

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Date: 5 th September 2022		Venue & Time: Thurlestone Parish Hall, 19.30 hrs
Present: Cllr Sue Crowther Cllr Paul Gunning Cllr Rosa Lewis Cllr Jill Munn (Chairman) Cllr Adam Ryan-Carter Cllr Gill Stone Cllr Sian Williams	In Attendance: Kathy Harrod (Parish Clerk) SHDC Cllr Judy Pearce SHDC Cllr Mark Long DCC Cllr Rufus Gilbert Parishioners/guests 12	Apologies:

REF 2022/23 MINUTES

OPEN FORUM

There was an open forum of 15 minutes 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 arose:

- a. Information from Bantham Estate re parking – no overnight parking is now allowed between the two gates. There is no obvious signage re the new restrictions.

The Meeting Convened

64 Welcome & Apologies

65 Declarations of Interests and amendments to Members' Registers of Interests.

No declarations or amendments were made.

66 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 28th June 2022.

It was resolved to confirm the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

67 Clerks Report:

- We would like to thank Cllr Gilbert for his support via both a Localities payment towards the Jubilee Celebrations, and more recently, for his help in obtaining additional enforcement over the busy summer period.
- We have received requests for advice and/or assistance with tree issues in the area, this is both at Clanacombe and Grove Cottages. The trees at Clanacombe are protected by Forestry Commission Legislation with a woodland tree protection order also being requested. Cllr Long is in communication re the future management of the trees at Grove Cottages. We thank the owners for getting in touch regarding this and would encourage anyone considering tree works of any size to contact us prior to submitting an application.
- The next Avon Estuary Forum meeting takes place on 27th September, Cllr Stone will be attending as our representative.
- Please note that between 24th – 28th October there will be road closures Kerse Cross to Whitley Cross & Eddystone Road to Kerse Cross. This is an Openreach application to allow for safe access to underground/overhead cabling.
- Our thanks to Mike Stickland for erecting new footpath signage near the Quay.
- We have contacted the Public Right of Way Team to obtain information regarding the continued closure of the route to Bantham Quay. Unfortunately, due to long term illness, we will have to await their response.
- We have been notified by SHDC that a new Tree Preservation Order reference TPO1069 has been served at 2 Leonards Close on the Mead Estate. The order dated 14th July 2022 will remain in force for six months while it is decided if it should be made permanent, modified or withdrawn. Residents are asked for their comments.

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68 BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- a. Discussion re Bantham Estate damage caused by drunk driver.
A drunk driver ploughed into the stone wall by the entrance to the beach a few weeks ago, knocked down a large part of the wall and damaged the kissing gate. The Estate believe the wall and the gate are protected, they have requested the views of TPC in respect of how the wall is rebuilt and if the gate should remain. The Estate suggested that this may be an opportunity to widen the entrance.
The wall is noted as containing a memorial at the far end which will not be affected by building works at the damaged end.
Having the kissing gate is advantageous as it prevents walkers being on the same road as vehicular traffic. All Councillors felt it was essential for the kissing gate and wall to be replaced on a like for like basis. The features relate to the direct character of the AONB, insurers should pay out on a replacement basis. If the damage is considered significant a planning application may be required due to the height and build of the wall. This will be fed back to the Estate Management.
- b. Complaints received re noise issues with outside events (Rockbox & Weddings).
A number of complaints have been received regarding noise from both the Rockbox and from weddings that have been held locally.
The noise from Rock Box has been heard across the parish outside of the hours permitted. It has also been noted that the state of the public toilets during the period of their licence has been well below the standards expected.
For the last two years the 28 day rule was extended to 56 days, it was reduced again this year to 28 days. In Churchstow & Thurlestone the Rockbox was operated by Temporary Event Notices (TENS), these are obtained through application to SHDC who then consult with the Police. Any complaints should be made to SHDC now so they can be taken into consideration when assessing any future licences. The latest time that a TENS can be operative is 11pm, there was at least one night when the noise continued until at least 12.30am.
Full details of the TENS for both the Rockbox and local weddings were not known. Thurlestone Parish Council will write to SHDC to request information regarding any TENS that have had permission given as well as a request for notification prior to future TENS being authorised.
A request that future licences include a contribution for re the upkeep of the toilet facilities will also be made. Please note that enforcement is reliant on complaints from residents via the South Hams District Council website.
- c. Discussion re Swoosh Vehicle Management.
On the morning of event there was a requirement for an ambulance which got stuck on a lane with queueing vehicles behind. Fortunately, traffic was soon diverted away until the ambulance was ready to leave. The marshals were quick to react but young and inexperienced. The majority of Councillors were supportive of the event but it is essential that it is better managed, particularly with respect of emergency vehicle access.
On the day in question there was a diabetic child in need of treatment, a stroke victim and (although not a medical emergency) there was a best man trying to get through the traffic to attend a wedding.
The event organisation has changed, it is now being managed by Level Water. Thurlestone Parish Council will write to the organiser to raise the issues of traffic management, insufficient infrastructure, risk management and the complete lack of communications with the Parish Council prior to the event.
- d. Proposal to accept DALC face to face training £200 plus expenses. It was resolved to accept the training offered.
- e. **Councillor Roles:**
- | | |
|--|---|
| Neighbourhood Planning – Cllr Crowther | Water/Electric Meter Readings – Cllr Lewis |
| Footpaths – Cllr Gunning | Tree Warden - Cllr Ryan-Carter |
| Avon Estuary Forum – Cllr Stone | Parish Hall liaison - Cllr Stone |
| Climate Related - Mike Hodges & Cllr Ryan-Carter | Police Liaison – Parish Clerk |
| Snow Wardens – Cllr Munn | School Liaison – Cllr Gunning & Parish Clerk |
| GDPR Officer – Parish Clerk | Friends of Thurlestone Church – Cllr Williams |

69. To receive reports from County and District Councillors and to ask any questions arising:

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

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Clr Rufus Gilbert, Email: Rufus.Gilbert@devon.gov.uk

1. This August has been particularly quiet, much more so than usual.
2. DCC finances – the finances are in dire straits, child services post pandemic is haemorrhaging money to the tune of £1, 000,000 per week. Inflationary pressures are further impacting the issue.
3. The country now has a new Prime Minister and new government being formed. DCC await an update regarding funding for the county.
4. The availability of Localities monies is going to Cabinet next week and it is anticipated that an element of funds will be available once again.
5. Vehicular Enforcement across the area has received positive feedback.

Clr Gilbert welcomed the new Councillors and congratulated Clr Munn on being Chair

REPORT IT:

Members of the public are requested to report all Highways issues through the Highways Website, enabling faster assessment of problem areas which can then be added to the repair/maintenance schedules. You can report potholes, overgrown vegetation, defective signs/lighting and much more.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

Email Clr Judy Pearce: cllr.judy.pearce@southhams.gov.uk

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

1. Bantam Estate's Vineyard applications 3026/21/FUL & 3027/21/FUL will be considered at Development Management Committee on Wednesday 7th September.
2. Information regarding cost of living help is now available on the SHDC website, <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help>, this provides help and guidance on a wide variety of help available and also includes a support directory for other organisations.
3. There have been a number of planning applications during the summer period, it has also been busy with road sweeping etc.
4. There is cost of living help information on the SHDC website to provide help and guidance re council tax, tax rebates, citizens advice, help with broadband/phone, household support fund, cost of living payments plus a support directory for other organisations. Home improvement/energy saving etc. ADD IN LINK
5. The waste service comes back in house on 3rd October, there will be challenges in the first months of their control. The number one priority is for the service to be legal and compliant. There is a considerable amount of ongoing work to improve the service. The council will not be making any changes unless parishes have been consulted with and the solution is an effective one. This also includes street sweeping, fly tips, public waste and more. The council are engaging and working with the staff to understand their perspective on the situation and how they believe improvements can be made. There is a lot of discussion regarding the brown bin service and how that should be taken forward.
SHDC have allocated a nine-month period to correct the issues with the service.
Any problem areas should be reported back to the Parish Clerk. This information will then be forwarded to the dedicated SHDC email.
6. Homes for Ukraine, there are now 167 guests over 71 hosts, the number of arrivals is slowing but SHDC are still receiving up to 3 families per week. Hosts were asked to house guest for a period of six months, SHDC staff are now working with these people to try to provide continuity with housing/schools etc as well as support if they wish to live independently.
7. A new Assistant Director of Planning has been appointed (this is an external candidate), full details are to be announced shortly. Pat Whymer will head up Development Management under him for the South Hams. Decisions are now being processed quicker than they were, thanks in part to several promising new starters in the planning department.

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8. Parts of Devon/Cornwall/Somerset are now in an avian flu zone. Avian influenza (bird flu) is a notifiable animal disease. If you suspect any type of avian influenza in poultry or captive birds you must report it immediately by calling the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301.
Full details can be found via this link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>
Clean your birdfeeders to prevent spread!
9. Rural England have announced a Prosperity Fund with over £800k being allocated to the South Hams, this is to replace the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group rural grant funding. Applications can be made for rural tourism, infrastructure such as cycle paths, village hall technology and more! All bids will be submitted via SHDC.

