

Thurlestone Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Thurlestone Parish Council held on Monday 4th February 2019 at 7.30pm in the Thurlestone Parish Hall

Present: Councillors Rhymes (Chairman), Mitchelmore, Marshall, Goddard, Munn, Hurrell and Zaffiro.

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Gilbert, District Councillor Pearce and 13 members of the public.

There was an open forum at the beginning of the meeting to allow members of the public to ask questions or make comment regarding the work of the Council or other items which affect the Parish. The following matters were raised:

A resident of Bantham spoke of concerns about traffic speeding within the village, which she considers to be an increasing problem. She has spoken to the Bantham Estate and they intend to place bigger ramps by the ticket office to act as a deterrent and then another further along the track. This deals with the parking area but not the village itself and the question was asked about what can be done about this. The Council agreed to speak to the County Councillor about this in the first instance to see if DCC can help. It was also noted that West Buckland has problems too, especially along the lane from Bantham past the old chapel.

A resident raised an issue with the eligibility criteria for Community Led Housing, which seems to suggest that anyone can apply to have one of these houses, even if they already own a property, which does not seem fair. She was also concerned about the possibility of 10 houses, which she thought was excessive. The Chair of the NP Advisory Group explained that both the eligibility criteria and the number of houses was an initial attempt to set the criteria based on South Hams District Council's rules and that the meeting on 28th January was a starting point to discuss these and hone them.

The ownership of the school playing field and its use after school hours was raised. According to the new agreement, DCC has rented the site entirely to the Academy and therefore the Parish Council no longer has any rental agreement on the site and no responsibility therein.

The bus shelter timetables need to be updated and cleaned up, which the Parish Council agreed to fund.

1. To receive apologies.

There were no apologies.

2. To receive any amendments necessary to Members' Registers of Interests.

There were no amendments.

3. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 7th January 2019.

The Minutes were confirmed and signed.

4. To consider any matters arising from the Minutes.

The following matters arose:

Item 6 Thurlestone Public Toilets

A recommendation has been made to the SHDC Executive Committee to hand over the toilets to the Parish Council in April 2020 rather than 2019. SHDC will then provide a full survey over the course of the year and before this handover. The complete financial figures will also be requested again.

Item 7 West Buckland Dog Litter Bin

Following a site visit of councillors, the bin will be placed at Chapel Cross and the works have been agreed.

Item 8 DAAT Landing Site

The Western Power works are likely to take place between 7th – 10th May 2019, subject to confirmation of the road closure.

Item 14 Cobbled Road Repairs

Councillor Rhymes has tried to get quotes but the works are too small to interest any local contractors. He requested permission from the Council to carry out the works himself and this was agreed.

5. To discuss the following planning matters:

- To consider the following planning application:

4035/18/VAR The Rectory, Homefield, Thurlestone

Removal of condition 4 (Window and Door Details) following grant of planning consent 55/1899/98/F (Construction of single detached dwelling)

Object.

The Parish Council objected to the variation on the grounds of colour and style because they considered that the windows should remain in the same style and colour of the existing ones. They will accept pvc replacements on these grounds.

- To note the decision to refuse planning permission on application 1715/18/FUL The Downs, Thurlestone.
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This was noted. The key point was that the development would have been outside the settlement boundary and this reinforces the NP in this respect. It also shows how important landscape and the AONB is to development principles in the area.

- To receive an update about Community Led Housing.

The workshop meeting was held on 28th January in the Parish Hall. There were 65 attendees – a great turnout - and thanks were given to those who took the trouble to complete the questionnaires. The Community Housing Group is now working out how many households are likely to be eligible. This will be an indicative figure, as it is likely some people won't have registered yet with Help to Buy SW. Help to Buy deal with the financial criteria. Once the likely number of eligible households is known, the Group will focus on the scale, location and design of the housing.

They will liaise throughout with the NP Advisory Group, who will update parish councillors, and the PC will provide updates at future PC meetings. Details will also be available on the parish website, in the Neighbourhood Plan section.

Councillor Munn made the point that housing ought to be available for people who are single or couples without children, rather than all of it large enough for families.

6. To note that, as of 1st April 2019, SHDC will no longer provide paper copies of planning applications and they will only be available online.

This was noted and applications will be shown on the screen.

7. To note that the application to list Thurlestone Garage as an Asset of Community Value has been unsuccessful.

This was noted. SHDC was of the opinion that, given that the nature of the business did not directly further social wellbeing, eg as a meeting place for local residents, any social wellbeing resulting from the garage was ancillary to its recent primary use as a commercial garage and that it therefore did not qualify. There is no right of appeal. This is a disappointing result, but the employment use of the site is of course protected by both the NP and emerging Joint Local Plan This means that, if and when an application is made for housing, there are strict planning criteria which will have to be satisfied. Any third party interest in continuing its garage use or furthering an employment use will be an important consideration.

Councillors noted that they would prefer the site to be used as commercial units rather than housing, if possible.

8. To receive a report from County Councillor Rufus Gilbert.

Councillor Gilbert sent his apologies.

9. To receive reports from District Councillors Judy Pearce and Simon Wright.

Councillor Wright sent his apologies.

Councillor Pearce gave the following update:

The SHDC Peer Review took place before Christmas and the report has been published. The Council will be drawing up an Action Plan to deal with points raised but there was a lot of good feedback.

District Council election candidates attended a meeting at SHDC recently to hear about what is involved in standing as a candidate. The election dates are: 26th March – Notice of Elections; 3rd April – Receipt of Nominations; 4th April Statement of Persons Nominated; and 2nd May Polling Day.

The consultation on the SHDC budget is live on the website for anyone who would like to comment.

10. To receive updates about the following Parish matters: Parish Hall; Trees; and Highways.

Trees: There is a large, dead tree opposite Mallards which needs to be removed and the PC will write to the owner to request that this be arranged.

Highways: To note the completed Parish Paths Partnership Survey Forms
This was noted and Mike Strickland was thanked for completing the forms and Paul Martin for carrying out the works.

A sweeper was requested for the main roads in Thurlestone.

11. To note the date of the next Council Meeting on Monday 4th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

This was noted. The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Councillor Rhymes
Chairman