

Thurlestone Parish Council

<p>Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 7th September 2020 at 7:30pm via Zoom</p>

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 comments were made:

Thurlestone Hotel planning application.

A resident spoke about how others were unhappy that the PC had supported the application and that those affected by the development were unable to make representations themselves at a Committee because the District Councillors arranged for the decision to be signed off by officers. This disenfranchised those people. This development is not small in scale and is significant and it feels like the NP is not worth the paper it is written on. He expressed disappointment with this. Another resident seconded what was said above and said that he thought the way in which the process with the hotel and the Bantham Estate Office were followed disenfranchised people.

The meeting convened.

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

Apologies: Councillor Mitchelmore

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Gilbert, District Councillors Pearce and Long and 5 members of the public

1. To receive apologies.

It was resolved to accept the apologies from Councillor Mitchelmore.

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 Monday 6th July 2020. The Minutes will be signed once the Coronavirus restrictions allow.

It was resolved to confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting on Monday 6th July 2020.

4. To consider any matters arising from the Minutes.

The following matters arose:

Thurlestone public toilets – SHDC has reported that there is a problem with a blockage on the mens's side and it was agreed to ask Jettadrain to flush through both sides.

Saving Devon's Treescapes – Cllr Long reported that a full-time administrator has now been appointed and that she will attend a future meeting to talk about the project.

Speed signs in the villages – Cllr Williams reported that this is ongoing.

Road safety mirrors at Aune Cross – Cllr Rhymes reported that this is ongoing.

DAAT Landing Site – Cllr Rhymes has spoken with the landowner, who is happy for the Parish Council to arrange a monthly cut of the grass.

Future of the Covid helpline – this service continues, though there are very few calls now, but it was decided to leave it in place for the time being.

It was noted that the Exemption Certificate for the 2019/20 accounts has been approved and published.

5. Planning

The following planning applications were discussed the comments agreed.

2502/20/TPO Mr Derek Harwood
Tree works as per the schedule of works (see SHDC website)
Mallards Thurlestone TQ7 3NX

The Parish Council supported the application.

2499/20/HHO Mr & Mrs Newmark
Householder application for proposed internal alterations and chimney
repair/modification to flue
Old Farm West Buckland TQ7 3AQ

Thurlestone Parish Council supported this application. Councillors considered that this proposal for internal alterations and chimney/flue works to this Grade 2 Listed building will not impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring properties (NP Policy TP1.1); and that the works are proportionate and appropriate, mainly involving re-modelling and repair works to the internal fabric of the building, which will help conserve and enhance the distinctive style, scale and character of the building itself, the street scene generally (the West Buckland Conservation Area) and the historic environment (in compliance with NP Policies TP1.2 & TP1.6). However, they were concerned that there is no existing or proposed on-site parking (contrary to NP Policy TP1.7), notwithstanding an additional bedroom; they also requested a pre-commencement condition to require a detailed construction environmental management plan because of the narrow and constricted access road, which is a cul-de-sac and shared with other properties (as per application no 0789/20/HHO).

2293/20/HHO Mr And Mrs Newmark
Householder application for proposed reinstatement of thatch roof, alterations and
a rear extension
Old Farm (Tidley Cot) West Buckland TQ7 3AQ

Thurlestone Parish Council objected to this application. Councillors considered that whilst the replacement thatch roof and alterations to this Grade 2 listed curtilage building would significantly enhance the building and street scene (the West Buckland Conservation Area) in accordance with NP Policy TP1.6, the proposed rear extension is likely to have an unacceptable impact on neighbouring properties due to the scale of the extension and its position close to the site boundary, overlooking the Old Rifle Range and Broadacre. More particularly, there is likely to be noise and disturbance from the outside dining terrace on the South West elevation, and light pollution from the substantial fenestration on both the South West and North West elevations (contrary to NP Policy TP1.4.). Councillors were also concerned that there is no existing or proposed on-site parking (contrary to NP

Policy TP1.7) and that the building would be occupied as a holiday unit or rental (contrary to NP Policy TP1.7.2ii). A pre-commencement condition would also be needed to require a detailed construction environmental management plan because of the narrow and constricted access road, which is a cul-de-sac and shared with other properties (as per application no 0789/20/HHO).

- To note that responses were submitted to the following applications in August to meet the SHDC deadline for comments and comments can be viewed on the SHDC website.

1665/20/HHO Higher Furlong, Warren Road, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NT
Householder application for 3no. dormer windows, external alterations, and erection of detached garage to rear

This application was approved by SHDC. The PC complained about the number of rooflights and the applicant reduced them dramatically from 17 to 6. Cllr Pearce was thanked for her help with this.

2004/20/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with sustainable house
Byeways Warren Road Thurlestone TQ7 3NT

This decision is outstanding.

1908/20/HHO Mr and Mrs Leadbetter
Householder application for proposed replacement lean-to extension
The Cottage Thurlestone TQ7 3NJ

This application was approved by SHDC and had been supported by the PC
These were noted.

- To note that the PC has submitted further representations on planning application 0857/20/HHO 3 Edwards Close, Thurlestone.

This was noted.

- To receive an update on community led housing.

Councillor Crowther had been chasing the Option Agreement which had not yet been sent to the Bantham Estate. The Estate has agreed the Heads of Terms, which are the same as they were for the previous site in WB.

The development is dependent on a Homes England housing grant as it is 100% affordable housing and we are in a good position to get one - SHDC will let us know when they hear more about the grant programme.

- To note the Government's new planning regime and Locality survey and to agree a PC response.

This was noted. Cllr Crowther had drafted a letter to be sent to Anthony Mangnall MP, in response to a request from Locality that we do so. The letter expressed support for the continuing use of NPs rather than changing to a centralised approach. Councillors approved the letter, which will be uploaded to the website. A more detailed response to the Government consultation will also be prepared.

It was noted that Councillor Crowther and the Parish Clerk will be attending a DALC Planning Webinar on 17 September about what the new legislation could mean for the parish sector. The cost is £18 per person and this was approved.

6. To note the reports from District and County Councillors and to ask any questions arising.

District Cllr Judy Pearce

SHDC will be sending a response to the consultation on the Planning White Paper. There is also a consultation about local housing numbers to which SHDC will respond. At the moment the numbers seem very high because they have not yet been adjusted for local landscape features. Cllr Pearce felt that there will be significant push-back on both the consultations on the grounds that the JLP and NPs are both working really well and provide some control over what goes on in the parish.

She addressed the complaint at the beginning of the meeting about the Thurlestone Hotel planning application. She explained that SHDC had only been able to hold meetings remotely since the beginning of lockdown which presented a problem about how planning meetings would be run. It was decided that only essential items would go to Committee until the beginning of September and only one item had been to Committee since March, which was a significant project in Kingsbridge. Cllr Pearce had ensured that the objections were addressed in the Officer report and acknowledged that, in normal times, the application would probably have gone to Committee.

Waste Collection changes have been put back until March and there will be a publicity campaign nearer the time. The round changes will still go ahead at the beginning of October and there will be a day change for residents. Every household will receive a letter explaining the changes and a concession will be made during the first week in case anyone forgets the new routine. Details about the changes can be found on our website under Parish Notices.

Cllr Pearce apologised for that fact that the bottle bank at the Hotel was full over the Bank Holiday weekend. The Waste Teams had been told to ensure that the bins were emptied beforehand but it did not happen. Cllr Pearce thanked the Hotel for tidying it up and sorting it out.

SHDC is looking at a deficit of over £1.3m this year and will need to dip into reserves as there is no other option. Some Government money has been promised but it will still be difficult as there continues to be a shortfall in income from things like car parks. A recovery plan will be finalised in December and will turn into a new corporate plan for the final 2 years of this council.

There have been some Covid outbreaks in the District but very small ones and all connected with people going away on holiday and not to do with people coming down here on holiday: from that point of view it has been a successful summer.

District Cllr Mark Long explained that there has been a lot of pressure on waste and cleansing teams over the summer because of litter and bins. The contractors made changes to the timings of rounds which helped to improve things. Obviously they could not address the behaviour but generally things could have been a lot worse without this response. The Locality Officers have also been out and about which has helped, particularly in the coastal areas.

County Cllr Rufus Gilbert joined the meeting at 8.30pm. He said that many other parishes were very angry about the traffic, congestion and behaviour over the summer and that it was generally thought to be a terrible year for bad manners.

Glendenning will carry out the resurfacing work through Thurlestone village.

