

Therfield Parish Council



Parish Clerk Sarah Wylie
7 Tuthill Court Therfield
SG8 9TT

Therfieldclerk2@gmail.com

Chairman Andy Osbourne

MINUTES

Below are minutes taken from the meeting of Therfield Parish Council on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at Therfield Chapel.

0781 4318865 Therfieldclerk2@gmail.com

Present: Cllr Andy Osbourne (Chairman), Cllr Linda Laing (Vice-Chair), Cllr Clive Close, Cllr David Whitby, Cllr Sally Whitby.

In attendance: Clerk to the Council Sarah Wylie.

Members of the public: Betty Hartley, Mike Hartley, Cllr Gerald Morris, Cat Wright the Ranger and Conservation Manager of Therfield Heath and Greens.

Also - Eco Hub (REG Power) (Billy Taylor, Sheena Mann, Matt Partridge)
Community Payback (Nicolette Rawlings, Sam Watson)

Apologies for absence: Cllr Julia Duncan, Cllr Steve Jarvis, Cllr Tim Jeffries.

1.03.23	To receive and approve apologies for absence. Julia Duncan, Steve Jarvis, Tim Jeffries. AO proposed LL seconded.
2.03.23	To receive members' declaration of any pecuniary interest connected to the agenda. None.
3.03.23	To approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 10th January, and to authorise the Chairman to sign them as a true record. AO proposed LL seconded.
4.03.23	To invite members of the public to address the meeting. Betty Hartley - potholes - AO to chase Steve Jarvis.
5.03.23	To discuss matters relating to North Herts and Herts CC.

- Community payback presentation. Sam and Nicolette. They will provide a supervisor, a van and up to 8 people on probation - 40 - 300 hours community service. Do an initial assessment and then decided what is to be done. Lots of clearing Church yards etc... BENCH. Each person is risk assessed. Need facilities - toilets, breaks. Each project is strictly managed. Good to be seen to be doing something to rehabilitate people on probation and give back to society. All councillors voted in favour. What projects? Most likely the clearing of Washing Ditch. AO to contact Sam and Nicolette.
- Gerald Morris - overhanging trees at Tuthill Court. Has been in contact with Neil Hardman. NHDC - issued a dangerous trees order - 2017 - happened then - Vaughan and Carl Wilkins. GM to pursue.
Council tax up by 3%.
Purple bin collection to be every three weeks from 2025.
Brown bin charge to go up to £49 from £41.
CC raised the problem of overhanging trees on Hay Green.
- Thames Water reply - not satisfactory. AO organising a specialist to get the statistics together and keep pushing.
- Gateways progress. SJ has got these into the Budget for 2023 - 2024. Therfield sign - would we like this to be on the gateway itself? Council agreed unanimously to this idea. AO to implement a temporary fix meanwhile.
LL - raised the question if the Gateways were to negate the 20's Plenty? To be renegotiated after the Gateways implementation.
Lynx bus - is now running until 11pm on Fridays and Saturdays.
Vote taken on 20mph around village - not adopted. However, majority vote was for 20mph outside school.
- Eco Hub - Grouptech - Matt Partridge, Sheena Mann and Billy Taylor. REG Power development. Project responds to the government request for renewable power. Falls into the domain of South Cambs but it is close to Therfield Parish. Solar Panels (with perhaps sheep grazing underneath) and a charging station. Presentation will be sent to us all. No landscaping stipulations. Horse and Groom application is entirely separate. Will plant trees to soften the appearance of the site. Maybe some kind of payback to the local community? Are going to put in planning within the month - if all goes well, looking to start in early 2024.

6.03.23	<p>To discuss matters relating to Heath and Greens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cat Wright introduced herself as the Ranger to Therfield Heath. • Conservators meeting and report. Clerk to ask the Bullards to cut the whole of Hay Green - SW has been to look at the road junction - Hay Green to Hoops Lane (36). It is deeply rutted and needs repair. Should be some progress. • Chapel Green - CW suggested a cut to Rush Green which would be spread onto Chapel Green, hoping to create a wildflower meadow. Cat to do soil analysis study beforehand to decide feasibility. • Local residents would prefer it to be cut short - their opinion has been noted. • Green outside the Fox and Duck - Clive Hall to confirm what is to replace the old broken path which has been dug up.
7.03.23	<p>To hear from the Financial Officer including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly totals, approval for expenses and invoices received and for prior approval. AO proposed and LL seconded. • Finance report. AO proposed LL seconded. • Bank reconciliation. AO proposed SW seconded. • Standing Orders. Approved. AO proposed and SW seconded. • Terms of reference. Approved. AO proposed and signed and LL seconded. • Clerk salary. AO proposed and SW seconded.
08.03.23	<p>To hear reports from the nominated representatives for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Highways and Police. 2. "20s Plenty". Refer to point 05.03.2023. Debbie Jeffries is to attend the DriveSafe workshop in Letchworth with DW. 3. School speeding posters. AO has been in contact with PC Hannah Moss who will advise on a decision to adopt a particular poster. Highways - CC to mention potholes...AO and DW to action. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpaths. 26 Hay Green and Hoops Lane. Chapel Green flooded. SW and SJ have met - The River Rib is being blocked. Rights of Way are doing it after the fish breeding season. • Planning, AED: to discuss any planning items lodged by date of meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tuthill. Has been refused but they are eligible to contest it.

	<p>2. Reference 23/00263/FPH. No comment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other items: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coronation Celebration - discussion on Fordham Hall offer. The Council are funding a new bench in honour of the coronation. 2. Trevor Sharp - Boteman trustee. AO proposed - all Council seconded. 3. Benches are ordered. Clerk to chase the lead time. 4. Dismantling of the Beacon - progress. Reg Noades is talking with Tom Kingsley - happy to do it between them - in progress - decision soon. 5. Gritting and Reg Noades - progress - no new gritter yet but is thinking about getting one - he needs to get some prices together, then meet with the Council. 6. LL - a Mill Lane resident would like to plant a tree up Mill Lane near the Jubilee planting. Rosemary Campbell has got more trees from the Woodland Trust. Lady to liaise with Rosemary Campbell. 7. Further investigation into dog excrement being thrown onto the Mill Lane path from adjoining field. AO is pursuing. 8. Arthur Foulser has informed the Chair that Highways have theoretically agreed to siting of village sign on Mill Lane corner. Exact position to be agreed in consultation with landowner regarding vehicular access to Hitches Field and PC. This is not a PC funded project.
09.03.23	To receive matters for report and/or referral to next agenda (info only). None.
10.03.23	Note correspondence received. None.
11.03.23	To confirm date of next meeting. May 16 th 2023. Meeting ended at 9.11pm.

Signed Chair:

Clerk.....