THURLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Thurleigh Social Club on Monday 9th August 2010.

Present: Cllrs: Mrs A. Smith, Mr. D. Goodyear, Mr S Hubbard, Mr M Thompson & Mr M Towler
Cllr Mrs J Walker (Bedford Borough Council)
W. A Boddington (Clerk)

Members of the public:
Ian Soaft, EIN
Elaine & Ellis Rich

1. Apologies for Absence:
Cllrs Mrs S. Amodio & Mr. F. Fisher

2. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th August:
The minutes were approved and signed as a true record

3. Declaration of Interests:
Cllr Goodyear is a member of the Playing Field Committee and Environmental Improvement Network.
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.
Cllr Fisher is a member of the Village Hall Committee

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

4a Village Welcome Pack:
In progress and expected to be completed by Christmas

4b Site meeting with BHPA:
No response has yet been received to this request. Approach Director of BHPA if this remains the case.

4c Re-Ordering of St. Peter’s:
At a meeting attended by Cllrs Smith, Fisher & the Clerk, it would appear that the PCC will be proceeding with the provision of a new heating system and measures taken to secure the Vestry area so that items of value may be made secure and then allow for the Church to be left open for members of the public.

As regards to proceeding with a meeting area within the Church it was pointed out that the village already had The Village Hall and Social Club competing for such activities and that lack of parking may also be problematic.

4d Goods Vehicle License Re College Farm:
The Parish Council’s objection to this application was rejected by The Office of
the Traffic Commissioner on the grounds that the Parish Council is neither the owners nor occupiers of land in the vicinity of the proposed operating centre.

The Borough Council were not aware of this application until it was brought to their attention by Cllr Walker and subsequently have therefore looked into whether this application is in compliance with Planning Permission 09/00814/M73.

The anomalies that this application thrown up will be put to the constituency MP for his consideration.

5. Finance

5a Financial Report:
Accounts to the end of August were circulated. A Bank reconciliation will be circulated on receipt of the next Bank Statement.

5b Thurlleigh Lower School request for funds:
A Rural Grant application was given to the school to be endorsed by the Parish Council for submission to the Rural Grant Committee, it is understood that this was mislaid and a new application has been requested. They have also received a Ward Members Fund Application forms courtesy of Cllr Walker.

5c Scheduled payments made since previous meeting:
Chiltern Hire - £85.19 – EIN (Cheque 721)
Worboys - £235.80 – Grass cutting (Cheque 722)

5d Moneys received since previous meeting:
PCC - £3681.95 – Final settlement re The Memorial Garden

5e It was resolved to make the following payments:
Invoice from Clerk for salary & expenses (Cheque 725) £202.18
Invoice from Bill Peet & Son, Grasscutting (Cheque 726) £650.05
Invoice from Grassroots Publications, ‘Rural Grunch’ (Cheque 723) £23.50

5f Risk Assessment:
Standard Risk Assessment reviewed and agreed

5g Internal Financial Controls:
Reviewed and agreed

6. Highways

6a Action Plan:
Discussion re the items listed.
Obstruction of Water Course, 52 Keysoe Road

This is with the Highways Dept

Driving over footways, 53 High Street:

Representation received from the residents of this property. It has been pointed out that this was an issue identified by the representative from the Highways Dept and not the Parish Council.

Hedge at 27 High Street:

The residents of this property addressed the meeting with regard to the hedge and alleged that the footpath has over time encroached onto their property and that the path has never been the mandatory width of 1.4 mtrs. A request was made that a weight and width restriction be introduced for this section of road due to the accidents and near misses on this corner. Cllr Walker pointed out that under the Freight Strategy for Bedford Borough, HGVs are supposed to keep to recommended routes and it is in their interests to avoid narrow rural roads. However with local interests in the Parish who operate HGVs it may be impractical to impose restrictions.

Physical changes to the road configuration on the corner to make it less hazardous were at best unlikely due to current fiscal constraints.

Apologies were made that there seemed to have been a failure in communication with the parties involved and that this is to be avoided in future and it is appreciated that further efforts to prune the hedge back further from the path are to be made.

A Litter Pick on the 9th October will be entered on the Calendar

8. Parish Plan

EIN:

Ian Soaft addressed the meeting with an update on the Environment Improvement Network’s activities. Committee has been given confirmation that Borough Council are still confident that requested trees will be provided later in the year and it has been established that a local Apple Tree is called Laxton, either Fortune or Superb, we will go back to Ed Burnett to ascertain if he can supply at least one of these for the village garden.

An account is now up and running at Chiltern Hire enabling suitable equipment to be hired for path clearing. One hiring has taken place and committee have learned from this experience.

On turning up at the proposed clearing site we found the Council had been along a few days before and cleared footpath 1, however the path around the reservoir was cleared and the brook from footpath one and bridleway over to Manor Farm.

A Schedule of works from Beds Borough Council has now been provided in order to prevent future problems.
Bridleway near Red Gate Farm which had just been cleared by Council has now been ploughed up. Farmer has been given 14 days to replace. We have been asked if the leaflet ‘Treks around Thurleigh’ is still available. Copies are to be sourced and then hopefully made available at various outlets in the Parish. There is now a link on the walks section of the Village Website to the Council Maps to assist walkers.

9. Planning Applications & Decisions
9a 10/01740/FUL, Erection of wooden shed, Park End House:
   Nil objections. Cllr Goodyear declared an Interest.
9b 10/01820/FUL, Lower the kerb outside the property to provide off road parking for two vehicles, 5 Keysoe Road:
   Nil objections
9c 10/01524/ext, Erection of detached double garage and garden store with 1st floor roof space, The Cottage, Cross End Lane:
   Granted
9d 10/01496/ADY, Erection of sign at entrance to Airfield Business park:
   Granted

10. Correspondence
10a As per file circulated
10b Bugle for circulation

11. SNT
11a Crime statistics as provided, circulated to all Cllrs.
11b Reports of speeding through the village have been reported. It is thought these may be linked to recent thefts from ‘scrappage’ cars on the airfield. SNT have been informed

12. Village Welfare
12a Footpath 1;
   DSD now maintaining this with a regular program see 8a.
12b Mayors Visit:
   Mayor D. Hodgson visited village Saturday, feedback awaited
12c Mud on Keysoe Road:
   Following reports re above, the Highways Dept was informed and a sweeper was despatched to clean up. This was following late night work by contractors harvesting straw bales from adjacent fields.
13, Date of next meeting:
Monday 8th November at 19:30 in the Village Hall.
Meeting closed at 21:00

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