

**Minutes of Thorpe-le-Soken Parish Council meeting held:  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 7.00 pm at The Baptist Church Schoolroom.**

**Present:** Cllrs: Daniel Land Chairman, Jose' Powell Vice-chairman  
Fielder, Hurton, Raftery, Rich, Roe, Cty Cllr Andrew Erskine, Roger Hawes Tree Warden  
and 3 Members of Public.

**Apologies:** Cllrs: Blandford and Ewart

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**Confirmation of Minutes & Monthly update:** Minutes & Monthly update of last meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 having previously been circulated, were agreed as a True Record & Signed by the Chairman.

**Declaration of Members Interest:** There were no Declaration of Members Interest.

**Public Participation:** There was no discussion

**Chairman's Report:**

- **Proposed Frinton Road Development:** The application has been withdrawn due to there being insufficient detail to make a substantial interest.
- **Tendring District Local Plan:** At the moment there is an ongoing Political Debate and it cannot be stressed enough how important it is to have a District Plan a.s.a.p. with out one we are so exposed. We have been living off the 2007 District Plan that was slightly modified in 2013 and in 2015 it was pulled over by the Government and now we have to wait until it has been nullified.
- **Christmas Festival:** Another successful year with the Christmas Festival. There appeared to be more professional stalls this year in addition to many more stalls ran by local residents and various groups. Cllr Powell said 95 children went into the W.I.Hall to see Santa, that was more than in previous years. Letter to be sent to Ray Chrystal, Jill Calham and their band of helpers.  
In his absence Cllr Land gave the following report received from Cllr Ewart:  
01 The Festival was very good and enjoyed by all who attended.  
02 Could consideration be given by The Parish Council to help the festival committee in 2016.
- **SWAS (Surface Water Alleviation Scheme)** during the last month surveys have been carried out in the village by teams with large yellow water jets and who have been looking at the drains. One can only hope that we are now moving forward and this is all to do with the SWAS
- **PCSO update:** The Chairman has made enquiries reference the Parish Council employing a PCSO. and the annual cost would be £36000.00. It is not known if any grants were available but The Chairman would make some enquiries. Although the Government have now halted the review on PCSO's this will make no difference to Thorpe as we only have a part-time officer who also covers other areas, and it's fulltime officers that are required to try and help combat reoccurring problems.
- **School Parking update:** Cllr Carpenter said she had spoken to TTC reference the parking in Landermere Road and they are willing to meet with councillors.
- **Maintenance - Parish Footpaths/Playing Field:** The Chairman said both he & Cllr Fielder had been out on their first mission with the heavy duty strimmer and managed to cut Argyle Road, Kenilworth Grove and the entrance to The Spennells. In view of the amount of work that needs to be carried out, there are a lot of areas that can only be achieved by using a larger machine and it was suggested that the Parish Council consider purchasing a Tractor Mower.

**Police Report** - refer to December 2015 Agenda for more in depth information

**Correspondence/e-mails:** - refer to December 2015 Agenda for more in depth information

**Planning:** 15/01695/FUL & 15/01696.LBC – 15/01770/FUL **No objection**  
15/01722/TCA **Leave to decision of TPO**  
15/01749/CMTR **Information only**  
15/0175/OUT **No objection re planning – concerns regarding access should utility services  
i.e. Ambulance/fire be required to enter the site.**

**Cheques for Signature:** for more in depth information refer to December 2015 agenda

Cheque Nos: 002095 - 002103 = £2975.18

**Standing Orders:** for more in depth information refer to December 2015 Agenda

£114.24	£ 19.04	“	“	collected 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec
£157.18	£ 26.20	“	“	collected -11th Dec
£ 33.77	£5.63	BT - Office Telephone		collected -26 <sup>th</sup> Nov

**Current Account:** 30<sup>th</sup> Nov £16254.08      **Business Account:** Nov £30368.45

**Tree Wardens Report:** Concern was expressed regarding a recent planning application for properties along Frinton Road and the proposed removal of some trees

A member of Public said the removal of trees in Thorpe Hall Wood had been going on since 1990 and if it continues the Wood will be destroyed. County Hall and TDC Tree Officers have been giving permission for work to be carried out and the member of public said it was now time for the Forestry Commission to be contacted.

