

THREAPWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Parish** Meeting held Wednesday 20th. May 2015.

Held at Chorlton & Cuddington WI Hall

PRESENT

Cllr Steve Chewins - Chairman

Cllr Carol Bennion Cllr Betty Young Cllr Miles Lewis Cllr Stephen Ford

Cheshire West & Chester Cllr Chris Whitehurst

Mr Richard Salmon – Acting Clerk

Members of the public - Three

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

None available

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 2015

During 2014 -2015 the Parish Council (PC) has seen a settled and quiet year with lots of past initiatives that we have championed, such as the Village Design Statement (VDS) and Speed Limit either coming to fruition or have been realised. Nevertheless, there has been some change.

- We have replaced our Parish Clerk
- Two Parish Councillors have stood down and retired

Unfortunately our PC Clerk, Jude Crosby, resigned due to family and work commitments. She has been replaced on a temporary basis by Richard Salmon. Richard has been assisting the PC over the last couple of months by getting our systems and compliance requirements back on track, ensuring that our business is conducted in accordance with the requirements of best practice for Parish Councils.

Richard has agreed to stay in place until we find a replacement. There was an advertisement in the January edition of the Threapwood Times. However, to date, nobody has come forward to express an interest. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Jude for her help over the last two years and wish her luck in the future.

In this year of election two stalwarts of the PC decided to retire and not put their names forward for re-election. William Hall and David Bierley have chosen to stand down after many years of dedicated service. I am sure everybody wishes them a happy retirement from the day to day parish business.

Going forward into 2015 -16, all the remaining Councillors have been re-elected and we have been joined by a new Councillor, Steven Ford. Therefore, 6 places have been filled for our allocated 7 Seats.

In 2014 -15, Cheshire West and Chester have continued to take into account the Parish Council's comments and responses on behalf of their parishioners. These include:-

- **Planning Matters** In the past year there have been 6 planning applications, most of which were viewed essentially as being non-contentious. For example, we had two applications for discharge of reserved matters, which essentially is compliance with conditions placed in an earlier planning consent. Furthermore two were for minor extensions which were

generally deemed reasonable although the parish council made comment on the finer detail.

There was an application for development of two new houses at Greaves Lane East which the council objected to on a number of grounds, and this application was rejected both at local planning committee and also on appeal.

The final application has yet to be decided but TPC have made comment. This relates to the conversion of a property at Back Lane into domestic use. Having historically been a dwelling, the council did not object to the principle, but felt there would be restrictions placed on design and restricting to one single hereditament only.

- **Speed Limits Review.** The 40mph speed limit has been in place for over a year and whilst residents welcome its implementation, there have been two nasty accidents in Sarn Road since it was introduced. This goes to show that we all need to be vigilant and take care whilst travelling the lanes in and around Threapwood, some of which are very narrow and many of which have limited sight lines. We urge all residents to drive according to the road conditions and to encourage others to do the same. The Parish Council will request that the police continue to carry out appropriate speed checks during the next year.
- **Neighbourhood Planning.** The Threapwood Village Design Statement has been formally adopted by Cheshire West and Chester Council and is now a supplementary planning document. It is referred to when planning applications are received by Cheshire West and Chester Council, which is particularly important when it comes to waste water discharge. It requires that the applicant should provide information relating to methods to dispose of waste water without detriment to the local environment, in particular in relation to the ability of the local environment to accommodate the discharge of waste water from foul drainage systems outside of the site. The Village Design Statement also includes 16 Supplementary Policies around The Natural Environment and The Built Environment and a Statement of Community Values, following a survey of all households in the parish.
- **The website** has been re-located but unfortunately has fallen into a state of disrepair. In our March meeting, Richard suggested that Facebook might be a better way forward. Other PC's are increasingly using social media such as Facebook and Twitter as a method of communication as they are easier to set up and can easily be updated. We now have trial Facebook page which can supplement our primary form of communication "The Threapwood Times".
- **Audit** The external auditors 'BDO' report for the 2014 Audit raised a few minor issues. As a consequence we have been selected for an Intermediate Review where a number of further question have to be answered. Richard Salmon is in the process of completing these corrective actions.

The Precept.

The Precept this year remains the same as the previous year.

I would like to take this opportunity to assure the Parishioners that our administration fees are low compared to other Parish Councils and the administration of our business represents excellent value for money which has been market tested. I hope that this is recognised in the coming year and I hope that the parishioners will remain supportive of this role within the Parish Council.

HISTORY GROUP REPORT

Mr NDB Reauff reported that on 5th April 2014 a very successful walk took place taking in the school, The Race Course and because of the anniversary of the WW1, the War Memorial. One of our members, Dorothy Powell focused on that and she has produced much information on the memorial. The Website has biographies of these men, where and when they died and where they are interred.

November meeting decided to only meet every 6 months as many of the subjects have been researched as much as we can.

We met in April and decided to research how, when and where the villagers obtained their water for drinking, washing and for livestock. Those interviewed detailed how they shared various pumps and wells.

We are appealing for any photos or memories which would help establish the location of pumps and the means of moving water from spring to site

The Chairman thanked Mr Reauff for his presentation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following points were raised:

- Several Road Signs in the village need attention.
- The litter bin near the telephone kiosk needs emptying.
- The railings around the monument will need painting.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Signed

Dated

Richard Salmon
22/05/15