

**Minutes of ordinary meeting of Thropton Parish Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 commencing at 7pm in Thropton War Memorial Hall**

**Those Present:** Cllr I Webb, Cllr R Aplin, Cllr J Sutton, Cllr N Tuckey, C Miller (Clerk), 21 members of the public

**2021/65 Apologies for absence**

R Mckenzie (County Council)

**2021/66 Declaration of Members Interests**

There were no Declaration of Members Interests.

**2021/67 Co-Option Vacancy**

There had been one application for the co-option vacancy, however the applicant could not attend tonight's meeting, therefore item deferred.

**2021/68 Meeting with County Council to discuss proposed traffic calming measures**

Parish Council had forwarded concerns regarding traffic management to County Council who had produced a draft plan, which the Parish Council and County Councillor were to be consulted on. However R Mckenzie had made clear, further to the proposals being announced to the public online and a statement that £135k had been allocated to the project, that this is **NOT** the case. The proposals were just for comment from the Parish Council and County Cllr. It would then be decided which elements would go forward for construction in 2022-23.

**2021/69 Public Questions**

A large gathering were present to discuss improvements to the play area facilities. Children's views had been sought who wished to see new items, including football nets, picnic benches, climbing frame, slide or tube slide, wooden carvings, tree house, adventure trail or obstacle course, new springers, surfacing, litter bin, noticeboard, and eco-friendly equipment, to suit person's up to teenage age. The group were hoping for the involvement of local businesses and organisations, and to work closely with the Parish Council. The Parish Council have very limited funds, and it was believed developer's contributions of Section 106 funding is no longer allocated to play and sport equipment, however external funding sources were available. The parish precept could be raised, with the average resident currently paying £52/year, with a suggestion public consultation be carried out to ascertain if parishioners would be prepared to fund improvements through the parish precept.

County Council funding of £143K cited in the County Council draft traffic calming measures had not been approved, and at the present time not included in the County Council budgets. Once the Parish Council and County Cllr views had been sought, it was anticipated a consultation on the proposals would be held in the village hall.

**2021/70 Minutes of previous meeting held Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 be accepted as a true record.

**2021/71 Matters arising from previous meeting held Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**2021/71/01 Traffic calming measures/Snitter bridge**

County Council had advised they could only place "pedestrians crossing" warning signs at locations where there are large numbers of people frequently crossing the road. Snitter bridge is no different to countless other locations where rights of way cross the road, and to sign them all would be impractical and cause sign clutter.

Motorists are expected to be aware that they could encounter pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders in the road at any time.

**2021/71/02    Seat repairs**

There had been a further delay with the seat delivery, due to haulier issues.

**2021/71/03    B.T. telephone box**

The County Council had objected to the removal of the telephone box, the structure is still in service and would remain. It was believed Thropton Together had contacted B.T. regarding maintenance issues.

**2021/71/04    Repairs required to metal railings on path leading to Village View; grassed area at Cross Key's Bank; white wooden railings on approach to road bridge**

County Council had confirmed 16/7/21 they had issued works tickets to reinstate the grass verge with topsoil, replace the damaged end post on the pedestrian metal railing, and the damage to the white railing on the bridge had been passed to the Bridges Department to inspect and replace.

**2021/71/05    Replacement dog bins**

Large general purpose litter bins had been purchased and would be put in place in due course. Thropton Together were to meet with Cllr Tuckey to agree the most appropriate locations for the bins.

**2021/71/06    Queen Elizabeth Platinum Celebrations 2022**

The group were to consider possible items for the Queen's Platinum Celebrations and once discussed would contact the Parish Council to work out who/how to proceed.

**2021/71/07    To consider comments received from a parishioner regarding trees removed from play area 2020**

The playground was owned by the Parish Council, having been purchased from the District Council for £1, and passed to the old Rothbury Rural District Council in 1958. It was agreed to apply for the free tree/hedging scheme through the County Council scheme.

**2021/71/08    To consider repair required to Parish Council noticeboard**

M Evens had actioned repair to noticeboard, with new lock fitted.