It takes two minutes to report a problem, please help keep our community beautiful.

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

Abandoned Vehicle, Damaged or Full Dog Bin, Damaged/Full Litter Bin, Damaged/Full Recycling Bank, Dead Animal, Dirty Beach, Fly Tipping, Litter/Dog Mess, Planning Breach, Stray Dogs, AND MORE...

70 Planning & Enforcement

a) LIST OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED/FOR DISCUSSION:

1. 2614/22/FUL, Summerstrand, Eddystone Rd, alteration to form ancillary accommodation (22/9) TPC Support subject to Dark Skies & Ancillary.
Thurlestone Parish Council supports this application. Councillors considered that the proposed alteration to the existing detached garage to form ancillary accommodation would be subordinate in scale and form to the existing dwelling, whilst recognising that the roof would need to be higher and steeper to enable the additional accommodation to be created in the roof (NP Policy TP7.2i); that the proposed development would be unlikely to have an unacceptable impact on neighbouring residential amenity due to the hipped roof on the East elevation, no windows on that elevation, and existing landscape screening (NP Policy TP1.1); and that the design was appropriate and proportionate, mirroring the existing dwelling and using identical materials (painted render, cedar cladding and natural slate roof) (NP Policy TP1.2). They were however, concerned about the two dormer windows on the North elevation, particularly the large bedroom window, due to the parish's dark skies policy (NP Policies TP1.4 & TP1.5). They also requested a condition to ensure that the proposed development would remain ancillary to the main dwelling and could not be occupied by an independent household (NP Policy TP7.2ii).
2. 2489/22/TCA, The Old Workshop, Parkfield, Reduce tree to 3m due to ash dieback. TPC No Objection.
3. Ratification: 3026/21/FUL & 3027/21/FUL, Vineyard, north west of Buckland. TPC No further comments.
4. Ratification: 1416/22/HHO, 2 Valleyside, West Buckland, extensions to north/south. TPC Support.
5. Ratification: 1251/22/HHO, Tree Tops, Thurlestone, single storey extension & alterations. TPC Object.
Thurlestone Parish Council objects to this application. Councillors considered that the proposed single storey side extension is not proportionate and appropriate in scale and form to the existing dwelling (contrary to NP policies TP7.2i & TP1.2); and that the use of the extended first floor balcony above will have an unacceptable impact on neighbouring amenity as it will exacerbate the existing noise and disturbance already experienced by the properties on the main street below due to the elevated position of the dwelling (contrary to NP policy TP1.1). The additional glazing on the East, South and North elevations of the dwelling and on the South East elevation of the summer house was also considered excessive as it would result in a harmful increase in light pollution from artificial light in the AONB (contrary to NP policies TP1.4 & TP1.5, JLP Policies DEV 20, DEV 23 & DEV 25 and AONB MP policies P1 and P2).
6. Ratification: 2160/22/HHO, West Buckland Farm, ground floor extension & outhouse rebuild. TPC Object.
Thurlestone Parish Council objected to this application. The existing property occupies a prominent and sensitive location on the edge of the settlement within the AONB and by raising the roof of the existing building (by 1.2m), Councillors considered the property would have an unacceptable dominant and overbearing impact on the neighbouring West Buckland Barns, the rural street scene, natural environment and long uninterrupted views into and within the AONB (contrary to NP policies TP1.1, TP1.5 & TP22.1). By contrast, the consented application for a replacement dwelling (3077/21/FUL) had been orientated so that the principal elevation was parallel to the lane,

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with the existing outhouse and parking to the side, which had improved the street scene and preserved the privacy and amenity of neighbours.

7. Ratification of 2178/22/HHO, Lower Furlong, Ilbert Rd. TPC Object.

Thurlestone Parish Council objected to this application. Whilst Councillors agreed that the proposed extension meets the requirements of NP policy TP1 and is subordinate in scale and form to the existing dwelling (NP policy TP7.2i), they did not support the addition of a 6th bedroom and 2nd study to the 5-bed property as this would exacerbate the existing imbalance of large, unoccupied dwellings on the Yarmer estate where only a third of the properties are occupied year round. They considered the proposal would do nothing to redress this imbalance and that a mix of housing sizes should be retained to meet identified housing needs, in accordance with JLP policies SPT.2 and DEV8.

b) DECISIONS:

