

THORNHACKETT PARISH COUNCIL

At 6.30pm, prior to the Council meeting, members of Sustainable Thornford gave a presentation on the results of their public consultation and Green Action Plan. They presented the 6 main findings:

- a) Flooding – at each end of the village. They had approached Dorset Council and the Environment Agency.
- b) Highways - 3 issues: Speeding and extending the 30mph limit and a 20mph zone. At the request of the Parish Council Highways Officers had visited and suggested sites for speed surveys.
- c) Bus Service. 83% of respondents indicated they would like regular, scheduled connectivity to neighbouring towns. The red bus and Nordcat were for pensioners only. The Wriggle Valley Bus Project seemed to be a possibility. It would need external funding which could be raised by events. The Parish Council was asked to liaise with the project leaders.
- d) Village Hall had obtained a grant of £5k from Voltalia for solar panels. A sub-committee was looking at the possibility of an air source pump.
- e) Wild Life and Habitats. Some trees had been planted, they hoped to plant more. There had been discussion of an avenue of trees towards Sherborne. Someone was needed to take on maintenance. Extra planting locations were being investigated. They were mapping hedgehog sitings, and looking to extend wild flower plantings. Installation of Bee bricks and swift boxes on new build and extensions.
- f) Cycle Routes – Looking at the possibility of a route between Thornford and Sherborne like the one between Bradford Abbas and Sherborne which is a National Cycle Route.

The Chairman thanked Sustainable Thornford for their presentation and noted that the Parish Council was already involved in several of these initiatives.

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th July 2024

Attendees: Cllrs. Hillier (Chairman), Whitsun-Jones(Vice-chair), Axten, Baxter, Bromell, Hoff, Rogers and Taylor-Wade,

Also in Attendance: Mrs S Hillier (Clerk), Cllr R Legg (Dorset Council), 19 members of the Public.

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed Councillors and in particular Cllr Hoff to his first meeting. Cllr Legg and members of the public were also welcomed. They were reminded that this was a meeting of the Council held in public but it was not a public meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence** - There were no apologies for absence.
3. **Declarations Of Interest:** No Declarations of Interest were received.
4. **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 19th June 2024:** These had been circulated. Cllr Whitsun-Jones noted that the name of the co-opted Councillor (Councillor Hoff) should be stated, this was agreed and the minutes were **accepted unanimously subject to this change**. Proposed Cllr Taylor-Wade Seconded Cllr Axten
5. **Matters Arising:** At the last meeting there had been mention of a Risk Management and Audit. The Chairman proposed a Working Group be established to look at this. The Chairman proposed that two Councillors be involved. Cllr Hoff had agreed to work on this and a second Councillor

would be appointed at a later date. Proposed Cllr Hillier, seconded Cllr Baxter. **Agreed unanimously.** A second invoice had been received re Internal Audit for changes to the way in which accounts were presented. Payment proposed by Cllr Whitsun-Jones, seconded Cllr Bromell **-carried unanimously**

6. **Co-Option of Councillors for Thornford and Beer Hackett:** Ben Keene (Beer Hackett) and Ian Robins (Thornford) addressed the meeting to give Councillors an outline of their background and interest in being Parish Councillors. Co-Option of Ben Keene was proposed by Cllr Hillier, seconded by Cllr Whitsun-Jones - **carried unanimously.** Co-option of Ian Robins was proposed by Cllr Baxter, seconded by Cllr Taylor-Wade **carried unanimously.**
7. **Public Forum** – An invoice was presented re the Thornford Defibrillators for payment. A question was raised regarding overgrown hedges – hedges belong to the land owner, but if the hedges cause a hazard or danger to the highway or footpath then Dorset Council could be informed and they will deal with the matter, problems can be reported on-line which generates a query number. Cllr Legg informed the meeting that at the Dorset Council meeting there was a proposal to alter the constitution on how Planning Applications can be referred to committee. If there are planning grounds and the Parish/Town Council requests referral it will go to committee, also if a Ward Councillor makes the request. There was a proposal to form area network committees involving police, NHS, Dorset Council and Town/Parish Councils to meet 4 times a year. Dorset was to receive a presentation on 20's Plenty. Cllr Legg also asked for opinions on the work at Dancing Hill junction, Sherborne. Residents present were not impressed and Cllr Bromell said that it was still difficult to leave the Thornford Road as visibility up the hill was poor.
8. **Thornford Halt Update** – John Parker presented a paper to Councillors showing progress to date. Analysis of survey data was still to be completed. A Councillor was needed to work with Mr Parker to progress the project. Cllr Whitsun-Jones suggested that an Independent Agency might be needed to explore the issue further. Mr Parker indicated that he had some contacts who might be able to scope the project and look at the practicalities of delivery.
9. **Contaminated Land Consultation:** Cllr Whitsun-Jones presented a response to the Dorset Council consultation. **Agreed**
11. **Speed Survey:** Cllr Hillier presented a report with recommendations on the Speed Indicator Device Project.
 1. To accept the recommendations of the Highways Officers and with traffic surveys at all four locations. Considering that 2 of these locations are to support initiatives that have not been assessed by Council this is not advised.
 2. To accept speed surveys 3 and 4 of the officer report. As this excludes a survey in the centre of the village this falls short of our aims and is not advised.
 3. To invite highways officers to a further meeting specifically to fulfil the remit of considering the best 2 or 3 locations for a SID and the speed surveys to support this.
 4. To decline the officer report and to take no further action regarding SIDs.
 5. To request that Dorset Council undertake traffic speed surveys at three locations in the village namely at either end of the village close to the start of the 30 mph restriction poles and at a third location in the middle of the village. To receive a report at a later date with the results of the speed surveys when the financial implications of any such scheme could be considered.

Recommended.

Following a discussion Cllr Baxter proposed an amendment to Recommendation 5
5 *To accept the recommendations of the Highways Officers with traffic surveys at sites 3 and 4. To commission them to select a third site, at their discretion, for a traffic test for a SID which we suggest should be in the vicinity of the junction of Boot Lane and the exit junction of the village hall/Boot Lane.*
– Proposed Cllr Baxter, seconded Cllr Hillier – **carried unanimously**. This became the substantive motion which was proposed by Cllr Hillier, seconded Cllr Hoff – **carried unanimously**

- 12. Finance Report – a)** A spread sheet of payments due had been circulated. The payments were explained. **Payments agreed.** b) Election costs would not be known until September, c) Grant Application from Thornford Church for assistance to pay for use of Village Hall for a ‘get together’/thank you on the leaving of Rev Tony Gilbert from the Parish. The sum applied for was £45 it was proposed by Cllr Baxter, seconded by Cllr Hoff to reduce this to £42.50 to bring it in line with policy – **carried unanimously**. The amended application for £42.50 was considered- proposed by Cllr Hillier, seconded Cllr Taylor-Wade – In favour 4 Against 5 payment of Grant **declined**. d) CIL Payments the Annual CIL payment summary form was presented – this was agreed.
- 13. Thornford Clock** - Two years ago the company who service the clock presented a report indicating that the Clock face and hands were in need of some refurbishment. The cost had now risen to £5255 plus the requirement for scaffolding at our expense. For the past 3 years we had budgeted £1500pa held in reserve towards this cost. Clerk requested to ask the company if a Cherry Picker would do instead of scaffolding and to clarify how long the scaffolding would be required and how would the movement be protected. Costs would need to be investigated.
- 14. New Footpath** – A footpath had been proposed by residents from Wingfield Place towards Lake to connect the village with several footpaths. This proposal had been passed to Dorset Council who had indicated that it would cost in excess of £20000 which the Parish Council would have to pay for if on the verge. It was suggested that Castle Estates be approached to see if they would consent to a ‘hoggin’ permissive path behind the hedge.

The Chairman suggested that the Guillotine be lifted to allow for the last item on the Agenda to be covered. – Agreed

15. Correspondence: a) Planning update had been circulated

BEER HACKETT

P/FUL/2024/01348 – Lower Farm, Beer Hackett Road, DT9 6QP Erect an agricultural building –
Withdrawn

P/PAAC/2024/02119 – Field West of Beer Hackett Road – Change of use of agricultural building to dwelling – **Prior Approval Refused**

THORNFORD

P/LBC/2024/02513 – Glebe Cottage, Church Road, DT9 6QE - Replace low chimney pots with taller items – **Granted**

P/LBC/2024/02908 – Vale Cottage, Pound Road DT9 6QB – Raise existing chimney – **Granted**

P/HOU/2024/02887 – Vale Cottage, Pound Road DT9 6QB – Raise existing chimney – **Granted**

P/NMA/2024/03279 – High Trees, Grange Park DT9 6QG - Non Material Amendment to Planning permission P/HOU/2022/04054 to install a 12kw air source heat pump – **Consultation closed. All Councillors declared a personal interest as the applicant was known to them.**

P/TRT/2024/03921 – Thornford Church of England Va Primary School, Boot Lane DT9 6QY – T1 Ash Fell – **Open**

b) Environment Champion Report: This had been circulated to members and Ian Young gave a brief presentation.

c) Wriggle Valley Community Bus Project – more information had been received from Toby Hartwell. It was agreed to set up a working group to look at this project Cllr Hillier, Cllr Baxter and Cllr Rogers agreed to look at this.

c) Play area had now been cut and an interim invoice expected.

d) Short Mat Bowls Club has a new secretary,

e) E-Mail received re dog fouling and people dumping plastic bags of dog poo on verges and in hedges. Write a piece for 'Contact'.

f) Street Lights – the company who has in the past repaired our lights is not engaging and so we have to look for a new supplier.

16. Date of Next Meeting –Wednesday 18th September 2024 7.00pm Thornford Village Hall.

Meeting Closed at 9.15pm