

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THURGOLAND PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT CRANE MOOR CHAPEL, CRANE MOOR ROAD, CRANE MOOR, ON WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2009 AT 7.00 P.M.**

**PRESENT**

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

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

**2009/049. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Berry (illness), Wilkinson (other commitments), and District Councillor Hand-Davis. There were no Declarations of Interest in any items on the Agenda.

**2009/050. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2009 had been circulated to all Councillors.

There were two amendments to be made as follows:-

**i) Item 2009/033 i)**

Marine David Marsh was killed on 30 March 2008, NOT 30 March 2009 as stated.

**ii) Item 2009/046**

Payment of the cheques on the list given was proposed by Councillor Cuerden NOT Councillor Hamblen as stated.

These amendments were made by hand to the original minutes and subsequently amended on the computer copy. Following these amendments Councillor Warttig proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Methley and agreed by all present. Councillor Blythe signed the minutes.

**2009/051. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**i) Inspection of play equipment at Crane Moor Recreation Ground**

The Clerk advised the meeting that the annual inspection of the play equipment at Crane Moor Recreation Ground was fixed for Friday 24 July 2009. A full report will be forwarded upon completion of the inspection.

**2009/052. PENISTONE EAST CRIME AND SAFETY SUB-GROUP**

Councillor Methley advised the meeting that the Penistone East Crime and Safety Sub Group has been disbanded following the resignation of the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the group. This was noted. The Clerk advised the meeting that PC Martin Silcock of South Yorkshire Police was intending to attend the meeting to update the Parish Council on police matters, but had been called to another meeting. If he was able he would attend later in the meeting to give his report.

**2009/053. REPORT FROM THE CLERK ON ITEMS ON APPENDIX 'A'**

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the Agenda was produced there have been no responses to the outstanding items on Appendix A. Mr John Wade asked if the Clerk could read out the list of outstanding items for the benefit of members of the public. This was considered to be acceptable and the Clerk read out the list. Mr Wade asked what had been the outcome of the issue of whether Old Mill Lane was classified as a highway or a bridleway. The Clerk advised that without the paperwork to hand, she could not recall accurately, but that she would find the paperwork and put the item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

A discussion followed concerning the outstanding items on Appendix A and it was agreed that the following items be 'chased up' with the relevant departments:-

**i) Crane Moor Road, Crane Moor - kerbs and gutters**

It was noted that requests had been sent in February 2008 and March 2009 asking for the drains to be cleared and the kerbs to be inspected along the length of Crane Moor Road. As no response to either request has been received it was agreed that the matter should be raised again.

**ii) Pavement provision at Roper Lane**

A request for the provision of a pavement along Halifax Road to the junction with Roper Lane had been made in June 2008. No response or acknowledgment has been received. It was agreed to ask for a response to this request as soon as possible.

**iii) Rats at Churchfield**

It was noted that no response has been received to the request made in December 2008 following sightings of rats in the Churchfield area. Councillor Oxley agreed to speak to Councillor Berry on this matter as it was she who had first raised the matter.

**2009/054. PARISH PATHS**

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that she had nothing to report in respect of Parish Paths.

**2009/055. 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 present:-

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

Mrs Jones of Halifax Road spoke about the work taking place at The Telephone Exchange, Thurgoland, which appears to be in breach of the Planning Permission granted. This item appeared on the Agenda as item 11. but it was considered appropriate to bring it up the Agenda to discuss it at this time. The Clerk advised the meeting that, following the last meeting, she has received a letter from the Principal Enforcement Officer of Barnsley MBC stating that

'The Council has received a number of complaints regarding this development which have resulted in some amendments to the design being submitted for consideration. A minor modification to allow an upper window in each gable end, in place of the 'slit' openings originally applied for, has been approved as it is considered that this amendment would not have a significant impact on neighbouring amenities or the visual appearance of the building. The height of the building has been checked against the approved plans and found to be in accordance. The developer is now proposing other, more significant, changes including the addition of velux windows on both sides of the roof. The planning officer has advised that these further changes will require a fresh planning permission to be submitted for consideration and I understand that the developer intends to pursue this course of action. Obviously, if an application is submitted the Parish Council will be notified through the Council's normal consultation procedure. In the meantime, the development is being monitored.'

It was noted that no new Planning Application has been submitted, although the velux windows referred to are now in place. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the Clerk, in conjunction with Councillor Blythe, should write a strongly worded letter to The Enforcement Officer, with copies to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council. The letter will express the concern of residents and the Parish Council that the original Planning Permission was refused because the plans increased the footprint of the original building, which is in Green Belt, but subsequent plans have now allowed the footprint to be significantly increased. The developer seems to have no heed for the conditions laid down in the approved application and this makes a mockery of having a Planning Board. It was also agreed to invite the Enforcement Officer to the meeting in September so that residents and Councillors can discuss the issue of Planning Enforcement with him face to face.

