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Ref: 2016/17-3

MINUTES OF THORPE LE SOKEN PARISH COUNCILS MEETING HELD MONDAY 13TH JUNE 2016 7.00 PM AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH SCHOOLROOM.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Land Chairman, Powell Vice-Chairman, Blandford, Carpenter, Ewart, Fielder, Raftery, Roe, Roger Hawes Tree Warden and 11 members of public.

Apologies: Cllr Rich

Confirmation of Minutes: Minutes of the May meeting having previously being circulated were agreed as a True Record and signed by The Chairman.

Declaration of Members Interest: There were none

As The Chairman had previously made enquiries with reference to The Parish Council paying for a PCSO to patrol the village, **Russ Cole, Commander and Leader Chief of The Police** came along this evening to give a talk on the policing situation in Tendring. A lot of changes have been made with one of them being to reduce the numbers of PCSO's. For the Parish Council to pay for a PCSO it would be £36,000 per year and the benefits would mean that there would be a High Visibility of Policing in the village and the identity of a police figure would always be available to visit the local schools/businesses and hopefully gain a rapport with both the children and residents of the village. Unfortunately, the number of crimes/violence recorded across the district has increased with further Police concerns being the large network of well organised Drug Gangs who are targeting North Essex and whose activity is having an increasing impact on parts of Essex in selling class A drugs. A major concern also is children at home on computers and parents were urged to make sure that their children did not fall prey to these gangs. The Police are working very hard to stop these gangs and have recently made some arrests.

Questions asked:

- How much would A Special be? Specials are volunteers so there would be no charge.
- Has the private firm AGC fizzled out?
- As The Police are recruiting 200 new officers this year will there be any in this area?
- We are all aware that PCSO's do not have any power to act while on the streets, surely it would be more beneficial to train them so that they can. This is a law and cannot be changed.
- Anti Social Behaviour – What course of action can be taken by members of public? It is always best to ring The Police.

- *Is there a contract that has to be entered into if the Parish Council were to have a PCSO – Yes it would be a **2 yearly contract**.*

There being nothing further to discuss, the chairman thanked Russell for his very informative talk and resumed with the meeting at 7.40pm

Mr Alexandra Nicolic who is a sign maker came along to give a presentation and advice on **new Village Signs**. Various regulations have to be adhered to when making the signs
i.e size of sign, type of materials used which can be either a 3mm thick sheet of aluminium or a 8' x 4' coated sheet that has to be sent away to be cut,
Font size, Colours and design of print.

Alexandra said he would give The Parish Council an information pack so they could get together and form a paper brief. A Viewing of his work could be seen in Gt. Bentley as he made their millennium signs.

Vacancy for Local History Recorder: Lynn Priest introduced herself and said that she had recently spoken to Linda Green and understood that due to circumstances she was unable to take on the role of Local History Recorder and she would like to do it. Lynn has lived in the village for 30 years and her Children and many of her Grand -Children have attended the local schools. Lynn said, she is aware of the many changes the village is threatened with and says it is now more important than ever to preserve its history and therefore would be very interested in taking the role on. It was mentioned that every so often Pearl used to have open day exhibitions showing all memoirs that she had. These proved to be very interesting, successful and well attended and not only by villagers. There is also an established group in Tendring and the person to contact would be Trudy Carr at The Farm Shop, Bedaumont.
Chairman said first of all a meeting will be arranged for Linda Green, David Bain and Lynn to get together and share any information they may have.

Public Participation:

*Complaint received from resident who lives along the High Street **and** who has said that It would appear that people who work in local businesses in the village are parking their cars in the High Street which is in return restricting anybody who wants to park and shop. This is also causing problems for residents who live along the High Street making it very difficult for them when they are trying to exit from their driveway.*

Further problem mentioned was inconsiderate Parking along Landermere Road from Staff working at TTC

Pavement Parking along the bottom end of High Street is making it very difficult for buggies and pushchairs to pass. This has always been a major problem but has now been exasperated by the Doctors Surgery taking over Kirby.

Peter Cannons said he continued to pursue broadband in the village but unfortunately it will not happen for Thorpe Park Lane.

All Police matters relating to parking should be passed over the Parking Partnership in Colchester. The Law is very weak and unfortunately an offence is not being caused unless it is causing an objection. Partnership not responsible for an unrestricted area.

Chairman's Report:

- A retired councillor has said that everywhere in the village is looking very untidy and this included the condition of the Roads and Pavements. Chairman said ECC has acknowledged that there is a problem.
- Chairman has just heard that Thorpe is on a list for Capital Funding. A member of public asked if there would be any funding for the High Street.
- Pot holes in Golden Lane are horrendous and it was also reported that 2 double decker buses have been seen travelling along the lane. Chairman said he and Cllr Erskine had a site meeting in Golden Lane and a few remedial jobs were carried out. There are also long term residents who live in Golden Lane and they prefer to have the holes there as it slows the traffic down.
- Chairman will ask for speed check/traffic count to be done during School Term time.
- The last Local Plan meeting has taken place and it has now been approved to go to consultation.

Monthly Update: For more in depth information, please refer to June monthly update.

