

## Thornhackett Parish Council

### Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Attendees:** Cllr B Taylor-Wade (in the Chair), Cllr S Hillier, Cllr J Rogers, Cllr J Axten, Cllr R Baxter, Cllr A Bromell, Cllr J Parker (from 7.30)

**Also in Attendance:** S Hillier (Clerk), 7 Members of the Public.

1. **Opening Remarks:** Cllr Taylor-Wade welcomed every body to the meeting and in particular the members of the Public. Cllr Taylor-Wade then introduced Nicholas Whitsun\_Jones to the meeting, Mr Whitsun-Jones had expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor for Thornford, he was invited to briefly address the meeting detailing his work experience and previous appointments as a Parish Councillor in other areas. Cllr Hillier proposed and Cllr Bromell seconded that Mr Whitsun-Jones be co-opted onto the Council for the remainder of the Municipal Year. **Carried nem con.** Cllr Taylor-Wade then continued to explain that there were elections next May and all Councillors would have to stand down and a new Council would be formed consisting of 2 Beer Hackett Councillors and 8 for Thornford. Cllr Whitsun-Jones joined the Council table having signed the appropriate forms.
2. **Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest:** Cllr B Lewis, Cllr Legg (Dorset Council) Cllr Hillier declared an interest in Item 7, discussions on the Clerk's salary and would leave the meeting for that item.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023.** The minutes had been circulated and were agreed as an accurate record. Cllr Bromell abstained as she had not seen the minutes (Clerk to check circulation).
4. **Matters Arising**
  - a) Thornford Halt – carried forward to later in the meeting
  - b) Proposed footpath to Lake – The Clerk had written to the Council but as yet no response
  - c) D Day Celebrations – A date was discussed and 9<sup>th</sup> June suggested (D Day 6<sup>th</sup> June) Clerk to enquire if the Hall is free and book it. WI to be asked if they will help with cakes (ingredients paid for by Council). Councillors to seek out memorabilia for the day.
5. **Public Forum**

Grange Park road sign to be replaced – Cllr Legg had helped expedite.

Discussion regarding speeding along Pound Road – an on going discussion Clerk to invite Highways to a meeting. Investigate the possibility of a SID (Speed Indicator Display).

Is Dorset doing anything about the flooding which had been particularly bad this year. Drains have not been cleared and the culverts had silted up. Knighton Hill particularly bad and is a diversion route for Sherborne Hill. Car drivers did not help by driving up onto verges that then makes the ditch collapse.
6. **Planning Matters** - Planning decisions had been reported on the Agenda and were noted. There had been an application P/PABA/2023/06601 for an Agricultural Dung Store at Higher Farm Cottage had been received (PABA Prior Approval – Building for Agricultural Use). An explanation was given and Councillors urged to view the application and convey views to the Clerk.

Cllr Hillier raised the idea of a Neighbourhood/Village Plan for the area which would mean a lot of work but would carry some weight in Planning decisions. It was suggested that a paper be brought to a future meeting indicating pros and cons of the different types of local plan.
4. a) Thornford Halt Cllr Parker stated that the survey was now on line and had been advertised in the Wriggle magazine and Contact a public meeting would be held in the New Year. The proposal had

been put to Network Rail and GWR who were taking the project seriously. 100 copies of the booklet would be printed at a cost of £150 approx. Proposed Cllr. Parker seconded Cllr Hillier, **agreed *nem con***

**7. Sustainable Thornford** – Ian Young (Council Environment Champion) had previously circulated a report feeding back on the public meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November. It had been very successful. Topics raised included speeding traffic, tree planting. Flood mediation. There had also been e-mail comment via the web site. It was hoped to run a questionnaire on the web site in the New Year. A spreadsheet of responses would be made. It was hoped to hold a second open meeting early in the new year. Mr Young also gave feedback on the CEE meetings held on line, the next meeting was to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.30pm. Mr Young requested that consideration be made to Carbon neutrality in the Budget. The Voltalia grant scheme was also mentioned.

## **8. Finance Report**

a) Invoices for approval were presented and agreed. Cllr Axten had received a quote for replacing the Church finger post. Councillors agreed to pursue the matter

b) Progress on the 2023/ 2024 Budget A spreadsheet was presented to show progress against budget in the current financial year. A number of items are still to be received, notably the two grass cutting contracts. Cllr Hillier left the meeting when the Clerk presented a paper on the recently received pay scales for employees for the current year as this too would have affect the Budget. The pay award was accepted and its effect on the Budget proposed Cllr Taylor-Wade seconded Cllr Baxter – **agreed *nem con***. Cllr Hillier returned to the meeting. There did not appear to be any major problems and should come in within Budget.

**9. Draft Budget 2024/2025** – The Clerk presented a Draft Budget for discussion. Items that had been included were possible pollarding of trees in the Pay Area and the Lime tree by the Clock Tower and the Clock Tower refurbishment. Councillors were asked to give the Clerk a steer on what they hoped for the Precept for next year. The Council Tax base would be circulated as soon as it was received from Dorset Council .

**10. Correspondence** – Various e-mails regarding Thornford Halt and the Climate meeting – responded to and passed on to Cllr Parker & Ian Young respectively. Two e-mails regarding Blacksmiths Lane (hedge cutting – February) and bridge over a ditch on the footpath – Warden notified. Two e-mails regarding the Dorset Tree Scheme one from Dorset AONB Project Officer and Working Together Dorset. DAPTC Annual General Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November via Zoom – Cllr Baxter to attend.

**11. Dates for Parish Meetings** – Thornford meeting to be held in February Cllr Taylor-Wade to check Hall availability. Cllr Hillier to arrange a meeting for Beer Hackett.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

**Date of Next Ordinary Council Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm**