

# THUNDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES of the THUNDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm in Wodson Pavilion

**PRESENT:** Cllr Brita-May Hawes, Cllr Lynn Palmer, Cllr Kim Saban, Cllr Natasha Smyth, Cllr Martin Spackman  
2 members of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Martin Spackman Chaired the meeting.  
The meeting opened at 7.35 pm

### 23.135 Apologies for absence

Clerk: Colin Marks, Cllr Steve Bossom, Cllr Deryck Dipper

### 23.136 Declarations of Interest and dispensations

1. Declarations: Cllr Natasha Smyth has a DPI in the Nursery and some Pavilion development matters.  
Cllr Martin Spackman payments
2. Written requests for dispensations for declarable pecuniary interests: **None**
3. Consideration of requests for dispensations: **None**

### 23.137 Approval of Minutes

1. To approve the Minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

**RESOLVED: to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting were approved as drafted.**

The Chairman signed a set of Minutes.

### 7.38pm: Suspension of meeting for public comments

1. A parishioner spoke about the Ware Chairty who raises funds to help families in hardship. The trustees are currently looking at the constitution with a view of widening the grant criteria. It is understood that a brief has been put together for the consultants by Ware Town Council which excludes Thundridge Parish Council as a consultee. One of the key factors for the charity is for Community Engagement and Distribution of Grants, but in the last two years there had been no applications for grants from Thundridge parishioners.

The Parish were asked to contact the Charity asking to be part of the consultation process and ask for a written report to be produced for each Council meeting with updates from the Parish representative Bruce Shearman

2. County Cllr David Andrews gave an update on the fatality following the accident on the North Bound carriageway on the A10 involving a mini bus.

3. A parishioner advised that there have been two arson attacks on farmland in recent weeks. The police are investigating.

### 7.55 pm The meeting was restored to order

### 23.138 Village Life Magazine

Cllr Smythe agreed to write an article about the completion of works at Wodson Pavilion. She also agreed to ask members of the Community if they had any plans for the Commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day (Minute 23.149)

**23.139 Police Report**

No police report had been received, and no officer attended the meeting.

**23.140 Planning**

**1.New Planning Applications**

**PL/0357/23 (CM0081) West Mill Landfill, Westmill Road** -Construction and operation of solar farm and associated infrastructure.

The Council wished to raise objections to this application, whilst Members supported the principal, they did not support the site. The area has been raised by 150m which is now very visible, the panels will create light pollution and have a negative visual impact on the surrounding area.

**2.Applications received too late for the agenda and other planning matters**

**1. Late applications:**

- 3/23/1744/HH Wheatsheaf Cottage 39 Cambridge Road, two storey side and rear extension. The Council had no objections to this application but did not wish to see the loss of parking spaces.
- 3/23/0981 Poles Lane - conversion of stables and outbuildings to 5 bed house. This application had been refused.

**2. Other planning matters.**

**3.Decision Notices.** *Noted as set out in the Planning Appendix A*

**23.141 Finance**

1. Cashbook Accounts & Reserves - noted balances in bank accounts and bank statements.  
**RESOLVED:** to approve.
2. Reconciliations – **RESOLVED:** to approve; to be countersign later.
3. Performance vs budget at (15<sup>th</sup> September 2023) – Figures were presented and **RESOLVED** to approve. It was also noted that part of the VAT claim had been paid.
4. Payments list for approval -**RESOLVED:** payments list for August and September approved.  
Cllr Hawes drew the attention to the recommendation from the Website company offering to upgrade the current site. All members agreed that this was something beneficial. It was also noted that the fee included online training on the system. **RESOLVED** that £750 be set aside for the upgrade of the website and online document system and that Cllr Hawes would project manage the implementation.
5. S106 Monies- Members considered capital projects that they felt worth considering for S106 money.  
**RESOLVED:** Cllrs Hawes and Saban would investigate replacement fencing at the allotments and obtain quotes and Cllr Smythe would look into replacement fencing and gates around Wodson Pavilion. Cllr Spackman offered to help with the specifications.
6. AGAR 2022/23 – Had been returned with no adverse comments. **RESOLVED** to approve the AGAR and to publish the Conclusion of Audit on the Parish noticeboard and Website.
7. Energy Contract Renewal – Members noted the report and agreed to monitor the situation over the next few months but use the information when calculating figures for the 24/25 precept.
8. Highfield Nursery debt payment status was noted.
9. It was noted that work would need to start on the revised budget and start of the 24/25 precept in the forthcoming months.

**23.142 Norman Wodson Pavilion**

Building Replacement Evaluation Working Group. Cllr Deryck Dipper’s detailed report previously circulated was received: With the contact coming to a close, Members wished to formally thank Cllr Dipper for overseeing the contact and keeping the Council updated with excellent reports.

1. This report reports updated the Council on additional items which have arisen since the June Council meeting.  
Work has been completed on the Wodson Pavilion, on budget and on time, however there are a number of snagging issues, some of which are causing concern. **RESOLVED** – That Members of the Council would compile a list of snagging works to be carried out and pass these over to Ofstrand for remedy.

2. **Contract Sum Update** - The Contract Sum remained as reported at the July meeting. The Council's architect has provided dates for his weekly sign off of work and payment.

**RESOLVED:** to note there was no further variation to the Contract Sum.

3. Zurich storm damage claim – no further update (but note 23.125(10) above).

4. Update on possible acquisition of additional land from RABI – no further update.

5. Purchase of new tables for the Wodson Hall – Members had looked at the tables suggested, however did not feel they would be robust enough. An alternative was suggested, and the Council **RESOLVED** to obtain prices for GOPAK tables (6'x 2') and to purchase five tables at a cost of no greater than £100 (net) per table. Cllr Spackman offered to purchase the old tables at a sum of £10 each.

**23.143 Recreation Areas – RESOLVED** to note the inspection report

**23.144 Allotments**

Applications and allotment waiting list and requests to Cllr Hawes. Overgrown / unused allotments – Cllrs had inspected the site and found several issues relating to uncultivated plots. **RESOLVED** the Temporary Clerk to draft first warning letters to go out.

One request for new allotment received.

**RESOLVED:** Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, press and public to be excluded due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under this agenda item

**23.145 Highways, Footways and Public Rights of Way (PRoW)**

1. **Ermine Way Street Lights** – Noted

2. **North Drive** – 1 - no change; 2 - Chair attended meeting and will report back at the next meeting.

**23.146 Other Matters**

1. New bench for North Drive – had been delivered and would be fitted imminently.

2. Fly tipping in The Pit – Cllr Spackman had spoken to EHDC fly tipping officer, so referred on.

3. Unkempt planted area outside 40-41 High Road, High Cross - the ownership and responsibility of this land still unclear. Resolved that Parish Council to ask EHDC Highways to replant and await their answer.

4. Request from O2 to share link on the environmental impact of mobile phones on the Council website - **RESOLVED** -that the Temporary Clerk be asked to formally reject the offer.

**23.147 County and District Councillor reports**

1. County Cllr David Andrews advised that the County Council were going to start a campaign in the near future regarding women's safety in Hertfordshire especially when using public transport.

**23.148 Urgent Items not listed on the agenda (for inclusion at the next meeting)** -Cllr Smythe advised that there

had been several incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour at the Wodson Pavilion over recent weeks, resulting in damage to the notices on the noticeboard and a number of broken bottles. Cllr Spackman agreed to report these to the police and request more frequent patrols.

**23.149 Correspondence (for information only)**

- Invitation to HAPTC Climate Change Flood awareness workshop 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – noted.

