

Minutes of Thorpe- le- Soken Parish Council meeting held Monday 8th February 2016, 7 pm at The Baptist Church Schoolroom.

Present: Cllrs Daniel Land Chairman, Jose' Powell Vice Chairperson, Blandford, Carpenter, Raftery, Rich, Roe, Cty Cllr Andrew Erskine,

Members of Public: Alan Newman & Roger Hawes Tree Warden

Apologies: Cllrs Ewart, Fielder, Hurton

Confirmation of Minutes & Monthly Update of meeting held Monday 8th February 2016 having previously been circulated, were agreed as a True Record & Signed by The Chairman.

Declaration of Members Interest: Cty Cllr Erskine - changes to Fire & Rescue Service 2016/20

Public Participation: Alan Newman reported the following:

- Notice advertising McCarthy & Stone properties had been put on The Memorial and it is considered very disrespectful. Cllr Blandford had also seen the notice and has spoken to McCarthy & Stone but will contact them again.
- Alan recently tried to put something in the notice board and was unable to get it open. Clerk said she has also had problems. C/M agreed that it is a detrimental at times but when he recently put something in, it was fine. C/M Dan said he would go along with Alan after the meeting.

Cllr Roe asked if a letter had been sent to David Murray. The Clerk gave her apologies for completely forgetting and said she would write one. **Letter has now been sent**

Chairman's Report:

- **Update Nettle Lane off Argyle Road** - Cllrs Fielder, Land and Danny Kimble who does the P.F. maintenance have cleared a lot of the undergrowth thus making it more walkable for residents.
- **Paradise & Barnards Alley:** Alan Newman said a board had been put up in Paradise Alley advertising property 'For Sale' at The Mews in Paradise Alley. C/M will contact ECC. Further ongoing problems in Paradise Alley are the Sewerage & Drainage. C/M will contact the authorities again.
- **Rolph School Update:** Nothing further to report.
- **LHP update:** C/M recently attended an L.H.P. meeting and 3 options were discussed to ease the problem on Kents Hill. They were Widen the road, More signage and Cut back the vegetation. Investigations of some options were also put forward for work to be carried out from White Lodge crescent up to the Garage.

- Computer & Printer for Clerk.** C/M said, as Cllrs were aware everything packed up on the clerk just before the January meeting and she has been using her husband's computer and printer. This was reported at the January meeting & Cllr Ewart agreed that he would look into prices at Currys - in the meantime the clerk agreed to continue using her husband's equipment and said instead of running around to get copies elsewhere would councillors give permission for her husband to submit an Invoice for printing etc., Cllr Land Proposed, seconded Cllr Powell unanimously agreed to the Clerk's request. C/M said this was not an ideal situation for the PC to be in and proposed that a new Computer, printer & scanner be purchased, this was seconded by Cllr Carpenter & unanimously agreed. C/M said going on prices that he had received from Cllr Ewart it would cost approximately £1000 and asked for permission to go ahead and purchase the package, this motion was again carried.

Police Report: Refer to February Agenda for more in depth information

Correspondence/e-mails: Refer to February Agenda for more in depth information.

Improvements to public access along the Essex Coast: Natural England is looking at how access to the coast can be improved between Jaywick & Harwich and have written to all known owners or occupiers of coastal land that may be affected by the proposals. Drop in sessions were held at Clacton, Frinton and Harwich Libraries allowing anyone the opportunity to find out more information about the project. Cllr Roe said he attended the one in Harwich and found it very interesting, one point raised was to spread all of the footpaths around the whole of Britain. Ex Kem have said that they would not be taking any fences down and there was also a conflict with the Wild Fowls Ass.

Planning: The following applications were discussed

16/00010/OUT Erection of 3 single storey dwellings with associated access, garages, parking, landscaping & ancillary works, the Elms, Colchester Road. **Rec. Refusal:** Backland Development and Ribbon Development. If permission was granted it could then create a precedent for any further development of that nature.

16/00118.COUNOT Conversion of a horticultural building to a 1 bed dwelling house, Thorpe Nursery Colchester Road. **PC Rec. no objection to application**, but would like to say that concern was expressed that the area is on a Flood Plane and consideration should be given to the vehicular access onto a busy road.

Cheques presented for Signature: 002116- 002120 incl: £1322.58 **Standing Orders:** £143.58

Current A/C £14696.37 up to 30-12-15

Business A/C: £30369.70 up to 09-12-15

No Bank Statements received for January at time of printing

Tree Wardens Report: Roger Hawes- Further dates to be arranged to do more work on The Green. Hedge line on the old Allotment site in Frinton Road has been removed.

T.D.A.L.C: Report given by Cllr Powell:

- TDC will not be issuing any more Black Bags but have received a Grant for one year to issue each household with a Liner for the food caddy.
- Closure of Courts & Police Stations.
- Essex Fire & Rescue
- St Osyth development: Cllrs were told to be aware of any voluntary work that was being carried out in the village (i.e. protest groups) as in some cases money was being claimed.
- Community Careline services have increased by £26 p.year

District Councillor's Report: Cllr Land said in previous years all the Xmas Lighting have been arranged by Peter Harrison. Each year arrangements have to be made with ECC to carry out a survey of all the columns to make sure they are all safe enough to carry the weight of the Xmas decorations, so far there are 3 columns that cannot be used and it is anticipated that these will all be replaced in time for 2016. In 2015 all the lights were white and in some people's mind did not make it look so festive. Cllrs agreed that it may well be that there is a 2 year contract with the lights which are governed by Festive Lighting who provide them. Various charities benefit from the profits and an evening has been arranged at The Rose & Crown to distribute the money. **Letter of thanks has been sent to Peter Harrison**

Web-Site: Special Thanks were paid to the Company at The Station who have kindly kept the PC site updated f.o.c. They are a basic company who are not technically qualified to do further updating and Cllr Land proposed that he meets with Michael at British Webs, cost would be £60 for no more than 2 hours. that this was seconded by Cllr Roe and unanimously agreed.

County Councillor's Report: Various reports were given throughout the meeting. Majority of matters are ongoing & being dealt with by The Local Highways Panel but a matter of concern was changes to The Essex & Fire Rescue for period 2017-2020. Because of a significant shortfall of government funding, changes will have to be made and that will include reducing the appliances to one, all full time fire-fighters would be cut with 17 part-time remaining to cover the area and work in conjunction with the Police and the Paramedics.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Playing Field: Cllr Land said he recently contacted Frinton & Walton Youth F/Ball and they now have a new Fixtures Secretary. Cllr Land was told that due to the inclement weather that has been experienced of late a lot of the games had to be cancelled but it was their intention to continue using the Thorpe Pitch.

Highways /Pavements: No report: **Lockyers Wood:** No Report **Parish Footpaths:** No Report

Parish Street Lights not working: report given by the Clerk: Parish Lights not working - St. Michals Road junction with New Town Road Unit 9037: Newthorpe Avenue Unit 9031: unit 9067 Palmerston Road - a new light fitting is required as it has been completely knocked off. All the evidence has been cleared and the cables are just hanging from the column. The Clerk said as she has just received some information from A & J Lighting re a new led energy saving 35w SOX replacement she has today spoken to Andy at A & J Lighting reference the cost.

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To replace the light with the original style light fitting it would be £235 + VAT. As the PC have previously spoken about LED lights Andy said he would be prepared to put a new LED energy saving 35w Sox fitting into the new street light for the same price. After a discussion, it was unanimously agreed to accept the offer and The Clerk was asked to invite him to a meeting to give a talk on the new LED light.

County Street Lights not working: No 23 Landermere Road & Nos. 12 & 18 High Street. These have been reported to C.C. who have said that works will have to be carried out by the out of hours team.

Thorpe in Bloom: 2016 Floral Baskets are being organised by Cllrs Carpenter & Roe. Following matters were discussed.

- Issues with Insurance
- Parkers are in process of updating their prices.
- As There will be a Royal Celebration this year (The Queens Birthday) the colour scheme of plants will be red, white & n blue.
- C/M said he was aware that no budget had been allowed for Thorpe in Bloom but owners of a property adjacent the High Street/Landermere Road junction would like a basket and the question of brackets was raised. Cllr Carpenter proposed, seconded Cllr Roe all in favour that the PC supply the brackets. C/M will make further investigations.

Village Greens: Refer to Tree Wardens report above.

John & Sarah Gull Fund: It was reported that Cllr Ewart said he would take this on at the January meeting. The Clerk will speak to Cllr Ewart.

Items for consideration at next meeting: None received this evening.

Date/Time/Venue of next meeting: Monday 14th March 2016 7.00 pm at The Baptist Church Schoolroom.

Close of Meeting: There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

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