

Therfield Parish Council

Parish Clerk Helen Stubbing

Therfieldclerk2@gmail.com

Chairman Andy Osbourne



Draft Minutes of Therfield Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th January 2020 at 7.30pm at Therfield Chapel.

Present: Cllrs; C Close, J Duncan, L Laing, M McGloin, (Chair) D Whitby and S Whitby.

In attendance: H Stubbings (Clerk) Cllr G Morris and 6 members of the public.

1.01.20	To receive apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Cllrs A Osbourne & S Jarvis. Cllr M McGloin took the Chair	
2.01.20	To receive Members Declarations of Interest. - None	
3.01.20	To approve the Minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council held on 12 th November 2019 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them as a true record. The approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr C Close and seconded by Cllr J Duncan - resolved.	
4.01.20	Matters Arising not appearing on the agenda a) Community lunch – the inaugural lunch had been a successful, enjoyable event, the attendance of the children had been appreciated. Date for the next lunch to be 12 th February 2020. There are five other proposed dates, including April and VE Day. A donation towards the use of the crockery has been requested from the Fordham Memorial Hall Committee. b) VE Day celebrations – Cllr J Duncan is in contact with local organisations and a planning meeting will be held on 23 rd January. Themes or suggestions for the event were requested. c) Website development; discussions moving forward with further action to be considered	JD MM
5.01.20	Chairman's Report. The Chairman's report was read out highlighting the potential Luton Airport expansion, Community lunch, the Parish Council's use of 'Chatter', data from the SID device installed in the village, ongoing communications with the Conservators and the setting of the Precept.	
6.01.20	To invite Members of the Public to address the meeting. No comments from Parishioners.	
7.01.20	To discuss matters relating to North Herts and Herts CC. Cllr G Morris had attended the Highways meeting; items discussed included LED lighting which can be radio controlled. Street lighting in rural areas is not obligatory and on new developments may be rejected especially in rural areas. The North Herts Growth and Transport Plan was discussed and is under consultation. The process for handling of waste & recycling and where it goes is to be rationalised. Those interested or affected by planning may be assisted by the National Design Guidance document. Cllr Morris advised that he had been appointed to the Cabinet for Environment. Topics currently under discussion include the use of domestic garages; electric charging points and tree planting.	
8.01.19	To discuss matters relating to Heaths & Greens. The Chair Summarised the current position and actions that had been taken up to this point. The Parish Council had tried to gain ownership of the Greens in Therfield, or on a peppercorn rent from the owners. Views gathered of residents surrounding Hay Green through three separate surveys had clearly shown that residents wanted the grass cut short as it had been in the past. The Parish Council wanted to be more involved with the day to day management of the Hay and Chapel Green, to be able to use a contractor of	

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	<p>their choice and plan the frequency of cuts, retaining the 5metre strip that NHDC cut, plus pathways across Hay Green that residents cut if wished. This was also in an effort to ease the burden of cost from the Conservators.</p> <p>The Chair then put to vote the following three options.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Accept the proposal of the Conservators – to cut the Greens just 3 times a year. Accept the Conservators proposal but with conditions; i.e. more shorter cuts, an annual review, and on a 5year basis. Reject the proposal. <p>Standing Orders were suspended to allow for an open discussion with Parishioners and representatives of the Conservators.</p> <p>Following dialogue, it was proposed that a total four representatives from the Conservators and Therfield Parish Council meet in an effort to work harmoniously together and to come up with an acceptable plan.</p> <p>Standing Orders were resumed.</p> <p>The Parish Council agreed to reject Proposal A but to accept Proposal B subject to the following:-</p> <p>Therfield Parish Council accept the proposal from Cynthia Coombe, Clerk to the Conservators, dated 10th January 2020, IF the following points are agreed,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There be a seasonal review of the arrangement at the November Parish Council Meeting. The council holds the right to immediately end the agreement if the maintenance of the Hay Green was unacceptable. The agreement should last for 5 years. With any changes to it being agreed by both the council and the conservators. The reputable contractor, for the 3 cuts the parish council are paying for, should be instructed by the parish council. The Conservators will supply 3 cut to the green, Therfield Parish Council will supply 3 cuts to the green. <p>Proposed Cllr M McGloin, 2nd Cllr L Laing – resolved</p>	
9.01.20	<p>To discuss and approve the Draft 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>A draft budget for 2020-21 had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The levels of expenditure were discussed; the sum of £1,000 allocated for additional grass cutting was reduced to £400 making the total expenditure for the year of £5,736. Expenditure for events such as VE Day could be resourced from Reserves.</p> <p>Based on the above recommendations the budget for 2020-21 was proposed by Cllr J Duncan, 2d by Cllr D Whitby and - resolved</p>	
10.01.20	<p>To discuss and agree the Precept for 2020-2021.</p> <p>Based on the implications of the budget the Parish Council proposed that the Precept for 2020-21 should be £6,000. This is based on a tax base of 262.9. CTRS grant of £282.63. The overall increase to a Band D property for 2020-21 will be 0.26% being a cost of £21.75.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr S Whitby, 2nd Cllr D Whitby - resolved</p>	
11.01.20	<p>Accounts for payment. Including; NHDC; dog bins, R Clegg, H Stubbings salary, Herts independent living; lunches.</p> <p>Total of £906.00 Proposed by Cllr M McGloin, 2nd by Cllr L Laing – agreed</p>	
12.01.20	<p>To discuss matters relating to the Playground and school access.</p> <p>Regular checks continue; NB the second swing seat is showing signs of cracking and may need to be replaced later in the year.</p> <p>The FOTS have asked the Parish Council for a donation towards the cost of automating the school gate. It was proposed by Cllr M McGloin, 2nd Cllr L Laing that £250 be donated to the school for this project - agreed</p>	
Playpark		
School		

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13.01.20	To discuss matters relating Foot Paths and Parish Paths Partnership. a) There has been no action or response to the reported damaged and missing foot-path signs. Cllr S Whitby will provide the Clerk with a list of outstanding tasks and suggested improvements on foot paths for 2020 as a benchmark for review over the year. A letter will be sent to the Parish Paths Partnership with a view to progressing outstanding issues. b) A letter will be sent to the Goddard's advising them that the rotten bench that they own will be removed if it is not repaired. c) The date of the Spring Litter Pick was confirmed for the 21 st March 2020.	Clerk Clerk
14.01.20	Highways including Church Lane & the pre-school. a) The Police had been called to Church Lane following an altercation amongst parents outside the pre-school. The Parish Council will write to the pre-school, about the problem, reminding parents that they may use the pub car park and to be respectful of residents. b) Reed End flooding is still happening. c) A wish list of repairs and improvements to village roads etc for 2020 will be reviewed over the year. d) Installation of 2 nd SID?	Clerk SJ/ GH SJ
15.01.20	To discuss any Planning applications. a) Lammas Cottage; revised plans, no further comment. b) White Horse House; conservatory to permanent building- no objection. The Parish Council have been made aware that a lake situated in Rooks Nest Farm is overflowing and causing flooding along Dane End, residents there have had to erect sandbags to stop the water entering properties. It was agreed that this is an Environmental matter.	
16.01.20	To receive matters for report and or referral to next agenda (Information only) a) Royston District Transport	
17.01.20	Note correspondence received/sent. Cycle Trials – there had been a response from PC Brabrook; authorisation for some races is required but he was not sure if that was so for a hill climb event.	
	Date of next meetings – 3 rd March, 5 th May, 7 th July, 8 th September and 10 th November. Annual Parish meeting 21 st May	

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

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