

THROWLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Tuesday 8th February 2022 at 7pm at Sheldwich Village Hall
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Present:

- Roger Clarke (Chairman)
- Adam Jastrzebski (Vice Chair)
- Sian Lewis
- Sarah Jane Tormey
- Paul Furneaux
- Sarah Selby (Clerk)

1. Apologies

- Cllr Murphy gave his apologies before the meeting

2. Agree minutes of previous meeting

- All agreed the minutes

3. Matters arising

Action (carried forward): Cllr Murphy to research suitable % increase for Clark salary

Action: Clerk to research internal auditors and get costings

Action: Clerk to arrange payments of £100 to CAB and Kent Air Ambulance

- Old Hockley Farm. Cllr Simmons from Swale BC updated the Council by email following recent site visits which confirmed no further enforcement action would be taken. The Council still has significant concerns around the activity at this site.

4. Finance update

- Bank balance and payments made

Date	Description	Serial No	Debits	Credits	Balance
31Jan2022	B/P to: Sheldwich V. Hall		(30.00)		7,620.63
28Jan2022	Direct Debit (EDF ENERGY)		(29.00)		7,650.63
31Dec2021	Service Charge		(18.00)		7,679.63
29Dec2021	Direct Debit (EDF ENERGY)		(29.00)		7,697.63
29Nov2021	Direct Debit (EDF ENERGY)		(29.00)		7,726.63

- Precept confirmation: The Clerk has submitted our Precept requirements to Swale BC. The Precept amount will remain the same as 2021/22 at £3749, as agreed at the previous meeting.

5. Broadband Project update

Cllr Jastrzebski gave an update on the broadband project

- ❑ OpenReach should have received confirmation from DCMS that our project can go ahead
- ❑ KCC has released the latest 'vouchers', which will only be available until end of March 2022
- ❑ We are awaiting confirmation from OpenReach that our project will go ahead.
- ❑ As soon as this confirmation is received, we will need to act quickly to claim the 'vouchers'
- ❑ Everyone will need to submit their details individually before the end of March 2022. This will need support from TPC to make sure everyone who is eligible signs up to the scheme.
- ❑ Our project has the full support of our MP, Helen Whately and KCC Cllr, Rich Lehmann.

Important to note:

- ❑ The scheme will not incur a cost to residents but everyone who signs up will need to upgrade to a contract which is at least 2 x their current broadband speed or 100 Mbps – this can be with the existing supplier
- ❑ The fibre will be taken directly to every property alongside the existing landline infrastructure
- ❑ The scheme only applies to properties connected to the Eastling Exchange

The Chairman extended his gratitude to Cllr Jastrzebski for the amount of time he has spent on this project and for keeping us all up to date

5. Update on Highways Improvement Plan

- The Throwley Forstal signage was delayed as our KCC Highways project manager has left and the KCC believed the project had been completed. The Clerk contacted KCC and has spoken to a new, temporary project manager who was very apologetic that the signage had not been completed previously and has already ordered the new signage

Action: Clerk to contact KCC and find out progress on new signage

- The speed surveys carried out by KCC at locations on the road through Throwley Forstal and near the junction with Housefield Road and Faversham Road have not demonstrated a need to change the existing speed limits. KCC shared the results and the implications with the Council who are disappointed with this outcome.

6. Adopting the private road

- Following further investigation by the Clerk, KCC have confirmed they are not able to adopt the maintenance of private roads around the Forstal without significant further investment by the residents such as employing a structural engineer. These costs make adopting the private roads prohibitive.

7. Unnamed roads

- There are a number of unnamed roads in the Parish which cause inconvenience due to deliveries going astray etc. However, the Council are also concerned about more significant impacts, including an example of an ambulance not being able to find a resident.

Action: The Council recommends everyone uses the 'What 3 Words' app to help avoid serious issues

This item will be repeated at our next meeting for further discussion and to find a resolution.

8. Overgrown footpaths – Cllr Murphy

This item will be carried forward to our next meeting as Cllr Murphy was not present

9. Council vacancy

Action: Clerk to advertise the vacancy on WhatsApp group, via village email, on the website and noticeboard on the Forstal

10. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

- All supported Cllr Lewis' suggestion of a photograph to capture as many existing residents as possible to update the last one taken approx 20 years ago. Cllr Lewis kindly offered to arrange this. Additional photos could also be taken at the Fete and the Jubilee picnic
- All supported a village picnic on Sunday 5th June to celebrate the Jubilee. Everyone will bring their own food but the council would like to arrange some entertainment and hope to use a Swale BC grant to support this.
- The Council will need to work with the Fete organisers to arrange the picnic as there will be a lot of overlap.
- Cllr Jastrzebski suggested a joint committee will be needed and volunteered to be part of this committee.

Action: Clerk to contact the Fete organiser to update them on the Council's proposed plans and establish next steps

11. Village Lanes Clean up

- Cllr Lewis offered to organise this event which will be on Sunday 13th March. The Council will support this event as usual by paying for refreshments and any additional supplies.

Action: Clerk to contact Swale BC to arrange equipment and collection of rubbish

12. Planning

- The Old Bindery has lost the appeal against enforcement action and will now need to clear the site
- Valley Farm hedging: The Council considered this application and feel that where possible we should nurture old hedgerows. However, the Council are pleased to see the compensatory planting of trees and the extensive planting of new hedges by the applicant in the Parish resolved this issue.

13. Date and venue for next meeting

7pm on Tuesday 26th April. All agreed that Sheldwich Village Hall will be a suitable venue for future meetings

Action: Clerk to contact Sheldwich Village Hall to book venue

14. Any other business - None

Next meeting: 7pm on Tuesday 26th April 2022 at Sheldwich Village Hall (TBC)