents be passed on to the staff and pupils of the school. This was echoed by all present and Mrs Davies thanked the meeting for these sentiments. Mrs Davies left the meeting at this time.
- ii) Mr M Williams asked if it would be possible to look into the possibility of

adding the name of David Marsh to the War Memorial in Thurgoland. This young man was recently killed in action in Afghanistan. The Clerk advised the meeting that she has written to the Ministry of Defence on this subject and has received a response from The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency advising that they cannot provide a list of service personnel killed in action since 1948 as many of their records do not include a place of birth or residence. It was agreed that further investigation is required to ascertain if there are any other families in the Parish who have suffered such a loss before further action is taken. Mr F Roebuck suggested that the Royal British Legion may be able to assist and it was agreed that the Clerk contact them in the first instance. It was further agreed that an article be placed in the July Parish Newsletter asking for any relevant information to be provided. Councillor Wilkinson advised the meeting that there has been a suggestion that the family of Mr Marsh may wish his name to be placed on the War Memorial in Bolsterstone rather than Thurgoland. He agreed to contact the family to ask for their comments on this matter before progress is made. This matter will be discussed again by the Parish Council when all enquiries have been made

- iii) Mr J Wade suggested that there are times when items on the Agenda take a long time to be resolved and that speedier progress could be made on some occasions. It was noted that on many occasions this is because of outside bodies not responding quickly.
- iv) Mr F Roebuck proposed that the thanks of the residents of the Parish be passed on to all Councillors for their hard work over the past year. This was seconded by Mr J Wade and echoed by all Parishioners present. Councillor Blythe thanked the meeting.

Councillor Blythe concluded the meeting by thanking all Parish Councillors, members of the public and the Clerk for their hard work during the year.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.50 p.m. and was followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.