

**MINUTES OF THORPE LE SOKEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
MONDAY 19TH MAY 2015 - 7.00 PM AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH SCHOOLROOM.**

PRESENT: Cllrs: Land, Powell, Ewart & Roe who returned unopposed

Also present: Maurice Howard PC Accountant, Helen Rich, Bruce Hurton & Simon Rafrety

APOLOGIES: None

Prior to commencement Cllrs: Land, Powell, Ewart & Roe returned to The Parish Council unopposed and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Resigning Chairman to open the meeting: Cllr Land welcomed fellow councillors, members of the public then opened the meeting.

Election of Chairman: Cllr Land asked for nominations for a Chairman - Cllr Powell proposed, seconded Cllr Ewart that Cllr Land be re-appointed. There being no further nominations Cllr Land was duly elected as Chairman of the Parish Council and signed a further Declaration of Acceptance.

Election of Vice Chairman: Cllr Land asked for nominations for a Vice Chairman and proposed that Cllr Powell be re-appointed this was seconded Cllr Roe and there being no further nominations Cllr Powell was duly elected as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

Co-Option of person (s) to become Councillor (s) for the Parish of Thorpe-le-Soken:

3 members of public (Helen Rich, Bruce Hurton & Simon Rafrety) sent in a brief summary of their interests and why they would like to become a Councillor. Prior to the meeting each councillor received a copy of the summary's to peruse in preparation for discussion at this evenings meeting. After a formal introduction and explanation of what is required by a person (s) to become a councillor both Helen and Bruce said they would like to be considered but Simon said he would like to sit in at May's meeting then make a decision. A vote was recorded with all councillors being in favour of both Helen & Bruce being co- opted onto the PC immediately. They both signed a Declaration of Acceptance and were welcomed, as a councillor onto the PC.

Confirmation of Minutes & Clerks Report of meeting held Monday 19th May 2015 –
Minutes & Clerks Report of the April 2015 meeting, having previously been circulated, were agreed as a True Record and Signed by The Chairman.

Declaration of Interest: None.

Election of Committees & Special Reps: The Chairman gave a brief resume' on the following sub-committees and what the requirements would be of any councillors representing a specific sub-committee.

Finance & General Purposes: Usually consists of Chairman, Clerk, PC Accountant & 4 Councillors

Planning: It is anticipated that a dedicated committee be formed to meet up monthly prior to a PC meeting to scrutinize all new planning applications in order for the committees views to be reported back to a full council meeting.

Street Lighting: A check of all PC owned lights is regularly carried out by The Clerk but should anybody notice a light not working they should telephone The Clerk (01255 830995) with the column number, the name of the road/street and the property number or name that the light is adjacent to.

Village Greens: In previous years The Greens have been overseen by Cllr Powell

Parish Footpaths: Due to a reduction in government funding ECC only carry out one cut per year but Cllr: Land said he was in the process of arranging further cuts by a local contractor.

Highways & Pavements: Any councillor who takes this on can be as pro-active as you like.

Playing Field: Cllr Land said he would like to continue monitoring the PF.

Thorpe in Bloom: Prior to Pat Holt's resignation as councillor in May, Cllr Roe took on the task of Ordering the Floral Baskets and working with Parkers Nurseries.

Publicity & P.R. Any councillor who takes this on would be expected to publicise any information that would be of interest to the public.

Lockyers Wood: This has previously been overseen by Cllr Roe. There is an ongoing situation with Japanese Knotweed which has now had two treatments and so far things are looking pretty good.

T.D. Ass. Of Local Councils: Cllr: Powell represents the PC and is also vice-chairman of the TDALC but should any other councillor like to represent the PC then please put your name forward.

Transport: Any Cllr representing the PC at Transport meetings would be expected to attend approx 3-4 meetings per year.

TRAINING WILL BE OFFERED FOR COUNCILLORS TO ATTEND AT INTERVALS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Accountants Financial Report: All councillors received copies of the following to peruse in preparation for Discussion at this evenings meeting.

Confirmation of Finance Meeting Minutes held 23rd February and 30th March 2015: The Council formerly accepted Minutes of the Finance Committee meetings held 23rd February and 30th March 2015.

