

THROWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 15th November 2021 at 7pm at Belmont House, Throwley

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Present:

- Roger Clarke (Chairman)
- Sian Lewis
- Sarah Jane Tormey
- Paul Furneaux
- Alan Murphy
- Sarah Selby (Clerk)

1. Apologies

- ☐ Adam Jastrzebski (Vice Chair) was unable to attend as he was travelling abroad for business
- ☐ Roger Scutt did not attend. Update after the meeting: Cllr Scutt has taken the decision to resign from the Council on health grounds.

2. Agree minutes of previous meeting – Chairman

All agreed the minutes

3. Matters arising – Chairman

- ☐ The recent break ins were reported to our local rural crime team. They offered some basic advice and offered to send a number of shed alarms to the Clerk for distribution to residents.
- ☐ Update on speed surveys – there have been a number of cables appearing across roads in Throwley which we believe are the speed surveys due to be arranged by KCC.
- ☐ Defibrillator checks – Cllr Tormey will check it is working every 3 weeks.

4. Finance update - Clerk

a. Bank balance and payments made

Date	Description	Serial No	Debits	Credits	Balance
28Oct2021	Direct Debit (EDF ENERGY)		(29.00)		7,755.63
07Oct2021	HMRC VTR			69.78	7,784.63
30Sep2021	Service Charge		(18.00)		7,714.85
28Sep2021	Direct Debit (EDF ENERGY)		(29.00)		7,732.85
27Sep2021	B/P to: SLCC Enterprises		(42.00)		7,761.85
27Sep2021	B/P to: KALC		(60.00)		7,803.85
27Sep2021	B/P to: Sarah Selby		(420.00)		7,863.85
27Sep2021	B/P to: HMRC		(105.00)		8,283.85
24Sep2021	SWALE COUNCIL			1,874.50	8,388.85

b. Assets and insurance update

- Item carried forward to next meeting as further work needed to accurately value our assets

5. Setting the Budget and Precept for 2022/2023

All agreed to keep the precept at the same level as 2021/2022

Action: Cllr Murphy to find appropriate percentage increase to Clerk salary from April 2022

Action: All Councillors to consider suitable Throwley residents to audit TPC accounts and process at year end (March 2022)

Action: All Councillors to consider which charity to receive annual donation ahead of decision at next meeting

6. Broadband Project update – Vice Chairman – update via email:

“DCMS [has written to] Helen Whately in response to her enquiry about the Throwley Broadband project. In essence, there is an approval from DCMS and the project has passed the necessary commercial checks for which we were waiting earlier. Now, and as a final step in the approval process, we are waiting for further funding through top up vouchers from KCC. I have asked Helen Whately to support our case with KCC. I will also write for support to Rich Lehman, who is East Swale representative in KCC.”

7. Update on Highways Improvement Plan

Action: Clerk to follow up KCC Highways to confirm cables seen around Throwley are the speed checks we were expecting. Also to get an update on installation of the gatepost signs by the Forstal.

8. Overgrown footpaths – Cllr Murphy

The Councillors had a long discussion around footpath issues in the Parish, including:

- Causes of issues including oil seed rape crops and unusual weather in 2021
- Responsibility of Landowners / KCC for clearing footpaths
- Best way to approach Landowners / KCC for support with keeping footpaths clear in 2022. Suggestions include
 - Writing / speaking to relevant people to remind them of responsibilities
 - Residents adopting footpaths to check and report on issues (Cllr Lewis noted this has been tried previously)

Action: Clerk to add item to next agenda for further discussion on appropriate actions in 2022

9. Damage to Forstal grass - Chairman

There has been concern about damage to the Forstal grass being caused by residents driving across it but it has now been established that this was a temporary issue caused by repair work being carried out to the private road adjacent to the Forstal. A number of residents have arranged and paid for this repair work which has now significantly improved the condition of the private road.

Previous discussions have indicated that once repairs have been carried out this stretch of private road then it is possible that KCC would consider adopting it which would mean they are responsible for future repairs and maintenance.

Action: Clerk to approach KCC Highways contact to ask about road adoption feasibility and implications

10. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Item carried forward to next meeting as TEA representative (Cllr Jastrzebski) not present

11. Date and venue for next meeting

Next meeting date will be 7pm on Tuesday 8th February 2022.

Action: Chairman to follow up venue options

12. Any other business

Cllr Simmons raised issue of abandoned vehicles at property on Old Hockley Road

- The Planning Enforcement Officer has visited and does not believe that there is a breach of planning control.
- It was noted by a TPC Councillor that some business activity appeared to be carried out at the property
- Cllr Simmons will follow up issues with SBC environmental team
- It was noted by the Chairman that previous investigations into this issue, over 10 years ago, did not result in any action

Next meeting date will be 7pm on Tuesday 8th February 2022. Venue TBC.