

Chairman: Cllr Ian Kitson

Clerk: Mrs Miriam Edwards

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## MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm, held at the Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre.

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### Councillors present:

Cllr Ian Kitson (Chairman)

Cllr Mark Thomas

Cllr Louisa Russell

Cllr John Bentley

Cllr Neil Hedger

Cllr Jamie Williams

Clerk

### 104. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

104.1 Apologies were received from County Councillor Kirsty North and Borough Councillor Phil North.

### 105. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

105.1 There were no declarations of interests relating to items on the agenda, or requests for dispensations, in accordance with the Council's code of conduct.

### 106. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

106.1 Cllr Hedger proposed, Cllr Thomas seconded and councillors unanimously agreed and approved the minutes of the last meeting which was held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024, and which were signed by the Chairman.

### 107. ACTIONS ARISING

107.1 Repairs to climbing frame balustrades – Councillor Bentley still to repair prior to annual safety inspection.

107.2 Clerk to contact HCC to ask to fill the channels in to preserve the integrity of the riverbank at Ibthorpe. Dr Watson had counted 18 gulleys – the river had been recently flooding out at Barrack Cottage onto the road and the bank had been badly damaged. Cllr Williams suggested using the leftover sandbags as there was more rain forecast for the following fortnight. However, Cllr Williams mentioned how well the river has behaved as a result of the river works. Clerk to chase Cllr North to follow up to get some of them filled in.

107.3 Planning app to remove hedge on A343 for pylon repairs. Clerk updated that she had thanked Balfour Beatty for overturning the decision to remove the hedge. PC would like to write formally to pass on its collective thanks.

107.4 Annual Parish Meeting – clerk to contact agencies and groups to attend. A number of agencies and groups had confirmed attendance. The Chairman confirmed that he could not be present owing to work commitments. Cllr Thomas to stand in for both April and May meetings as chair.

107.5 Cllr Bentley to speak to the resident responsible for sourcing trees for KGV, to enquire about more for planting along the Dene Green bank. It was agreed that it would be too late to plant in 2024, but volunteers would tidy the Dene Green bank to expose the remaining tree whips and look to fill any gaps in November.

### **108. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- 108.1 There were 3 members of the public present.
- 108.2 A resident mentioned more rubbish had appeared in the shed in Doles Wood, with cans scattered everywhere. Cllr Williams updated that the land was bought by the Woodland Trust. Councillors agreed to form a small working party to do a litter pick before the hedges started growing. Cllr Bentley asked if a litter pick was to be organised. Nothing had been considered to date as the Nether-ton valley road and Dene Green seemed to be kept clear by individual volunteers.

### **109. PLANNING**

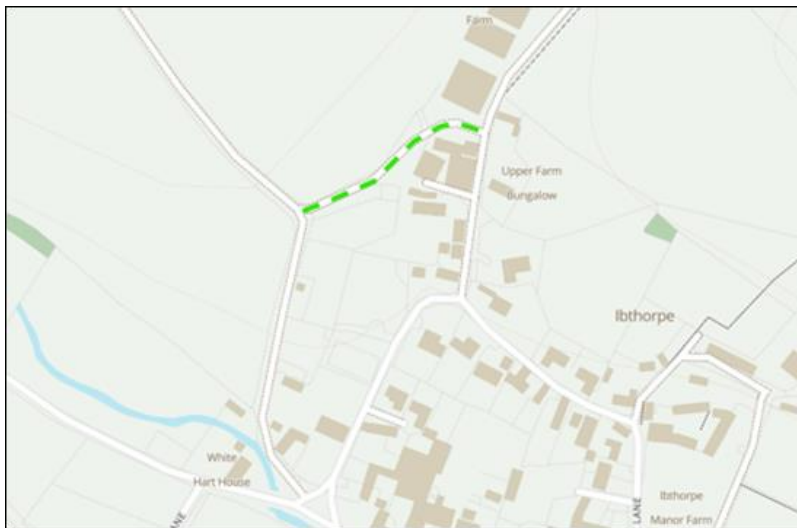
- 109.1 24/00587/AGNN | Erection of an Agricultural Building and Agricultural Track | Hurstbourne Manor, Bourne Park Estate, HBT. Cllr Williams explained that this was classed as Permitted Development and therefore the PC could not comment, but reiterated that the building would not be visible from the road, and was planned to be a very agricultural type building, and not to be used for functions, etc. No comment.
- 109.2 24/00515/FULLN | Single storey side extension to include front porch and fenestration alterations | Little Hurst, Ibthorpe Road, HBT. The extension would not be visible from the road. A window would look out to the side. Dr Watson, Village Design Statement, questioned the large wall to wall bifold glass on the back, which could prompt comment from neighbours. No comment from the Parish Council.
- 109.3 24/00501/TREEN\* | T1 Yew - reduce crown by up to 1.5m , T2 Yew - reduce crown by up to 1m, T3 Willow - remove dead wood and overhanging bough by up to 3.5m | Dalton House, Church Street, HBT. No comment.
- 109.4 24/00486/TREEN\* | T1 - Leyland Cypress - Reduce main crown height by 8 metres. | Oakdale House, The Dene , HBT. No comment.
- 109.5 24/00390/DDCA\* | T1 - Plum Tree - Reduce and shape by 3m to below the dead branches so we remove the dead-on top of the tree as the tree is next to the road. | Paddock House Horseshoe Lane Ibthorpe – permission granted by TVBC to reduce risk of serious harm. No comment.
- 109.6 Upper Ibthorpe Farm – update on commencement of restoration of barns. The safety hoarding had been erected around the whole site including the H3 barn, purely for health and safety reasons but Cllr Williams had confirmed with the applicants that no works would take place on the barn itself which had not been granted permission to be converted.

