

Thundridge and High Cross Parish Council Report

The March meeting was held at The Puller Memorial School in High Cross, on Thursday 10th at 19:30. Seven Parishioners, three representatives from Puller Memorial School, a representative from the Police, Councillors; Steve Bosson, Brita-May Hawes, Russell Parkins (Chair), Bruce Shearman, Joyce Spackman, Martin Spackman, Brian Taylor, and John Ingham (Clerk) attended.

Clive Brigden sent his apologies for absence.

RP opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

Presentation

The Head and Chairman of Governors for Puller Memorial School High Cross made a presentation to the meeting. They outlined the serious possibility that the school may be forced to close in a few years time unless changes are made. Details of their presentation are in a separate article in this magazine.

Parishioners made the following comments: -

- A serious lack of communication exists between the developers of Canterbury Park and the local community. There are grave concerns about extended working hours, mud on the road, litter, dust, noise, bad language and inadequate fencing. There has been no response from the developers over these and other issues.
- Indiscriminate and illegal parking continues outside the Thundridge Business Park.
- The proposed industrial farm development at High Cross may lead to an increase in traffic.

Police Report

- The week commencing Monday 14th March will see "Operation Stomp" commence in the Parish. The Police will be calling to advise parishioners on security and Neighbourhood Watch schemes.
- The Police will also be seeking approval to install ANPR cameras on the C183 at either end of the Parish. The cameras would be used to check for unlicensed and wanted vehicles. This scheme requires the approval of a majority of Parishioners before it can go ahead.
- Volunteers from the Parish are still required to participate in the "Speed gun" operation on roads within the Parish.

Matters arising

- Following the Conservation Report on Thundridge, TPC have been informed that High Cross will be assessed for Conservation Area Status in the future. This may or may not result in High Cross being designated as a Conservation Area.
- The HCC file on sewage smells has now been closed. This has happened because Thames Water will be taking over the operation of the pumping station, which is at the centre of the problem.
- The order for the first Parish Notice Board is now imminent; this will be sited in Wadesmill adjacent to the new proposed bus shelter.

Main Meeting

- The following are part of the **Parish Plan**: -
- The "Pit" will be kept clear of under growth and the grass cut regularly. This will be monitored and will only continue if Parishioners are seen to be using the area.
- **BMH** announced that the Parish website will become operational on Monday 14th March. The web address is: **www.thundridgeparishcouncil.org.uk** the site will be part of the Councils requirement to be more transparent. Minutes from TPC meetings and other items will be posted on the site.
- The council will decide at the next meeting if it will fund Wi-Fi for High Cross Village Hall. Should this go ahead the Village Hall Committee will then have to decide if they wish to continue funding the Wi-Fi after the first three years.

Neighbourhood Plan – The council having previously discussed a neighbourhood plan and rejected it because of the immense work involved are now readdressing the topic. For the residents of a Parish such a plan is the only way that they can influence the future of their area. Without such a plan Parishioners would almost certainly be forced to accept what is decided for them by local authorities. The Council will leaflet the Parish explaining the need for such a plan and what is involved prior to organising a public meeting.

SB reported on the **Canterbury Park Development**. As raised by parishioners he is also having serious problems communicating with the developer's representatives. The regular meetings are not taking place and in his words "the issues of local residents are escalating rapidly and require addressing urgently". The Council resolved to take this issue further with HCC Planning and County Councillor David Andrews.

MS advised that he had arranged the eviction of an allotment plot holder for non-cultivation of the plot. Another plot holder has also vacated a plot. These actions have effectively freed up five half plots. This is sufficient for all of those on the waiting list to be given the opportunity to rent half a plot.

The meeting closed at 21:50, the next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 12th May 2016 at The Wodson's Pavilion in Thundridge. The meeting will commence at 19:30. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

Councillor Bruce Shearman (Vice Chairman)