The works at Edmeston will happen in November and it is a huge job which will go on for most of the winter.

Cllr Rhymes asked if DCC could arrange for a clean of Chapel Hill following a mud slide in recent rain.

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

It was noted that Thurlestone Hotel has removed the dead trees along the path at the bottom of the golf course and they were thanked for carrying out the work.

The problems caused by people cycling along the coastal path were discussed. It was agreed that the signs are not clear enough and the Clerk will contact the SW Coast Path Association to ask advice.

The Bantham phone box was discussed. There are several residents who are prepared to look after it so it was agreed to respond to SHDC to ask for the booth to be kept in place, with the electrical connection if necessary.

It was noted that DCC is planning to resurface sections of the road through Thurlestone, including several sections of carriageway between the War Memorial and Kerse Cross. This is likely to happen after November and possibly in the New Year.

The illegal parking around the church and war memorial was discussed and it was agreed to replace the PC 'No Parking' sign and speak again to the Bantham Estate about removing the old Evans Estate signs.

Councillors discussed the impact of the pandemic on the parish. Everyone agreed that the parish helpline had been superb and had encouraged people to stop and talk to one another. On the downside, it was agreed that there has been a high level of rude and aggressive behaviour from visitors, which is not normal, and that the traffic through all the villages had been unprecedented. Cllr Williams, who runs a tourism business, had emailed advice to her customers for driving down the Bantham Lane and she suggested that if every business did this and sent out something similar it might go some way to alleviating the traffic problems. She said that the business could work better together, along with the Bantham Estate, to get the message to visiting public: there is no way to stop thousands of cars coming down to the beaches but there is more that businesses can be doing to educate people about how to drive down our roads and be polite about it. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the October meeting to talk about in more detail and agree if there could be a Working Group to look into this.

8. Accounts

- The bank account balance of £20,183.16 to date 1st September 2020 was noted.
- The following payments were approved:

Helen Nathanson	Parish Clerk pay	£766.08
	Stationery and printing	£8.98
	Zoom Pro-licence for July and August	£28.78
Julian Lee	Grass Cutting	£320.00
Kit Marshall	Thurlestone Phone Box Covid measures	£65.21
TSDB	Internal Audit 2019/20 accounts	£200.00
Total		£1,389.05

9. The following consultations and opportunities were noted and details are available on our website under Parish Notices:

- **Honour your Covid Hero.** If you would like to thank someone for going above and beyond in the past few months, why not nominate them for an Honour. The scheme would see residents, communities and businesses nominated to receive an award under specific categories. Everyone nominated will be recognised on a special web page showing what they did. SHDC will hold an award ceremony to personally thank the award recipients and the Lord Lieutenant of Devon will be notified of their achievements.

Cllr Rhymes suggested that the PC should look at this again in due course because there may be more difficult times to come.

- **Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Policy.** An eight week consultation will begin on Friday 21 August to Friday 16 October 2020.
To read the new policy visit www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/licensing. Comments can be made by emailing: licensing@southhams.gov.uk
- South Hams District Council is conducting a review of how its **parking permits** work, to see if changing the scheme could release more parking spaces for residents and visitors. The consultation runs for three weeks until Friday 11 September.
www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/parking
- The **Devon Solar Together** project is launching to support the region's energy and climate strategies. Devon Climate Emergency (DCE) is looking to incentivise a solar PV collective purchasing scheme for the residential 'able-to-pay' sector. The project is called 'Devon Solar Together'. For more information email alastair.mumford@devon.gov.uk
- **A Helping Hand for Cold Homes** Eligible residents, who are living without gas heating, are being offered the opportunity to benefit from free gas central heating of home heating from South Hams District Council. To find out more go to www.southhams.gov.uk/ReduceFuelBills

10. To note the date of the next Council Meeting which will be held on Monday 5th October 2020 at 7.30pm.

This was noted and the meeting ended at 8.40pm.

The question of whether to continue with remote meetings or return to meeting in person was discussed. The Parish Hall Committee will meet on 2nd October to look at their Risk Assessment so we cannot in any case use the Hall until that work has been completed. Cllr Rhymes explained that there is the additional problem of not knowing how many people will attend meetings so they will continue remotely until further notice, which is in line with guidelines.

Councillor Jack Rhymes
Chairman