

Thurlestone Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Thurlestone Parish Council on Monday 2nd November 2020 at 7:30pm

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 member of the public raised the following points (1) that the revised plans for the Bantham Estate Office were confusing, there were such small changes and he questioned the design, potential for light reflection, the photomontages and view of the estuary. (2) the Parish Hall Committee had met to work out the risk assessment for reopening the Hall but will not now be doing so because of the new lockdown. They had identified a problem with the heating system, which is a recirculating hot air system and will investigate this further using the Covid grant obtained from SHDC earlier in the year. (3) that the new planning application for a telegraph pole was questionable. He considered it a blot on the AONB landscape and he did not think it is worth it for the coverage it will provide.

A resident spoke about the Bantham Estate Office planning application and said that the 40 objections to the application have since been supported by statutory consultees, that local residents were pleased the PC objected to the most recent application from the Estate but that she considered the same points applied equally to the Estate Office application. She asked if, in the light of this, the PC would take the opportunity to revise its comments in line with the NP. If not, then would the PC provide an explanation for the inconsistency in the use of the NP and why the PC response is out of kilter with the AONB and Landscape Officer. It was agreed that the PC would respond by email to these questions.

A resident spoke about the impact of the Thurlestone Hotel development on the local roads as there has been a very noticeable rise in traffic, speeding and parking issues this year. Concerns were raised about the amount of traffic that would be generated by the construction as well as by the extra visitors. A 20mph speed limit through Thurlestone was considered to be essential and holiday homes should have permits for visitors to park in the Parish Hall car park rather than on the road. Councillor Crowther confirmed that planning permission had been granted for the Hotel development but that the PC was looking at traffic issues in the parish and what can be done to mitigate them.

A question was asked about how the PC makes its planning decisions and it was agreed to send an email response.

A member of the Malborough and South Huish Climate Change Group spoke to councillors about their plans. They are working with South Huish PC to talk about what they can do to help people reduce their carbon footprint. They have carried out a beach clean at Hope Cove and they intend to baseline the energy usage of properties in Malborough and speak to residents about how they can improve this. They are looking to hold an Energy Fair in the spring and invite organisations to talk to residents about a range of things from litter on beaches to planting trees, encouraging recycling, and working with local schools and businesses.

A new resident came along to say hello – they arrived in September and have also acquired the two fields behind Kirkdale.

The Chair thanked everyone for their questions and for coming along to the meeting.

The meeting convened.

Present: Councillors Rhymes, Mitchelmore, Munn, Crowther, Williams and Marshall

Apologies: Councillor Hurrell

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Gilbert, District Councillors Long and Pearce, and 10 members of the public

1. To receive apologies.

It was resolved to accept 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 5th October 2020. The Minutes will be signed once the Coronavirus restrictions allow.

It was resolved to confirm the Minutes of the meeting on Monday 5th October.

4. To consider any matters arising from the Minutes.

Public session

The door to the BT Phonebox has still not been returned and BT is investigating. This was noted.

Item 5

Whimbrels Edge Planning Application – the PC response was submitted as agreed at the last meeting and is available to view on the SHDC website.

Item 9

SHDC has offered a substantial rebate of £1,000 for the cleaning contract on the Thurlestone public toilets for 2021 and the new cost will be £3,377 + VAT, which the PC can reclaim. Councillor Pearce was thanked for her support. The toilets are still open beyond the seasonal closing date and there is a problem with the lock on the ladies' side – the Clerk will speak to SHDC.

5. To comment on the following planning applications:

3252/20/TCA T1: Cypress – Fell due to safety reasons
1 The Old Rectory, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NJ

The PC supported this application.

3367/20/TPO G1: Ash – Fell due to Ash Dieback. Replant with 2 Willow, 1 Field and 1 Beech
Grove Cottages, West Buckland, Devon, TQ7 3AG

The PC supported this application.

