Thorpe Audlin Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

7:15pm Thursday 26 October 2017, Ramsden Hall, Darning Lane, Thorpe Audlin WF8 3HB

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Present: Parish Councillors: R Calvert (Chair), R Palmer, P Dainty, JS Everitt. WMDC Councillors: M Ward

1.2 In Attendance: PCSO R Harris, U Kennett (Parish Council Clerk & RFO) and 8 members of the public.

1.3 Apologies for Absence: Parish Councillor: A Smith. WMDC Councillors: J Carrington, A Garbutt.

2. Declarations of Interests

JS Everitt declared an interest as a member of the Thorpe Audlin Community Association.

3. Public Participation

R Calvert invited members of the public to ask/ raise any issues:

3.1 Following incident reported at the previous meeting (05/10/17 item 2.4) PCSO Harris confirmed the car concerned belonged to a village resident; the car was insured, parked legally and no intelligence to action. Nothing further the Police are able to do at this time. The reporting resident stated he had informed I Fleming, Neighbourhood Watch, regarding this matter and concerns around lack of contact/information from the scheme recently.

3.2 A resident queried if PCSO Harris had an updated regarding an incident reported to the Police whereby a car chased a motorcyclist with passenger at speed into a cul-de-sac. PCSO Harris stated he was unaware of the incident however he would look into it. Log number provided.

Action: PCSO Harris to provide an update for the next meeting.

3.3 Residents highlighted safety concerns from vehicles speeding throughout the village. Also see Item 8.

3.4 A resident queried who owned the lane to the playing fields (Bridge Lane) as the banking to the river is overgrown. Councillor Ward responded that a land registry search through Wakefield Council would show this information. JS Everitt also suggested looking at the fishing rights for the stretch of river may also provide this information. R Parkin suggested contacting Yorkshire Water/Went Drainage re their clearing scheme. A resident suggested that should the ownership not be found a working party could be set up and volunteered to support this.

Action: add to agenda for next meeting.

3.5 A resident asked what the water and electricity charges, noted on previous meeting minutes as being paid by the Parish Council, were for as they are very vague. R Calvert stated water and electricity charges are from the Cricket Club Pavilion and the Parish Council recoup these costs from rent and fees they charge the Cricket Club.

3.6 A number of residents expressed concerns about the height of the trees, opposite the surgery on Thorpe Lane, after a branch fell off and landed across the road. The branch stopped traffic on both sides of the road and was a 'near miss'. Motorists cleared the road and branches have since been removed. Wakefield Council was notified of the incident; assessment of the trees requested then undertaken. The report concluded: as the trees did not display any sign of disease or decay no further action would be taken at this time. Monitoring of would continue on an annual basis. Residents raised safety concerns for users of the road and footpath in addition to neighbouring properties. Residents and the Parish Council discussed challenging the report under duty of care and risk assessment requesting that the trees be reduced in height to mitigate risk of further falling branches or trees being blown over in strong winds. After further discussion it was suggested that residents write individually to Wakefield Council Arboreal Section and Highways Department expressing their concerns, they would be supported by the Parish Council contact details:

Customer Services, FAO Arboreal Section and Highways Department *Wakefield One, PO Box 700, Burton Street, Wakefield, WF1 2EB Telephone Phone: 0345 8 506 506 Email: customerrelations@wakefield.gov.uk.*

The Parish Council will see if the Local Authority would give permission to 'top' the trees to inform future debate, however, it is acknowledged that this may be costly and may not be feasible.

4. Review of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting.
Accepted as a true and accurate record of events.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes
Please see item 3 above.

6. Chair's Comments
R Calvert welcomed U Kennett to the Parish Council as new Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

7. Community Safety / Policing

7.1 PCSO Harris provided the following report:

7.1.1 **Crime:** one theft from a vehicle on Thorpe Lane. Also see item 3.2.

7.1.2 **Traffic Calming:** A nuisance off road quad biker from South Elmsall is the first person in West Yorkshire to be convicted following the use of Selecta DNA spray. He received a 15 month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months. Also see item 8.1.

7.1.3 **Neighbourhood Watch:** fortnightly report to be extended to Parish Council.

8 Wakefield District Councillor's Report
Due to the number of meetings the requiring the Councillors attendance these have been rotationally shared; a minimum of one councillor will attend the Parish Council Meeting each time. Councillor Ward provided the following report:

8.1 **Traffic Calming:** volunteers requested to man a portable speedometer sign, 'Smiley SID', in the village. PCSO Harris stated using the sign will increase awareness of speed in addition to providing data to give an indication of speed issues enabling support highway patrol to action appropriately. Noted volunteers will not have powers to stop and challenge those speeding. Training on using the equipment will be given. Site to be identified, suggested appropriate section on Thorpe Lane.

