

# Thurlestone Parish Council

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**Minutes of; the meeting of the Parish Council on  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7:30pm in Thurlestone Parish Hall and via Zoom.**

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 were raised:

- Waste collection service. Some bins had not been collected again and the Parish Council was requested to get from SHDC a date by when the service would be sorted out. He also asked if there would be a rebate for the poor service, though he also stressed that he was aware of others who had come off worse.
- The Parish Council was asked to make clear whether any formal or informal agreement exists between it and the Bantham Estate because some residents are still shocked by the PC support for the Estate Office planning application, which they think was linked to the Community Housing.
- 1 Avonside, Bantham planning application – a neighbour considered that parking problems might be created by extending the house. The other houses in the row are all holiday lets and it was queried whether or not the applicant had visited the parish before applying.
- Vineyard fencing planning application – a comment was made about the height of this, which at 4m is the gutter height of a 2 storey house and it is made of plastic and not biodegradable. Query as to why the application for the fencing was not submitted before the vines were planted and what temporary actually means ie exactly how long will they be in place?
- West Buckland Farmhouse planning application – this does not come up on the planning website under a search for Bantham. Residents are advised to search under West Buckland.
- West Buckland Farmhouse planning application – a neighbour raised the following: 1. The site notice says that the proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area and he would like to know what this means. Cllr Crowther said she was not aware it was a departure application and would try to find out why the site notice says it isn. 2. The proposed site plan included the fields next door to the farmhouse and the architects have now changed this because it was an error. Cllr Crowther thanked him for drawing attention to this. 3. Councillors were asked which NP policies applied to the application. Cllr Crowther said the main policies are TP7, which has a 25% limit on redevelopment, and TP1. She also confirmed that the principal residence requirement (TP6) does not apply because this is a one-for-one replacement.
- Vineyard fence planning application = another resident wanted a clearer definition of temporary
- Waste and recycling service – another resident described it as not fit for purpose; he has nowhere to store the many containers at home; there are lots of them littering the streets in some areas; and working conditions for the operatives as they manually decant the contents into the lorries seem unsafe and unhygienic. This will only get worse as the weather turns windy and wet. The Chair seconded this and it was agreed to write formally to SHDC to reflect these views.

*The meeting convened.*

Present: Councillors Rhymes (Chair), Munn, Mitchelmore, Crowther, Williams, Hurrell and Marshall

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Gilbert, District Councillor Long and 4 members of the public

**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 the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

It was resolved to approve and sign the minutes of the Meeting on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

4. To consider any matters arising from the Minutes, including the following updates:

- Repairs to the Cobbled Road – the works will take place during the week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> September and may continue into the following week. Immediate neighbours have all been informed, as have the Yarmer Estate and SHDC Waste Department.
- Phone box garden plans – it was agreed that a few paving stones under the seat and extending 600cm in front were all that was needed and that they should be natural stone or block pavements like those outside the shop, so as to blend with the setting. District Councillor Long has offered some funds from his Locality budget and it was agreed to contact the contractor who is resurfacing the cobbled road to see if they might be able to lay the stones at the same time.

Planning

- To comment on the following planning applications:

3027/21/FUL Vineyard North of Lower Aunemouth, Bantham, TQ7 3AD

Temporary installation of two rows of Paraweb Fencing to protect planted Windbreaks

Councillors discussed this application in detail and the following points were raised:

Cllr Rhymes said that he liked the vines and thinks that they add a lot to the area whilst providing local employment. He questioned the need for concrete posts, which will require a lot of upheaval when they are removed again in 4 years' time. He said he took on board the comment that this application should have been made before the vines were planted.

Cllr Marshall agreed that it was good to have a new industry in the parish and that it should be encouraged and he agreed that the PC should request conditions about the concrete posts and the time limit. He considered that, if the posts need to be concrete, then they should be removed at the end of the time limit. District Cllr Long explained that the fence would remain permanently at 1.8m high after the temporary period of time to act as deer fences so the concrete posts would remain in place.

Councillors agreed to delay comments until nearer to the closing time in order to wait for any comments from residents. Any support would be subject to conditions, including: the fencing would need to come out fully after the 5 years and not remain at 1.8m with the ground reinstated to how it was; and access for smaller mammals would be required.

3026/21/FUL Vineyard North West of Buckland, Buckland, Bantham

Temporary installation of two rows of Paraweb Fencing to protect planted windbreaks

See discussion above.

