

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Approved Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Date: 4th March 2024	Venue & Time: Thurlestone Parish Hall, 19.30 hrs	
<u>Present:</u> Cllr Rosa Lewis (in the Chair) Cllr Eric Palmer Cllr Mike Hodges Cllr Nigel Hadaway Cllr Adam Ryan Carter Cllr David Smyth	<u>In Attendance:</u> DCC Cllr Rufus Gilbert SHDC Cllr Mark Long Helen Leather (Parish Clerk) Parishioners/guests: 12	<u>Apologies:</u> SHDC Cllr Sam Dennis Cllr Gill Stone

246. PARISHIONERS OPEN FORUM:

Cllr Lewis welcomed everyone and reminded all present that during the open forum the Council is only allowed to take decisions on topics publicised on the agenda and on questions submitted in advance. She then asked if any members of the public wanted to speak.

Jon Wigg. My following comments in regard to application 0388/24/4. I want to highlight that up until 2014 when the Bantham estate was purchased there were only 5 structures beyond the village settlement boundary towards the beach. These being a small pay hut/external workshop, Seedlings Corner, the lifesaving hut, Jenkins Quay and Coronation Boathouse. Over the past 10 years, we've seen the following either actually happen or attempted to happen. A new site office, an application for a restaurant in the boathouse, application for a holiday let in the boathouse. Removal of vegetation behind the boathouse causing unstable cliff, which has led to the slipway being shut to the general public – by the way the slipway is not owned by the Bantham Estate. Application for ANPR parking, application for a larger toilet block by 50%, application for enhanced sewage treatment works, applications for electric and cabling into where the gastrobus is sited, which is also not moved everyday as it should be. Area of grass placed by AstroTurf by the gastrobus, application to put driveways around the Daffodil field, application for car park for residents and Mooring Holder's. Multiple dwellings appearing in the Daffodil field and removal of vegetation from the wall of Daffodil Field, which has caused it to collapse, not helped by a trench being dug up behind the wall. And now this application. I'm fully aware that each application has to be judged on its own merits, but surely, we cannot have a situation where a new planning officer is dealing with every new application and isn't aware of the history. Please can I ask the Parish Council the following. 1 - Has SHDC enforcement asked for containers on the dunes to be removed hence this application? 2 - How can this application be a retrospective change of use? The containers were never legally there, change of use from what? I'd also like to remind everyone of the original Blue Sky thinking released by the Bantham Estate shortly after purchase. This application is just another attempt to achieve this in a piece meal fashion. Finally, I would like to state that I'm not against the surf school, just not cited on an ancient monument.

Patrick Renault, director of the Surfing Academy spoke. I wanted to give the committee a brief overview of what Bantham Surfing Academy is. Bantham Surfing Academy was established on 12th of April 2010 with the Evans Estates as a family friendly business, which we continue to

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Approved Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

provide and that is essential that we continue to do that. We support many local and national schools and educational programmes and the local schools for activity weeks. We provide after school surf clubs for local primary schools such as Thurlestone. We provide surf clubs in the summer holidays for the young kids to come down and enjoy themselves. We're very aware of health and safety and the well-being of the public and we support mental health programmes, we support tuition of kids and of adults with physical and mental abilities and post-traumatic stress disorders, for example, with ADHD, we work with South Hams District Council and Torbay District Councils. We are a centre of excellence surf school and we have been for the past 14 years. We provide the highest service possible to the locals and to visitors to the local area. People who come to Thurlestone - many of them come to Bantham Beach to surf. We provide lifeguard training, first aid training, surf instructor training and paddle board instructor training. All our surf instructors are qualified lifeguards. Our surf instructors are very active on the beach, and we work very closely with the lifeguard services. We also carry life support and medical response kits. We've attended many first aids on and off the beaches. We support local hotels, camps, shops and local retailers - we often send customers away with ideas of where to go and purchase locally, where to eat and where to stay.

Cllr Lewis asked Mr Renaud where the surf school initially traded from? Mr Renaud replied initially they had a van which just it just didn't work for us at all. We had no washing facilities. We play a vital role in supporting the development of surfing and we are recognised as one of the best schools in the country and we also provide a safe haven for school kids and people who come down to the beach. Cllr Lewis responded that this was very good to hear, and thanked Mr Renaud for his comments.

