

# THROWLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL

ON MONDAY, 10th APRIL 2017 AT 7.30 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Jon Bell (Chair), David Hatton, David Jordan, Julian Wisniewski, Ann Warwick Oliver  
DCC Cllr. James McInnes, WDBC Cllr. Paul Ridgers, Ian Brooker (DNPA), Dawn Hatton on behalf of the  
Archive

6 members of the community

Clerk in attendance: Julie Macey

- (1) **Welcome:** Cllr Jon Bell thanked everyone for attending
- (2) **Apologies:** Cllrs. Jackie Crawford and Duncan Vincent
- (3) **The minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes for the APM held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 were presented and signed by the Chair as a true record.
- (4) **Matters arising:** None other than those raised under the various headings.
- (5) **Reports** (as available)
  - (a) **Chagford Church of England Primary School.** No report available.
  - (b) **Devon County Council.** Cllr. James McInnes confirmed that the County's net budget for 2017/18 is £443 million. Council tax has been increased by 3.99% with 3% going to adult social care. In the last 8 years £267 million has been taken out of the net budget. This year £19 million extra has gone into adult social care and £1.2 million into Child Social Care. The Highways contractor has changed from South West Highways to Skanska Construction. Potholes are bad and we must continue to report them. The new approach to repairing potholes will be with hot tarmac which hopefully will be more successful. Extra money has been assigned to the pothole budget in the sum of £2 million. Cllr. McInnes continues to campaign for Fair Funding for Devon's Schools. Currently we are £290 a child below the national average despite successfully gaining £16 million extra funding in 2015/16. Devon's schools are doing well with 94% being good or outstanding rated by Ofsted. Placements are also high with 95% of children getting their parents' first choice. We still retain our Libraries, Childrens Centres and Youth Hubs which have disappeared in many parts of the country. Cllr. McInnes confirmed he was pleased to support Throwleigh's signage project with funding from the Locality Budget. It was pointed out that the Ash Cross sign on the A3182 which was replaced by SWH, only has Throwleigh signage on one side i.e. nothing/blank when approaching Whiddon Down from Chagford. A general discussion took place in respect of schools and Cllr. Jordan suggested a way of saving money was on free school transport costs – buses and taxis.
  - (c) **West Devon Borough Council:** Cllr. Paul Ridgers confirmed that of the council tax collected, only 12% goes towards paying for services that West Devon deliver, the rest goes to the County Council, the Emergency Services and Town and Parish Councils. In January 2017 it was announced that WD's funding from Government and business rates would be reduced by a further 37% between now and 2019/20. The council is facing a budget gap over the next two years of £1 million. The amount of council tax it charges will increase by 2.3%. West Devon residents have been named top recyclers in the county with a rate of 55% against an average of 44%. Food waste continues to lag behind in terms of recycling matters with 23% of all waste put in dustbins being food. With regard to garden waste a charge for this service will be introduced in autumn 2017. WDBC have just published the joint local plan with Plymouth and South Hams which looks at the next 18 years. Comments can be made on the council website until 26<sup>th</sup> April. In a general discussion several parishioners complained about non collection of recycling which they subsequently reported to no avail.
  - (d) **Dartmoor National Park Authority:** Ian Brooker congratulated those involved in the Emmie Varwell's production and the use of the funds from the Moor than Meets the Eye project. He outlined the more stable financial position of DNP but confirmed new forms of funding would be required in order to meet aims and objectives. In this way he referred to the Donate for Dartmoor Fund project which so far has generated £15,000 towards specific projects such as

the Moor Otters initiative. There is now a National Park Partnership Group who are looking at sponsorship deals for all National Parks. Recently a deal has been agreed with Columbia Clothing to supply the NPs with uniform. He confirmed that the diversion of Footpath 9 is now nearing completion. When finalised, one of the stiles will be replaced with a gate and the route will become the definitive line. Voluntary warden Bob Haworth was given his thanks for all his hard work in keeping the path network open and useable. He and other volunteers from the community have continued to help with the work on the common, removing invasive gorse particularly around archaeological sites and to improve grazing. The work will start again in the autumn and all are encouraged to join in. Reference was also made to the annual pond clearance in the autumn, a friendly occasion with lots of banter and good food. During the any questions session, several parishioners confirmed that they would be objecting to the plan attached to the order in respect of Footpath no. 9 as they believe that this is inaccurate, and defines a different line from the white topped posts and the narrative description in the Order. Furthermore they believe that the published order is not an accurate reflection of the proposal which was submitted to and approved by members of the Park Authority at their meeting in December 2016. Cllr. Hatton referred to an email received from a Guide who had walked the path that day and found the plan extremely confusing. The Cllrs. confirmed that they would discuss the matter outside the meeting and comment accordingly, bearing in mind that the closing date is 20<sup>th</sup> April.

- (e) Neighbourhood Watch: Nothing to report.
- (f) Police tabled. No report.
- (g) The Archive: Work has continued on developing the website with a small working group considering all the requirements. More tests and trials are needed before it goes public. An application for funding from the Moor Than Meets the Eye Parishscapes project was successful with up to £10,000 available for various specific purposes. The grant has enabled progress with relocating the Archive and the Village Hall Committee have accepted a proposal to use the committee room in the hall for the storage of the physical archive. This requires considerable work in the hall, much of which is now underway. Another part of the grant has been used to fund two documentary arts projects, the first of which, The Miss Varwells Throwleigh has been completed and was declared a great success. The opportunity has also been taken to reprint the 1938 book using funds from sales of Michael Paget's book, Throwleigh Pictures and Memories. Both books were available at the performances and over £900 was taken from sales. An exhibition was set up in the Village Hall for the launch of the Providence School Charity and was much appreciated by many of the attendees who had been educated at the school before it closed in 1971. Material has been supplied to the Dartmoor Magazine for a forthcoming article to include the history of Throwleigh Archive and some images relating to farming on Dartmoor.
- (h) Friends of Throwleigh Church. This is a charitable organisation founded in 2010. Its aims are to raise funds towards the maintenance and preservation of the church building and to encourage the use and enjoyment of the church by the community as that it retains a role as a parish amenity. Money is raised from donations and profits from events held in the church. Three events were held in the church in the last financial year and helped to raise £2,388. The friends donated £6,931 to the church to pay for the internal decoration work which was carried out in the summer. Forthcoming events include the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30 p.m., a themed concert on 30<sup>th</sup> April, a concert of Renaissance music on 21<sup>st</sup> May and a folk/jazz fusion duo on 24<sup>th</sup> June. In addition a coffee morning will be held in Chagford in May.
- (i) Parish Council: Cllr. Bell confirmed that over the course of the last 12 months the Parish Council has continued to examine a range of planning applications and on occasions informed its recommendations by site visits. As a result of a number of successful funding applications, additional 'lengthman' time has been secured for the parish to ensure regular clearing of drains and other highway maintenance. In addition further grant aid has enabled us to replace or repair a number of signposts. The Parishscapes scheme was successfully accessed by the Archive with the results that we have already heard. The Providence School Charity is now established and a successful launch took place in Throwleigh Village Hall on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Hopefully the charity will be able to initiate its grant making function over the next few months. The defibrillator is now established in the old phone box. Cllr. Bell thanked the clerk for her efforts and work during the year and also fellow councillors for their general diligence in examining planning applications, overseeing the work of the lengthman, taking an oversight of the defibrillator and the many other tasks that come their way.

- (6) **Any other business: The situation with regard superfast broadband or lack of was briefly discussed. Cllr. McInnes requested that the clerk send him a brief outline of the current position**