

THROWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Tuesday 7th September 2021 at 7.30pm
at Throwley Church, Throwley**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

Present

- Roger Clarke (Chairman)
- Adam Jastrzebski (Vice Chair)
- Sian Lewis
- Roger Scutt
- Sarah Jane Tormey
- Paul Furneaux
- Sarah Selby (Clerk)
- Approx 10 parishioners

1. Apologies

Alan Murphy was unable to attend

2. Confirm minutes of 15th April 2019

All agreed minutes

3. Chairman's report

The chairman acknowledged that due to the coronavirus pandemic it has been over 2 years since our last parish meeting. He also reported:

- David Simmons is our new Swale Borough Council representative for East downs ward. The Chairman thanked David for his support.
- The retirement of Tim Young. The Chairman thanked Tim for his long service and wise counsel
- Completion of the Rural Housing project with the majority of properties being allocated to Parish families
- Our Parish Council meetings have been successfully held on Zoom since March 2020
- Speeding continues to be a concern for the parish. Unfortunately, the pandemic has impacted our efforts to bring in improvements
- We have purchased a defibrillator which is now installed in the telephone box on the Forstal. We hope to arrange training when this is possible.
- The Forstal trees were trimmed following a Tree Survey recommended by our insurers. The trees are generally healthy.
- Brendon Clarke kindly renovated the Forstal seat, charging only for materials.
- The Chairman thanked his Vice Chairman for his management of the Superfast Broadband scheme

- The Chairman thanked his Councillors for their support and advice, giving their time freely for this
- The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work.

4. Village broadband project update

The Vice Chairman gave a thorough update on the Broadband project.

- We are still waiting approval for the project from the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport but this is imminent
- Our MP, Helen Whately is supporting our project
- Using the national Government scheme and a KCC top up fund, we should be able to fully fund the project but this is reliant on the majority of households in Throwley signing up to the scheme
- We will need to act fast once we have approval for the scheme – there will be a 3 month window to submit claims.
- We will need local champions to volunteer
- Fibre will be taken to a point outside each house - it is up to households to arrange final connection using an internet service provider
- The improvements will bring long term benefits for the community
- More details will follow soon

Questions raised:

- Did Open Reach submit the details before the deadline?
 - o This is not clear
- How many people in the Parish already have faster broadband schemes therefore might not be interested in the proposed scheme?
 - o Not certain but installation of fibre will future proof all properties when current speeds become insufficient
- Does the scheme give any consideration for the increased number of households now working from home?
 - o No, the scheme has not changed. It is still only registered businesses which receive the higher allowance.
- What happens if properties are owned by people who live outside the parish?
 - o Owners do not need to live in Throwley to claim vouchers, the vouchers apply to all properties situated in Throwley
- Are there any blockers to DCMS approval?
 - o None known of. According to Ofcom, Throwley does qualify for the government scheme

The Chairman gave Adam thanks for his extended efforts on this project.

5. Open Forum

No issues raised