Judy Pearce queried minute 241 from January meeting and stated she didn't say that the Brown Bin Service had stopped for six weeks. What she explained was that because it was a two-week cycling, they stopped for four weeks. There was an extra week for everybody, so in fact it was 5 weeks.

247. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Email Cllr Rufus Gilbert: rufus.Gilbert@devon.gov.uk

Email Cllr Samantha Dennis: samantha.dennis@swdevon.gov.uk

Email Cllr Mark Long: cllr.mark.long@southhams.gov.uk

Cllr Rufus Gilbert.

The Devolution Deal for Devon has a dedicated website for people to view all the information necessary. This can be found at: <https://www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk/> It's very informative.

Cllr Gilbert reported that Adam Keay from Devon County Highways has now had the speed gun recalibrated under his desk. Unfortunately, he's not very well at the moment, but has said that he doesn't want to do the speed test in bad weather because he wants the maximum of traffic/visitors to be passing through the village, he will be carrying out the

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Approved Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

speed tests soon. Cllr Lewis asked is there anything the parish can do to help/or suggest the best places. Cllr Gilbert responded that it was a good idea to suggest the best places to Mr Keay as soon as possible. Keep it simple, suggest just one or two places and the best times of day. He will come down for one day only.

Cllr Gilbert then spoke about the roads. He stated that obviously lots of people, not just in Thurlestone, are concerned about roads and understandably so. He reminded everyone this has been the wettest February on record and it's the wettest winter for 130 years. He suggested that as there are elections coming up then parishioners and councillors should start lobbying their MP for more money because Devon don't have any. Things will not get better, but they may get worse. Devon CC will do their best in the summer to catch up when the conditions are dry, as you cannot repair wet roads. The water table is exceptionally high, it's an impossible situation until the situation dries up. DCC are not going to be able to do very much. Cllr Gilbert commented on the flooding on the road into Thurlestone that a farmer had written to him about. He understood that the road closure is now fixed but Devon CC were waiting on the Jetta and some machines to come in to clear the problem. He reminded everyone that in conditions like this, there's an awful lot of villages and places waiting for these machines. He reported that Devon CC have a cycle of gully and drain cleaning across the county and There is a cycle of the cleaning of gullet and drains of which is well documented. In Devon there are 8,500 miles of roads to keep clear and all of Devon has a problem. The interactive map of gully clearing can be found here:
<https://devon.highway-iams.uk/Live/PBLC/PIP/map.aspx?cg=kaarb>

Cllr Lewis asked if there was anything councillors could do in advance of the busy tourist season to get control of the parking problem in Thurlestone. Cllr Gilbert said the parish should inform him of any problems when they occur, and he will try and get an officer to come down.

Cllr Gilbert left the meeting.

District Councillor Mark Long

The last Full Council meeting on 15th February approved the Council Plan for 2024-2028 and the delivery plan for the coming year to 2025.

The budget and expenditure for 2024/25 was also agreed and this includes an increase in council tax of 2.99%. (On a Band D property Council tax from £185.42 to £190.96, an increase of £5.54 per year or under 11 pence per week).

Also reconfirmed and approved was the premium (up to 200% council tax) for second homes, this will come into effect from 1st April 2025. It is the intention of the District Council that all the premium raised from this will be ringfenced for affordable and social housing, the District Council is pressing Devon County Council to look at doing the same for what they will receive from this premium.

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Approved Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Changes will also be made to Council Tax discounts and premiums from 1st April this year for unoccupied properties both furnished and unfurnished.

The discount for unoccupied and substantially unfurnished properties is 100% for a maximum period of 1 month, for 1 month to 1 year is zero; the discount for properties that require major repair works to render them habitable is 50% for a maximum period of 12 months; the discount for unoccupied furnished properties (second homes) is zero.

An empty homes premium of an additional 100% is levied on properties that have remained unoccupied and unfurnished for at least one year, but less than five years; an additional 200% for at least five years, but less than ten years; an additional 300% for at least ten years.

The Council also approved a local Council Tax Reduction scheme for 24/25, there was no change to the bands of the current banded scheme, removed the Minimum Income Floor (MIF) for self-employed claimants, and disregards 100% of the 'Limited Capability for Work' element of Universal Credit.

Residents are reminded that the South Hams District Council website has information available as to where to find support. <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/support-directory>

The District Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee met recently; this meeting saw the General Manager of Fusion Leisure attending to answer questions on some of the issues regarding cleanliness/maintenance. They have not met several standards and have a programme over the coming year to increase cleanliness/maintenance levels and to increase employment levels to bring the four centres in the South Hams back to standard. South Hams District Council will be meeting with them every six months to monitor progress.

