

## THELBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2019

Clerk: John Wilkinson, 4 Silver Way, Shobrooke, Crediton. Devon. EX17 1HP  
01363 774751 johnawilkinson@talktalk.net

**Present:** Cllr W. Boundy (ch) Cllr T. Ford, Cllr J. Gibson, Cllr P. Gillbard, Cllr R. Grant Cllr R. Hayes, Cllr G. Webber, Cllr J. Binks, Cllr M. Squires. Fifteen members of the public.

#### 1. Public Questions.

The potholes at Kennerley were mentioned, Cllr Binks saying that there would be three strips of road replaced soon which will be a considerable undertaking.

Mr. Webb of Thelbridge attended and pointed out to the meeting that the road running through Thelbridge was hazardous to all road users and that he, personally had assisted at several road accidents close to his home there.

He produced an overhead photograph which annotated the black spots along the road and some suggestions for remedy which really amounted to traffic calming. His great fear was that something would not be done before there was a fatality in the area which up to now had not happened.

He hoped that the PC would become pro-active in erecting signs and possible prohibitions but was told by local councillors that no money was being spent on signage because of financial stricture.

Increasingly, the village is suffering the presence of heavy and unwieldy traffic particularly in the rear lane which is totally inadequate to carry such loads. Recently two large vehicles had put wheels into roadside ditches and then needed to be recovered, all of which had done damage to the lanes and hedgerows. It is assumed that sat.nav. is leading drivers through this route as a shortest passage. There had been seven vehicles in the ditch in six months and it is not understood why drivers pick this route because a better route is available close by.

It was realised that this was not a new problem and it was important that all villagers do their bit; Cllr Squires said that it was not a simple matter of erecting signs and the police were not prepared to act until there is a body of statistical evidence, normally including fatal or near-fatal accidents. Cllr Squires undertook to call in the Highways Department for an assessment and site meeting to which Mr. Webb is invited. The date for this is to be settled. Cllr Binks had contacted Reg Willing about the contractors working in the village where she found that they were licensed undertakers.

Farmers as a rule came out of the situation well but the vehicles delivering to them were becoming bigger and faster and each on offends.

#### 2. Apologies.

None.

#### 3. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held in January 2016 were signed as a true and accurate record.

#### 4. Declarations Of Interest.

None.

**5. Matters Arising Fromm January Minutes.**

Cllr Binks said that the Edgeworthy Farm proposal had been passed.

**6. Planning.**

The recent flooding to a village cottage was probably due to the collapse of an underground culvert which had served its purpose for many years. This was probably not helped by the passage of fifty ton vehicles though timber vehicles have used this route for many years. In some cases vehicles using the road had become stuck.

It was suggested that a weight limit of three tons be placed on the route since it was never intended to carry loads as are seen to-day. The provision of a lay bay would not improve the situation, rather it would make it worse as would making the route one-way. A cheaper solution was to close the lane altogether making it a 'no through road' The offer of bearing the cost of creating a lay by was seen by villagers as an empty gesture and it was further mooted that a village-wide width restriction be imposed.

The decision on the proposal on Gibbet Moor is expected in April. This is attacked by villagers in the same way as Menchine Farm - traffic augmentation and public nuisance.

**14/01915/MFUL** It was reported that the proposal by the owner of Menchine Farm to augment the output of the anaerobic digester had been refused at appeal.

**16/00367/TPO** Application to remove two ash trees from the hedge at 4 Eastwick Barton. The trees in question were hedgerow starts which had never been trimmed. Branches were falling off during windy weather which could have damaged the property on one side or the roadway on the other. The application was recommended for permission.

**7. Finance.**

- 7:1 The current bank statement was presented, it showed a credit balance of £1,372.60
- 7:2 The Clerk was given leave to progress the annual audit.
- 7:3 Account to settler.
- 7:3:1 John Wilkinson Clerks pay £116.00

The cheque made out between meetings for £42.50 for parish hall rent was ratified.

**8. Correspondence.**

The printed matter received by the Clerk was presented.

**9. Chairmans Reports.**

It was felt important enough to reiterate the threat of damage resulting from the proposed developments at Gibbet Moor. Damage to lane sides would result and the roads would be so that horse riders and dog walkers would not be safe in the lanes.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm,

*W. K. Bandy 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

\*\*\*\*\*