- Invitation to Community Alliance Annual Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 – noted.
- Invitation to Young People Services – noted.
- To consider commemorating 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day – agreed to publicise the event in Village Life (23.138 refers)

**23.150 Matters for future agendas**

- Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) for excluding dogs from Wodson Pavilion
- To review annual Pavilion Fire Risk Assessment after refurbishment completed
- To examine papers held by the previous Clerk before considering committing to archive
- To consider report of unkept village planted area outside 40-41 High Road, High Cross
  - HCC annual lighting: Update on three outstanding invoices to pay (2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23)
  - To receive a presentation at the next meeting from Gigaclear for proposals to install full fibre broadband to the area.
  - Quarterly review of Neighbourhood Plan Appendix H outstanding action tasks:
    - Make Clarkson Memorial and the information boards more visible and maintain regularly: *Under consideration.*
    - Advertise local history in pubs (with accommodation): *Under consideration with Thundridge and High Cross Society.*
    - Promotion of the Turnpike and Doric columns on Wadesmill Bridge: *Under consideration with Thundridge and High Cross Society.*
    - Seek formal designation of parts of High Cross as a Conservation area: *Ongoing.*
- Ware Charities

North Drive:

1. Update: Removal of lamp post W3
  2. Update: Ransom Strip boundary/road kerb installation when road resurfaced
- Broken Wadesmill village entrance signs: update if available
  - To add other matters raised

**23.151 Date and venue of next meeting**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 7.30pm, in Norman Wodson Pavilion

**RESOLVED:** Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, press and public to be excluded due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under agenda item 23.144 and minuted under separate cover

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

**APPENDIX: PLANNING DECISIONS AND AWAITED NOTICES**

*For information only. Note: The Parish Council is not consulted on enforcement matters*

<b>3/23/0733/FUL</b>	<b>Meadow View Cottages:</b> Replace existing foul drainage (cess pit) with new sewage treatment unit and land drainage. <i>The Parish Council had no comments</i>	Withdrawn
<b>PL/0326/23</b>	<b>Land adj to Ware Recycling Centre:</b> Temporary access (2 years) for construction traffic. <i>The Parish Council had no comments</i>	Unknown
<b>3/23/0417/FUL</b>	<b>Raj Villa:</b> 5-year change of use from restaurant to retail <i>The Parish Council had no comments</i>	Granted with conditions
<b>3/22/2406/FUL</b>	<b>Land North and East of Ware (Ware2):</b> Hybrid application <i>The Parish Council raised serious concerns</i>	Awaited
<b>3/22/1878/FUL</b>	<b>Youngsbury:</b> Erect extensions, internal alterations, etc <i>The Parish Council had no comments, but LBC regs to be observed</i>	Awaited
<b>3/23/1056/HH</b>	<b>2 Rennesley Cottages, Anchor Lane:</b> Remove of rear conservatory and attached outbuilding. Construct two storey rear extension with two first floor rear facing Juliet balconies with external balustrade and a new side canopy porch.	Refused
<b>3/23/1547/FUL</b>	<b>Meadowview Cottage,</b> The replacement of the existing foul drainage arrangement (cess pit) with new sewage treatment unit and land drainage field. Connection to existing below ground drainage and provision of electricity supply to the new treatment unit. <i>The Parish Council had no comments</i>	Awaited
<b>PL/0343/23</b>	<b>Cemex Westmill Quarry</b> – variation Cllrs to peruse and return comments via the Chair	Unknown
<b>3/23/1207</b>	<b>Oakleys</b> -Steel framed building to spray vehicles <i>The Council had no Comment</i>	Awaited
<b>3/23/1428/HH</b>	<b>Hillcrest Bungalow</b> next to St John’s Church HX -Extension <i>The Parish Council objected to this application</i>	Awaited
<b>3/23/0981</b>	<b>Poles Lane</b> – Conversion of stables and outbuildings to a five-bed dwelling <i>The Parish Council objected to this application</i>	Refused
<b>PL/0357/23 (CM0081)</b>	<b>Westmill Landfill</b> – construction and operation of solar farm and associated infrastructure <i>The Parish Council objected to this application</i>	Awaited
<b>3/23/1744/HH</b>	<b>Wheatsheaf Cottage 39 Cambridge Road</b> -Two Storey side and rear extension. <i>The Parish Council had no objection but did not wish to see a loss of parking space.</i>	Awaited

<b>Licensing Applications</b>		
23/1195/PLV	Dog & Whistle 112 Fore Street – Variation to opening hours. <i>The Parish Council had no comment</i>	Awaited

23/1202/PLV	Samy Ltd (formally Mcolls) Bulldock Road – Extension to licensing hours and 365 days opening. <i>The Parish Council had no comments.</i>	Awaited
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