3321/20/FUL Installation of 15.97m high replica telegraph pole accommodating trisector antenna within GRP shroud and 2 x 0.3m dishes, installation of meter cabinet, 1.2m satellite dish, generator, 3 equipment cabinets and ancillary equipment within compound surrounded by 1.8m high mesh fence
Development site at SX 686 436, Land at Western Lodge, Thurlestone

The PC objected to this application. The proposed telegraph pole is located in the open countryside within the AONB, the Heritage Coast and Undeveloped Coast, all of which have a high degree of protection. A previous application for prior approval under permitted development rights in December 2019 for a similar proposal was refused due to insufficient information and AONB criteria. The present planning application raises the same questions and the reasons for the previous refusal have not been resolved. Further, no account has been taken of

the views of the local community and the Thurlestone Parish Neighbourhood Plan (NP), which is part of the statutory development plan of the area.

Councillors had the following specific concerns: (1) the proposed mast, which is about 5m (16 feet) higher than the existing line of telegraph poles along the road, will not 'blend in' with the existing poles but will be widely visible and therefore neither appropriate nor proportionate in its rural location within the AONB, contrary to **NP Policy TP1.2**; (2) the proposal does not conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the South Devon AONB and the benefits of the proposal (which are not clear) fail to outweigh the unacceptable harm caused to the AONB and the natural environment, contrary to **NP Policy TP1.5**; (3) the proposed development is in a prominent highly sensitive location on the skyline within the South Devon AONB and would result in adverse cumulative landscape and visual impacts, particularly for footpath users (which is acknowledged) thereby harming the long uninterrupted views into, within and out of the AONB, contrary to **NP Policy TP22.1** and the **AONB's Planning Guidance, Policies Lan/P1 and Lan/P5** which protect against the visual impact of such infrastructure; and (4) the application fails to provide the necessary evidence that the applicant has explored the possibility of erecting antennas on an existing building, mast or other structure to justify the proposed development (contrary to **para 115 point c) of NPPF 2019**).

2671/20/LBC Listed building consent for construction of boundary wall
Cob Cottage, West Buckland, TQ7 3AFA full planning application has now been submitted.

The PC supported this application.

Councillors considered the proposed development would not harm the character of the Listed Building. They requested, however, that details of the materials used are subject to approval to protect the historic character of the listed building and its setting.

A full planning application has now also been submitted.

It was noted that the Thatches planning application, to which the PC objected, has been withdrawn.

A further set of revised plans is going to be submitted for the Whimbrels Edge application and an extension of time had been granted.

More objections have been lodged by residents about the Tidley Cot application in West Buckland, which has not yet been determined.

6. To receive an update on community led housing.

Councillors Crowther and Williams had met SHDC community housing officers and project engineers on site. Officers are presently assessing the site viability, including infrastructure costs, and the engineers will be providing options in respect of the infrastructure costs. Provided the house prices remain affordable to those households who are eligible, SHDC will embark on the detailed design/planning process in December and aim to make a detailed planning application in May 2021.

In terms of funding, the initial development work is being funded by the Community Housing Fund. There is Homes England grant for shared ownership housing (with the District or Parish), which would reduce the cost of the housing, but that would defeat the objective of the initiative as there could be no guarantee the housing would remain affordable in perpetuity. However, there is a good possibility that the scheme may qualify for the government's proposed First Homes grant - and if so, that would help bring the prices down. Councillor Crowther had also spoken to SHDC's Affordable Housing specialist who is looking into whether there are other possible sources of funding.

7. To discuss arrangements for the Community Budget Meeting on Monday 16th November 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

The Clerk explained that this would be a public meeting for members of the Parish to come along and speak to councillors about how they would like the precept to be spent and what projects and activities they would like supported. All are welcome and details will be available on the website in the week before the meeting.

8. To consider a proposal to follow Devon County Council and South Hams District Council in declaring a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency and to discuss how the Parish Council can be involved.

For more information about this please go to the [Devon Climate Emergency website](#) or the [South Hams Climate Change website](#).

Councillor Munn explained that she would like the PC and residents of the Parish to think about what could be done to help climate and biodiversity at a local level because the situation is urgent and we cannot ignore it. She would like everyone who is interested to be involved.

Councillors all agreed with this and it was resolved to declare a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency. A Working Group will be set up and an article will be placed on the website and in the December issue of Village Voice inviting interested people to join the PC in working out the next steps.

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

County Councillor Rufus Gilbert

Recycling Centres in Devon will remain open through the lockdown.

