

## THROWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the PARISH MEETING held in Throwley Village Church on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Roger Clarke (Deputy Chairman)  
Tim Young  
Sian Lewis  
Frances Wilson  
Alan Murphy  
Andrew Bowles  
Jill Moore (Clerk)

Apologies; Cllr Prescott, Roger Scutt, Adam Jastrzebski, Barbara Elliott, Carolyn Clarke

1. **Minutes** of the Parish Meeting have been signed off.

2. **Chairman's Report**

**The deputy chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and he then went on to report on the Parish Council's activities over the last year. The main items were:-**

- a. Apologies from the Chairman Roger Scutt, Deputy Chairman Roger Clarke read the Chairman's report.
- b. The year has been settled, with clerk Jill Moore handling affairs well.
- c. At last year's Parish Meeting there was no official speaker; however, Adam Jastrzebski kindly gave us an update on the broadband situation for Throwley. This year we have George Chandler KCC Broadband Project Manager giving an update of Broadband delivery in the area.
- d. Local Affordable Housing Scheme – Roger Scutt and Sian Lewis attended a meeting with planners where they successfully argued that the scheme should be sited at Leaveland Corner. The scheme is to comprise 6 two-bedroom houses and 2 open market chalet bungalows to cross-subsidise the affordable houses.
- e. Repairs to the roof of container No. 2 – this has been carried out, costs were share with TEA.
- f. The council were approached by Kenneth Bannerman from ABCT regarding the possibility of erecting a Memorial to Throwley Airfield. The suggested site is outside Adam Jastrzebski's house. The offer was declined but we may consider some form of memorial ourselves for the centenary anniversary of the Airfield in 2017.
- g. Concerns over road safety in parish lanes – a letter was sent to farmers and land owners to ask their drivers to take more care.
- h. Sink hole behind Workhouse Cottage – Mr McConaghy has been contacted regarding safety concerns after letters to his manager were ignored.
- i. After the sad death of Ray Denis who served as Throwley webmaster and electronic email postmaster, a letter of condolence and thanks was sent to his widow. We are grateful to Sarah Reeves that she has agreed to take on the role.
- j. Planning applications
  - i. Valley Farm house – planning application has been passed for development of horse related buildings and repairs.
  - ii. Proposed stables on land adjoining 2 Swedish Houses – the original positioning of the Stables has now been agreed.
  - iii. Extension to stay on Butchers Field – the decision was taken for a further stay of 2 years.
  - iv. There was a planning application to extend North Forstal Barn – the council has replied with concerns.
- k. Little Hockley Farm – a complaint was recently received regarding 20 scrap vehicles and the state of the buildings. This will be reported to Swale BC.
- l. Mark Deal from 'Farm and Garden Fencing' is to cut the forstal grass for the last time in March. Michael Runeckles of 'Green Fingers Dirty Boots' has agreed to mow and strim

for £120 + VAT. At £1200 + VAT p.a. this is more expensive than Mark Deals fee £925 + VAT

- m. The Parish Precept has been kept at the same level again this year.
- n. Parish Lanes clean up – another successful clean up event was carried out earlier this month. Grateful thanks extended to Tim and Alison Young for hosting the event.
- o. Thanks to all fellow councillors, especially Roger Clarke for kindly standing in tonight.
- p. Roger Clarke introduced George Chandler, KCC broadband project manager.

### **3. George Chandler reported on broadband speeds in the area**

George initially spoke about the project in general then moved on to Throwley area specifically.

#### An overview of the broadband scheme

The intention of the scheme is to cover the whole country with high speed broadband. There is commercial investment for the scheme from BT and Virgin, but at over £30 million this is insufficient. In particular, rural areas are less well served, so KCC are filling the gaps in the county. There are 2 separate contract phases.

Contract 1 was to deliver broadband through fibre to 91% of premises across Kent and Medway, which was over 121,000 properties. This phase is now completed. Cost per premise was £163

Contract 2 began January 2016 and is to run until September 2018. It will deliver to 19,000 premises which brings coverage up to 95-96% of premises. Cost per premise will be around £586, largely because the premises are less accessible. Unfortunately, the remaining 4% would cost at least £2,500 per premise to reach which is not cost effective. These premises will be in the 'in-fill' scheme, which is likely to be covered by satellite. In theory satellite will give coverage everywhere although there are issues with topography. Details can be found on the KCC website satellite scheme page. A notable point is that KCC are unable to cover areas where VFast are already providing a service.

#### Throwley area

Currently Throwley area is fed (by copper wire) from the exchange at Eastling with a cabinet located at Hockley. If this were replaced with a fibre cabinet speeds would still be slow because of the distances involved, so it is proposed to put in a new cabinet behind the village sign on the road from Hockley, this is the optimum position to give most benefit to most properties and covers a loop from Throwley Forstal to Bells Forstal (there a small gap in the loop). Properties near to the cabinet are expected to get broadband speeds of around 80 Mbps, Throwley Forstal 65-70 Mbps and even Bells Forstal 25 Mbps. For any premises that aren't covered by this loop, one possibility is to pay for a connection to a node which will be put in to allow for future improvement. The remote nodes will effectively be mini cabinets either on telegraph poles or underground.

#### Operations and timescales

There are operational issues getting fibres in place. To place them on existing telegraph poles usually requires trees to be cut back, sometimes it's difficult to determine who owns the trees. In some instances poles are already at their maximum capacity for carrying wiring.

Wayleaves need to be obtained from landowners for burying cable underground. There will necessarily be road-closures during the operations which may last for some weeks.

At present it is expected that survey work will be started in April 2016, with cabinets in place by late 2016. The route then has to be tested so delivery is expected in March 2017.

#### **Open Forum**

Questions from parishioners uncovered the following points,

1. The cabinet at Hockley which is currently used isn't going to have fibre connection (although a fibre node will be put in) because it isn't cost effective. It would cost around £30,000 and only 8-9 premises would benefit.
2. It is not technically possible to close the gap in the loop that covers the area.
3. 4G coverage will be better than satellite but there are restrictions and unfortunately it won't work everywhere. It is affected by other electronics.

4. There has been no survey of properties in the area. Network may be covering areas which are no longer inhabited because the network is old.

For any queries contact George Chandler at [broadband@kent.gov.uk](mailto:broadband@kent.gov.uk) or contact Adam Jastrzebski

Action - clerk to provide George Chandler with Jack Scutt contact details.

Roger Clarke thanked George for the wonderful insight as to what is going to happen, appropriate applause was given.

The time and date of the next meeting is Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm at Parsonage Farm after the AGM

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_