3077/21/FUL West Buckland Farm, West Buckland, TQ7 3AH

Replacement dwelling with landscaping and retention of outhouse as covered parking

Councillors discussed the application and the following points were made:

Retaining the orchard – the landscape proposal has not been submitted but the proposed site plan retains the orchard and the PC can ask for a landscaping condition.

Ecology – bat and bird boxes have been recommended.

Design – the new build is in natural stone and the shape is more traditional.

Councillors agreed to make the final decision by email after waiting to see what comments from residents are submitted.

3121/21/TPO Grove Cottages West Buckland TQ7 3AG

T1: Elm - Fell dead tree and replace with Willow; T2: Elm - Fell - tree dying; G1: Hazel - Coppice to 1.5m from ground level as overgrown; T3: Alder - Lateral reduction by 3m on south east side to allow neighbouring Birch space to grow; T4: Alder - Crown height reduction by 2.5m on south east side to allow neighbouring Birch space to grow; T5: Wych Elm - Crown lift to 4m from ground level and crown thin by 25% to reduce wind loading.

Councillors discussed this application. It was felt that the appearance of the area had changed in recent times and that, whilst it was the duty of the owner to manage the trees, there was also a need to preserve the grove-like feel of the lane.

There were no objections to removing the dead trees provided new ones were planted to replace them.

It was therefore agreed to support the removal of T1 and T2, provided they were replaced by willow, alder or other species appropriate to the location. It was requested that the Tree Officer visit the site before approval was given for T3, 4 and 5.

3011/21/HHO 1 Avonside Bantham TQ7 3AR

Householder application for renovation and single storey side extension

Councillors discussed the application and the following matters were raised:

Parking arrangements – councillors were unsure about the parking and garage ownership and arrangements and needed to be clarified because parking is a real issue in Bantham. NP policy TP1.7 requires a safe means of access and on-site parking.

Refurbishment – councillors like the look of the proposed extension, with low zinc roof. There is an existing permission for a single-storey rear extension which has not been built so the PC would need to request conditions to prevent it being built and for the removal of permitted development rights.

It was agreed to hold a site visit on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm.

- To note the planning decisions made by email since the last Parish Council meeting. (see attachment) These were noted.
- To receive an update about the following planning matters: The Thatches Garage – Historic England considered that it did not warrant Grade II listing. The application is still outside the settlement boundary and the house already has a garage. The application is going to Development Management Committee; Coronation Boathouse has been listed Grade II; and the Higher Furlong application for a Lawful Development Certificate includes an incorrect approved drawing and the PC had brought this to the District's attention.
- To receive an update about Community Led Housing  
Cllr Crowther explained that SHDC has now confirmed that they will not be progressing the discounted market housing scheme in Bantham because there is no Government funding for the infrastructure costs and the price of the housing would therefore not be affordable.  
The Parish is due another housing needs survey and, once we have the results, we can see exactly what is required in the Parish. It will also be important to look at the existing rental properties to check that they are being used correctly.

6. To receive an update from the Climate Action Group.

Councillor Munn explained that Covid has prevented people from getting together but she has been attending other South Hams events and keeping up to date with what is going on in the area.

She outlined a plan for spring bulb planting on Memorial Green and around the phone box and asked the Parish Council for its support. Councillors agreed in principle, though they would prefer any planting to be around the edges. She was asked to provide a costed plan for the October meeting. The green area in front of the church wall by the benches was also suggested.

**7. To receive updates about general Parish matters, including:**

- Traffic issues in the villages over the summer – the Clerk was asked to contact DCC to request the presence of a traffic warden because they never attend.
- Airband – fibre broadband rollout update. The meeting outcomes were noted. The surveys start this month and Airband has requested that the area around Yarmer and the Cobbled Road be given priority in view of the resurfacing work booked for both areas.
- DAAT Landing Site – the site maintenance has worked well and there are no problems at present.
- Thurlestone public toilets – there seems to be a problem with the drains as they have backed up twice already this year. Although this might be due to the very high visitor numbers, it is unusual for this sort of problem to occur so they need to be investigated. SHDC was thanked for keeping them so clean. All agreed that they are in need of refurbishment – SHDC will be approached for advice on cost as they have refurbished some neighbouring units recently. It was also agreed to speak to the Golf Club about possible contributions and this will be on the agenda for the October meeting.
- Island View Play Area – Cllr Rhymes arranged some repairs to the fence because the chosen contractor had not done it. Cllr Crowther confirmed that the freehold land is registered in the name of SHDC, so she has returned the PC Lease to the Land Registry for registration. Councillors questioned why SHDC is not paying for its maintenance if they own it and this will be investigated.
- Replacement tree for the holly on Memorial Green – it was suggested that a Yew could be planted instead but the adjacent oak tree is growing well and may overshadow anything new. The memorial plaque needs to be moved because it is a trip hazard.
- Cllr Marshall praised the footprint signs on the beach, which he said were fabulous, and it was agreed to send a letter to the school to thank them.

**8. To hear reports from District Councillors and to ask any questions arising.**

District Councillor Judy Pearce sent her apologies.

County Councillor Rufus Gilbert gave the following report:

He was involved in the early decision-making process for the new waste and recycling service and he apologised for the fact that it has not worked out. He said that the service has been working well elsewhere.

Electoral roll numbers in Thurlestone have gone up from 689 to 714 this year. Other parishes are in decline so this shows what a healthy community it is.

Devon is in a Covid enhanced response area and rates have been mostly driven up by young people.

Thurlestone Hotel sign at Elston Cross (Churchstow) – he was not sure how it was knocked down but it was now reinstated.

DCC has launched a free healthy food rollout – details are available on the DCC website.

A new contractor is in place for repairing potholes and they are doing a better job. A question was asked about why so many potholes were repaired for the Tour of Britain – the answer is that this came from a different pot of Government funding.

The Newton Abbot project to assess the viability of a 20mph speed limit nears its end. Once the report has been considered, the policy across Devon will be revised one way or the other.

Councillor Gilbert left the meeting at 8.05pm.

District Councillor Mark Long gave an update about the waste service. A report is due soon which will recommend solutions and look at how to get out of the contract. He will provide updates as soon as he can.

## 9. Accounts

- To approve the following payments:

Date	Payee	Total	VAT	Net	Details
<b>August Payments approved on email</b>		m			
	H Nathanson	£1,376.01			Salary, Printing, Zoom licence Postage
	H Nathanson	£23.88 £20.28			Avast Security for work laptop
31/07/2021	Sue Crowther	£124.00 £10.20			Land Registry maps Stamps
	Jack Rhymes	£248.60			Repairs to Island View fence
31/05/2021	Julian Lee	£250			Grass cutting
DD	EDF Thurlestone Toilets	tbc			DAAT Landing Site
DD	EDF DAAT Landing Site	tbc			Toilets
DD	SWW Toilets	tbc			Toilets
26/07/2021	TSDS Bookkeeping	£204.85 £4.85	£33.33	£171.52	Internal Audit Return Postage
23/07/21	South Hams Upholstery	£504.00	£84.00	£420.00	Traffic signs for Bantham Lane
15/07/2021	SSE SWALEC	£74.58			Electricity Thurlestone toilets
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,841.25</b>	<b>£117.33</b>	<b>£2,249.73</b>	
<b>September payments for approval</b>					
03/08/2021	Paul Martin	£29.99			Battery for the phone box speaker
31/08/2021	Thurlestone Parish Hall	£28.00			Meeting Room Hire
	H Nathanson	£489.49			Salary, Printing, Zoom Licence

It was resolved to approve the payments.

Councillors noted the Bank Reconciliation, Receipts and Payments to date 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

**10.** To note the date of the next meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

This was noted and the meeting ended at 9.40pm. The next meeting will be in the Main Hall.

Councillor Jack Rhymes  
Chairman

Accounts 1 April 2020 - 31 Mar 2021 (£)

	Receipts	Payments	Account *498 Receipts	Payments	Account *818
Opening Balances					
Apr-18	15,000.00	830.72		0.02	
May-18		3,744.65		0.02	
Jun-18		455.76	4,204.44		
Jul-18		82.81		0.05	
Aug-18		3,066.84		0.05	
Sep-18					
Oct-18					
Nov-18					
Dec-18					
Jan-19					
Feb-19					
Mar-19					
	<u>15,000.00</u>	<u>8,180.78</u>	<u>4,204.58</u>	<u>0.00</u>	

