

THROWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

6.30pm on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 - Zoom virtual meeting

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Attendees:

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

1. Apologies - Clerk

Cllr Murphy sent apologies after the meeting as he was unable to attend due to unforeseen family circumstances brought about by the latest Covid –19 lockdown.

2. Agree minutes of previous meeting – Chairman

All agreed.

3. Matters arising – Chairman

The Old Bindery Planning application has been rejected

New website – the Chair thanked the Vice Chair for the very successful new Throwley website

Forstal upkeep – the bench has now been removed for the repair work to be carried out

Cllr Bowles – still trying to retrieve the policy document relating to the Forstal road but hampered by limited access to offices currently

Action: Clerk to send Forstal Land Registry documents to Cllr Bowles

4. Finance update - Clerk

a. Bank balance and payments made

Date	Description	Serial No	Debits	Credits	Balance
28Oct2020	Direct Debit (EDF ENERGY)		(38.00)		7,599.78
12Oct2020	HMRC VTR			55.30	7,637.78
30Sep2020	Service Charge		(18.00)		7,582.48
28Sep2020	Direct Debit (EDF ENERGY)		(38.00)		7,600.48
25Sep2020	SWALE COUNCIL			1,704.00	7,638.48
01Sep2020	B/P to: Adam Jastrzebski		(13.85)		5,934.48
01Sep2020	B/P to: CitizensAdvBureau		(200.00)		5,948.33
28Aug2020	Direct Debit (EDF ENERGY)		(38.00)		6,148.33

b. Unity Bank Account review value for money

All agreed that the convenient and efficient service provided is currently good value for money

2. Budget and Precept for 2021-22 – Chairman

All agreed to the planned increase to the precept of 10% as this reflects our predicted spend for 2021 to 2022 financial year. The new precept will be £3749.

3. Defibrillator / telephone box update – Cllr Lewis

“In the last Parish Council meeting I was given the go ahead to arrange with BT to adopt the phone box on the village green in order to install the defibrillator inside it. Roger Clark, Alan Murphy and myself read the “BT Adopt a Kiosk” contract, there were some reservations about the potential liabilities involved, so I rang up our insurance company who we have a special “Local Councils Policy” contract to find out how we are covered. Fortunately they had experience of this and knew about other parish councils adopting phone boxes for defibrillators, so were able to immediately discuss the relevant clauses which were two: yes we are covered for Public Liability, and yes we have Damage Cover as long as our assets don’t exceed £10,000, which they don’t.

BT informed me that the land that the phone box sits on is owned by [the residents] of Clare’s Cottage, BT said all that was needed was for the land owners to give third party written permission to adopt the kiosk. I drew up a contract which has been signed by [the residents] giving permission as they were very supportive of putting the defibrillator in the phone box. BT now have a scan of this signed contract plus a scan and hard copy of the BT Adopt a Kiosk signed contract, they also have a cheque for the £1 which is all that BT ask for to adopt the phone box. The next stage will be the decommissioning of the equipment in the box by BT and they will continue to supply for free the small amount electricity which is only sufficient to power the light bulb.”

4. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) – Clerk

All agreed a draft HIP for Throwley which will be submitted to KCC for quotes and project management. The 2 priority issues submitted are a proposed reduction in the speed limit on the Faversham Road and additional signage to increase safety for users of the Forstal. Funding for the proposals will need to come from the Parish or KCC. SBC have kindly offered to help with the costs of a traffic survey if required.

Action: the Clerk will submit our proposed HIP to KCC

Cllr Bowles cautioned that traffic surveys are currently delayed due to Covid-19

5. Throwley road signs/finger posts – Cllr Lewis

“Charlotte Shattuck has been on the case with Kent Highways about Throwley’s finger posts road signs. She has recorded 4 signs: near the Wilsons house; the sign into village off Throwley Road; the top of Loose Down Road and the one at the Leaveland end of Workhouse Road. She registered them on the Kent Highways website and within days someone from KCC came out to cut back vegetation and record the repairs required, which will take about three months for the orders to be completed as they have to draw out the requirement and then request for them to be made up.”

The Parish Council would like to thank Charlotte for her efforts.

An anonymous Zoom participant was removed from the meeting at 19:30 as they did not identify themselves

6. Funding source for broadband in rural areas – Vice Chairman

Helen Whately notified local Councils of a new scheme to fund rural broadband improvements. The Vice Chair has looked into the scheme and found the funding to be significantly more than previous schemes and is keen to make sure the Parish benefits from this scheme. He has contacted KCC for further information and will look for champions for each area to help him to deliver this vital service for Throwley.

The Council is very grateful to the Vice Chair for his quick response to this scheme and for helping to deliver these improvements.

7. Dates for 2021 meetings - Clerk

Our next meeting will be Monday 8th February at 6.30pm. It is likely to be a virtual Zoom meeting. We will arrange subsequent meeting dates during the February meeting.

8. Any other business - Chairman

The Chairman raised the issue of significant damage which was caused to the Forstal on the evening prior to this meeting.

Cllr Tormey reported that 2 vehicles were driving on the Forstal and doing handbrake turns late in the evening, causing extensive damage to the grass and concern to residents who found the action intimidating.

It is possible this was a reaction to local land owners preventing access to fields for illegal hare coursing.

Cllr Furneaux suggested a working party to repair the grounds. The Chairman agreed this was a good idea but recommended waiting for the grass to recover first.

Action: as suggested by Cllr Furneaux, the Chairman will report this incident to the Rural Task Force on behalf of the Throwley Parish Council.

Update The Chairman spoke to the Rural Crime Team on 04/11/20. They had already been made aware of the incident and advised that they are keeping a close watch on this area at night whenever possible.

Action: as recommended by Cllr Furneaux, the contact numbers for reporting crimes will be added to the Throwley website by the Vice Chairman