

THROWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

6.30pm on Monday 8th February 2021

Zoom Virtual Meeting

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Attendees:

- Roger Clarke (Chairman)
- Adam Jastrzebski (Vice Chair)
- Sian Lewis
- Roger Scutt
- Paul Furneaux (new Council member)
- David Simmons (Swale Borough Councillor for East Downs Ward)
- Andrew Bowles (KCC)
- Sarah Selby (Clerk)

1. Apologies – Clerk

Sarah-Jane Tormey gave her apologies after the meeting

2. Agree minutes of previous meeting – Chairman

All agreed the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Matters arising - Chairman

The bench repairs for the Forstal are in progress.

The damage to the Forstal caused in the Autumn appears to be minimal and will not require any remedial works.

The updated list of contact details, compiled by the Clerk, has been added to the Throwley website by the Vice Chair.

All other items have been added to the agenda for this meeting

4. Finance update - Clerk

- a. Bank balance and payments made

Date	Description	Serial No	Debits	Credits	Balance
28Jan2021	Direct Debit (EDF ENERGY)		(38.00)		6,904.54
11Jan2021	B/P to: Sarah Selby		(94.48)		6,942.54
11Jan2021	B/P to: Sarah Selby		(14.39)		7,037.02
11Jan2021	B/P to: Lawn&LandscapingCo		(440.00)		7,051.41
11Jan2021	B/P to: Roger Clarke		(26.85)		7,491.41
31Dec2020	Service Charge		(18.00)		7,518.26
29Dec2020	Direct Debit (EDF ENERGY)		(38.00)		7,536.26
18Dec2020	SWALE COUNCIL			94.48	7,574.26
30Nov2020	Direct Debit (EDF ENERGY)		(38.00)		7,479.78
13Nov2020	Credit	1		343.00	7,517.78

Payments to Sarah Selby – reimbursement for Zoom subscription and monthly charge

Payment to Lawn and Landscaping Co – routine mowing and maintenance of the Forstal

Payment to Roger Clarke – reimbursement for Hedgehog signs

Payment from Swale Council – grant for Zoom subscription

Payment from TEA for additional grass cutting and electricity for the 2019 Fete

EDF – charges for the electricity box on the Forstal

Action – Clerk to check why EDF payments continue to be so high

5. Defibrillator / telephone box update – Cllr Lewis

Cllr Lewis has arranged and installed new defibrillator signs for the telephone box

Cllr Tormey has cleaned out the telephone box.

The Chairman has installed the defibrillator and is carrying out routine checks of the defibrillator to make sure it is operating.

Charlotte Shuttock has helped Roger with these checks and will arrange training for everyone once it is safe to do so.

The Chairman mentioned that the light in the telephone box is not operational but the Council agreed it is not necessary to remedy this.

Action: Cllr Lewis to email village with details of the new defibrillator and to acknowledge everyone who has contributed to its success

Action: The Chairman will continue to carry out routine checks to make sure the defibrillator is operational and to satisfy our insurers. He will also check the operation manual to see if the cold could impact on the operation of the defibrillator.

The Chairman wished to thank Cllr Lewis for her persistence over this rather drawn-out project.

6. Village Lanes clean up – Cllr Lewis

Cllr Lewis suggested that as our usual social event cannot go ahead due to the ongoing pandemic, we could still arrange a date for individual households to pick up the litter on their local lanes. Everyone will need to use their own equipment.

David Simmons advised that we shouldn't put any rubbish found in to our personal bins.

All agreed to Sunday 7th March for this event.

Action: Cllr Lewis to send out details and create a map so everyone knows which lane to clean up. She will also liaise with SBC to arrange a rubbish collection from beside the bin on the Forstal.

7. Highways Improvement Plan update – Clerk

We have requested a reduction in speed limit on the Faversham Road and the road through the Forstal however KCC cannot go ahead with the necessary speed checks at the moment due to the pandemic. They will arrange these and advise on speed limits when this is feasible.

Our request to improve the signage either side of the Forstal will go ahead early in the next financial year. This will be funded by KCC.

8. *Update on funding source for broadband in rural areas update – Vice Chair*

The Vice Chair has been working closely with KCC, our MP, and Openreach to ensure the improvements to our broadband can go ahead under the current voucher scheme. We are awaiting a quote from Openreach to enable us to access the funding under the current scheme. The Vice Chair has collated all of the necessary details and calculated that our request is good value for money.

The Chairman thanked the Vice Chair for his technical expertise in this matter.

9. Maintenance of roads around the Forstal - Clerk

Gary Gibbs from KCC Highways has confirmed that the roads around the Forstal do not have any recorded ownership so KCC are not responsible for the maintenance of these roads.

Cllr Furneaux stated that the household owners are concerned about the cost of repairs and liability issues for these roads.

Andrew Bowles stated that this is a widespread issue in Kent and there unfortunately are not easy solutions.

The Chairman reiterated that the Council has a sign up on the noticeboard stating we are not liable for any damage.

Andrew Bowles left the meeting at this point. He does not plan to stand for re-election in May so thanked everyone and said his goodbyes as he will no longer be our county councillor.

The Chairman thanked Andrew for all of his help and support and the Vice Chair added his thanks for Andrew's help with the broadband project.

10. Planning applications – Chair

We have had a number of minor planning applications recently, which the Council has supported.

Old Bindery appeal: The Chair understands that residents have concerns about this.

David Simmons has spoken to the planning officers at SBC. He understands that SBC will be rigorously defending their original decision in this matter and robustly asking for the appeal to be refused. He suggests that TPC state that they stand by the comments they made previously and clearly state our position.

The council is grateful for comments already made by residents of Throwley in this matter and particularly thank David Elvin for his efforts.

The Vice Chair suggests we do not have any further information that would give grounds for the Council to revise our original decision.

Action: Chairman to contact David Elvin

Action: Chairman to compile a suitable response on behalf of TPC and send to Clerk

Action: David Simmons and Clerk to check where appeal information can be found and the process for responding to the appeal.

SBC Local Plan: Following the email exchanges earlier in the week, the Council considered the next steps for the SBC Local Plan consultation.

Concerns include:

- Locating more development in the East of Swale, putting additional pressure on infrastructure around Faversham
- Continuing to develop in South East, which goes against levelling up principles
- Impacts of Planning White Paper which is undergoing a review
- Shortness of consultation period and not being able to follow normal procedures due to ongoing pandemic

David Simmons stated it is important for us to make a specific comment on this consultation at this stage as we will not be able to be involved in the next stages unless we are registered as responding now.

The Vice Chair raised concerns about the response from the leader of SBC which underplayed the significance of this issue.

Cllr Murphy suggests registering a general comment ie “TPC has concerns about the impact of this plan on our area and reserve the right to comment further in due course”

Action: David Simmons to pass on printed copy of the Plan

Action: Chairman to compile an appropriate response to the consultation and ask all for comments

Action: Clerk to add TPC comments to the Consultation before deadline on 23rd March 2021.

11. Dates for 2021 meetings – Clerk

Next meeting to be our AGM on Monday 10th May at 6.30pm, followed by Parish Council meeting at 7pm. Location tbc.

Date of Annual Parish meeting, usually held in the church, is still to be confirmed, when more details are known about the latest Covid 19 restrictions.

12. Any other business – Chairman

Vice Chair: suggests we start to plan for a return to ‘normal’ and perhaps consider a joint meeting with TEA and the Church Council to discuss arranging a suitable village event.

End of meeting