

THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the 2016/2017 Parish Council
held at 7.00 pm on 16th January 2017 in St Andrew's Church, Thornhaugh

PRESENT

Brian Watts (Chairman)
Liam Higgins
Louise Molesworth
Chris Smith

IN ATTENDANCE

Two Members of the Public
Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk to the Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Diane Lamb.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Members of the Public mentioned the following issues:-

- One requested an update on repairing the stone wall situated on the left hand side at the top of Russell Hill when accessing Thornhaugh from the A47. See Under 6. iii (below).
- One requested an update about Peterborough City Council's proposal to introduce a 40 mph speed limit on the Old Oundle Road from its junction with the A47 to just west of its junction with Hillside Gardens. The Clerk will contact Peterborough City Council.

4. POLICE MATTERS

There were no police representatives present.

5. MINUTES of the Fourth Meeting of the 2016/2017 Parish Council held on 21st November 2016 were reviewed, approved and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by:- Louise Molesworth **Seconded by:-** Chris Smith

6. MATTERS ARISING

i) **Home Farm Matters including Dog Foul Bin**

Ashleigh Kewney was not present so Home Farm Matters were not discussed.

ii) **The Old Rectory Wall**

Brian Watts had inspected the Old Rectory Wall and confirmed it needs attention. He will speak to Karen Rutter.

iii) **Repair of the stone wall at the top of Russell Hill**

The Clerk reported that Peterborough City Council has requested details of the Parish Council's bank account so hopefully the Community Leadership Fund application has been approved. Brian Watts will obtain some quotes for the work.

iv) **Christmas Tree**

It was agreed that this had been an extremely successful, well-attended village event. Thanks were expressed to Brian Watts, Penny Lewin-Watts and Nicki Rogers for their hard work. It was agreed that next year the lights will be powered by mains electricity and be on for longer. Also, it is hoped that the switching on of the lights ceremony and singing of carols will be followed by the village party.

7. **OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

i) **Cutting of Back Lane Hedges/Home Farm Entrance**

It was noted that this work has now been completed.

ii) **Improvements to Access onto the A1 Northbound**

Marcia Eastman, Assistant Asset Manager of Highways England had sent the following e-mail:

“Thank you for your enquiry to the Highways England Customer Contact Centre on 14 November 2016 requesting a visit to discuss a slip road improvement to the A1 Thornhaugh junction with the northbound dual carriageway. Your email has been forwarded to me to respond to as I am a member of the Highways England team responsible for this area of the A1.

I am aware that the Parish Council has in the past contacted us on this matter. As you probably know, one of the main factors that influence our decisions on modifying junctions is collision data. I have checked over the five years 2011-2015 – and there was one injury collision on the northbound A1 in the vicinity of the Thornhaugh turn-off which was ‘slight’. As far as I can tell, the incident resulted as driver was turning into, rather than coming out of Russell Hill junction although I suppose it is possible that the junction might in some way have been a factor. But even if it had been, the numbers do not indicate that there is a particular problem there in terms of safety and would not warrant our spending the money that would be required for creating a slip road.

We accept that there are junctions along the A1 that we would build differently if we were starting from scratch today, and we have upgraded, and will continue to upgrade those that are most problematic. In some cases where neither collision nor congestion data indicate a need for extensive improvements, we can at least try to ensure that the junctions are clearly signposted.

As part of Highways England Delivery Plan 2015-2020 we are aiming to reduce Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) casualties by 40% and as part of this we are identifying a number of locations along A47 as being justified for route treatment. I am aware that in the new financial year we intend to open up discussions to review and assess locations along the A1 from Peterborough to Stamford so I will make a point of bringing Thornhaugh junction to the table and will write to you again with any feedback.

You have kindly invited me to visit the Parish Council and Russell Hill junction, and while I am sympathetic and understanding of the issue you have raised, I will not be able to tell you anything different to what I have already written above. Therefore on this occasion I will decline your request and hope that you appreciate the reason why”.

iii) **Passing Places**

The Passing Places are in an extremely poor state and need attention. Chris Smith had seen a Highway Maintenance Officer on the back lane in December 2016 and he seemed to be checking out the verges, including the passing place and the entrances to the fields. The Clerk will follow this up with the Highways Division to establish whether any repair work is planned. If it is not, the Parish Council will consider funding the repair work out of its reserves subject to the approval of the Highways Division.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no further correspondence that had not already been circulated.

9. FINANCE

- i) Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31st December 2016 was reviewed and approved as presented
Proposed by:- Brian Watts **Seconded by:-** Louise Molesworth
- ii) Precept 2017-2018
After discussion and consideration of the current reserves and likely expenditure required for 2017-2018, it was agreed to set the Precept at £6,200.00 which is the same as 2016-2017 as proposed by Brian Watts and seconded by Chris Smith.

10. ADJOURNMENT

- i) **Footpath onto A47**
Since the gate via the chicken farm has been locked due to the avian flu risk, this is the only footpath connecting Home Farm to the village. Due to the overgrown bushes blocking the path, people have to walk straight onto the A47 which could lead to a potentially dangerous incident. The Clerk will report this to the Highways Division.
- ii) **Christie Hall – New Lease**
Brian Watts confirmed that the final version of the new Lease is now ready to be signed. The Lease is for a period of ten years with a review after five years.
- iii) **Sibson Village Garden Proposal**
On 2nd January 2017 the Government announced the location of the first successful garden villages. Sibson aerodrome was not one of these first wave of proposed garden villages. This was not a surprise as the ideas for Sibson are at an early stage. It is understand, however, that the Homes and Communities Agency offered support to Huntingdonshire District Council to explore the proposal further, recognising the potential of the site.
- iv) **Wall outside Seven Summers**
Despite Brian Watts contacting Larkfleet to request that they complete the listed wall outside Seven Summers, this has not been done. The Clerk will contact the Planning Department at Peterborough City Council for advice on how to resolve this.

11. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

The Sixth Meeting of the 2016/2017 Parish Council will take place at **7.00 pm on 20th March 2017 in St Andrew's Church**

12. CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, **the Chairman** closed the meeting at 8.00 pm

SIGNED

Chairman

DATE

20/03/17