

UNAPPROVED DRAFT 1

THUNDRIDGE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Thundridge Parish Electors
held via Zoom on Tuesday 27th April 2021 at 7pm

PRESENT: Seven parish councillors attended as members of the public. No other members of the public were in attendance.

Presiding: Cllr Steve Bosson, Chairman of the Parish Council

Minutes taken by Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

- 1 **Introduction:** The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7pm
- 2 **Apologies for absence:** None
- 3
 1. **Minutes of the May 2020 Annual Meeting of the Parish:** *No meeting was held in 2020 due to Coronavirus legislation*
 2. **Minutes of the May 2019 Annual Meeting of the Parish:** Approved by those present.
- 4 **Review of the Parish activities during the year**

Chairman Steve Bosson

- Neighbourhood Plan: Completed and will be decided by referendum on 6th May.
- Planning in general:
 - multiple responses with objections, no comment or support submitted to EHDC over the last year mostly in relation to residential plans
- Parishioner led specific more detailed support / objections or comments submitted:
 - Glebe Field / Osprey Homes
 - Maltons retrospective application
 - Evidence submitted to White Horse, High Cross planning appeal
 - Mole's Farm
 - Maltons licencing change application (non-statutory)
- EHDC responded to our request to survey speeds on Parish roads. Data did not support further actions.
- Ransom strip ownership and tree trimming was completed.
- Litter / Dog Bins collection: ongoing issues addressed.
- North Drive pot holes: ongoing issues
- AED roll out completion (community initiative with support from PC)

Cllr Martin Spackman: reports on portfolio of assignments

Trees: Early last year TPC undertook to get all the trees within our care surveyed. This was carried out by a professional tree surveyor. As a result we employed a local professional tree surgeon to take remedial action on some of the trees to make them safer to the public.

Allotments: It has been pleasing to see the allotments in full use, brought about in part by the Covid-19 lockdown. There is currently a waiting list of about 12 people. We also employed a fencing contractor to remove the old fence along the top edge of the allotments and replace with a new fence.

The Pit: It was decided at an earlier meeting to undertake a management programme for The Pit. We concluded that the most cost effective way of looking after The Pit for everyone's continued enjoyment, was to cut the main open area once a year to prevent trees from growing there and in order to maintain, or even increase, the biodiversity of the area, encouraging wild flowers with all the benefits that would bring. Hopefully, we will see those benefits this year. We have also had to remind neighbouring residents that it is NOT a free tip for garden rubbish, or worse!

Cllr Deryck Dipper

CAR RALLY

In November the Council was advised of a plan to hold a car rally the last of 4 stages being in our parish

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finishing along Cold Christmas Lane. The Council was consulted by Motorsport UK on behalf of the rally organisers about the rally which included F2 cars. The Council took the view that this rally was entirely unsuitable and unsafe along the narrow and bendy Cold Christmas Lane and sought our County Councillor's assistance in fighting the plan. This has resulted in its abandonment for this year but the issue may need further work if the plans are raised again next year.

NORMAN WODSON FIELD & PAVILION

Ware Lions

During 2020 the Council successfully completed a contract with Ware Lions FC for a further 5 year lease from September 2020 of the football pitches on Wodson Field. The Council considers this arrangement as beneficial to the children of the parish and is very happy to continue its partnership with Ware Lions FC. The parties were ably assisted by Winters solicitors in completing the documents in difficult circumstances.

Norman Wodson Pavilion

During 2020/21 the Council was not able to meet in person at the pavilion and had to rely on zoom meetings. However the pavilion has been in use after the first national lockdown by Busy Lizzies Day Nursery and the Council has continued maintenance of the building.

At the same time the Council has embarked on its project of replacing the pavilion during 2022. A Building Replacement Evaluation Working Group has been set up to consider options and bring forward solutions for consultation in the parish by Spring 2021. This work is quite well advanced and will be reviewed by the Council at its April meeting.

5 Parish Council Financial Overview of the year by the Parish Clerk

- **New accounting systems**
A more comprehensive cashbook accounting system was introduced over the year which allows the Council to see in one document the cashbook and bank balances, the bank reconciliation, the monthly performance against the budget and the reserves position. This has now been improved even further to generate the annual AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) for the external audit. The 2020/21 AGAR is currently with the internal auditor and it is intended to be ready for the Council's approval in May.
- **End of year performance against budget**
There was a healthy end of year position:
Actual income was up £15k on budget. Mostly unexpected New Homes Bonus
Actual expenditure was down £11k on budget. Mainly Planning -£3.7k; Play area -£2k;
Pavilion -£1.6k; General -£3.3k
- **Precept decision for 2020/21**
The precept was set at £32,500, a nominal increase of £700 on the 2019/20 precept of £31,800

6 County and District Councillor reports for the year: No report was given.

7 East Herts Rural Police report for the year: No report was given.

8 Open Forum: No issues or motions raised.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.15pm