**2021/71/09    To receive update regarding Planning Application: 18/00751/REM: Land to the West of Northern 4 x 4 Centre, West End Garage – Reserved matters for 79 No dwellings with all matters to be considered including access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale on 13/03894/OUT (Revised Description 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021)**

The Planning Officer dealing with the application had left the County Council and advised they had passed the request for a meeting with the Parish Council to the replacement officer. It was resolved Clerk would re-contact County Council to request a meeting.

**2021/71/10    To consider issues arising from play area inspection(s)**

Play area seating had been repaired.

**2021/72        Thropton Together**

**2021/72/01    To consider suggestions from Thropton Together regarding parish improvements**

Thropton Together had been tidying up various communal areas and had received lots of good feedback from residents. The group had received suggestions for other areas/potential projects that would further improve the appearance of the village and benefit them and the children. The main areas raised had been the playground being in need of improvements (discussed above), new litter bins – which were to be actioned (see above); signage to entrances of housing estates being slightly askew and signage in need of repair – County Council had since met with Thropton Together regarding signage.

**2021/72/02 To consider request for Parish Council to be the accountable body for the electricity company as regards Christmas Lighting**

An accountable body, from the electricity companies point of view is required, in order for the annual electricity costs to be registered to. Thropton Show had agreed to cover the annual cost and it was resolved the Parish Council would act as the accountable body.

**2021/73 Finance**

**2021/73/01 Invoices for authorisation:**

- Kidd Garden Design – play area inspections/grasscutting - £311.98
- Plexus Medial – Spanglefish – annual web-site hosting fee - £103.00
- Transfer to Rothbury Joint Burial Committee – Thropton six monthly burial precept - £4396.00
- Employee six monthly salary & expenses - £499.95
- HMRC – PAYE on above - £112.80
- Glasdon – litter bins - £405.43

It was resolved to approve the payments.

**2021/73/02 To consider BACS payment method**

It was resolved to apply for BACS payments.

**2021/74 Planning**

**2021/74/01 Planning applications received**

- No applications had been received.

**2021/74/02 Approval of planning application received**

- 21/02320/FUL: 7 The Meadows, two storey extension on ground floor alongside original single storey off shut which will be incorporated into the ground floor.
- 21/02440/FUL: Land North West of West Cottage, Gallowfield – replacement shed with new larger shed.
- 21/03548/LBC: The Pele, Listed Building Consent – installation of ground mounted free standing heat pump unit (along with two solar thermal panels already permitted under 18/04355/LBC).

**2021/74/03 Mid Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan: to approve the content of the re-designation of the Neighbourhood Area following boundary changes**

As neighbouring parishes wish to join the project, the re-designation of the neighbourhood area could not yet be approved. Cllr I Webb to stand down as Parish Council representative on the Steering Group.

**2021/73/04 To resolve that Thropton Parish Council support the findings of 'The Northumberland Sandstone Ridges & Vales – a Valued Landscape – Alison Farmer Associates January 2021 (The Study) and adopts its suggested designation of that part of the Parish Area (and the landscapes surrounding it) as advised by the Study, as an Area of High Landscape Value**

It was resolved to support the findings of 'The Northumberland Sandstone Ridges & Vales – a Valued Landscape' – Alison Farmer Associates January 2021 (The Study) and adopt its suggested designation of that part of the Parish Area (and the landscapes surrounding it) as advised by the Study, as an Area of High Landscape Value.

**2021/75 To receive Rothbury Joint Burial Committee update**

A mini-digger was to be purchased to ease with grave digging.

**2021/76 To consider issues of concern within the parish**

There were no further concerns.

**2021/77 To approve Local Transport Plan priorities for 2022-2023**

It was resolved to retain footpath improvements from bridge to first school; integrated traffic management such as reduction in speed limit to 20mph; and add the creation of a car park within the parish.

**2021/78 To consider invitation for County Council Cabinet Member to meet with Parish Council**

The new administration at County Hall were planning to meet all Parish Council's, and if any Council was in urgent need of a meeting, this could be requested. It was resolved to request a meeting with the cabinet member in charge of planning.

**2021/79 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Thropton Parish Council will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 commencing 7pm in Thropton War Memorial Hall.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Miller". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

The meeting closed at 845pm.

Claire Miller  
Parish Clerk

[www.parish-council.com/thropton](http://www.parish-council.com/thropton)