

# **Thornton in Lonsdale Parish Council**

## **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Westhouse Village Hall

### **1. Attendance.**

The meeting formally opened at 19.03hrs.

Present: Chairperson Hunter, Councillors Easterby and Townley. Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Ramwell who had been admitted to hospital early in the day. The Parish Clerk and six members of the public were present.

### **2. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017.** Councillor Townley proposed and Councillor Easterby seconded that the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Chairperson signed the minutes with the addition of the name of Green Party member Sarah Wiltshire.

### **4. Matters Arising.**

The clerk confirmed that he would forward the amended minutes for inclusion on the website.

AOB. The Clerk advised that he had received an offer for a grant of £500 from the Business Support Department of Craven District Council to part fund the provision of a new noticeboard. It was agreed that the Parish Council would formally accept the offer.

### **5. Planning.**

#### **New Applications.**

None advised.

#### **Awaited.**

Country Harvest storage container – Clerk to follow up

#### **Decided.**

Trees Caravan Park (11 additional static caravans) – approved.

Braida Garth (replacement agricultural building) – approved.

Sunny Dale Bankhouse Lane (demolish building/ erect holiday cottages) – withdrawn.

Gatehouse Farm (demolish silo/ erect joinery workshop) – conditional approval.

A discussion took place over the compliance with a previous planning application reference vehicular access together with the problems caused by a midden discharging effluent onto the road with the associated environmental concerns. The Clerk will check with Craven District Council Planning and hard copy records in respect of the previous application and the implications/ impact on the current application.

## **6. Finance.**

The Parish Clerk provided an update. Expenditure was as forecast.

## **7.Data Protection Officer.**

The Clerk reported on the changes in Data Protection legislation effective from May 2018. All public authorities irrespective of size are required to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO) to ensure compliance with the new regulations. Craven District Council have offered to act as DPO for parish councils at an annual fee of £150. It was felt that this was value for money both in respect of the regular specialist duties involved and the potential for litigation. Councillor Easterby proposed that the Parish Council should accept the offer of Craven District Council to act as DPO for the Parish Council. This was seconded by Councillor Townley. All were in agreement.

## **8. Project Updates.**

**“Save a Life.”** The defibrillators are now fully functional and wired up. Regular checks will be carried out by Cliff Rawstrone, however, it is hoped that three local people will be able to take on the responsibility for routine checks. The Clerk will write to the Committee to thank those involved in the initiative

**B4RN.** The scheme has still not reached the south side of the A65. The final route to Ramwell’s fields has not been agreed and therefore a completion date cannot be given.

## **Replacement Noticeboard.**

Covered under Matters Arising (see above).

## **9. Community Emergency Plan.**

The problems of flooding and water freezing on the roads in the Thornton area was discussed. A plan produced by Jack Pickup provided a useful reference document. It was agreed that much of the flooding could be attributed to blocked and overgrown ditches. There had also been flooding on Smithy Lane and in Lower Westhouse. The overall situation had been exacerbated by water logged fields due to the wet winter weather.

The responsibility for clearing the ditches falls to land owners and parish councils, together with the associated costs of hiring contractors to undertake the remedial work on a regular basis. The Chairperson advised that for the Parish Council to fund medium and long-term ditch clearing operations, it would be necessary to consider attaching a local precept to the council tax administered by Craven District Council. Currently the Parish Council has not requested a precept however, if a precept is considered necessary, a public consultation meeting must be held.

Councillors Easterby and Townley reported that they had undertaken some ditch clearing operations which appeared to have been successful. They had performed this task on a voluntary basis and did not want payment for their work. It was estimated that a further ten hours ditch clearing work should have a significant impact on the potential for further flooding.

Mark Easterby was identified as a local contractor who could undertake the ditch clearing at an hourly rate of £25 + VAT. Councillor Hunter proposed that Mark Easterby be contracted to undertake ten hours ditch clearing work. This was seconded by Councillor Townley. All were in favour.

The Clerk reported that via Craven District Council, he had arranged for an additional fifty sandbags to be stored in Lower Westhouse. The sandbags had been used during the recent flooding.

The residents of Thornton requested that a stock of sandbags be issued to their area. The Clerk advised that Craven District Council were very helpful however there was a condition that the sandbags must be stored in dry conditions. Sandbags were supplied on pallets of fifty. Meadowfalls Caravan Park was identified as a suitable delivery point for distribution to two or three further dry storage areas. The Clerk will contact Craven District Council to order two hundred sandbags for Thornton.

**10. WHP Telecoms Ltd Emergency Services Mast.**

The Chairperson reported that the Parish Council supported the erection of a mast for the emergency services due to the fact that radio coverage is limited in the area. However there is a need to be mindful of the impact on the local environment. A plan to erect a reduced height mast and remove one bush to give a clear line of communication seems reasonable. Further liaison with WHP would take place.

**11. Any Other Business.**

Concerns about speeding vehicles in Thornton remain. There had been no formal update from the “95 Alive” road safety partnership. One resident reported his understanding that speed detectors were to be installed in Thornton. Another resident reported that a local youth had killed a Labrador dog in a collision and that the youth had been commenting about it on social media. The resident had printed a copy of the social media entries and would forward it to Ingleton Police.

The Chairperson reminded residents that it is essential to keep reporting concerns to the local police.

There being no other business, the Chairperson thanked the members of the public for their attendance. The meeting closed at 20.45hrs.

**Date of Next Ordinary Meeting:** 7pm Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Westhouse Village Hall.

Signed..... Dated.....