Transfers in from account \*818

Transfers out to account \*818

Unpresented cheques

Transfers in from account \*498

Interest received  
Transfers out to account \*498

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Opening joint balance	23,792.37
Receipts	19,204.58 All receipts (not including transfers)
Payments	8,180.78 All payments (not including transfers)
Closing joint balance	34,816.17

RECEIPTS TO THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL 2020-21

DATE	Payer	DETAILS	TOTAL AMOUNT	PRECEPT	Locality Grants	P3 Grant	VAT REFUND	INTEREST
12/04/2021	SHDC	First Precept	15,000.00	£15,000.00				
09/04/2021	Lloyds Bank	Interest	0.02					£0.02
10/05/2021	Lloyds Bank	Interest	0.02					£0.02
09/06/2021	Lloyds Bank	Interest	0.02					£0.02
10/06/2021	HMRC	VAT Refund	4,204.42				£4,204.42	
09/07/2021	Lloyds Bank	Interest	0.05					£0.05
09/08/2021	Lloyds Bank	Interest	0.05					£0.05
TOTAL								
			19,204.58	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,204.42	0.16
								<b>19,204.58</b>

PAYMENTS - THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL 2021-22

Date	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST	Reclaim VAT	Admin	Amount	Staff Costs	Amount	Green Spaces	Amount	Highways	Amount	Assets	Amount	Loan	Amount	Grants	Amount	Line total
26.4.21	Helen Nathanson	Salary	383.04				Salary	383.04											383.04
		Printing	6.98		Printing	6.98													6.98
		Zoom Licence	14.40		Zoom	14.40													14.40
	Julian Lee	Grass Cutting	170.00						Grass Cutting	170.00									170.00
	Anna Martin	Defib replacement parts	116.00														116		116.00
	Paul Martin	Bench repairs	67.97										Bench repairs	67.97					67.97
	Sue Crowther	NP Expenses	72.33		Planning	72.33													72.33
4.5.21	PWLB	Loan Repayment	3,107.55												Loan	#####			3,107.55
13.5.21	EDF Energy	DAAT Site Electricity	3.34										DAAT Site	3.34					3.34
17.5.21	Helen Nathanson	Salary	383.04				Salary	383.04											383.04
		Printing	3.49		Printing	3.49													3.49
		Zoom Licence	7.20		Zoom	7.20													7.20
	Paul Martin	Bench Repairs	11.65										Bench repairs	11.65					11.65
		Planting	31.90						Planting	31.90									31.90
20.5.21	DALC	Annual Subs	196.48	22.48	DALC Subs	196.48													196.48
2.6.21	CAS Business Services	Annual Insurance Premium	447.95		Insurance	447.95													447.95
15.6.21	EDF Energy	DAAT Site Electricity	7.81										DAAT Site	7.81					7.81
1.7.21	Pennon Water	Public Conveniences	64.50										Public Conven	64.50					64.50
9.7.21	EDF Energy	DAAT Site Electricity	18.31										DAAT Site	18.31					18.31
2.8.21	Pennon Water	Public Conveniences	64.50										Public Conven	64.50					64.50
9.8.21	EDF Energy	Public Conveniences	9.00										Public Conven	9.00					9.00
	Dizign Signs	Speed signs	504.00	84.00							Speed signs	504.00							504.00
	Helen Nathanson	Salary - May, Jun, Jul	1,340.64				Salary	1,340.64											1,340.64
		Printing- May, Jun, Jul	10.47		Printing	10.47													10.47
		Zoom Licence	21.60		Zoom	21.60													21.60
		Postage	3.30		Postage	3.30													3.30
		Avast Security	44.16		Avast	44.16													44.16
	Julian Lee	Grass Cutting	470.00						Grass Cutting	470.00									470.00
	Sue Crowther	Land Registry Maps	124.00		Land Reg	124.00													124.00
		Stamps	10.20		Stamps	10.20													10.20
	Timber Jack	Fence repairs	248.60						Fence repairs	248.60									248.60
	TSDB	Internal Audit	209.70		Internal Audit	209.70													209.70
10.8.21	EDF Energy	DAAT Site Electricity	6.67										DAAT Site	6.67					6.67
																			0.00
			8180.78	106.48		1,172.26				920.50		504.00		253.75				0.00	8,180.78



## Meeting with Airband to discuss the rollout of fibre broadband to the Parish

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

Present: Councillor Jill Munn (Chair), County Councillor Rufus Gilbert, District Councillor Judy Pearce, Matt Barrow DCC CDS Project Officer, Lynda Sudlow (Airband), 13 members of the public

Lynda Sudlow gave a presentation to cover the key points of the rollout. The presentation will be made available on the Parish website in due course.