### **110. APPLICATION TO RECORD A RESTRICTED BYWAY**

- 110.1 An application was received in April 2020 to record a restricted byway under Section 53 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 - from T58 Unclassified Road to T58 North Down Road, Ibthorpe, based mainly on user evidence which the applicant believed demonstrated that the route had been dedicated as public rights of way. If there was sufficient evidence to show that public rights existed and provided that they had not subsequently been extinguished by legal order, then the County

Council was obliged to record those rights on the definitive map, decided on the basis of evidence alone. Evidence or comments were invited, regarding how the route had been used and managed over the years.

Cllr Williams updated that there were four such applications within the Parish but would be some time, perhaps years, before they were presented for evidence of historic use. He stated that with regard to this particular application, he had walked it as a young person, and was aware of several other residents giving evidence of usage over many years. The Parish Council should be the voice to ask residents to comment if the County Council required more evidence. Dr Watson mentioned that he had submitted a written submission about 4 or 5 years ago, going back to usage in the early 1990s.



### **III. COUNCILLORS' UPDATES**

111.1 Cllr Hedger reported that there had only been one Community Speedwatch session since the last meeting owing to holidays and the weather. Six vehicles were reported – three travelling over 40 mph.

111.2 Cllr Williams updated on the ash trees on the Pill Heath road. The dead trees had been dealt with but the resulting debris had caused a single track road and needed the County Council's road sweeper from Windmill Lane to the Tangley crossroads. Cllr Williams also mentioned the Lockes Drove potholes which were reported online.

He also highlighted the broken stiles on the Dolomans Lane footpath where it met Windmills land. He felt it needed a similar self-closing footgate similar to that at the other end of the footpath by Windmills itself. Clerk to liaise with HCC Countryside ranger, Cllr Williams to obtain landowner's permission.

Lastly, the cricket practice net was looking worse for wear after the winter weather, and councillors agreed to form a small working party to do the necessary repairs.

### **II.2. CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE**

112.1 Notification of play equipment inspection – RoSPA Play Safety had updated that they would be attending in May to complete the annual safety inspection.

112.2 The clerk had met with an Upton resident regarding the feeling that since the pub in the village had closed permanently and with no other public meeting space, a lack of community cohesion was felt. The clerk had put the residents in touch with the

Stoke Village Fund Committee to meet with them and get ideas about how a very small village can thrive. The Vernham Dean Parish Councillor, Nigel Palmer, had agreed to be a Parish Council liaison. Cllr Williams agreed to do the same for Hurstbourne Tarrant, as both villages had jurisdiction of the village.

- 112.3 The Lengthsman had cut back the Windmills footpath from Common Road. The clerk wished to thank Cllrs Kitson and Thomas for cutting down a fallen tree across the footpath by Fairways on the Netherton Valley road.
- 112.4 The new metal foot bridge for Dene Green had been purchased, collected and was ready to install when the groundwater flow in the ditch had receded. Both railway sleeper bridges were rotten so a second bridge on the bus shelter side of the Green would be needed in due course.
- 112.5 Councillors considered the asset register which the clerk had updated.  
RESOLVED: unanimously agreed that the register was up to date and reflected the assets of the Parish Council.

### **113. FINANCE**

- 113.1 On the day of the meeting, the bank balance stood at £5868.49 in the Treasurer's Account and £18,815.00 in the savings account, including earmarked reserves of £20,231.20
- 113.2 The clerk had circulated the payments made since the last meeting. Cllr Russell agreed them as an accurate record.

TYPE	DATE	PAYEE	AMOUNT	REMARKS
BACS	19/2/2024	Mr G Edwards	42.80	Metal bridge paint
BACS	22/2/2024	HMRC	59.31	Underpayment of NI
DD	27/2/2024	SSE	7.46	Upton phone box elec supply
DD	1/3/2024	TVBC	111.47	Grass cutting
BACS	4/3/2024	TVBC	1071.60	Dog bin emptying 2023/24
BACS	4/3/2024	Red76	9.60	Payroll January
DD	4/3/2024	SSE	7.46	Upton phone box elec supply
BACS	15/3/2024	Mrs Miriam Edwards	659.00	Salary March
BACS	18/3/2024	HMRC	173.88	PAYE March

### **114. NEXT MEETING**

- 114.1 The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was due to be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

The meeting concluded at 20:10 hrs.

Signed ..... Chairman