Town & Parish Planning training took place in January, this was a well-attended, three-hour session, with good feedback. Further training sessions will be organised, welcome any suggestions as to topics that Councillors feel could be covered to assist them in their work.

District Councillors have both a Sustainable Localities Fund and a new Climate Change and Biodiversity Fund - £2,000 each per fund to support projects in the local communities. Full details on are available on the District Council website.

South Hams Composting Pilots: With the support of South Hams District Council, Sustainable South Hams is conducting a series of compost pilots across the District. The pilots are starting at a small scale in a few locations, but if successful, will be rolled out more widely. Composting provides a valuable and easy way to reduce carbon emissions, increase soil fertility and encourage community engagement in climate and nature action. The objectives of the pilot programme are:

- To increase the knowledge and support for community composting schemes.
- To put redundant brown bins to good use
- To inspire and inform residents about home composting

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Approved Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

- To explore ways to offer street level composting of food waste.

This offer is also being made to Sustainability Groups across the South Hams so interested parties should liaise with your local group to avoid duplication. There is support from SHDC for local composting schemes, which includes the turning and chipping of waste.

South Devon National Landscape (formerly AONB) has received a £2,246,965 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for an exciting project 'Life on the Edge' focussed along the South Devon coast. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the multi partner project (Buglife, Devon Wildlife Trust, National Trust, SW Coastpath) will deliver a programme to help restore landscape and habitat to ensure thriving populations of some of the UK's rarest insects living along this coastal area between Berry Head in Torbay and Wembury.

The front office, the Public Enquiry Office of the Kingsbridge Police Station is now open to the public, Monday to Saturday 10am – 3pm.

248. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillor Stone and Sam Dennis.

249. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & AMENDMENTS TO REGISTERS OF INTERESTS

None

250. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th February 2024. They were signed by the Chair.

251. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cllr Ryan-Carter raised the matter of planning application 3940/23/HHO – Little Stretton, which had been amended following the council objection. The only comment negative comment that the Parish Councillors had was about the balcony and the balustrade and how the balcony was wrapping around the building, and it went over the flat roof. The council requested could this be changed. This has now been done. Councillors agreed that the revised plans had taken into account the concerns and had been amended accordingly, and all councillors agreed to support the amended balustrade plans.

252. CLERKS REPORT.

The public toilets in Thurlestone will be reopened at the end of the month by Devon CC – the water to be turned back on, the systems flushed through prior to them being deep cleaned and reopened again.

DAAT Landing site. An engineer visited the site at the end of March to carry out some upgrades and reported one of the LED lights was not working. A specialist electrician from MAT electrics will be booked to replace the light, but in the meantime, it can operate as a dark site – as the helicopters are able to land without lights if necessary.

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Approved Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

The South Hams Housing Offer launched in February and is designed to provide local communities with support and resources in coming together to play a key role in creating affordable homes for the people that need them the most. There are several ways that community housing projects can happen:

- Homes can be developed or owned by a community land trust
- Affordable self-build
- Partnerships between the community and a housing partner. This includes a registered provider, local authority or other body.
- Housing cooperatives

The focus of the South Hams Housing Offer is to provide funding for groups to research and, if appropriate, formalise into an appropriate legal entity. In addition, it can provide support and funding to bring forward sites for development.

There will be a Road Closures by BT from AUNEMOUTH CROSS TO BANTHAM CROSS
Proposed Start Date: 23 April 2024 08:00 - Estimated End Date: 25 April 2024 18:00 for pole replacement. Thurlestone To Lower Kerse - 4 Mar 07:00 - 22 Mar 17:00 closed for SURFACING WORK IN CARRIAGEWAY