**TDALC:** Concerns raised at last meeting: PCSO's: Highways regarding litter on the A120 that is falling from lorries going into the pits.- Colchester Borough & TDC will not admit the responsible to clear so a letter will be sent from TDALC to Highways England.

**District Councillor's Report:** A feasibility study will be carried out along Dale/Kents Hill 2016.

**County Councillor's Report:** Cllr Erskine gave various reports throughout the meeting and also said that he had taken in the petition that had been handed to him by Cllr Land on behalf on a resident. The petition was handed to Cllr Eddie Johnson, Deputy Cabinet Member. They had a long discussion, various issues were raised and looked at but Two related to parking One in Thorpe and second, relating to signage at Weeley - these will have to be redirected to The Parking Partnership for their attention and.

Pavement adjacent Charfields –ECC have said that the broken footpath if not urgent.  
Footpath adjacent 41 – 49 Frinton Road - again this has been deemed as non urgent.

#### **Sub Committee Reports:**

**Playing Field:** Due to the inclement weather that we have been experiencing the PF is very wet which means no football matches have been played.

**Lockyers Wood:** Matters raised: Part ownership and abandoned car.

**Highways/Pavements:** Due to Cllr Blandford giving her apologies there was no report.

**Parish Footpaths:** Cllr Fielder recently had a meeting with Sarah Potter and Sarah England of ECC Parish Footpaths. The meeting proved to be very interesting and a lot of things were discussed. With reference to Cllr Land's suggestion that the Parish Council purchase a Tractor Mower. Before anybody can use one of these:

- The person must be committed and undergo a 2 day safety training course costing £400 and paid for by County.
- Health & Safety Gear would be provided and must be worn by the operator at all times.
- Oil and fuel would also be paid for by Cty.
- The person must be covered under the Parish Council Public Liability Insurance.
- Prior to all cutting being carried out an e-mail must be sent to ECC.

Further matters raised by Cllr Fielder:

- Contact Ordnance Survey for a small map so the parish footpaths can be shown and made readily available for anybody who wanted one
- To check on Enforcement Issues: Flooding f/p 14 and issues regarding Co-Marques.

**Street Lights;** The Following lights are Parish Council owned and have been reported:

Byng Crescent Light on Green nearest to road.

Landermere Road: I have asked for all PC lights to be checked.

Memorial Triangle and Abbey Crescent unit 9047

**Cty Lights:** High Street No 13 awaiting investigation. 18 High Street awaiting new column

26 Colchester Road - As this is a very busy road The Traffic Management Team have been informed and work will have to be carried out by an "out of hours" team:

**Light adjacent The Maltings in Station Road** is badly obscured by branches from a Tree in the Maltings garden. (Ref 2435830) site to be inspected then reported to relevant department. **Allow up to 28 working days for site visits**

**Thorpe in Bloom:** The Clerk expressed concern that a lot of contributions had not been received for the 2015 floral baskets & Cllr Roe was asked if he would like a letter to go from The Parish Council to which he declined and said that as he had to make enquiries for 2016 baskets he would ask for payment then.

As The Landlords of The Crown have no intention of renewing their lease in the New Year they will not be ordering floral baskets for 2016.

**Village Greens :** Cllr Roe

**Trees to rear of The Council Houses in Abbey Street.** Enquiries have been made and to remove all overhanging Branches would be approximately £250. As the trees are on the Playing field and the responsibility of The Parish Council The Chairman proposed that all necessary work be carried out, this was seconded by Cllr Fielder, and unanimously agreed.

**Finance Committee: Land, Ewart, Hurton, Rich, The Clerk and Maurice Howard Accountant.**

Could you please check your diaries and let The Clerk know if Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January will be convenient.

(a.s.a.p. please so a venue/time can be arranged) If possible an earlier time would be appreciated as

Maurice has to drive from Braintree.

**Meeting has been confirmed & is being held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 7 pm at The Baptist Church Schoolroom**

**Items for consideration at next meeting:** There were none

**Date/Time/Venue of next meeting:** Monday **11<sup>th</sup> January 2016** – 7.00 pm at The Baptist Church Schoolroom

**Close of meeting:** There being nothing further to discuss The chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm and wished fellow councillors and members of the public a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

