

THORNHACKETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th November 2024

Attendees: Cllrs. Hillier (Chairman), Axten, Baxter, Taylor-Wade, Hoff, Rogers and Keene

Also in Attendance: Mrs S Hillier (Clerk), 26 members of the Public.

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting. The Chairman then announced that Cllr. Whitsun-Jones had stood down as Vice-Chairman but would remain a Councillor. There were two options for Councillors to consider, Hold the position in abeyance until the Annual Meeting in May or for another Member to be appointed to the position. If Council were to appoint, there would need to be an Agenda item at the next meeting. Councillors were asked to reflect on the matter and let the Clerk know their view.
2. **Apologies for Absence** - Cllrs. Whitsun-Jones, Bromell and Robins were accepted and agreed.
3. **Declarations Of Interest:** Cllr. Hillier declared a pecuniary interest in Item 8c.
4. **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 18th September 2024.** These had been circulated to Councillors. Their acceptance as a true record was proposed by Cllr. Hoff, Seconded by Cllr. Axten **Agreed**
5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes – Wriggle Valley Bus** is now running on Fridays for a trial period of 6 months, one week to Sherborne, second week to Yeovil, Round trip is £5. Pick up from Kings Arms. If successful it may be extended to more days. Clerk to try to ascertain usage figures. Please USE IT OR LOSE IT! **Street Lights** more companies have been contacted for quotes.
6. **Consultation Feedback by RWE** – It was announced that they had spoken to near neighbours and 1218 residents. They had a website, had advertised in West Dorset magazine and Somerset Live. There had been two open events, one at the Golf Club and the other at Bradford Annas Village Hall as well as to the 4 Parish Councils. There were several changes. 1) Access into the construction site would be from A30. 2) Enhanced Rights of Way with 20m buffer zones. 3) An additional orchard. 4) A field at the bottom had been removed 5) 5km of new walkways 6) More planting of semi-mature trees 6) Field closest to Bradford Abbas next to railway removed. 7) Wet woodland planting with black poplar along River Yeo. 8) Evergreen planting around properties semi-mature 8-10ft. 9) Project has been renamed Blackberry Solar Farm there is a link from Wyke Solar Farm to the new web site. There was then a period for residents to ask questions raised from the feedback presentation. (Those present were requested not to raise new matters.)
7. **Public Forum** – Grange Park name sign had still not been replaced. Cllr Legg indicated that he would ask officers to look for a place on the highway for it to be sited, The matter of permissive footpath to Lake was raised. Clerk requested to contact Castle Estates again.
8. **Finance Report** – a) A spreadsheet of payments due had been circulated to Councillors b) Payments proposed for next month were also approved – Proposed Cllr. Hoff seconded Cllr. Rogers - **Agreed** c) Cllr. Hillier left the meeting for this item and Cllr Taylor-Wade took the Chair - Pay Award for 2024-2025 had been received equating to £12.60/hour. Agreed by Local Government Association and National Association of Local Councils acceptance of the new scales was proposed by Cllr. Baxter, seconded by Cllr. Taylor Wade – **Agreed.** d) A draft budget was presented by the Clerk for Councillors to consider and indicate any further wishes. The Clerk indicated a need to include tree surgery to Lime and trees in play area, an amount would be provided for VE/VJ Day celebrations, need for new noticeboard outside village hall. Acceptance proposed by Cllr. Hillier seconded Cllr. Axten **Agreed.** e) A request had been received for a grant of up to £155 for Life Education at the Primary School. Total cost is £524 being met

by the school. Cllr. Rogers declared a non-pecuniary interest as a School Governor. Payment of £155 was proposed by Cllr. Baxter seconded Cllr. Taylor-Wade – **Agreed with 1 against.**

9. Planning Applications – The list had been circulated.

Thornford

P/TRT/2024/05863 Lime Tree Cottage 5 Grange Park DT9 6QG T3 Lime – reduce overall height down to approx. 12m & remove epicormic growth **Refused**

P/TRT/2024/05791 – 10 Little Acre Grange Park DT9 6QG G1 Hornbeam x3 reduce overall crowns by up to 3m to previous points. T2 Lime Thin the crown by 15% and remove all epicormic growth. T3 Sycamore reduce overall crown by a further 3m below previous points. **Consent Given**

P/TRT/2024/05375 – Thornford Church of England va Primary School Boot Lane DT9 6QY. T2 Horse Chestnut remove **No decision consultation closed**

P/TRC/2024/04886 Bembury Lodge Bembury Lane Thornford DT9 6QF TG1 and TG2 - Cypress x2 - Sever roots. **TPO applied 2024/0071**

P/HOU/2024/04215 High Trees Grange Park Thornford DT9 6QG - Installation of 12kw air source heat pump - **Granted**

Beer Hackett

P/FUL/2024/06276 Lower Farm, Beer Hackett Road DT9 6QP – Erect an agricultural Building. This item was discussed and no objections were raised. The Planning Authority would be advised.

