

THORNER PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 08th
October 2024 at the Over 60's Bungalow, Main Street, Thorner.

Present;

Councillors: A.Scott (Chair), V.Forster, J.LeRoy, A.Wallis and C.Wilson.

In attendance: Clerk to the Council; Barry Riley.

2 members of the public were in attendance for parts of the meeting.

1.Apologies.

Councillors Brittain and Llewellyn.

The reasons for not attending were accepted.

2.Ethical Code.

No interests were disclosed.

3.Minutes.

The minutes of the previous Parish Council meetings, were approved and signed by the Chair Councillor Scott.

4.Admission of the public and press and representations.

a) There was no person wishing to record the meeting.

b) A member of the public made a representation not notified to the Clerk before the meeting, about the appearance of Westfield (the field opposite the Beehive), near to the Ford to the left at the start of Westfield Lane. He commented that there was a build up of thick grasses and weeds in the field and it was unsightly. In the past the field was cut for hay, but he suspected the tenant farmer had given up, as there was a plan to flood the field as part of the flood prevention work. When the field had become flooded it had an effect on his home and although he had contacted Leeds CC, he had not received a response. He was informed that the Parish Council were unable to act concerning the maintenance and appearance of the field but could report his concerns to the agents for the landowners (Mexborough Estate), subject to him providing photographic evidence.

c) There were no representations notified to the Clerk before the meeting.

d) No Ward Councillor in attendance.

5.Confidentiality.

There were no agenda items requiring discussion that would require the exclusion of the public and press.

6.Police.

The link for reporting non-emergency crimes or Anti-social behaviour is

www.westyorkshire.police.uk

The link for the Police web site-

<https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/west-yorkshire-police/leeds-north-east/>

Councillor Scott commented that there were 5 crimes recorded in August 2024.

There were 3 for public order, 1 for criminal damage and arson and 1 other crime for violence and sexual offence.

Community Alert scheme.

<https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/west-yorkshire-community-alert>

7.Planning applications/appeals/enforcement action, received.

7.1 Members duly noted the information provided in the planning log.

8.Financial Matters.

8.1 Members were informed about the payments for October 2024;

Resolved: that the following be approved and passed for payment:

Accounts for Payment:

Date prepared	Oct-24			
EFT Type	Details	Net	VAT	Total
S/Order	B Riley- Clerk Salary	£935.11		£935.11
BACS	British Telecom - Phone	£36.00	£7.20	£43.20
BACS	Nest - Pension	£63.56		£63.56
BACS	J&D Groundworks	£525.00		£525.00
D/Debit	HSBC - Bank Charges	£8.00		£8.00
	Total Payments	£1,567.67	£7.20	£1,574.87

8.2 Members were in agreement with the content of the monthly budget monitor and bank reconciliation report for appropriate governance.

8.3 The quarterly budget report was received and agreed.

The Clerk in his capacity as the Responsible Financial Officer, provided the Chair, Councillor Scott, with the bank statements to enable him to confirm that the balances agreed with those on the monthly budget monitor and bank reconciliation report, he confirmed that they did.

9. Action Plan.

The updated report was issued to members for approval.

The relevant actions completed and to be undertaken were noted and agreed.

The latest version would be updated on the website.

10. Matters arising from previous minutes.

Members noted the information received from Helen Knight, the Leeds CC FRM (Flood Risk Management), Engineer for Investigations, who had advised that the Highways contractors had been in Thorner and the dropped kerb on Main Street had now been raised. The resurfacing works on the other side of the road near the gully outside number 3 Main Street, had been completed. The ditch on Kirkhills had also now been cleared. Councillor Scott was thanked for his contribution in responding to residents' concerns and his persistence resulting in alleviation works taking place. Having been provided with the quote received (minute 12.a. 10th September 2024), for work to be carried out on the hedges/border on Millennium Green, it was agreed to accept it. The Clerk would oversee the work in accordance with minute 17. (14.c.) 13th August 2024 and minute 8.6 10th September 2024.

Due to the existing contract not being extended (minute 17. 10th September 2024), the Clerk had begun the process of issuing the revised schedule to potential contractors, requesting quotes and responding to enquiries in accordance with his usual duties. In addition to such duties, he would also oversee arrangements to meet with contractors (Councillors would be invited to attend), to confirm what was required and provide a report to Full Council on completion but in time for the budget discussion.

11. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Following completion of the survey, the inspector had raised some questions which the Steering Group would address and await a response from the inspector for matters to be progressed.

12. To consider any new correspondence received and decide action where necessary.

Nothing to be considered.

13.To receive reports from outside bodies.

None received.

14.To receive a report from the Clerk or Councillors, on any new or ongoing minor matters.

a. It was noted that due to the Grounds Maintenance Contract not being carried out as expected some areas of the Boules Court had not been maintained therefore an interim measure to prune the roses would be arranged. The damaged wooden benches were offered to a resident in attendance at the meeting.

b. Having considered re-positioning the defibrillator to the Boules Shelter following its removal from 'The Fox' public house due to renovation work being carried out, it was agreed not to do so. A new cabinet, which was in the possession of the Parish Council, would be offered to replace the existing one.

c. The Clerk was due to arrange to meet with a contractor to specify what repairs to the playground needed to be carried out. When confirmed he would invite Councillors to attend.

The Clerk informed members that he had received an FOI (Freedom of Information), request from a resident who wanted all the information (monetary and meeting minutes), from the moment the Parish Council was formed until present day. The Clerk considered this an unreasonable (as there was no known date of formation) and demanding (the amount of time to copy all archived minutes held) request but had supplied the electronic meeting records from 2012 to present and the monthly accounts from 2014 to present (although only six years were required to be kept to comply with HMRC guidelines).

The Clerk informed members that he had received an enquiry from the same resident mentioned above, for the vacant position of Parish Councillor, which was to be filled by co-option. Although the applicant had been invited to this meeting, he had not attended.

15.To notify the Clerk of matters for inclusion on the next Agenda.

No notifications received.

16.Date of next meeting.

Resolved; that the next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 12th November 2024 in the Over 60's Bungalow, Main Street, Thorner.

17.Matters to be discussed at the exclusion of the public and press.

Recent adverse social media posts about the Parish Council, were unfounded and were more about residents and the public not appreciating that the Council had statutory procedures that needed to be adhered to and cannot discriminate in favour of those who adhere to procedure and those who consider it bureaucratic.

Signed
Chair Thorner Parish Council

Date.....

The meeting closed at 8.44pm.