Section 1 Accounting Statements 2014/15: Cllr Ewart proposed, seconded Cllr Roe, 2 abstentions that the Annual return Section 1 be accepted.

Section 2 Annual Governance Statement 2014/15: Cllr Land proposed, seconded Cllr Ewart, 2 abstentions That the Annual Governance Statement 2014/15 be accepted.

Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March 2015: Cllr Land proposed seconded Cllr Roe 2 in favour of accepting The Bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2015.

Year End A/C's including bank statement's: The Council formerly accepted the Year end Accounts including Bank Statements up to 31st March 2015.

In able to review all of the above accounts/papers each councillor received a copy to peruse prior to the meeting in preparation for a discussion at this evenings meeting. Maurice Howard, PC Accountant, was present at the meeting and gave an extensive explanation as to how all of the workings were arrived at. The Parish Council unanimously agreed and accepted Section 1 & 2 of the Annual Return, Bank Reconciliation's as at 31st March 2015 and Year End Accounts including Bank Statements as a True Record, with authority also being given for the papers to be signed.

Police Report: Refer to May 2015 agenda for report.

Public Participation: None

Chairman's Report: All councillors were thanked for their support during the last year

Clerk's Report: Refer to April 2015 Report

Correspondence: Refer to May 2015 Agenda.

Planning: Listed below are PC views on new planning applications for period 16th April – 14th May 2015

15/00421/FUL Rec. Refusal: 01 Over development of site.
02 Ribbon Development.
03 Out of keeping with neighbouring properties.
04 Exceeds settlement development limit

15/00481/FUL, 15/00580/FUL, 15/00573/FUL, 15/00566/LBC, 15/00625/LEUX All no objection
15/00612/TPO Leave to decision of TPO
15/00709/LUPROP Information only (Cllr Ewart declared an interest)

Permission was given by all councillors at the May meeting for the following cheques to be signed.

002044 – 002051 £3172.76 (002050 cancelled)

For all Direct Debits - Reserves and Current Account balances please also refer to May 2015 Agenda

For further information regarding planning applications, cheques, please refer to May 2015 Agenda

Tree Wardens Report: Nothing

TDALC:)
District Councillor's Report:)
County Councillor's Report:) Due to elections no reports were available
Parish Transport Representative:)
Sub-Committee Reports:)
Cty Cllrs Report:)
Sub Committee Reports:)

Playing Field Drainage: Cllr Land said there is a flooding problem to the rear of the play area and he has asked Phil Smith a local contractor to look at it and give a quote to do the work.

Footpath 14: Cllr Land said Footpath 15 from Station Road to Thorpe Cross was a very popular route for dog walkers but at the moment it was un-passable. As ECC only do one cut per year he has approached Mathew Hall a local contractor for a quotation to do the work. Mathew has given a verbal estimate of £120 for 4 hours work and Cllr Land said that he would like to propose that the work be done. There was a discussion, councillor's agreed in principal to the quote but said it may be necessary to do more than one cut and asked Cllr Land to stipulate a frequency for cutting i.e. once a month.

Village Welcome Signs: Prior to the meeting all councillors received a copy of an me-mail received by cllr Roe reference an enquiry he had made regarding the blue village welcome signs. These signs were supplied more than 25 years ago as part of a one off small initiative scheme and there is no ongoing maintenance budget. Where there has been a desire for the signs to be replaced parish councils have been asked to fund them. A number of parishes have purchased replacement signs from Signs Made Easy in Clacton (who have the specification & templates) and TDC has arranged for installation at no cost. (Steve Gove, TDC Engineering Operations Manager 01255 686965)

Layby Repairs: e-mail received by Cllr Powell (30th April 2015)
Jim Swaine & Nick Turner carried out a survey on lay-bys within the district and have listed some as having a reasonable chance of being approved for a hard surface by the next council two of which border Thorpe and they are 01 On the B1033 Thorpe Road bordering Kirby 02 on the _____ bordering Landermere.
After a discussion, councillors unanimously agreed to support the proposition for a hard surface to both of the Lay-bys previously mentioned.

Items for consideration at next meeting: Nothing received

Date,/Time/Venue of next meeting: Tuesday 9th June 2015 7.00 pm at The Baptist Church School Room.

