

# Thurlestone Parish Council

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**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7:30pm 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:

A representative from Tribal Clash attended the meeting to speak to councillors about this year's event in Bantham which will take place on the weekend of 3-4 July 2021.

This will be the fourth occasion of the event taking place on Bantham Beach. The organisers will do everything to comply with the current Government guidelines in force at the time, which at the moment are not clear so they will have to wait until nearer the time. They expect to have half the usual number of teams because people are still not back to normal routines and this will make the event easier to manage under Covid regulations.

Councillor Rhymes asked about the traffic management - this has always been a problem simply because of numbers and in addition to the higher expected number of visitors. The organisers have never before reached car parking capacity during the event so it is hoped that it won't be a problem this year. The events also start early and end late so the traffic tends to be using the lanes outside of the peak times.

A question was asked about registration and whether or not that would happen the night before, which has caused high numbers of traffic. The response was that the organisers are working with SHDC to do this safely and or remotely so that this is not a problem. Councillor Rhymes thanked the organiser for coming to the meeting and wished him well with the event.

A resident asked for a full update about the Community Housing, which was due under Item 5 of the Agenda.

A resident commented on the SHDC Development Management Committee discussion about the Bantham Estate Office planning application. She expressed concerns about the level of knowledge and engagement of some District Councillors and questioned the representation of residents by a District Councillor who spoke at the Committee.

A resident who carries out odd jobs around the Parish asked councillors if it would be acceptable to relocate benches that are not used. The reply was that the one by the post box on the corner of Glebe Field in Thurlestone does get used but that others could be relocated only subject to contacting owners.

A resident raised concerns about the number of developments in the Parish which are outside the NP settlement boundaries.

*The meeting convened.*

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Mitchelmore

**In Attendance:** Helen Nathanson (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Gilbert, District Councillors Pearce and Long, 9 members of the public

**1.** To receive apologies.

It was resolved to receive the 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 Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

It was resolved to confirm the Minutes of the meeting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

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

- Thurlestone phone box garden plans – Councillor Munn said that it would not after all be possible to plant wildflowers there because the area is very shaded but that other suitable plants for pollinators will be selected. Councillor Rhymes said that he would prefer not to see too many new slabs put in, other than those around the bench, and would prefer stone and not concrete. Councillor Marshall explained that the area is very muddy and does need tidying up and it was agreed that stone should be used instead.
- It was noted that the Bantham Boathouse planning application was withdrawn.
- Repairs to the cobbled road in Thurlestone – the contractor has been notified and he is waiting to confirm a date for the work to start. Councillor Crowther suggested that we formally notify the interested parties in writing and it was agreed to do this.
- Parish Lengthsman and general jobs around the Parish – two residents have offered to help out with odd jobs and the advert will be re-run in Village Voice.
- Spoil along the lane in West Buckland – this is blocking a drain in the highway but it is possible that it is also blocking a soakaway on the field side. The Parish Clerk will contact the Bantham Estate to ask them to unblock the drain on their side and Highways will then be contacted about the outlet on the highway.
- Registration of ownership of the Memorial Green in Thurlestone – the land was gifted to the Parish in 1918 by the Evans Estate and it is possible that the land on the other side of the cobbled road, by the church wall, is also owned by the Parish. Councillor Crowther suggested that it was an opportunity to register both pieces of land, as well as the cobbled road, and all agreed that this could be progressed.

**5. Planning**

- To comment on the following planning application:

0610/21/HHO Householder application for replacement of all windows and doors to aluminium frame, single storey rear extension with bifold doors and patio area and frameless glass balustrade to existing terrace  
Gleneagles 15 Crosslands Thurlestone TQ7 3TF

Thurlestone Parish Council supported this application.

Councillors considered that the proposed single-storey extension on the NW elevation to the rear of the property, with a flat roof and lantern window, is subordinate in scale and form to the main dwelling (NP Policy TP7 (2i)); that the proposed extension and alterations to the existing property will not have an unacceptable impact on neighbouring residential amenity (NP Policy TP1.1); and that the proposed materials - painted render walls, colour-coated aluminium windows and doors - will be in keeping with the street scene, being proportionate and appropriate in style, scale and character to the location (NP Policy TP1.2). A concern was raised, however, about the amount of glazing and it was agreed that this should be drawn to the officer's attention.

- The confidential planning enforcement cases were noted.
- To receive an update about Community Led Housing

Councillor Crowther had been told by the SHDC Community Housing Officer that we would have a full update by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March. The last update was in November and, in spite of chasing, there has been no further information. The Community Housing Officer has also now left the Council and there is no new point of contact. The householders and other residents have been asking for updates and it has been far too long since any new information has been received.

Councillor Crowther contacted the Bantham Estate and they have assured her that the hold up is not down to them. The Clerk was asked to draft a formal letter to SHDC to request an update about the project.

District Councillor Pearce said that she had tried to get some information before the Community Housing Officer left the Council but was unable to do so. She explained that there are other projects which are also behind time at the moment.

There may also be a complicating factor relating to cost and the fact that it may be difficult to achieve the level of affordability which the Council consider to be acceptable. The Homes England grants are also still being determined.