The following questions were discussed:

**Q** How has Airband chosen the houses for the fibre broadband?

**A** The funding from these contracts derives from the Government superfast programme and Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) has been operational since 2012 with a target to raise all properties in the region to superfast. This is defined as 30mb per second download speed. Openreach won the contract and they delivered superfast into about 300,000 properties in the region using fibre to cabinet. Within Thurlestone Parish there are 2 cabinets and they deliver superfast speeds into a lot of the properties, mainly in the eastern part of Thurlestone.

Fibre to cabinet has weaknesses in more rural and village environments because it is only possible to deliver superfast up to a 1km line length and you get higher speed the closer you are to the cabinet. At about 1.2km it drops below the superfast defined speed so there are some properties which fall below that speed, even if only marginally. CDS can only use its funding for these areas with the result that some streets may be split between houses which are eligible and those which are not. In parallel to the contractual build there is a commercial build so it may be the case that Airband can also provide connectivity to premises but the owner will need to pay.

**Q** Residents have tried to register interest on the website but cannot get a response. What is happening?

**A** Airband is still really busy uploading the data so residents are asked to email Lynda Sudlow at [lynda.sudlow@airband.co.uk](mailto:lynda.sudlow@airband.co.uk) and she will register them direct. She will also let the projects team know where there are potential customers who are out of contract but wish to be connected.

**Q** The Yarmer Estate is likely to be resurfacing the roads in the spring and it is important to co-ordinate so that Airband is not digging up freshly laid road.

**A** The majority of the build will use existing infrastructure such as telegraph poles and roads will not be dug up unless it is absolutely necessary because it is slower and more expensive.

**Q** What sort of undergrounds ducts can be used and can the service be provided by radio?

**A** Wireless technology has been investigated but it does not work outside of line of sight and there is no service in Thurlestone.

**Q** Will Airband put fibre to all eligible premises ie to the gateway, regardless of whether or not the homeowner wishes to be connected now or not?

**A** Yes. If those premises are part of the contract, Airband is contracted to provide connectivity whether you want it or not.

**Q** If homeowners don't take up the offer now, will the charge be the same when they decide to connect?

**A** Yes – it is a set fee.

**Q** Is there a map that shows which roads in the parish will get the superfast? The website is confusing and it would help if a map could be published to show residents clearly who is eligible, which might encourage people to sign up.

**A** The maps are not confirmed yet because surveying has not started and they are commercially sensitive because the surveys are not yet confirmed so they are not allowed to share mapping at present. The surveys depend on any extenuating factors which might make it difficult to get fibre to the premises.

**Q** There is bad feeling in the village that this is not boosting the rural economy because the main rollout seems to be going to the second and holiday homes.

**A** Those properties that are not eligible are those which received broadband earlier in the rollout so you could argue that the lived-in homes got better broadband earlier. Such an extensive rollout across such a wide area has to have parameters and it is impossible to do it based on who lives in the house eg in another parish, residents have complained that they are installing superfast to someone who is over 80 because they do not think older people need it!

**Q** District Councillor Judy Pearce expressed concerns about the number of second homes that would be serviced and that The Mead Estate is not on the list at all, which is the place where the majority of people live full time.

**A** Residents of The Mead are all potential customers and Airband will include them if requested. The cost to individual householders is not yet known because it will depend on many factors.

#### General Points

Lynda Sudlow will send a newsletter update on what is happening in Thurlestone specifically and we will get monthly newsletters which will go on the Parish website. The surveying teams will be in touch if they have any concerns.

It is now up to individuals to progress their own connections as they wish.

Airband understands the challenges of rural rollout eg road closures and they are prepared for doing this in a cooperative way that is right for communities.

Properties in Bantham and Buckland are more widely included in the contract because their current speeds are so low.

If you're on the fibre route then you will be offered a connection whether or not you are in contract and provided that it is commercially viable. If there are properties that are marginal in terms of commercial viability then it is possible to apply for the government aggregate vouchers which must be done as a group of residents. These vouchers apply to premises which already get superfast. Under this scheme, the premises are obliged to commit to the service once it is installed to the premises.