A resident queried whether it would be possible to reduce the speed limit to 30mph on whole of Thorpe Lane or if some of the 'sleeping policemen' could be extended into a 'table' across the full width of the road. Councillor Ward stated on balance this would be unlikely due to budget restrictions. Another resident queried if it would be possible to put up more speed limit road signs; currently these are only at each end of the road. It was also noted that a number of road signs were obscured by vegetation requiring cutting back.

8.2 **Council Budget:** Councillor Ward attended a meeting last week setting out the budget for next year. Although frontline services have been partially protected from severe cuts, budget restrictions mean different ways of working and brainstorming how to do better for less. Efficient use of assets is being assessed. Councillor Ward invited people to contact any of the Councillors if they have any suggestions or ideas. Contact details of WMDC Councillors can be found both on Noticeboards within the village and on the councils Website, or by emailing the Parish Council: council@thorpeaudilin.co.uk.

8.3 **Clearing Leaves:** a sweeper to clear the fallen leaves will working through Badsworth on 30/10/17 Councillor Ward has requested Thorpe Audlin be cleared at the same time.

9. Community Association Report
The Annual General Meeting for the Community Association will be held on 7/11/17 all residents eligible and welcome to attend.

10. Planning Applications and Decisions
No new relevant planning applications or decisions to report.

11. Protected Tress
See item 3.6.

12. Village Footpaths
A number of residents reported overgrown roadsides and footpaths and safety concerns associated with this. Noted responsibility for roadsides is the Highways Agency and Wakefield Council for footpaths.

Action: *Clerk to report to appropriate authorities to request action.*

13. Drains and Ditches

Residents reported blocked drains on Went View, Hall Garth and Thorpe Lane.

Action: *Councillor Ward to notify Wakefield Council for action.*

14. Village Land

14.1 **Annual Inspection of Village Play Area and Equipment:** report received. No remedial work required. Noted to continue monitoring.

14.2 **Allotments**

14.2.1 Currently one vacant allotment awaiting allocation.

14.2.2 A number of years ago the Parish Council were required to replace a tree that had been removed on the green adjacent to the allotments. JS Everitt suggested the planting or a Rowan Tree after sourcing a potential tree with resident, at a cost between £135-£175 plus delivery for large tree. The Rowan selected is reportedly smaller, slow growing, ornamental variety that meets Wakefield Council's stipulations; consideration has been given to the future height of the tree.

Resolved: *The Parish Council agreed to provide a replacement tree with P Dainty also offering to help plant it.*

15. Correspondence Received

15.1 Emails received from a resident on 12/10/10 regarding concerns about the safety and height of the trees opposite Thorpe Audlin Surgery on Thorpe Lane. Please see item 3.6 for details.

15.2 Invitation to attend the Yorkshire Local Councils Association Branch Meeting scheduled for 26/10/17 at 7:00pm at Havercroft Skills Centre, Ryhill.

15.3 Invitation to attend the Town and Parish Councils' Liaison Group scheduled for 01/11/17 at 10:00am at Wakefield Town Hall.

16. Financial Report

No changes from previous meeting. Bank Mandate updating change of Parish Council Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer submitted.

16.1 Cheques To Make Out

None to make out at this time.

17. Any Other Business

17.1 Community Public Access Defibrillator Update: Application for support from the Community Development Fund and Yorkshire Ambulance Service Charitable Fund submitted.

17.2 Internet, dongle, and phone: Attempts to reactivate the internet dongle have proved unsuccessful, noted no payment has come out of the Parish Council funds since its acquisition to date. Originally the dongle was to provide internet access to be shared between the Community Association and Parish Council, and for residents use at the village hall. As the demand for this facility is unclear at this time R Calvert suggested acquiring a 'pay as you go' dongle as a trial.

Internet Domain and Website (www.thorpeaudlin.co.uk) used by both the Parish Council and Community Association is has been registered in JS Everitt's name since creation; at a cost of £26.99 annually for the site maker hosting the website and £10.99 every two years for the domain name. He proposed that this would be more fitting to transfer the registration to the Parish Council; no fees to do this. JS Everitt confirmed he was happy to continue to maintain the website.

Resolved: *The Parish Council agreed to take over the registrations and associated costs.*

18. Future Meetings

18.1 Future Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Noticeboards. Professional mobile phone. Lane to Sports Field. Action log. Governance. Future meeting schedule.

18.2 Future Meeting Dates

7:15pm Thursday 30 November 2017 at Ramsden Hall, Darning Lane, Thorpe Audlin WF8 3HB.