

Thurlestone Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

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The Annual Public Meeting of the Parish was held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7pm via Zoom. Twelve members of the Parish attended and the meeting was chaired by Councillor Jack Rhymes.

1. Councillor Jack Rhymes welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone wanted to ask questions or raise issues about matters affecting the Parish. The following matters were raised:

2. Public Forum

A Parishioner expressed concerns that the Parish Council had felt obliged to vote in favour of the Bantham Estate Office application (0227/20/FUL) in return for the Estate releasing land for community housing.

Councillor Mitchelmore agreed and said that he would not have voted for the Estate Office application if it had not been for the promise of community housing and Councillor Hurrell stated that he had not voted for it at all. Other councillors explained that they had not felt obliged to vote a certain way and they stood by their decision as set out in the Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 20th February 2020.

Another resident said that he questioned whether councillors were representing the residents of the Parish.

Councillor Williams said that, although she had not voted on the application because she was away for that meeting, she did speak to 15 or 16 households about it – other than the households who had a clear objection to the application - and it did not generate the same reaction that the recent boathouse application did, for example. The feeling from households was that there were certain aspects of design like the roof, the size or amount of glass that they thought should be addressed, but there was no apparent overriding opposition to the application.

There was some discussion about the number of people who had submitted letters to the SHDC planning portal. A resident said that 99 people objected and only 1 supported the application but Councillor Crowther made the point that the majority of objections were from people who lived outside the parish and there were also multiple objections from a few households within the Parish.

The Chair thanked the residents for their views and said that he understood their point of view, which the PC would take onboard. He said that councillors always tried to do their best and he reiterated that he had only received 2 messages of objection out of 50 emails on the subject of the Estate Office application and that this had informed his decision.

A resident made the point that there are so few people who actually live full-time in Bantham and they can feel isolated at times.

The Chair thanked everyone for their comments and for attending and the meeting ended at 7.25pm.

Councillor Jack Rhymes
Chairman