**ii) Marine David Marsh**

The father and grandfather of Marine David Marsh expressed their disappointment that the site meeting with the stonemason agreed at the last meeting had not yet taken place. The Clerk advised the meeting that she has spoken to the stonemason who has promised to arrange a meeting, but has not yet done so, despite numerous telephone calls. It was agreed that the Clerk continue to try to make contact and, if necessary write to him, so that this matter can be resolved as soon as possible. The Clerk apologised for the delay and promised to try to expedite the matter within the next week.

**iii) Thurgoland Welfare Association**

Mrs Denton of Thurgoland Welfare gave a letter to the Clerk for consideration at the next meeting. The letter is a request for financial assistance towards the cost of grass cutting at Thurgoland Recreation Ground. It will be placed on the Agenda for the meeting in September for full consideration. Whilst on the subject of grass cutting, Mrs Denton advised the meeting that the footpath from opposite Thurgoland Church, through the Welfare Ground to Roper Lane is very overgrown. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Sarah Ford to ask her to arrange for this to be attended to as it is a public footpath.

**iv) Broken Public Footpath sign**

Mr Wade of Old Mill Lane advised the meeting that the Public Footpath sign at the junction of Thurgoland Bank and Roper House Lane has been knocked down and is lying in the grass verge. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Sarah Ford to ask for this signpost to be re-instated.

**v) Fly tipping on public footpath**

Mr Wade of Old Mill Lane advised the meeting that garden rubbish is being tipped from Romtickle House on to the footpath that leads from the Trans Pennine Trail to the River Don. This footpath is part of the new Thurgoland Heritage Trail and is a public footpath. It was agreed that, as this is fly tipping, the Clerk should write to the relevant department of Barnsley MBC to ask them to deal with the matter.

**2009/056. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**i) Erection of a sun room extension to rear of dwelling  
1 Mount Pleasant View, Crane Moor, Sheffield**

It was noted that the address given on the application is actually 1 Mount Pleasant Court, NOT Mount Pleasant View as stated. There were no comments or observations to be made on this application.

**2009/057. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS PRODUCED**

The Clerk advised the meeting that no additional Planning Applications had been received since the production of the Agenda.

**2009/058. APPROVED/DECLINED APPLICATIONS AS NOTIFIED SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

The Clerk advised the meeting that there had been no notification of approved/declined applications since the last meeting.

**2009/059. THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, HALIFAX ROAD, THURGOLAND**

This item had been dealt with in the Public Session of the meeting and no further discussion was considered necessary.

**2009/060. CHAPEL WALK, THURGOLAND**

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the last meeting, she has received a letter from a resident of Belmont Terrace, advising that since the footpath known as Chapel Walk has been closed, a private gate at Belmont Terrace has been used on a regular basis by residents wishing to access Churchfields from Cote Lane. In the past this short cut was via Chapel Walk. The residents of Belmont Terrace are concerned about the additional 'traffic' to the rear of their properties, which is private and they have erected a sign at the end of Belmont Terrace advising that it is private. The subject of the re-opening of Chapel Walk was discussed and it was noted that, despite a verbal assurance to a Parish Councillor that the footpath would be open by the end of June, it is still closed. As the Planning Consent for the development at Thurgoland Methodist Chapel specifically stated that the footpath should be retained it was agreed that the Clerk contact the Planning Department to ask them to look into this matter and enforce the opening of the footpath at the very earliest opportunity.

**2009/061. NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

The following Neighbourhood Services matters were raised for discussion and action:-

**i) Bushes on Cote Lane**

These are included on the flail round and should be attended to in the near future.

**ii) Dog Bin at Crane Moor Nook**

A response had been received to the request for a dog bin at Crane Moor Nook, advising that when this request was made some months ago it was rejected, but that if the Parish Council still regard this as a priority, they can re-apply via the Community Support Fund. A discussion took place concerning the exact location of the bin, but it was agreed that until it is known if a bin can be provided, the exact location does not need agreeing. The Clerk is to make the necessary application for a bin.

**iii) Pavement at Thurgoland Bank**

A letter has been received from Barnsley MBC advising that 'There is a build up of detritus at the rear of the pavement which has resulted in weeds growing; these have been sprayed this week (June 2009). The pavement is too narrow to be swept by the mechanical pavement sweeper; once the weeds have died back we will look at the manual removal of the detritus to prevent the problem re-occurring.' This was noted.

