

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THURGOLAND PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT THURGOLAND SCHOOL, HALIFAX ROAD, THURGOLAND, ON WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2009 AT 7.00 P.M.**

**PRESENT**

Councillors Berry, Blythe, Hamblen, Methley, Oxley, Rowley and Warttig. Also present District Councillor Barnard, Ruth Pearson (Parish Clerk), and six members of the public.  
Councillor Blythe opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance.

**2009/155. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cuerden and Wilkinson. There were no Declarations of Interest in any items on the Agenda.

**2009/156. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 November 2009 had been circulated to all Councillors. There were three amendments to be made to the minutes as follows:-

**i) 2009/134 (iv) - Huthwaite Quarry**

Councillor Berry had asked about progress on finding the Title Deeds to Huthwaite Quarry, not Councillor Rowley. This was amended.

**ii) 2009/135 (iii) – Crane Moor**

Councillor Hamblen felt that it was inappropriate to minute the exact details of the incident at Crane Moor. It was agreed that the first sentence of this minute should end after 'South Yorkshire Police recently', with the remainder of the sentence being deleted. This was agreed to be acceptable.

**iii) 2009/146 – Thurgoland Cricket Club**

It was noted that Councillor Berry seconded the proposal that the Parish Council take responsibility for funding the drainage work at the Cricket Ground, not Councillor Wilkinson. This was amended.

Following these amendments, Councillor Hamblen proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Oxley and agreed by all present. Councillor Blythe signed the minutes.

**2009/157. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**i) The Old Co-op Superstore**

It was noted that, despite assurances given in November that the Old Co-op Superstore was to open within two weeks, it is still not open. It was acknowledged that no action can be taken to re-start the Village Clock until the store is occupied once again.

**ii) Rural Action Yorkshire Annual General Meeting**

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that he had attended the Annual General Meeting of Rural Action Yorkshire, held at Hoylandswaine, at which The Leader of Barnsley MBC, Councillor Steven Houghton, gave an address. His speech was very broad in content, but it was apparent that in the future, the main focus of attention for the West of Barnsley is tourism. This was noted.

**2009/158 PENISTONE EAST CRIME AND SAFETY SUB-GROUP**

Councillor Oxley gave the following report from the last meeting of the Penistone East Crime and Safety Sub-Group:-

**i) Crime figures**

There had been seven reported crimes in Thurgoland, mainly car crime, and no reported crimes in Crane Moor.

**ii) Theft of scrap metal**

There had been instances of theft of scrap metal by travellers in the Thurgoland area.

**iii) Footpath adjacent to Fir Tree Estate/Affordable Housing Scheme**

The report made to the last meeting by a resident of Fir Tree Estate concerning anti-social behaviour had been advised to the meeting and a representative of South Yorkshire Police is to contact the resident in question to take the matter further.

**iv) Community Wardens**

There are now two Community Wardens for Thurgoland and their details are to be put in the January newsletter so that residents have contact numbers.

**v) Frequency of meetings**

It was noted that meetings of the Penistone Crime and Safety Sub-Group will now be held bi-monthly. There were no items to bring to the attention of South Yorkshire Police at this time.

**2009/159 REPORT FROM THE CLERK ON ITEMS ON APPENDIX 'A'**

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the Agenda was produced the following items have received a response:-

**i) Huthwaite Quarry**

The Clerk has spoken to Mr Sturgess of Barnsley MBC who has ascertained that as the land at Huthwaite Quarry relates back to the Enclosures Award in 1837, it would appear that it has never been officially registered at the Land Registry and there is no evidence to suggest that the Parish Council have ever had any interest in the land. Under the Local Government Act 1929 it was passed to Penistone Rural District Council in 1930 and then when re-organisation took place in 1974 it was passed to Barnsley MBC, held in Trust for the benefit of Thurgoland. When part of the land was sold for housing plots on Old Mill Lane, Barnsley MBC dealt with the conveyancing, providing Thurgoland Parish Council with £20,000 as a result of the sale, which is still in an Income Bond held by the Parish Council. However, Mr Sturgess is still doing more research to confirm this information and will endeavour to provide a definitive statement as to the ownership of the quarry before the meeting to be held in January 2010. All of this was noted and the item will be kept on Appendix A until a final answer is received.

**ii) Broadband Improvements in the Parish**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence from Digital Region advising that the only site in the Parish that is currently expected to benefit from the massive investment in broadband within the next few years is a location described as 'Off Roper Lane, Thurgoland' in March 2012. However, it is stated that 'Unfortunately, Crane Moor does not seem to be so fortunate.' A discussion took place, following which it was agreed that the Clerk write to Digital Region, to query this decision, pointing out that Crane Moor comes from the same exchange as Thurgoland (Stocksbridge) and it would seem inappropriate not to include Crane Moor in the programme of improvements.

**iii) Rats at Churchfield**

Councillor Berry advised the meeting that the problem with rats at Churchfield has now been taken on board by Berneslai Homes and therefore can be removed from Appendix A.

**iv) Grass verges at Roper Lane/Affordable Housing Scheme**

Councillor Methley advised the meeting that the grass verges which were damaged during building work at Smithy Hill/Roper Lane have now been re-instated. This was noted and the item removed from Appendix A.

**v) Bus service timetable changes**

Councillor Methley advised the meeting that drivers of the buses running through Crane Moor and Thurgoland are experiencing problems because of cars double parked in certain areas, resulting in buses being unable to negotiate their route safely. There is speculation that the routes may be withdrawn if these problems continue. A discussion took place concerning car parking in the Parish and it was agreed that an article be placed in the January newsletter asking residents to park sensibly, particularly on bus routes. Councillor Barnard agreed to look into this speculation by contacting South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive and to advise the Clerk of his findings.

**2009/160. PARISH PATHS**

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that she had nothing to bring to the attention of the Council regarding Parish Paths.

**2009/161. ORGANISATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF PUBLIC**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had accidentally left this item on the Agenda from the last meeting. It was deleted from the Agenda at this time.

**2009/162. 10 MINUTE ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**i) Telephone Exchange, Halifax Road, Thurgoland**

Mrs Jones asked if any further information had been received following the refusal of Planning Permission on 20 October 2009. The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received information advising that the Council's Enforcement and Legal Section are liaising on the details of the Enforcement Notice to ensure that it is correct. Mr Jones advised the meeting that the Enforcement Officer visited the site on 25 November 2009. Councillor Barnard agreed to speak to Mr Blount, the Enforcement Officer, to ask him for an up-to-date position on this matter and to advise the Clerk of the response provided.

**ii) Wind turbines**

Mr Campbell advised that in some areas of the United Kingdom, electricity generated by wind turbines is being sold back to the National Grid and providing finance to improve the villages in which the turbines are situated. This is also the case in areas where the power of rivers is harnessed to produce electricity. Mr Campbell provided information on these projects to the Clerk for future reference and consideration.

**iii) Car parking at Churchfields**

A resident of Churchfields raised the subject of car parking, following the previous discussion. She noted that the few car parking spaces at the top of Churchfield are very often full, particularly when there is an event at the Church, the School and the Welfare Hall. This results in residents parking on the road, causing problems for buses and emergency vehicles. A discussion took place following which it was agreed that the Clerk write to the Highways Department of Barnsley MBC to ask if the land adjacent to the car parking spaces at Churchfield could be utilised as further car parking, to try and help the situation.

There were no other matters to be raised by the public at this time.

### **2009/163. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS PRODUCED**

The Clerk advised the meeting that the following additional Planning Application had been received since the production of the Agenda:-

- i) Erection of a detached summerhouse to the rear of dwelling with associated raised timber decking (resubmission)  
35 Hollin Moor View, Thurgoland**

There were no comments or observations on this application. It was noted that the original application must have been refused, but no notification of this had been received.

- ii) Erection of stable block and formation of exercise ménage with associated hardstanding and widening of access  
Hollin Moor Lane, Thurgoland**

There were not comments or observations on this application.

### **2009/164. APPROVED/DECLINED APPLICATIONS AS NOTIFIED SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

Whilst there were no approved/declined applications, the Clerk advised the meeting of the following information:-

- i) Footpath at Chapel Walk, Cote Lane, Thurgoland**

A letter has been received from Mike Gibson, Public Rights of Way Officer, advising that because of the strong local feeling for the retention of the footpath known as Chapel Walk, he will be raising an objection to the removal of the condition to retain the access. It was noted that the application will be considered at a meeting of the Planning Board to be held on 15 December 2009.

A further letter has been received from Mr P Coppard, Chief Executive to Barnsley MBC, advising that he has been in negotiation with the developer over establishing the path for continued public use. However, this matter is complicated by the fact that the Council is currently seeking clarification on the legal status of the path. Both of the above points were noted and the matter will be raised at the next Parish Council meeting, following the Planning Board meeting on 15 December 2009.

### **2009/165. NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

The following item relating to Neighbourhood Services was brought to the attention of the Parish Council:-

- i) Christmas Trees**

The Clerk advised the meeting that Christmas Trees will be delivered to Churchfields and the Welfare Hall on Monday 7 December 2009 and that Mr Harold Denton has kindly agreed to put the lights on the tree at Churchfield once it has been installed by Neighbourhood Services.

### **2009/166. HIGHWAY MATTERS**

The following highways matters were raised for discussion and action:-

- i) Drains at Crane Moor**

It was noted that during recent heavy rainfall, the drains along Crane Moor Road were unable to cope with the large amount of water, and that the gutters need sweeping to clear them of leaves and debris, and the drains need clearing. The Clerk is to make this request to Barnsley MBC.

- ii) Junction of Hollin Moor Lane and Pinfold Lane**

Councillor Methley advised the meeting that the directional signs at the T junction of Pinfold Lane and Hollin Moor Lane are missing, as is the Give Way sign. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Highways Department of Barnsley MBC to ask for these signs to be replaced at the earliest opportunity.