1. 1601/22/FUL, The Pillars, Eddystone Rd (16/6) **SHDC Conditional Approval.**
2. 1441/22/FUL, 29 Eddystone Rd, Thurlestone. **SHDC Conditional Approval.**
3. 1633/22/FUL, 21 Eddystone Rd, Thurlestone. **SHDC Conditional Approval.**
4. 1689/22/VAR, 29 Highfield, Eddystone Road. **SHDC Conditional Approval.**
5. 1610/22/HHO, 31 Court Park, Thurlestone. **Withdrawn.**
6. 1017/22/HHO, 24 Court Park, Thurlestone. **SHDC Refused.**
7. 4301/21/HHO, Appledore, Island View, Thurlestone. **Withdrawn.**
8. 2786/20/FUL, West Buckland Barn, TQ7 3AJ. **SHDC No Decision Yet.**
9. 0915/22/FUL, Land off Bantham Beach Road. **SHDC No Decision Yet.**
10. 1420/22/FUL, Upton Grange, Bantham. **SHDC No Decision Yet.**
11. 1657/22/VAR, Buckland Park Farmhouse. **SHDC Conditional Approval.**
12. 1520/22/TPO, Buckland Park, Bantham, Tree Works. **SHDC Lesser Tree Works Allowed.**
13. 2070/22/TPO, Marshalls, Thurlestone, tree works request. **SHDC Split decision.**
14. 1416/22/HHO, 2 Valleyside, West Buckland, extensions to north/south. **Withdrawn.**
15. 2178/22/HHO, Lower Furlong, Ilbert Rd. **SHDC Conditional Approval.**
- 16.

c) ENFORCEMENT

Please note that the Enforcement Lists are confidential and issues concerning Enforcement cannot be discussed at a public meeting.

South Hams District Council are responsible for the enforcement of all planning breaches, the Parish Council have no authority to deal with issues of this nature.

Please will all parishioners continue to report full details of any violations that do not adhere to the original application for which permission was granted. ALL violations can be reported to Enforcement via

www.southhams.gov.uk/article/3043/Report-a-Planning-Breach

71 Receipts & Payments – see Appendix A:

a. Receipts & Payments: Months 5 & 6.

Accounts to pay – Clerk Salary & HMRC, Parish Hall Hire £14, EDF Energy £7, Public Toilets Water £112, Julian Lee Maintenance £360, SHDC Election Charge £2,643.20, Nick Walker Printing £75.60.

The Councillors resolved to accept the payments, a mandate sheet was produced and signed accordingly.

b. Governance:

1. Internal Audit Requirements:

- Update privacy statement link on the website – done.
- Councillors to have bespoke email addresses.
- Bank signatories to be updated.
- Website accessibility statement – we are intending on adding the statement to the Parish Council pages of the website only.

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Other issues were raised, however, these predate January 2022 and were addressed when the new clerk took over.

2. Fixed Interest Account: Following recent updates to the bank account it transpires there is a third account set up some years ago which now has a balance of £10,690.05, following discussion the Councillors resolve to reinvest for a three month period.

72 Close of Meeting:

At 20.50hrs the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

73 Next Meeting Dates: 3rd Oct, 7th Nov & 9th January, Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm

Signed as a true record: _____

Print Name & Date: _____

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 : Cllrs Crowther, Gunning, Lewis, Munn, Ryan Carter, Stone & Williams. **For Information to:** County Cllr R Gilbert, Dist. Cllr Judy Pearce, Dist. Cllr Mark Long, Thurlestone Parish Website: <https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/>

APPENDIX A: Months 5&6

Category	Descriptor	Date	Month No. of Payment approval	banked	Paid In	Paid Out
Receipts	July Gross Interest	11/07/2022	6	Y	0.06	
Payments	June Wages	30/06/2022	6	Y		- 481.29
Payments	Nick Walker Printing	30/09/2022	6	Y		- 75.60
Payments	Pennon Water Svs - Public Toilets	01/07/2022	6	Y		- 112.00
Payments	EDF Energy	11/07/2022	6	Y		- 10.00
Payments	HMRC Q1	18/07/2022	6	Y		- 331.60
Payments	EDF Energy	22/07/2022	6	Y		- 7.00
Receipts	Devon CC Localities Jubilee Cllr Gilbert	26/07/2022	6	Y	150.00	
Payments	Pennon Water Svs - Public Toilets	01/08/2022	6	Y		- 112.00
Payments	July Wages	01/08/2022	6	Y		- 363.99
Payments	EDF Energy	09/08/2022	6	Y		- 10.00
Payments	EDF Energy	22/08/2022	6	Y		- 7.00
Receipts	Gross Interest August	09/08/2022	6	Y	0.21	-
Payments	August Wages	31/08/2022	6	Y		- 363.99
Payments	Pennon Water Svs - Public Toilets	01/09/2022	6	Y		- 112.00