**iv) Grass verges along A629**

A letter has been received advising that the grass verges along the A629 should receive their first cut within 2-4 weeks of 5 June 2009. It was noted that this cut has taken place.

**2009/062. HIGHWAY MATTERS**

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

**i) Playground sign on Roper Lane, Thurgoland**

A letter has been received advising 'The sign in question is provided to warn motorists of the likelihood of encountering children in the road ahead, going to a school or playground, not to advertise the location of such to pedestrians. Also, there is no provision in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 to incorporate any form of distance to hazard plates with this type of warning sign, thus unfortunately I am unable to offer any assistance at this time.' This was noted.

**ii) Traffic signs on A629 at Crane Moor Road and outside Telephone Exchange**

Mr Campbell of Crane Moor Road asked if any response had been received to his request for signage to be replaced and improved on the A629 around it's junction with Crane Moor Nook. The Clerk advised the meeting that no response had been received, even though the matter had been raised by Mr Campbell at the last Area Forum Meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Highways to ask them to provide a response as soon as possible.

**iii) Pinfold Lane**

Councillor Warttig advised the meeting that the work to improve the edges of the road surface along Pinfold Lane has not been completed and the stretch between the junction with Hollin Moor Road and the crossroads is deteriorating. It was agreed that the Clerk request that the work be continued as soon as possible.

**2009/063. COMMUNICATION WITH ELECTORATE AND WEBSITE**

A letter had been received from Mr Campbell of Crane Moor Nook, in which he raised the issues of communication with the electorate via the Parish Notice Boards and the updating of the website ([www.thurgoland.org.uk](http://www.thurgoland.org.uk)) The letter had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk asked if she could address the issue of the publication and display of Agenda and Minutes of meetings.

Mr Campbell's contention was that minutes are not put on the website until they are signed as a true and accurate record, which is not until the next meeting. It can therefore be upwards of six weeks before minutes of meetings are available for public inspection. The Clerk advised the meeting that, in accordance with the request made in April 2009 by Mr Campbell, she had written to Yorkshire Local Councils Association for their clarification on this matter. Their advice was that many Councils operate the system of not publishing minutes until they are signed as correct, but that many Councils also give access to unapproved minutes by marking them clearly as 'draft' or 'subject to confirmation'. The advice given is that 'YLCA considers that with a suitable warning that the minutes are unsigned it would be preferable to ensure that they are available for public inspection as early as possible.' Bearing this in mind it was agreed by all present that this system be adopted with immediate effect.

Mr Campbell also pointed out that in the Crane Moor Nook Notice Board, the Agenda displayed is still from 13 May 2009, the June and July Agenda have not been displayed. The Clerk apologised for this, stating that the reason was that the foliage around the Notice Board is so overgrown that she could not access the board safely. She has requested that Neighbourhood Services clear the area around the Notice Board so that in future notices can be displayed at the correct time. She asked it to be noted however that the statutory duty of the Parish Council of displaying Agenda in at least one public Notice Board has been carried out in the rest of the Parish, in the other four Notice Boards. This was noted.

The subject of the updating and relevance of the Parish Council website was discussed at length, following concerns raised by Mr Campbell about the relevance of some of the articles and the technical maintenance of the site. The Clerk advised the meeting that she has spoken to Mr King (who updates the site) and given him a copy of the letter from Mr Campbell for his comments. He has responded, apologizing for the late updating of the site regarding the change of meeting date in July – he has a technical problem with his e-mail system which resulted in him not getting the information from the Clerk on time. This has now been resolved. The provision of information to Mr King to put on the site rests with the Clerk and it was acknowledged by the Clerk that some areas of the site need to be refreshed and updated on a more regular basis. Bearing this in mind, it was suggested that a meeting takes place at which the Clerk, Councillor Blythe, Mr Campbell and Mr King look at the site holistically and provide a report to the next meeting on the way forward to ensure that this site is relevant, up to date and informative. This was considered acceptable and will be progressed before the meeting in September 2009.

#### **2009/064. WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS AT CRANE MOOR NOOK**

Councillor Rowley advised the meeting that on 6 July 2009, representatives from the Waste Management and Highways Department of Barnsley MBC had met herself, two District Councillors and Councillor Blythe at Crane Moor Nook for a site visit to look at the problems outlined by the Waste Management Department for the collection of waste. Subsequently, a meeting of residents had taken place at Crane Moor Working Men's Club on 21 July 2009 at which the following actions were agreed upon:-

- i) Barnsley MBC will provide some rough road surface at Crane Moor Nook and will dig some ditches to assist with drainage.
- ii) An estimate is being sought for some crushed brick to be put down Pog Lane as far as the last house. Residents will be required to fund the cost of this crushed brick.
- iii) A kerb has been installed and a small piece of tarmac at the entrance to Crane Moor Nook.
- iv) Vegetation along Pog Lane is to be cut back by residents.
- v) Residents who park their cars on Pog Lane will ensure that they do not obstruct the lane so that dustbin wagons can access dustbins safely.
- vi) Once a quotation for crushed brick has been received Councillor Rowley will write to all residents at Crane Moor Nook advising them of the cost and confirming that a further meeting of residents will take place on 8 September 2009.