- iii) Road safety issues on A629**

A discussion took place concerning outstanding issues of road safety along the A629 through Thurgoland. The following action was agreed to be taken:-

- a) Road markings outside near Thurgoland School**

It was noted that in a letter dated 3 December 2007 it was agreed that the '30' signs on the A629 would be made more distinctive, 'dragons teeth' road markings painted on the carriageway and a red area put on the road with 30 signs painted in it. This work has not been carried out and it was agreed that the Clerk write to ask for this agreement to be honoured as soon as possible.

- b) Speed Indicator Devices**

It had been agreed in October 2008 to deploy temporary speed indicator devices would be provided for a period of four weeks. As this has not yet been arranged it was agreed that the Clerk write to ask for a four week period to be arranged as soon as possible.

- c) Junction of Crane Moor Road/A629**

It was noted that in January 2009 it had been agreed that the Give Way signs and road markings would be inspected and any necessary works issued. Once again, this work has not been carried out and it was agreed that the Clerk write to expedite this work.

### **2009/167. AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME – SMITHY HILL**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received correspondence advising that all rented applicants are required to give information on criminal offences when applying. Shared Ownership applicants only have to answer two questions on court appearances. Whilst this information answered some of the

questions asked, the query regarding the exact 'location criteria' for applicants was not answered. It was agreed that the Clerk request that a member of the affordable housing team attend the next Parish Council meeting to give an update. It was also noted that an opening event to be attended by the Mayor is to take place in January 2010 (date to be fixed) and that all Councillors will be invited.

#### **2009/168. PARISH WEBSITE**

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that a meeting had taken place at which himself, the Clerk, Mr John Campbell, Councillor Cuerden and her husband, Simon were present. A fruitful discussion had taken place and Mr Campbell had demonstrated other websites which had pages from various community groups, some of which can be updated by the individual groups, or by a central person with overall responsibility for the site. It was proposed by this 'working party' that an article be included in the next Parish newsletter, asking residents what they would like a Parish website to provide. It was also proposed to arrange a meeting of as many community groups as possible to discuss what they would like the Parish website to provide. Once this information has been gathered a further meeting will take place to implement any changes and improvements suggested. In the meantime, the Clerk is to continue providing information to Mr King, who will update the site as at present. This proposal was agreed to be acceptable by all present.

#### **2009/169. JANUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER**

The Clerk advised the meeting that articles for the January 2010 newsletter should be provided to her before the end of December 2009. It was noted by Councillor Methley that some residents of Crane Moor have not received newsletters recently. It was suggested that a dozen newsletters be placed in the foyer of Crane Moor Chapel so that anyone who does not get one can collect one when they attend Church. This was agreed to be acceptable. It was agreed that, in addition to articles already mentioned, the following should be reported upon in the January 2010 edition:-

- i) Planning Application progress at Chapel Walk and Telephone Exchange
- ii) Allotment Society
- iii) Thurgoland pantomime
- iv) History Group

#### **2009/170. CIVIC CAROL SERVICE**

The Clerk advised the meeting that an invitation to attend the Civic Carol Service on Thursday 17 December 2009 at 4.00 p.m. at St Mary's Church, Barnsley had been received. This invitation was to the Chair and all Councillors. If any Councillor wishes to attend they should notify the Clerk as soon as possible.

#### **2009/171. MEETING DATES 2010**

The Clerk had provided a provisional list of meeting dates for 2010 to all Councillors. This list was agreed to be acceptable by all present. However, Councillor Blythe felt that, in future, a full year of meeting dates should be fixed at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May. This practice was agreed to be acceptable and will commence in May 2010.

#### **2009/172. NEWSLETTERS/CIRCULARS**

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

#### **2009/173. BANK AND NATIONAL SAVINGS MANDATES**

The Clerk advised the meeting that, in order to change her name on the bank and National Savings Mandate, a new mandate for each is required to be signed by all Councillors. The mandate for National Savings was circulated to all Councillors present for signature, and the bank mandate will be circulated at the next meeting, at which time Councillors Cuerden and Wilkinson will also sign both mandates.

#### **2009/174. ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk had circulated all Councillors with a list of accounts to be paid. There were two additional items to be added to the list. Councillor Hamblen proposed that the cheques on the list, plus the two additional items be approved for payment. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and agreed by all present. The following cheques were therefore signed:-

Ruth Pearson	Salary – December	425.74
Thurgoland School	Room Hire – December	15.00
Mr A King	Website updating – October	30.00
Yorkshire Water	Allotment water rates	14.45
Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual Subscription	95.00
N J Howlett	Belmont Terrace Gardening	450.00

**2009/175. MATTERS TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

There were no items notified to be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

**2009/176. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 6 January 2010 at Thurgoland School, Halifax Road, Thurgoland at 7.00 p.m.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

RUTH PEARSON  
Parish Clerk