Bantham Swoosh and Bantham Boomerang - 6th July 2024

Bantham Swoosh - start time approx 07:00 - 07:30 - 800 swimmers

Bantham Boomerang - Swim starts approx 18:00 -500 swimmers

Key Traffic Management measures. Traffic management supplier continuity - as the team are now familiar with the process, they are using the same traffic management team as last year (road Traffic Solutions). We're working on refinements with them based on learnings from last year. Traffic Management is planned from 0430 through to the end of the Boomerang. Traffic management plan - they shall be running the same traffic management plan as 2023, with a few improvements based on feedback. More information will be provided on this very soon. Traffic management plan available for locals – as they did last year, they are creating a detailed overview for locals which we welcome any questions on. Phasing traffic arrival – Level Water will promote car sharing for both swims and use guideline arrival times. A lot of the arrival traffic and coach movements for the Bantham Swoosh will happen before 07:30am on the 6th July. Spectator walk – there were over 100 spectators who walked down to Bantham under supervision last year), this will happen again this year. Aveton Gifford parking – Level Water will have approximately 300 cars parking at Aveton Gifford as per last year. Communications - They will install the same radio mast at Aunemouth Cross to ensure communication between all points of the Bantham Swoosh and Boomerang footprint. There are no GSM Cellular, 2G, 3G, 4G or 5G transmissions that originate from the mast. This year there will be camping in Daffodil field Friday and Saturday night.

Disabled access to the Golf Course. The Golf course has confirmed they have no plans to provide disabled access to the beach.

Reminder that meeting in April is the Annual Parish Meeting.

253. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS - TO INCLUDE:

a. Cllr Lewis

- i. Update on Councillors areas of responsibilities.

Cllr Hodges – Climate and Sustainability.

Cllr Palmer – Roads and maintenance.

Cllr Ryan-Carter – Trees.

Cllr Hadaway – School liaison

Cllr Smyth – Police liaison

Gill Stone - Parish Hall Liaison

Cllr Hadaway reported that he had spoken with the 'Friends of Thurlestone School' and asked them to keep a record of any traffic incidents to gain greater insight into the frequency and nature of these. When a written report has been received of times and days when speeding is worst then that might be a good time to invite Adam Keay down with the speed gun and also to liaise with the police at same time. Cllr Smyth agreed and also reported an imminent change of leadership personnel at Kingsbridge Police Station (Sgt Shotton being replaced by Sgt Charlie Wilkes) but hoped that this would not unduly delay the initial police surgery at Thurlestone Parish Hall which has been previously discussed.

- i. Schedule 14 and Footpath 7— Nothing new to report
ii. Proposed diversion of Footpath No.13, Coronation Quay. The cliff stabilisation plans have been approved. It hasn't started yet and nothing else to report.

b. Cllr Palmer

- i. Blocked culverts and flooding update

Julian Lee is going to take his mini digger and dig out some of the blocked gulleys and drains, which will be really helpful. He will charge the parish for the use of the digger but we do have funds in the budget for maintenance. The chair and clerk agreed to monitor this spending on maintenance. Councillors stressed the importance of reporting all problems to Devon CC so that a record of flooding and blocked drains is recorded.

- ii. 25-year update on Thurlestone village

25 years ago a film was made locally showing the people and the places of the parish. This was shown recently at the Village Hall, and Cllr Palmer is interested in making a new film. showing to local area, the beaches and the local people and businesses. A lot of local people are keen to help and film, record and edit, so there is a lot of help and enthusiasm for the project.

254. PLANNING & NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (response dates noted):

Full details of all applications and Parish Council responses can be found by entering the reference number on the South Hams District Council planning portal

<https://apps.southhams.gov.uk//planningsearchmvc>

- a) **0528/24/TPO - Buckland Park, Bantham.** T1: Sycamore - fell to prevent possible property damage. T2: Ash - re-pollard to 6m from ground level to prevent further tear outs damaging the cabin below. T19/T3: Davey Elm – to continue to be monitored, seeking permission to monolith to 10m from ground level if further decline. Councillors objected to the Elder but supported the sycamore.
- b) **0388/24/FUL - Land at SX663 436, Bantham, Kingsbridge.**
Change of use of land to surf school & siting of two storage containers (retrospective).
21/03/2024. Thurlestone Parish Object.
- c). **0397/24/HHO - 19 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB.**
Householder application for new entrance porch to north facing elevation, new infill roof section over existing utility area, modifications to existing openings with external alterations to include a new deck & storage area, internal alterations including installation of solar PV panels. 14 March 2024. **Thurlestone Parish Support.**
- d) **2786/20/FUL - West Buckland Barn, Bantham, TQ7 3AJ, READVERTISEMENT (Revised plans & documents) Erection of new agricultural store. Thurlestone Parish Object.**
- e) **2116/23/FUL - Worthy, Bantham, TQ7 3AA. READVERTISEMENT (amended description and plans)** Conversion, restoration and alterations of outbuildings associated with the farmhouse, conversion of Southern Barn to provide holiday let and Northern Barn to provide ancillary accommodation, and associated landscaping. Demolition of Piggery & replacement with walled garden with natural pool and poolhouse. **Thurlestone Parish Object.**

