

Thorverton Parish Council

- 1 **Public Open Session** - 15 minutes for members of the public to raise any issue of concern
- 2 **Declarations of Interest** - To receive any declarations relating to items on this agenda
- 3 **Apologies** - To consider any apologies for absence
- 4 **Minutes** - To approve the meeting minutes of 14th March 2023
- 5 **External Reports** - To receive reports from:
 - 5.1 C/Cllr Squires
 - 5.2 D/Cllr Deed
 - 5.3 Police statistics - Nil for February
 - 5.4 Saturday Market
- 6 **Highways** - Surface Water in School Lane & Streetlight in Bullens Close
Photos from Cllr Sims forwarded to C/Cllr Squires



- 7 **Recreation Ground** including financial report for March

Thorverton Parish Council

8 Allotments - Sheds left behind & tin and rents this year

1. Confirmation of the plots now all taken and that all tenants have paid up for 2023;
2. Decision on sheds left behind;
3. Decision on the request for a tin shed.

Tenant email I live in Thorverton and have an allotment (for many years)
I have had to take my shed down as it was falling down any way,
and wooden sheds now cost more than we can afford
(we are in our 80s)> Could you let me know if i can put a small Tin
shed up as they are a lot cheaper.

9 Elections Nominations for 4th May

10 Projects -

10.1 Jubilee Green & Barliabins (OSWG)

10.2 Dead Trees Bullens Close

Now removed – see invoice below (Recreation Ground finance item for April).

10.3 Affordable Housing TAHG report

10.4 New Cemetery

10.5 Pump Track

10.6 Quarry Car Park Lining and CCTV

From Cllr Hodge

I have spoken to the post Mistress the chair of CTC and RK and they in principle have no objections to having an extra camera connected to the system they have had installed. I explained it was for security following recent car thefts.

CTC have a spare camera left from the original installation in 2016 after the armed robbery.

10.7 Warm Spaces

10.8 New Shed to replace the rented garage

Order placed and delivery due in May.

Thorverton Parish Council

11 Handyman - To discuss the work for the next month

Email from resident

Sorry to be a nuisance but we decided to cut hedge back in garden backing onto the park, the reason we contacting you as the middle of the hedge is completely dead filled with dry twigs if ever someone threw a cigarette into the hedge it would go up in flames ,I'm sending you a few pictures we don't wish you to pay out for fencing we will do that ourselves our biggest concern is fire risk .



12 Planning and Consultations

12.1 [23/00476/Full](#) Kerikeri Revised siting and materials re [21/01327/FULL](#)

Thorverton Parish Council

12.2 Pre-Planning Information Garden House, Dinneford St

Advance notice from Cllr Price

I write to confirm that the necessary application for a Householder Planning and Demolition in a Conservation Area application has been submitted to Mid Devon District Council, online via the planning portal. I can see you have arranged payment of the application fee,

As a record of the submission, I attach herewith a copy of the following:-

Drawing number 223.7.,223.2. - survey as existing

Drawings numbers 223.7.,223.8. &223.9. - proposals

Completed application form

Design and Access Statement

The application includes an area of land outside of your ownership, as the applicant you are required to serve notice on the current land owner. I confirm the attached covering letter and completed 'Notice 1 under Article 13 of Application for Planning Permission' has been posted to the landowner today.

I will inform you once the application is formerly registered and of the application reference number accordingly. I will endeavour to keep you up to date with the application, however you will be able to track the progress through the Local Planning Authority's website. In the meantime should you have any queries or wish to discuss the project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Chartered Architectural Technologist

12.3 Exe Valley Federation and Whimble School (deadline 5th May)

Letter from the Chairs of Whimble School & Exe Valley Federation

Dear Members of the Parish Council,

As you are aware, there have been a lot of changes within education recently which have challenged school communities to think more creatively to ensure that we are best placed to keep our thriving village schools open for children in future years. After considerable research into the alternatives, Whimble School and the Exe Valley Federation governors took the decision to form a Management Partnership in September 2022. Since then, we have gained from an increase in leadership capacity, opportunities for staff to work together at different levels, including senior leaders, curriculum leaders and class teachers. The collaborative work completed by teachers at Whimble alongside colleagues from the Exe Valley Federation on curriculum design was well-received by the Ofsted inspectors who came to visit Whimble in December. The lead inspector was very interested in the Management Partnership and you may recall, commented in her report that governors "Have been instrumental in supporting the school to work with a federation to develop the curriculum further." Staff from Whimble have also been able to share their expertise with colleagues from the federation and this is developing into a genuinely collaborative partnership.

