

## **Thakeham Parish Council Minutes**

### **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** Held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Present: Cllr C Instance (Chair); Cllr C Hounslow; Cllr E Linnell; Cllr F McConnachie  
Cllr N Prince; Cllr E Smith; Cllr S Watkins; Cllr T Schofield

Attending: Cllr J Blackall. Horsham District Council; Cllr P Circus. Horsham District  
Council;

Also present: Mr A Brown. Parish Clerk

Rev. S J Stevens; Ms P Harder; Mr C Purvis (Youth Group Item)

Cllr C Instance opened the Meeting at 7.36 p.m.

#### **23.01/0982 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Scott Kerr and WSC Cllr Kenyon.

#### **23.01/0983 Interests of members**

Received from Cllr C Instance on Item 12 Report from Environment Committee.

Received from Cllr N Prince on item 12 Report from Environment Committee.

#### **23.01/0984 Minutes of the last meeting**

Minutes of the Thakeham Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 were ratified.

#### **23.01/0985 Report on Action Items not otherwise raised under items on this agenda**

None. All items raised are on Agenda.

#### **23.01/0986 Reports from County and District Councillors**

WSCC Reports.

None to report.

HDC.

Cllr Circus announced that the leader of Horsham District Council resigned as they had not received support for their version of a new Local Plan.

Councillors at HDC had wanted to delay the Local Plan (LP), as the Government had made an announcement regarding the relaxing of housing allocations across districts.

Councillors wanted to pause the release of the LP so it could review and make adjustments in light of this announcement. They are awaiting guidance from Whitehall.

The leader of HDC wanted to push through the plan and thus, fell short of support prompting the resignation.

There will be an internal leadership election.

As far as Thakeham is concerned, Thakeham has been categorized as a medium sized village and this was kept in.

District Councillors are arguing that Parishes should be consulted prior to a plan coming out.

CI asked when we should expect to see any version of a plan. The response was not until after the local elections.

A request was made regarding the flooding in Thakeham and the cleaning of the Gullys. Request for Cllr Kenyon to move this forward. HDC Councillors to be copied in on any lists.

TPC.

None that are not covered in this meeting.

District Cllrs left meeting at 7.55pm.

#### **23.01/0987 Chairman's Announcements**

No announcements.

The Chair then requested the Council move Item 9 forward so the Councillors could receive a presentation from Pippa Harder, the Church Warden on behalf of the Thakeham Parish Youth Group.

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.58pm.

#### **23.01/0988 Item 9. Request for Funding for a Youth Worker**

The Council received a presentation from the Thakeham Parish Youth Group (TPYG).

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 8.31pm.

Councillors debated whether they should help fund a Youth Worker to replace the volunteers at the TPYG who were retiring.

The Councillors thanked the members for all their hard work and efforts over the years in running the group.

The Council's view was that it was unable to meet the costs from the Precept as this was too high.

It had been raised that there is a provision for Youth in the Section 106 funds tied to the Village Hall, but the Clerk had been unable to clarify this recently with the release of S106 case files/returns from HDC.

It was decided to postpone the decision until the Clerk can find specific details within the S106 that can provide the necessary detail to make the decision.

### **23.01/0989    Correspondence**

Advised all items circulated via email to members.

### **23.01/0990    Finance**

#### **990(a)**            Financial Performance

Presented. Members had some issues opening the sheets and some of the data had not copied over. The Clerk will redesign the data sheet to present the MI more clearly and remove the formula from cells which isn't working.

#### **990(b)**            Ratifications

Members ratified the list of November and December payments previously circulated.

#### **990(c)**            Payments.

Payments totals approved for payment listed below.

#### November.

Total TPC Core Payments	£ 5,987.85
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Total S106 Payments	£ 3,586.27
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Total CIL Infrastructure Payments	£     0.00
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#### December.

Total TPC Core Payments	£ 3,627.58
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Total S106 Payments	£   556.70
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Total CIL Infrastructure Payments	£     0.00
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#### **990(d)**            Donation requests

See Item 12 below.

#### **990(e)**            No other expenditure to consider.

**990(f)** Budget Update 2023/24

Members were presented with 3 options That the Clerk had put together and that was approved by the Finance working Group, and decided to choose Option B, a medium spend budget.

Clerk stated that many items had risen as inflation is over 11% and had to plan accordingly. Costs had risen on obligations such as the Glebe Field lease and increase costs to the maintenance budget.

Other cost rises due to the election due in May 2023 and the need to train any new Councillors.

Local grant provision which usually added an extra £2,000 to the pot, was no longer available.

As such, the Council voted to set the Precept at £69,954. This sees a contribution Band D rate set at £60.76.

**23.01/0991** **Governance**

**991(a)** Urgent Matters

There were none.

**991(b)** Land Transfer to Abingworth Developments Ltd.

The Clerk reported that all the legal requirements had been met and had reported this to the Parish solicitors who will now proceed to the signing stage.

**23.01/0992** **Planning matters**

The Local Plan was discussed given the information reported earlier in the meeting and the council will await the new plan.

**23.01/0993** **Environment matters**

**993(a)** Urgent Matters

Earlier in the evening, the Environment committee had met and received a request from the Thakeham Village Hall Trust to help contribute to the cost of new automated doors.

The total cost was £ 8,270+VAT and it was recommended that the Parish could contribute up to 50% of the costs from the S106 funds allocated to the maintenance of the building.

Council agreed to the request and the Clerk is to liaise with the Trust on the best way to pay for them.

Members were invited to report any areas that Flood so this can be forwarded to Cllr Kenyon.

The Clerk, in conjunction with Cllr Prince, will draw up a list of priorities for CIL expenditure.

The Clerk reported that the office is engaged with Cllr Prince and WSCC, Champions Farm regarding PRow and will report back on the progress of these meetings.

**23.01/0994 Community matters**

A request had been received to hold a Village Event on the Football Field. There is no hiring policy available as people directed to the THV management to make the decisions on who can and can't use the field. This may be incompatible with our insurance and any community policies.

The council decided that the office should make these decisions and that the information steering people to the TVH be removed.

Consequently, the council asked the clerk to devise a policy on the usage and guide as to what events we can hold. Including costs and provisions.

**23.01/0995 Reports from Parish Councillors**

No Reports.

Cllr Prince said he was meeting with a Solar Panel company to explore options of paneling the Village Hall.

**23.01/0996 Public Participation Session**

No matters raised

**23.01/0997 Any other business for noting or inclusion on a future agenda**

None.

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 20 January 2023, at 7.30 pm.

Cllr C Instance closed the meeting at: 9.19 pm

Signed:

Date: