THURLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in Thurleigh Village Hall on Monday 8th March 2010.

Present: Cllrs Mr D Goodyear, Mr S Hubbard, Mrs A Smith, Mr M Thompson, Mr M Towler
Cllr Mrs J Walker (Bedford Borough Council)
W. A Boddington (Clerk)
Members of the public, Ian Soaft, (EIN), Mr. Ffolliott Fisher & Graham White (Rural Grunch)

1, Apologies for Absence
Cllr S. Amodio

2, Declarations of Interests
Cllr Goodyear is a member of the Village Hall committee and Playing Field Committee.
Cllr Smith is a member of the Harvey Trust.
Cllr Thompson is the Parish Council representative to the Thurleigh Free School Trust and a member of the Youth Club committee.
Cllr Amodio is the Chairman of the Playing Field Association.
Cllr Hubbard is a Governor of Thurleigh Lower School

3, Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2010: The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

4, Matters arising from the minutes:
4a Village Garden:
An ornamental Maple tree has been bought and planted in memory of Arthur Hart to replace the original one that had been vandalised.

4b Hazardous waste containers in the High Street
Cllr Walker reported that she has now received a complaint from the neighbour of this residence with regard to the state of the property which is reported to now be infested with vermin. Beds Borough Council has therefore issued the owner with notice to clear the site by the end of March. JW

4c Election/Co-option of a new Parish Councillor (09/09/8k):
Mr. ffolliott Fisher attended the meeting and put himself forward for the vacant position of Parish Councillor. Cllr A. Smith proposed the co-option of Mr Fisher seconded by Cllr Towler, this proposal was then unanimously passed by the Council.

Mr Fisher went on to sign his Declaration of Acceptance.

4d Rural Transport Provision Meeting:
Cllr Walker reported that this was convened to find out what the Parishes in N. Beds wished to see develop and this process will be carried forward. One proposal put forward was for a feeder system of smaller buses from outlying villages providing a feeder service to larger communities where they will link up
with main bus routes that run into the towns.

5. Finance

5a Financial Report:
The Financial report to the end of February has been circulated to all councillors.

It was brought to their attention that a second cheque in favour of Riverdale Stone had to be reissued as they mislaid the first (694) which was then cancelled. Riverdale Stone are the contractors for the Memorial Garden project.

5b 2010/2011 Budget Proposal

The Budget for 2010/11 was presented for approval which included the proposal to increase the Clerks hours from 12 to 16 per month, this was proposed by the Cllr Thompson and seconded by Cllr Towler and was then unanimously approved by the Council.

5c Rural Grunch, Review of payments for 2010/11:

A review was made of the costs involved for the Parish Council in sponsoring a Thurleigh Supplement for a further year. Graham White agreed to revert to the Parish Council with fresh proposals as it is considered that the current expenditure is above that which the council is prepared to commit.

5d Grass Cutting Quotes for 2010:

Five quotes have been received and circulated to all Parish Councillors, it was therefore proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Goodey to accept the quotes given by Bill Peet & Son and A.R.Worboys Ltd., this proposal was then unanimously approved by the Council.

5e Village Community Minibus Donation for approval:

The Chair is to check on past payments but a donation was unanimously agreed to be paid as per previous arrangements.

5f Scheduled Payments made since previous meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cheque</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riverdale Stone</td>
<td>695</td>
<td>£4600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassroots Publications</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>£92.60</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

5g It was resolved to make the following payments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cheque</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invoice from Clerk for salary &amp; expenses</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>£285.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancelled</td>
<td>698</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invoice from Riverdale Stone</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>£4700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invoice from Grassroots Publications</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>£52.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invoice from C. Smith, Tree for Village Garden</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>£41.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invoice from A. Smith, Gift for C. Wiggins, Website services</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>£25.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5h Moneys Received:

£4600 to be credited by Rural Grant Committee with respect to Memorial Garden

5i Risk Assessment:
Standard Risk Assessment reviewed and agreed

5j Internal Financial Controls:
Reviewed and agreed

6. Highways

6a Work as per Action Plan:
1. The road markings outside the school have been painted and warning signals fitted to
   the School road signs.
   The Highways Dept is upgrading the footpath to the rear of the school from the Village Hall
   as part of the Safer Route to Schools Scheme.
2. The owners of the overgrown hedge in the High Street have now been given notice by
   the Highways Dept to take measures to trim it back from the footpath.

6b Proposed move of Bus stops and erection of shelter, awaiting response from Jonathan Farr
   Public Transport Team leader, Transport Operations, Bedford Borough Council, to latest
   correspondence d/d 15/2/10

6c Street Lighting.
Recommendation put forward to Stewart Briggs (director of environment & sustainable
   communities), requesting that he consider a change to Borough Policy about putting timers
   on new street lights. Response received indicating that that current policy is to be reviewed
   in due course and Parishes will be consulted.
Cllr Walker reported that she had received encouraging indications that current policy
   would indeed be reviewed and better controls on street lighting would be considered.

6d Highways approached re a ‘Pedestrians on Road’ sign for the stretch of road between the
   Village and Cross End, ref 11501. It has been reported that this will be done in the new
   financial year.