CDS (Connecting Devon & Somerset) are at present completing the tender process for installation of fibre to the premise across all six Lots spanning Devon and Somerset. He hoped to be able to inform of the outcome in January and, soon after, the lead in times for the installation of the infrastructure in this area. Some people may have been contacted by BT Openreach regarding a 'rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme' as an alternative provider. This would involve a BT installation target cost figure being achieved by pledging Gigabit vouchers to BT Openreach. Once the pledged vouchers' total value has reached the BT target figure and if you wish to proceed, BT would aim to install the infrastructure within twelve months.

He is still trying to help with the situation around the BT poles in West Buckland.

The A379 Edmeston traffic lights - work will start on January 11th.

District Councillor Judy Pearce

It is the fifth week of the new waste collection rounds. Reports of missed bins in some areas continue and people encouraged to report them. Discussion was had about the problems in Thurlestone with holiday lets leaving out rubbish for many days. Councillor Pearce asked for this to be reported as holiday lets should be paying for a commercial service rather than using the domestic waste collection. It was also considered that some owners may not have been aware of the new collection days.

SHDC has had to turn itself back into lockdown mode and will be administering hardship payments and payments to businesses which cannot operate during lockdown. They have not yet had the detail from the Gov but are hoping to have things in place quickly.

The Leisure Centres will be closing again – it is a very difficult time for them.

SHDC has sent in a robust response to the Planning White Paper which has been circulated to councillors.

The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan has been delayed due to Covid but is ready to go. A new Community Forum is being set up with 20 people from around the South Hams as representatives. £200,000 of the Better Care Fund has been reallocated to help people insulate their homes – details are on the SHDC website.

District Councillor Mark Long

The Saving Devon's Treescapes Project is up and running. If anyone would like to plant trees on their land please contact [Devon Wildlife Trust](#) and free trees are available.

10. To receive updates about general Parish matters, including:

- Resurfacing of the road in Thurlestone will start on 22nd February 2021 and the road will be closed for 4-5 days to facilitate these works. The extent of the works is from the war memorial to Kerse Cross. This was noted.
- To set a date for a site meeting at the cobbled road to discuss its repair and renovation. An outdoor, on site meeting was arranged for Tuesday 3rd November at 4.30pm.
- To discuss any preparations that need to be done for the Parish before winter in case of bad weather or other emergencies.

The gritter is ready. The roads and gulleys need some attention and SHDC and DCC will be contacted. The Parish Hall is available in case of emergencies – they have all the appropriate Covid measures in place.

11. Accounts

- To note the bank account balance of £30,680.73 to date 27th October 2020. This was noted.
- To approve the following payments:

Helen Nathanson	Parish Clerk	£383.04
	Printing	£3.49
	Zoom Pro-licence for October	£7.20
DALC	Training Course – Planning Law (Cllr Crowther)	£18.00
	Training Course – Effective Communications (Cllr Williams and Parish Clerk)	£72.00
Paul Martin	Wood Protective Treatment for parish benches	£25.50
Sue Crowther	NP Expenses	£44.18
Total		£553.41
Julian Lee	Grass Cutting	£200.00
Margaret Houghton	Mobile phone for parish helpline	£18.00

The payments above were approved, including the last two additional items.

12. The following information for residents was noted:

Friends Against Scams

19 – 23 October was [Friends Against Scams](#) week and this year Trading Standards is celebrating the 4th anniversary of the initiative which aims to educate people about scams and how to spot the signs. This is more important than ever during the coronavirus outbreak and the Trading Standards Service is encouraging everyone to get involved to help protect yourself and others.

Thurlestone Mobile Library

Libraries Unlimited has recently purchased, with the help of Devon County Council, a second-hand van to replace 'Gertie', the current Mobile Library serving communities in the South Hams, including Thurlestone Parish. They are seeking to raise funds to refurbish the van. You can support them by sharing the word through social media, website and email, using the link justgiving.com/campaign/get-mobile-library-on-road

13. To note the date of the next Council Meetings which will be:

Monday 16th November 2020 at 7.30pm – Community Budget Meeting (all residents of the parish are invited to attend)

Monday 7th December 2020 at 7.30pm – December Parish Council Meeting

These were noted and the meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Councillor Jack Rhymes
Chairman