10. Traffic Concerns Beer Hackett – The Chairman indicated that there was not a Policy on receiving Petitions, but one was being prepared with the help of Cllr Whitsun-Jones. Mrs Parker from Beer Hackett presented Council with a petition signed by 63 residents of the village equating to approximately 90% of the residents. Cllr. Keene thanked Mrs Parker for her efforts and also noted that there had been several very ‘near misses’, the verges were being eroded making it unsafe for pedestrians and the elderly, disabled and those with children were unhappy about going out onto the road which at present had an unacceptable speed limit of 60mph. Cllr. Hillier noted that he had presented a report to Dorset Council in 2021 which they had not accepted. Sgt. Thomas from Dorset Police had attended the site and had passed his concerns to the Road Casualty Reduction Officer at Dorset Council. Cllr. Legg suggested the petition be presented to Dorset Council and that there be a meeting on site with the Police, Dorset Council Officers, Highways Authority officers, the Cabinet Member for Highways, himself and residents

“Residents Petition relating to a) General and continuing concerns regarding inconsiderate driving and speeding through the village. b) Urgently revisit the requirement for some level of speed enforcement together with traffic calming measures. c) Specific concerns over road safety and inconsiderate driving by some farm contractors.”

At this point it Cllr. Hillier proposed that the Guillotine be lifted to complete the Agenda. Seconded Cllr Hoff – **Agreed**

11. Audit and Risk – Cllr Hoff has been working on a policy and hopes to deliver a draft to the next Parish Council meeting in January.

- 12. Tree Preservation Order** – For two trees at Bembury Lodge, Bembury Lane – an e-mail from the co-owner was read to the Councillors regarding the application. Councillors discussed the matter and support for the application was proposed by Cllr Taylor-Wade seconded Cllr Rogers **Agreed**
- 13. Thornford Clock** – Two Councillors had queries regarding the cost of repairs and as neither were present it was agreed to defer the discussion to the next meeting.
- 14. Mobile signal engagement** – Cllr. Legg raised the matter as to areas with poor mobile signal reception 6QG, 6QD, 6QQ, 6QB, 6QR were all named by those present. Clerk to write to Dorset Council officer
- 15. Solar Farm Group Consultation** Cllr. Hillier indicated that he had approached the other 3 Parish Councils to see whether they would be interested in comparing ideas and discussing a joint response to the Planning Application when it is received. There was interest in a joint discussion but Councils reserved the option of an individual response. Cllr. Hillier seconded by Cllr. Hoff suggested setting up a working group to look at the proposal and public contacts. **Agreed**
- 16. Environment Champion Report** – This report had been circulated to Councillors the main points included the provision of an EV charger at the Village Hall and the cost of an electricity supply. Decarbonisation of the Village Hall, investigating an air source pump and possible funding. A donation for planting. Dorset Council wanted £85 per verge for a licence to plant verges.
- 17. Environment Working Group** – Terms of Reference had been prepared by Cllr. Hillier and Cllr. Whitsun-Jones. There were no questions, their acceptance was proposed by Cllr. Taylor-Wade seconded by Cllr. Keene – **Agreed**. A meeting would be arranged for December.
- Correspondence - Hedges and Verges** – several e-mails had been received regarding the hedge in Blacksmiths Lane. A contractor had been engaged to cut the hedges this would be done this cutting season which ends in March. The Clerk expressed disappointment that it had not happened when the Village Hall had been cut. **Mud on the Road** – The Clerk had contacted the local police regarding the amount of mud on local roads. A Dorset Alert had gone out to farmers, contractors and construction companies reminding them of their responsibilities to keep the highways clean. **Police Crime Report** – None had been reported. **Letter from Cllr. Legg** - Cllr. Legg had requested a list of 3 or 4 topics that could be used as topics for discussion in community focussed group meetings with Parish Councils, Parish Councillors to contact Cllr. Legg.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 15th January 2025 at 7.00pm at Thornford Village Hall.