

THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Thorverton Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Silver St, Thorverton on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 7pm.

PRESENT Cllr Andrew Foster (Chairman) Cllr Andy Price (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Stuart Crang Cllr Graham Sims
Cllr John Hodge Cllr Bryanna Uglow
Cllr Neville Lane Cllr Jan Wills

ABSENT Cllr Colin Marshall Cllr Trevor Sanders

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)

1. Public Open Session

No members of the public present.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Apologies

Cllr Marshall could not attend as he is unwell.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of Tuesday 14th February 2023 as a true record and the Chairman duly signed them.

5. External Reports

5.1 Devon County Council

No report this month.

5.2 Mid Devon District Council

No report this month

5.3 Police statistics

No report this month

Further to a resident's enquiry, Council will look at the possibility of CCTV in the Quarry Car Park. Cllr Hodge will investigate and provide a rough estimate of costs. The Post Office has no licence to have an outside camera as it is not a private residence.

5.4 Saturday Market

Cllr Foster had represented the Council at the Saturday Market in January and no issues had been raised with him. The Chairman will recirculate the rota.

6. Highways - A396 Ruffwell Junction Signs

The Chairman will visit the relevant businesses to ask them to move the A-boards to a better location.

7. Recreation Ground

7.1 Nil expenditure in February.

7.2 The mower is not working and is waiting to go away for service. Cllr Sims has contacted the company, but they have been too busy to collect it.

7.3 Some more blue paint is needed for the swings.

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Chair
Initials

8. Raddon Group Meeting

Council attendee for April will be the Chairman. Cllrs will consider any items to raise with the Raddon group and will bring ideas to April's meeting. The pump track is one issue on which other Parishes may well be able to advise.

9. Elections

Council will review the flyer encouraging new candidates with a view to publication at the end of this week.

10. Projects

10.1 Jubilee Green & Barliabins

Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree the project specification as proposed by the working group as follows:

Barliabins will be regenerated to be an accessible place for peace, tranquillity and quiet reflection. The site, which has wonderful views over the surrounding hills and countryside is currently under-used. It is owned by the Parish Council and is in an area of the village which is quiet and undisturbed, so offers the opportunity to make a space with a unique character which is not available anywhere else locally.

Objectives

1. Create and maintain open views across the land to the north (which is in the process of being acquired by the Parish Council for use as a burial ground);
2. Connect to the land referred to in (1) via a new gateway by Dark Lane into Barliabins to align with similar into the burial ground;
3. Create and maintain views from Sybil's Bench to the south to overlook the Quarry Car Park;
4. Create and maintain a sound barrier with the laid hedge at the southern boundary of the site;
5. Increase the bio-diversity and sensory experience of the site (flora and fauna, sounds and smells) informed by advice from experts;
6. Enable visitors to feel a sense of safety and security perhaps through providing some areas of enclosure within the site;
7. Enable some meaningful planting e.g. trees that reference the history of the village (apricots) or in memory of people who lived here;
8. Prevent notices, labels, plaques etc;
9. Provide a replacement for the large ash tree with tree of similar status and significance;
10. Make the area accessible to all;
11. Maintain the changes in level so that the site feels as natural as possible;
12. Make paths and hard standings accessible in all weather and with as natural an appearance as possible, following the contours;
13. Provide seating and tables that are accessible to all and in keeping with the natural character of the site;
14. Allow dogs to be taken into the area, monitoring their impact so that access can be denied if they cause any nuisance or mess;
15. In all respects ensure that the site is simple and natural, and that ongoing maintenance required is minimal.

Council asked the clerk to pursue the s106 funding application to which he has had no response. He will also investigate the arrangements for Ward Cllr endorsement should the incumbent be unavailable.

10.2 Dead Trees Bullen Close

Clerk will chase the contractor for the quote which has been promised.

..... Chair Initials

10.3 EV Charging points

Council thanked Cllr Lane for his article for Focus explaining the temporary halt in action for now. This project will now be held until May at least.

10.4 Affordable Housing

10.4.1 Clerk attending TAHG Meetings

Council **RESOLVED** that the clerk will continue to attend the TAHG meetings.

10.4.2 CLT Network Annual Subscription

The Community Land Trust Network provides a useful resource that TAHG want to use to help this project proceed smoothly. Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to pay one year's subscription to the CLT Network.