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISIONS:

3940/23/HHO - Little Stretton, Thurlestone, TQ7 3LZ. Householder application for single storey rear extension, first floor balcony and alterations to existing dwelling. **Approved.**

0149/24/FUL - Land At Sx 668 437 Bantham. Proposed stabilisation of cliff slope. **Under Consideration.**

3629/23/HHO – Onnalea, Bantham, TQ7 3AR, Householder application for demolition of existing extension and extensions and alteration to existing dwelling, driveway improvements and associated landscaping. **Approved**

2116/23/FUL – Worthy, Bantham, TQ7 3AA. READVERTISEMENT (amended plans) Conversion, restoration & alterations to outbuildings & associated landscaping. Demolition of Piggery & replacement with walled garden with natural pool, poolhouse & greenhouse. Change of use to provide ancillary accommodation & associated spaces for Farmhouse. **Within Consultation period.**

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Approved Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

2117/23/LBC - Worthy, Bantham, TQ7 3AA. READVERTISEMENT (amended plans) Listed Building consent for conversion, restoration & alterations to outbuildings & associated landscaping. Demolition of Piggery & replacement with walled garden with natural pool, poolhouse & greenhouse. Change of use to provide ancillary accommodation & associated spaces for Farmhouse. **Under Consideration**

2786/20/FUL, West Buckland Barn, TQ7 3AJ. **Under Consideration.**

255. FINANCE & GOVERNANCE Receipts & Payments – Months 2

Councillors agreed to pay – Clerks Salary, Julian Lee – grass cutting and maintenance in December/January - £200. Thurlestone Parish Hall Hire £12, SLCC Membership renewal £75. Replacing LED lights at DAAT landing site - £412.06.

251 February 2024 (2023-2024)

Thurlestone Parish Council

Prepared by:  Date: 4/3/24
Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by:  Date: 4/3/24
Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

Bank Reconciliation at 26/02/2024			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2023		28,392.40
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2023 - 26/02/2024		38,478.80
			64,871.20
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2023 - 26/02/2024		26,662.86
A	Cash in Hand 26/02/2024 (per Cash Book)		38,208.34
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 08/02/2024	0.00	
	Current Account 26/02/2024	14,768.67	
	Deposit Account 26/02/2024	24,561.45	
			39,330.12
	Less unrepresented payments		1,121.78
			38,208.34
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		38,208.34
	A = B Checks out OK		

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Approved Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

26 February 2024 (2023-2024)

Thurlestone Parish Council
PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Chq/No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
76 Salary	16/02/2024	March 24	Current Account	019	Salary Payment	Heron Builders, Marsh, Exwick	F	485.61		485.61
77 Fuel Hire	26/02/2024	March 24	Current Account	020	Hil Hire	Thurlestone Parish Hill	E	12.00		12.00
78 S.U.C.C. Subscriptions	26/02/2024	March 24	Current Account	021	S.U.C.C. Renewal	S.U.C.C. Exbury Park	F	75.00		75.00
79 DMAT	26/02/2024	March 24	Current Account	022	General Repairs & Maintenance	NET Electricals Ltd	S	412.06	82.41	494.47
Total								954.67	82.41	1,037.08

Prepared by: *M. Adkins* Date: 26/2/24
Name and Role

Approved by: *[Signature]* Date: 4/3/24
Name and Role

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role

Created by Scribe

256. NEXT MEETINGS

8th April 2024 (Annual Parish Meeting), 6th May 2024 (Annual General Meeting, 3rd June 2024

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Approved Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Approved Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

257. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed as a true record: *Gillian Stone*

Print Name & Date: *G. Stone 8/4/24*

Agenda Items and Updates; where possible please submit to the Clerk one week prior to the meeting to ensure time for inclusion, circulation, and study. If a Council Member is unable to attend a meeting it would be appreciated if they could submit a brief précis of progress on their actions, if applicable, (to the Clerk for distribution) together with their apologies.

Distribution List: Thurlestone Parish Councillors. For Information to: County Cllr R Gilbert, South Hams District Council Salcombe & Thurlestone Ward Councillors, Thurlestone Parish Website: <https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/>