The Governing Board of Whimble are now proposing to make the partnership arrangement a permanent one by moving into a formal federation whereby Whimble School would become a member of the Exe Valley Federation.

We believe this will ensure continuing strong leadership and high standards in teaching and learning whilst maintaining each school's individual ethos and values. The Exe Valley Federation already has a great deal of experience in operating as a federation and an excellent track record in school improvement. Both governing boards recognise many

Thorverton Parish Council

potential benefits for all seven schools. Whimble will share the Executive Leadership of John Jolliffe.

He is a very experienced school leader who works closely with the federation schools and across Devon supporting school improvement. He has a clear vision for the future direction of the federation and the Strategic Plan outlines six key aims for its continuous development [this may be found on the EVF website under 'Key Information' and then 'Strategic plans']. Mr Jolliffe works closely with the Heads of School, who are responsible for the everyday running of their schools and meet weekly to share their work. Mrs Shilston would continue in her role as Head of School at Whimble and will retain a high level of autonomy and the same level of responsibility held by the other Heads of School in the federation.

A federation is a family of schools, with each school retaining its unique character, its own budget and performance tables and having a separate Ofsted inspection. The current admissions processes will remain the same. The schools within the federation will share one governing board made up from representatives from all school communities.

Together they will make decisions in the best interests of all of the children across all of the schools. There is no single blueprint for federation; each federation is tailored to the needs of the different schools and communities that are involved. There are currently approximately 30 federations across Devon involving over 80 schools, with the first federations in Devon forming in 2006 and many others considering this as a successful sustainable model for their school's future. Although the future direction of the education system is still unclear, the drive to academisation is likely to continue and by being part of a larger organisation, each member school can demonstrate that they are already part of a family of schools and derive benefit from working together.

We want to take this opportunity to explain our reasons behind this proposal, and offer you the chance to respond.

The benefits of our proposed federation would give further opportunities for collaboration and ensure that Whimble remains sustainable for the future. For the existing schools in the Exe Valley Federation there are benefits from working with another school through sharing good practice and achieving greater economies of scale. In addition to this, we see the following benefits for the schools:

- Sharing strong and proven leadership
- Sharing teaching expertise and sharing best practice and joint training of staff to impact on children's learning
- Greater availability of teaching resources
- Increasing opportunities for the children to mix with a wider group both academically and socially
- Greater access to a wider range of resources (human and physical), and opportunities to make some savings to reinvest in children's learning
- Joint planning and curriculum development opportunities for staff

The federation will have one governing board composed of representatives from each school community. The make up of the governing board has to adhere to the 2012 Constitution Federation Regulations, as amended in 2016. The membership of this single governing board includes representation for parents and staff, foundation (church) governors, co-opted governors and a local authority governor. Together this group of people will take overall responsibility for all the schools within the federation. Each school within the federation has two or three 'home school' governors who lead Learning Walks and spend time in their school to get to know the staff and children there.

Thorverton Parish Council

The election of parent and staff governors will take place at the end of the consultation period if both governing boards agree to proceed with the new federation. The proposed size of the federated governing body would be 15, which would comprise:

2 Parent governors

2 Staff governors (including the Executive Headteacher)

1 Local Authority appointed governor

3 Foundation governors (to include an Ex-Officio)

7 Co-opted governors

The Governing Boards are proposing that the federation start date would be 1st September 2023.

The Governors of Whimble School and the Exe Valley Federation have set up a consultation process to seek the views of parents, staff, the community, the Local Authority, the Diocese and other key partners. The consultation process will last six weeks, starting from Monday, 13th March 2023. Governors would welcome your views and comments and invite you to any of the following meetings with Mr Jolliffe, the Chair of Governors of the Exe Valley Federation and the Chairs of Governors for Whimble School:

Thursday 20th April at 3.45pm at Thorverton School. Presentation to EVF parents [Whimble parents are welcome to come too], followed by Q and A.

