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**THORPE-LE-SOKEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**7.00 pm at the Baptist Church Schoolroom**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: Land Chairman, Powell Vice Chairman, Carpenter, Fielder, Raftery, Roe, Roger Hawes Tree Warden and 9 Members of Public

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs: Blandford, Ewart, Rich & Cty Cllr Andrew Erskine

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed fellow councillors and members of the public who had come along this evening to take part in some controversial items that were being discussed on the agenda.

**Confirmation of Minutes:** Minutes of October meeting, having previously been circulated, were agreed as a True Record and signed by The Chairman after the following amendment was made:

Page 4 of 4, second paragraph, First Green and Not Second.

**Declaration of Members Interest:** There was none

**Public Participation:** Jill Cullum asked the following:

- Was there any update on the Lifehouse Spa proposal. Chairman said the next key date for the calendar is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, this is when The Local Plan Committee meet in Clacton Town Hall to discuss the proposal for the District Local Plan and again will be an opportunity for residents to take their protest there. This is a Public Meeting, a few people will be allowed to talk but the Officers must be made aware prior to the meeting and it would be better for chosen representatives to talk on various matters/subjects that they are familiar with.

Prior to all planning applications, no consideration is given to the infrastructure

**Traffic & Speed:** Concern continues re the Speed & increase of the Size of vehicles travelling along the B1033/High Street, especially large articulated lorries and trailers transporting caravans and many more. Many years ago Cllr Roe said he asked for a 7 ½ ton weight restriction to be imposed along High Street but this was refused because High Street is a B Road The High Street is within the Conservation Area and has a lot of very old properties that are situated only the distance of the footpath away from the road and with the condition of the road and the speed of traffic the properties tend to vibrate.

**Parking:** Concern continues regarding inconsiderate parking around the village- vehicles are constantly being parked ½ on the road and ½ on the footpath thus causing an obstruction for pedestrians/parents pushing perambulators/disabled buggies & wheelchairs and councillors were asked if they could encourage people to park on the road and not the footpaths. TTC have been approached to see if they will open up some of their open space to use as a car-park and alleviate the parking congestion at school times in Landermere Road and along the unmade roads i.e. The Crescent, New Thorpe Avenue & Kenilworth Grove. They said that would not be possible, but they would send a letter home with each pupil.

**2016 Xmas Lights:** Ray Chrystal said in previous years ECC have carried out an inspection of the columns in The Village to see if they are safe enough to take the weight of the Christmas decorations. Red marks have been put on 3 columns which makes one think that they are unsafe. Concerns were expressed that the columns would not be replaced in time for this year. The Chairman said he knew Shane Cooley at ECC and would e-mail him to see what could be done. As various comments were made about the lights in 2015 Chairman asked if the Parish Council could become involved and asked what arrangements were in place for the choice of lights. Ray said he was not aware of any but Cllr Roe said when the contract was entered into he was of the opinion that the same lights would be used for 2 years. Ray said he would speak to Peter Harrison tomorrow and get back to The Chairman.

**Chairman's Report:**

- Lifehouse Spa – discussed under public discussion
- 2016 Xmas Lights - discussed above

**Monthly Update:**

**Correspondence and e-mails:** For more in depth information please refer to the September Agenda C/M – e.,mail from Michael Welham asking if the PC would consider having a defibrillator in the village. – after a discussion, unanimously agreed that adjacent Tesco's would be the best site.

**New Planning Applications:** For more in depth information please refer to the September Agenda

**16/01386/OUT Rec. Refusal for the following reasons:**

- Outside the village settlement boundary
- Encroachment onto a popular bridleway
- Significant destruction to one of the popular parish footpaths
- Detrimental to the vision amenity
- Prominent extension onto the open countryside
- if this application is approved it would set a precedent for further development on the surrounding area.

16/02397/DETAIL .....

16/02472/TPO, 16/01431/TCA, 16.01552/TPO - Leaved to decision of T.P.O.

**Permission was given by all Councillors at the meeting for the following cheques to be signed:**

**Cheque numbers:** 002178 – 002184 £2157.17      **Standing Orders:** £584.03

For more in depth information, please refer to the October Agenda

**Current A/C:** £6626.18 as at 30/9/16      **Business A/C:** £30381.15 as at 9/9/16`

For more in depth information, please refer to the October Agenda.

**HEDGE CUTTER:** Request from Cllr Matt Fielder to purchase a Hedge Cutter to be used when clearing Parish Footpaths. Enquiries have been made and the cost is approx. £400.00. A discussion was held and Cllr Fielder explained that the machine was being offered at a reduced price of £395.00 plus 1 can of 4 Stroke oil at the same place as the Honda Strimmer was purchased. As payment is required at time of purchase the Chairman proposed, Seconded Cllr Roe, unanimously agreed that one be purchased and the cheque be signed this evening. Permission was also given to Cllr Fielder to purchase a blade for his personal machine that that had broken whilst using it to do some footpath clearance.

**Tree Warden's Report:** To receive a report from Roger Hawes

**County Councillor's Report:** As Cllr Erskine gave his apologies so there was no report

**Sub-Committee reports:**

**Highways & Pavements:** As Cllr Blandford gave her apologies there was no report but it was brought to the attention of The Parish Council that advertisements were being attached to lamp columns in & around the village. Cllr Fielder said he would remove any he noticed.

**Lockyers Wood:** Cllr Raftery said there was nothing to report.

**Parish Footpaths:** Cllr Fielder

**Playing Field:** Cllrs Land/Raftery – there was nothing to report

**Street Lighting:** Cllr said all outages had been repaired but did notice when checking the village over the weekend that the light adjacent the bus-stop in Frinton Road/Thorpe Cross was out. This will be reported at a later date.

**TDALC:** Cllr Powell

**Transport:** Cllr Roe will be attending the next meeting to be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Thorpe in Bloom:** Clerk said most of the Invoices for 2016 Floral Baskets had been paid for but there were a few outstanding and these were passed over to Cllr Carpenter to collect. It was suggested that in 2017 the baskets be paid for when ordered.

**Village Greens:** Cllr Roe & Roger Hawes --- Encroachment on First Green

2<sup>nd</sup> Green adjacent the triangle opposite Whitehall Lane - Chairman

**LED Lighting:** Carried Over to November meeting

**Quarterly Accounts:** To Approve Quarterly Accounts for period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Prior to the meeting each councillor received a copy of the quarterly accounts for period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to peruse in preparation for discussion at this evenings meeting and after a short discussion Cllr Land formerly agreed and proposed that the quarterly accounts for April – June 2016 be accepted This was seconded by Cllr Fielder and permission was given for The Chairman & Clerk to sign them.

**Items for discussion at November meeting:** There were none

**DATE/Time/Venue of next meeting:**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 7.00 pm at The Baptist Church Schoolroom.

**Close of meeting:** There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.