- To review the need for a NP Committee

Councillor Crowther explained that the Committee was set up to facilitate the implementation of the NP, including monitoring and reviewing it and passing on any decisions to the PC. Since it was set up, 2 members of that Committee have become councillors and all members of the PC are now familiar with the NP and using it regularly. Councillor Crowther therefore considered that it would be appropriate to deal with all matters relating to the NP at the regular PC meetings. Working groups could be set up to deal with individual matters. Councillor Williams agreed and felt that it would be useful to get more people engaged not just with planning but with other parish issues. The policies in the NP are to be kept under constant review and the first five-year review is in two years' time (July 2023). There is a legal procedure involved, including a referendum if necessary. It was therefore agreed that the NP will be discussed in the autumn and that the NP Committee will no longer continue.

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

County Councillor Rufus Gilbert

Councillor Williams had previously asked about the possibility of help with clearing the passing bays along the Bantham Lane in order to help the progress of traffic at peak times. It was acknowledged that this is more problematic because of ownership issues and that Highways cannot trespass on land which they do not own.

Councillor Gilbert explained that this is a common problem across the country because vehicles are getting larger and bays are often worn down over time. Landowners are within their rights to block the bays if they choose. It was agreed that this is a difficult issue.

He wished everyone well as it was his last meeting before elections.

District Councillor Judy Pearce

Councillor Williams asked about the last SHDC Council meeting when the Climate Emergency Bill appeared to have been removed from the agenda at short notice. She wondered if SHDC was supporting it or not. Councillor Pearce explained that the Monitoring Officer advised at late notice that it should be removed because of Purdah regulations and because it was not a cross-party bill. It has now since been dismissed from Parliament anyway.

Councillor Pearce responded to the comments during Public Forum about the Development Management Committee meeting considering the Bantham Estate planning application. She explained that the Planning Officer produced a 20-page report for the application which is more detailed than usual and possibly why fewer questions were asked by the councillors. She also explained that she was not supporting the Estate but looking at whether or not the application complied with policy, which is the approach taken by the PC. She also refuted the allegation that she called the objectors 'troublemakers' and that she was pointing out that only a small number of objections came from within the parish.

The area has officially moved into high season and the extra Localities Officers and Covid Compliance Officers are out and about. Non-compliance will incur a fine but the approach is still to educate and explain.

Another tranche of grants for businesses is expected in the summer and this should help out those who have not previously been supported, such as market traders.

Elections are still going ahead and there is still time to apply for a postal vote.

Follaton House is now being used as a Vaccination Centre.

The broken dog bin on the Memorial Green has been reported.

District Councillor Mark Long

The new recycling service should start in the Parish on the 19<sup>th</sup> April.

There is a Climate Change Fund for members to allow them to support local projects that meet SHDC's Climate Change agenda.

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

- The repairs to the hotel garage wall are now complete and Highways was asked to tidy up the roadway
- Councillor Marshall congratulated Councillor Williams on the new village traffic signs designed by the children. Councillor Williams has asked for a quote from the signmakers for signs along the lanes to ask people to slow down. All agreed that these should be temporary installations during the busy season. Councillor Williams also suggested asking households to adopt a sign and take on responsibility for installing, cleaning and maintaining one.
- Climate Action Group - it was agreed to hold the first meeting towards the end of April/beginning of May so that we can meet in person/socially distanced.
- Councillor Williams thanked our local resident who produced the wildlife gardening leaflets. She also noted that a local family has planted 500 oak trees on their farm, which was a significant achievement.
- Thurlestone public toilets update and grass cutting - the toilets are open and being cleaned and the grass and hedge cutting is in place.
- Island View Play Area – fence repairs and legal work

Councillor Rhymes has spoken to the chosen contractors and they will carry out the work as soon as possible. Councillor Crowther is progressing the legal work.

- Bantham phone box

Councillor Crowther explained that we are still waiting for a new door for the box. (NB The door appeared the following day)

- Signs for the beaches to encourage people to take more care and not leave litter

Councillor Pearce offered to see if we could have some of the SHDC 'Eye' stickers which can then be put onto boards. Councillor Crowther also suggested that putting those stickers on the bins might be a good idea to avoid creating new signs. The Clerk was asked to write to the Golf Club to check that they are happy with the idea of these signs.

- Repairs to parish benches

Paul Martin has repaired three this month and he was thanked for the work he does.

#### 8. Accounts

- The bank account balance of £23,792.75 to date 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 was noted.
- The payments and receipts and bank reconciliation dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 were noted.
- To approve the appointment of an internal auditor for the financial year end.

Totnes and Dartington Bookkeeping will be asked to carry out the internal audit again this year.

- The following payments were approved:

Helen Nathanson	Parish Clerk – March	£383.04
	Printing	£6.98
	Zoom Pro-licence – February and March	£14.40
Julian Lee	Grass Cutting	£170.00
Paul Martin	Coastal Bench Repairs	£67.97
Anna Martin	West Buckland defibrillator replacement spares	£116.00
Sue Crowther	NP Expenses	£72.33
<b>Total</b>		<b>£830.72</b>

- It was noted that the PWLB Loan repayment will be paid by Direct Debit on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 - £3,107.55

#### 9. To note the following items of local interest:

Anthony Magnall MP is conducting a survey into local bus routes. If you would like to take part please go to his website <https://www.anthonymagnall.co.uk/news/totnes-south-devon-bus-strategy-survey>  
This was noted.

**10.** To agree a date for the next Council Meeting. The May Bank Holiday falls on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Government legislation to allow remote meetings expires on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm via Zoom. A decision will be made in due course about the June meeting, based on the emerging situation.

Councillor Jack Rhymes  
Chairman