If you are unable to attend the above meetings and would like to discuss this proposal with Mr John Jolliffe, Executive Headteacher, or your Chair of Governors, please contact your school office and make an appointment in the usual way. A Q&A sheet has been added to this email and is also on the school website. It is based on previous re-federation consultations and will be updated after each meeting at Whimble. Your questions and written responses should be addressed to the Chair of Governors of your school and must be received by Friday 5th May 2023 at 3.30pm. For all schools these can be emailed to federationconsultation3@gmail.com or in writing c/o the Clerk to the Governors at your child's school or handed in to the School Office at any of the seven schools addressed to 'The Chair of Governors'. It is the Governors who will make the final decision, drawing upon a broad evidence base including the views of all stakeholders [parents, staff, children, Trade Unions and Parish Councils]. The governing board from each organisation considering federation takes its own decision. As with any governing board decision this is a simple majority vote taken at a governing board meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you and will, of course, keep you fully informed regarding our final decision which each governing board will make on 18th May 2023.

Thorverton Parish Council

13 Clerk Review and Objectives

Clerk Objectives 2022-23

1. To prepare, in consultation with the chair, agendas for meetings of the Council and distribute to Councillors and the public within the required regulatory timescales as laid down in the standing orders.
2. To attend all meetings of the Council and record accurate minutes and distribute a draft copy to all interested parties within the time limits laid down in the standing orders.
3. To carry out decisions made at Council meetings within any timescales laid down at the meetings.
4. To ensure that communications with parishioners, whether face to face, by correspondence or through the website, are timely, polite and efficiently produced, with comments brought to the attention of Councillors where appropriate and the website kept as an up to date view of the Council's activities.
5. To ensure that the Council's finances, banking, budgeting and accounts are dealt with in an efficient manner, following the financial regulations and best practice, and that Council actions are compliant with audit requirements.
6. To ensure that statutory and other provisions governing or affecting the running of the Council are observed and that the Council's obligations for risk assessment are properly met.
7. To complete a review of the website to ensure it is up to date by the end of 2023 (with the Cllr details being renewed for the new Council by the end of May).
8. To complete the clerk's pension arrangements as directed by the Council by the end of the year.
9. To begin studies for the Certificate in Local Council Administration by end of 2023

14 Finance

14.1 Bank balance £ 53,615.56 (3rd Apr) **Receipts** £ 31.22 interest, £ 30 Allotments

14.2 Payments To consider the following payments:

14.2.1 MDDC Garage rental (monthly Direct Debit) April	£	55.72
14.2.2 Grounds Maintenance Invoice for February BF20230049	£	155.00
14.2.3 GX Accountancy Payroll Jan-Mch 2023 inv 4685	£	27.20
14.2.4 DALC & NALC Annual membership inv 4819	£	278.88
14.2.5 HMRC PAYE for Jan-Mch inclusive	£	309.20
14.2.6 Chestnut Trees Felling 2 dead elms on the Rec inv MAR12	£	330.00
14.2.7 J P Roberts Clerk pay for March & reimbrs	£	898.49

Thorverton Parish Council

15 Correspondence

15.1 Pavement Outside the Thorverton Arms

Email from a resident

I see in my local paper (Crediton Courier) that the Thorverton Arms has applied for planning permission to put advertising signs at the front of the pub, of various types.

Whilst I have NO objection to the Thorverton Arms wanting to advertise,..... I am hoping the Parish council will look into who owns the cobbled pavement outside their property.! They already have, as virtually permanent fixtures, 3 large picnic tables outside on the cobbles. These in the summer months and after a weekend are moved to take up nearly all the pavement and it makes walking to/from school with a couple children in tow awkward/dangerous. They also put 2 A frame advertising boards on the Berry / School lane corner, making it difficult for pedestrians.

If the cobbled pavement area at the front of the Thorverton Arms is owned by the Parish council (or MDDC, or whoever own pavements) then this should be taken into consideration when discussing the planning application; submitted by Stonegate Group, 3 Monkspath Hall Rd, Solihull.

I am aware that the front of the Thorverton Arms is compromised at the moment with all the scaffold and repair works that are being done.

Additional comment after clerk's reply

It would be interesting to know if they have a Street trading licence, I suspect not., and to know if part of the cobbles were theirs and part highways. They do have an outside paved area at the back of the pub, and a garden! I believe these were placed there during the Covid pandemic and have now stayed.

It's the inconvenience whilst walking to and from school, cars use the road to park, (fair enough) but an open car door totally blocks the walk way as the tables are so far out.

16 Business at the Chairman's Discretion No decision making during this item

17 Meetings

17.1 Annual Council Meeting

17.2 Parish Council Monthly Meeting Tuesday 9th May 2023