Correspondenc/e-mails: carried over from June meeting to be discussed at July meeting:

- 1 A & J Lighting re LED lights
- 2 The Royal British Legion: The Centenary Fields Programme-protecting valuable green space across the Country

e-mails:

Cressing Parish Council have experienced issues in relation to the results of Essex Highways Speed Surveys since the results are based on average speeds. They would like to know if there is any PC that would be willing to get together to try to encourage Highways to change the way they look at Speed Survey Results.

ECC – Winter Salt Bag Partnership Scheme.

New Planning Applications:

16/00637/FUL: 16/00728/FUL: 16/00678/TCA: No objection

16/00838/OUT: Outline application construction of up to 49 houses together with Access Road etc., Land to the south of Frinton Road. After further deliberations regarding the above amended planning application the PC were divided on their views. A vote was recorded with the result being in **favour of** the application, but there are concerns that the PC have and would like them to be taken into consideration when the application is determined.

- **The proposed application is within proximity of the remaining Historic Park & Gardens of the former Thorpe Hall and a Safeguarded Local Green Space known as The Playing Field that is currently leased by The Parish Council for the benefit of the village. PC are also of the opinion that should the application be approved it would be outside the Village Development/Conservation Area.**
- **With reference to one of the entrances: should the application be considered for approval, could the entrance adjacent to the already approved development on The Allotment site, also along Frinton Road be combined with a mini roundabout being installed for the benefit of both entrances.**
- **The Environmental impact will exacerbate the already strained local services and infrastructure.**

The following cheques were approved for signature by all councillors who attended the June meeting.

Cheques: 002144 - 2151 inclusive = £5321.93 **Standing Orders:** £307.18

Current A/C: £19461.04 “ 26/5/16 **Business A/C:** £30376.03 9/5/16

Tree Warden's Report: Roger gave reports throughout the meeting

County Councillor's Report: Cllr Andrew Erskine was not present at the meeting.

LED Lights: Copy of letter received from A & J Lighting Clerk to get confirmation of price per light fitted.

Sub-Committee reports:

Highways & Pavements: Nothing to report

Lockyers Wood: Cllr Roe said he had cut down a tree that was leaning on the BT wire. It was 3m from the entrance and looked like the canopy of an Elm Tree.

Parish Footpaths: Cllr Fielder said he had cut the grass at entrance to The Spennells and whilst there had noticed that there had been regular fly tipping of residents grass cuttings. The area will be checked by the clerk and a letter will be sent. Footpath 15 to the rear of Lifehouse car park requires cutting.

Playing Field: Drainage Scheme work to commence with the next 14 days.

Street Lighting: Light not working in Abbey Crescent Unit 9043

TDALC: Cllrs Powell said a recent meeting was held and matters raised were: Litter on the A120 and A 133 also dead animals that were no longer being removed. Person to contact for excess litter and dead animals is Mike Badge Environmental Health TDC. Villages should be encouraged to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan. It was felt that Speeding Traffic and Other Police Matters were exacerbated through lack of Police. Next meeting to be held 20th July.

Thorpe in Bloom: After one or two discrepancies the baskets are now up with the exception of the ones for Archways as the brackets have not been put up yet.

Transport: Nothing to report.

Village Greens: Everything is looking fine at the moment- improvement works to commence again in the Autumn.

Business parking: Refer to Public Participation page (2)

White Line Marker: Chairman said although we have had no football teams using the pitch this year he would like to continue doing the white lining. The reason for asking is that we need some new line marker if we were to continue and wanted to put it to the vote of the parish council. Cllr Roe proposed seconded Cllr Blandford, all in favour that Cllr Land purchases some more.

NALC 2016-18 Notification of National Salary Award: The National Joint Council for Local Government Services has reached the following agreement and new pay scales for 2016-17 are to be implemented and backdated to 1st April 2016. New pay scales for 2017-18 to be implemented from 1st April 2017. The new recommended hourly rate is £9.299 (previously £9.21) x 16 hours per week = £148.78 per week (previously £147.31) x 52 = £7.736.56 divide by 12 = £644.71 monthly gross pay (previously £638.34). If the Parish Council agree The Clerk will receive an increased monthly gross pay of £644.71 plus a taxable office allowance of £55 and tax free office allowance of £18. This will give a new monthly gross payment of £717.71 compared with the £711.34 paid previously. Cllr Land proposed, seconded Cllr Ewart, all in favour that The Clerk receives the new salary award.

Use of Oak Close as entrance to Allotments - Cllr Raftery said he had spoken to Bennetts and was assured that the track off Oak Close was not to be used as a permanent entrance to the site.

Items for consideration at next meeting: There were none

Date/Time/Venue of next meeting: Monday 11th July 2016 – 7 pm at The Baptist Church Schoolroom.

Close of meeting: There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.45 pm

PLEASE NOTE:

Clerk would like permission to change the September meeting date to 19th.

TWO DATES TO REMEMBER:

Summer Dance to be held Sat 25th June at The Marque, Golden Lane, Music ABBA Tribute

Village Fete is to be held on Saturday 20th August at The Lady Nelson Playing Field.

Post: Eamon Ryan,

7th June: Danny Kimble, Came & Company, Parkers Nursery, Anglia Welding, Sid Hutchby.

28th June: HMRC cheque sent to Maurice Howard. This cheque was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.