6e Missing ‘Keep Left’ bollard in the cutting on Milton Road reported to Highways, ref 108799.
   This is still outstanding.

6f Overgrown hedges on Robins Folly, ref 110496, progress on this is still outstanding
   however the owners involved have been notified by the Highways Dept.

6g A large pot hole, ref 116601, was reported near the access to Star Events in Milton Road,
   this has been filled.

6h The blocked drain, ref 110640, reported to still be blocked, Highways to be informed

6i The Parish Council received a report from the residents of Cross End Lane with regard to
   the poor condition of the road surface. This has been forwarded to Beds Highways Dept
   and an official response is awaited. It transpires that this road has not been ‘adopted’ by
   the local authority but has the status of public Byway, Cllr Walker is to follow this up. Cllr
   Goodyear suggested that the owners of the properties on Cross End Lane consult their
   land certificates as to the ownership of the road.

7. Web Site

7a Village Welcome Pack, Cllr Hubbard has received a hardcopy from Cris Wiggins
   and is now in the process of updating it

8. Parish Plan

S.H.
8a Ward Funds have been awarded for the supply of two additional Dog Waste Bins which are expected to be supplied in the near future.

Clerk

On the issue of dog waste, there is a continuing problem with dog fouling in the Village and again dog owners are asked to utilise the dog waste bins provided or take the waste home with them. Offending dog owners could be faced with fines.

9. Planning Applications & Decisions

9a 10/01258/FUL, Energy Recovery Facility, Twinwoods Business Park:

M. Towler

Additional information has been supplied and application will go before the Planning Committee in due course.

The Parish Council has resubmitted its previous concerns, principally with the anticipated increase in traffic volumes to the site and concerns re air pollution generated.

Cllr Towler reported an increase in lighting on the site and is to make enquiries regarding this.

9b 10/00332/FUL, Erection of Security Fence and Gatehouse, Coombelands Park.

Cllr Smith has visited the site which is to be used for car valleting and storage etc and was formerly located on the Airfield Business Park.

Cllrs raised concerns with the resultant increase in traffic volumes to this site on the Milton Road whose surface has already deteriorated alarmingly over the winter period.

9c 10/00371/FUL, Erection of single storey side and rear extensions to bungalow. Porch to front, The Pyghtle, Robins Folly:

Cllr Towler raised concerns with the resultant appearance to the property but otherwise Council had no objections.

9d 10/00239/FUL, Retention of existing 2.4m high palisade, Jacksons Demolition, Keysoe Road:

No objections raised

9e 10/001688/S73, Construction of enclosed patio, 9 – 11 Mill Road:

Reservations from Cllr Towler were submitted

9f 10/00119/FUL, Dormers and porch to front elevation and new brick plinth, 5 Cross End:

No objections raised.

9g 10/00236/FUL, Construction of hardstanding, Jacksons Demolition, Keysoe Road:

Already carried out

9h 09/03033/FUL, Change of land to keeping horses and erection of hay store:

Granted

9i 09/00814/M73, Change of land to contractors depot, College Farm:

Granted
9j  09/02796/M73, Car park access and fencing, Farm Centre:  
  Granted

10. Correspondence
10a  Beds Borough Council Standards Committee Minutes for circulation  
     Clerk
10b  Rural Affairs Committee Minutes for circulation  
     Clerk
10c  February’s correspondence file to be returned to the Clerk  
     Clerk
10d  Correspondence from Bedfordshire Wolds re the Parish Council’s adoption of the Interpretation Board will be put on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting  
     Clerk

11. Village Welfare
11a  Memorial Garden:  
     Work is progressing well with the Memorial Garden, the first payment of £4600 has been paid and refund received from the Rural Grants Committee, the second payment of £4700 is now due.  
     Cllr Fisher reported that the concrete path leading to the Garden will be gravel bonded to give it a more pleasing appearance.

11b  Allotments:  
     Only one application has been received and so no further action at this time will be taken.

11c  Hudson Kappel:  
     A generous contribution has been made to Thurleigh Football Club.

11d  Palmers Autosports:  
     A generous contribution has been made to Thurleigh Football Club from their Charity Fund.  
     Future summer evening events to be held at the track finishing at 8 p.m are reported to be the same as that which took place in previous years.

11e  The status of the footpath and hedge running adjacent to the playing field.  
     This subject deferred until next Parish Council Meeting as Cllr involved is not present.

11f  Environment Improvement Network:  
     Ian Soaft Chairman of the Thurleigh Environment Improvement Network addressed the meeting in order to update councillors on progress. A selection of detailed maps of the area has now been received from the Beds Rights of Way Officer Francine Rainbow.  
     Due to the recent inclement weather, progress surveying the public paths in the Parish has been held up but the group have walked the path from Park End Farm through Robins Folly to the Village. A report on the problems found has been submitted to the Rights of Way Officer.  
     A suitable hedge strimmer will be hired at £35.00 per day in order to clear overgrown
footpaths and permission has been sought from local farmers to progress this, however it is recommended that prior notice be given to them before undertaking such activities. Additional volunteers to this group are very welcome

9, Date of next meeting (Annual Meeting):
Monday 10th May 2010 at 19:30 in the Village Hall.
Meeting closed at 21:45

These minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.
Signature……………………………… Date …./…./…..