Councillor Blythe thanked Councillor Rowley for her work on this project on behalf of the residents of Crane Moor Nook.

#### **2009/066. CRIME AND SAFETY SUB-GROUP REPORT**

P C Silcock from South Yorkshire Police was now in attendance and Councillor Blythe asked for permission to re-visit item 209/052 at this time so that his report could be given. This was considered acceptable. P C Silcock advised the meeting that, contrary to information received earlier in the meeting, the Penistone East Crime and Safety Sub-Group is to continue and that a meeting has been arranged at Silkstone for 16 September 2009. There have been issues regarding the officials of the group and it is hoped that these can be resolved at the meeting. He further advised that in June Thurgoland had three reported crimes and Crane Moor had none. He was pleased to advise the meeting that in the past five years there has been a significant reduction in crime in the Penistone area. P C Silcock was thanked for this contribution and he left the meeting.

**2009/065. FLOODING AT CRANE MOOR**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has received a copy of a letter from Michael Clapham MP who has spoken to John Healey, Minister for Floods and has received information from DEFRA advising that the Environment Agency has reviewed the issue of the broken culvert at Crane Moor and highlighted to Barnsley MBC that it could assist by replacing the culvert. It has encouraged the Council to consider possible solutions which would then need to meet the Grant in Aid criteria for funding approval. This news was warmly received and it is hoped that progress will be made by Barnsley MBC in securing funding for this project.

**2009/066. THURGOLAND OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB**

A full set of accounts for Thurgoland Out of School Club had been provided as requested at the last meeting. A discussion took place concerning the provision of funds for local groups, particularly ones such as Thurgoland Our of School Club who receive an income from fees. It was acknowledged that groups who rely purely on fund raising to provide additional services for the Parish should receive financial assistance whenever possible. Councillor Hamblen proposed that in view of the good work that the Thurgoland Out of School Club does in the Parish, a grant of £250.00 (half of the requested amount) be made. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and agreed by all present. A caveat was put on the grant, that, in accordance with a previous decision concerning funding, the items requested by purchased and the invoice be forwarded directly to the Clerk for payment from the Parish Council. It was further agreed that, for future reference, a 'tick list' be drawn up for all groups applying for grants, giving them certain criteria that they need to meet when making their application. Councillor Blythe will attend to this and pass the list to the Clerk for future use. The Clerk is to advise the Out of School Club of this decision.

**2009/067. JULY 2009 NEWSLETTER**

The Clerk advised the meeting that Mr M Williams of Thurgoland Local History Group had provided a number of leaflets for the newly formed Thurgoland Heritage Trail, for distribution with the July 2009 newsletters. This was considered acceptable and the newsletters were given to all Councillors.

**2009/068. THURGOLAND TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

Councillor Blythe advised the meeting that Thurgoland Tennis Tournament had once again been organised by Martin Jackson and that, as in previous years, a request has been made for a small grant to be given for the purchase of tennis balls for the winners. No figure had been provided by Mr Jackson and it was therefore agreed that Councillor Blythe should obtain a figure from Mr Jackson for the next meeting, at which time this item will be placed on the Agenda for consideration.

**2009/069. 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.

**2009/070. ACCOUNTS.**

The Clerk advised the meeting that no further items for payment had been received since the production of the list that had been provided to all Councillors. Councillor Hamblen proposed that the cheques on the list be approved for payment. This was seconded by Councillor Methley and agreed by all present. The following items were therefore signed:-

Ruth Atkinson	Salary – July and August	763.10
Crane Moor Chapel	Room Hire	15.00
Andy King	Website updating – June and July	60.00
Local Council Review	Annual subscription	13.50

**2009/071. MATTERS TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The following items were requested to be placed on the Agenda of the meeting to be held in September:-

- i) A report on the affordable housing scheme at Roper Lane/Smithy Hill
- ii) A report on the allotments at Thurgoland Hall Lane
- iii) Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Sunday
- iv) Provision of Christmas Trees in the Parish
- v) Items for inclusion in the October 2009 newsletter

**2009/072. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 2 September 2009 at Crane Moor Chapel, Crane Moor at 7.00 p.m.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

RUTH ATKINSON  
Parish Clerk