10.5 New Cemetery

10.5.1 Searches

Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to ask the clerk to instruct the solicitor to complete all the searches.

10.5.2 CPSE Form

Council **RESOLVED** to ask the solicitor to send the CPSE form to the vendor and Council will review the answers on receipt. Cllrs Wills & Uglow did not support this resolution, all other Cllrs voted for it.

10.6 Pump Track

This item will be renamed as s106 Spending (incl Pump Track)

10.7 Quarry Car Park Lining

Yellow paint has been purchased so that areas to be kept clear can be marked allowing safe access to the Post Office. This work will be completed soon when conditions are suitable.

10.8 Warm Spaces

Council plans to start Winter Warmth earlier this year and will consider this at October's meeting.

10.9 New Shed to Replace the Rented Garage

Council **RESOLVED** to purchase and erect the new shed while the clerk clarifies the planning permission situation with Mid Devon District Council.

Cllr Wills objected and all other Cllrs voted for the resolution.

10.10 Thorverton in Bloom

There have been no volunteers to take over organising Thorverton-in-Bloom to date

11 Handyman

Council asked the clerk to clarify what grassed areas DCC maintain, preferably obtaining a clear map of their regular work which identifies the ground covered and the regularity of grass cutting.

12 Planning and Consultations

12.1 23/00292/ADVERT Thorverton Arms Eight new signs.

Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to comment as follows:

Thorverton Parish Council appreciates the work being done to improve the exterior of the building and welcomes the other changes and advertising as proposed.

However, Thorverton Parish Council is of the view that the proposed murals are inappropriate to the Conservation Area in terms of scale and appearance. The Council is particularly concerned about the proposed mural for the gable end because of the detrimental effect on the historic streetscape.

13 General Power of Competence for Parish Councils

Council noted this relies on the clerk being suitably qualified (which is expected to be completed during the next Council term), and on there being sufficient Councillors being elected.

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Chair
Initials

14 Finance

14.1 Council noted the current bank balance of £ 59,729.20 (7th March 23) and the receipt for January of £ 25.36 interest.

14.2 Payments

Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to make the following payments:

14.2.1 MDDC Garage rental (monthly Direct Debit) January	£ 55.68
14.2.2 Grounds Maintenance Invoice for February BF20230049	£ 60.00
14.2.3 Information Commissioner's Office Annual subs, direct debit	£ 40.00
14.2.4 PKF Littlejohn External Audit Inv SB20224031	£ 336.00
14.2.5 The Exeter Inn Winter Warmth invs 1201,0802 &2202	£ 67.15
14.2.6 Ken White Signs Raddon & Berrysbridge sign	£ 600.00
14.2.7 Chestnut Trees Tree felling and removal invoice FEB8	£ 1470.00
14.2.8 Cllr Marshall Reimbrmnts paint, concrete & n/board materials	£ 315.08
14.2.9 Hayes Machinery Mower service and repairs (part payment)	£ 300.00
14.2.10 J P Roberts Clerk pay for February	£ 452.69
14.2.11 J P Roberts Funds to purchase the new shed online	£ 1731.00

15 Correspondence

15.1 Keep Britain Tidy

Council noted this correspondence and confirmed there would be a village tidy-up day.

15.2 Hedgehog Highway Project

Council noted this correspondence but left it to individuals to pursue if they wished.

15.3 Coronation Celebrations

Council **RESOLVED** to pay £250 worth of invoices for supplies for the street party.

15.4 Free Oak Saplings

Council noted this correspondence.

16 Business at the Chairman's Discretion

16.1 Forthcoming Election

The Chairman has announced that he would stand for election again to continue the momentum on projects and he would be honoured to serve alongside the other Cllrs again if re-elected.

16.2 Dinneford Watercourse

Cllr Sims had found that the first chamber after the reservoir had become blocked mainly with mud/silt. He had managed to clear it but strongly advised that this chamber should be properly cleaned out when rainfall conditions allow.

16.3 Speedwatch

Cllrs Hodge & Sims confirmed that SpeedWatch is now operational again.

17 Next meetings

17.1 Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 21st March 2023

17.2 Monthly Parish Meeting Tuesday 11th April 2023

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:43pm.

Signed Date
Cllr Andrew Foster, Chairman