# Minutes of a Meeting of Thrybergh Parish Council

# held On Thursday 3rd June 2021

**at the Parish Hall, Park Lane, Thrybergh (6.30pm start).**

**Present: -** Councillors G Trickett (Chair), A Martin (vice chair), D Bates, G Senior, T Knapton, R Thomas, K Endicott, B Shaw & J Parsons..

Also present: Ward Councillor M Sylvester & Ward Councillor J Baker-Rogers

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting began with the Chairman welcoming new councillor Baker-Rodger to her first meeting of Thrybergh Parish Council.

**084/21. Apologies For Absence.**

There was an apology from Councillor M Senior.

**085/21. Approval of Reason Given for Absence.**

The apology from Councillor Senior was accepted and approved by the full council.

**086/21. Declaration Of Interest**

Following discussions and advice from YLCA the clerk made a declaration regarding West Direct Build (Paul West).

The clerk advised that to follow correct procedures as dictated by Section 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 he was advising that the company known as West Direct Build is owned and run by Paul West, a builder of repute and one with an excellent reputation. He informed that Paul West was a close personal friend and it was being minuted that the friendship has not been used in any way to win any business or contracts with Thrybergh Parish Council. Paul West has been brought in due to problems with the current country wide shortages of available tradesmen and building material. Paul is a successful builder and contracts manager with a stream of tradesman that he can call on to help as and when required. The clerk turned to Paul in desperation to help restore the Silverwood Wheel after 2 unsuccessful years of actually getting someone to come and do the work. Within one week of asking Paul to clean up the wheel the work had been done (146/19). We then had an emergency situation with missing manhole covers in Roundwood and we had a duty and obligation to make these safe (093/21). I was again unable to source a builder to do it and so asked Paul if he could help and all the drains were secured within a matter days. Paul West has now been asked to undertake the repairs to our men's toilet to complete the work started by Fletcher Renovations. The clerk then offered to leave the meeting whilst items involving Paul West were discussed and would hand over all contact with him to a nominated councillor if requested. The council then discussed the matter.

**Mover: Councillor B Shaw Seconder: Councillor T Knapton**

**Resolved: That West Direct Builders (P West) continue to work for the parish council and that the clerk remains the contact for them.**

**087/21. Questions From The Public.**

There were no questions from the public.

**088/21. Minutes of the Previous Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 13th May 2021.**

**Mover: Councillor A Martin Seconder: Councillor J Parsons**

**Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting of Thrybergh Parish Council, held on Thursday 13th May, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**089/21. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings of the Parish Council.**

**146/19 Silverwood Colliery Wheel** - the work on the wheel has now been completed by West Direct Build. The cost of cleaning and renovation was £1079 and cost of new padlock for the gate was £29.80. We had to cut the old lock due to no key being available. Permission to cut the lock was given by a representative from the Ogden group. We are now just awaiting the cost of a new remembrance plaque from MS Sports. A quote has been requested in plastic, stainless and brass and costs will be given to council when we have them.

Each parish council will pay £359.66 direct to Paul West. I will discuss the padlock and plaque cost with the other parish councils when I have all the details. Of course, we will also have to pay to have the new plaque fitted.

**128/19 Speed Activated Device for Hollings Lane** – RMBC is still awaiting delivery of the ordered device, they will install as soon as they are delivered. The Ward Councillors in attendance said that they would investigate the delay for us.

**080/20 Parish Hall Fire Assessment** – The new assessment took place Wednesday 14th April and some further work has been done but we still have a couple of issues to resolve. The electrical socket for the fridge that was under the sink has been moved to a location behind the fridge and the small amount of electrical work in the committee room has now been done at a total cost of £164. Chris Barclay will fit a new shelf for the electrical equipment in the committee room some time next week.

We are just awaiting a quote from the plumber to replace the faulty tap and pipes in kitchen sink. This work should be done and completed within the next couple of weeks.

The small void in the boiler room along with a little snagging on a couple of doors should also be done next week by Chris Ward.

Fire training will be arranged for staff, councillors and regular hall user groups when we have set a date for re-opening.

**121/20 Men’s Toilet Renewal** – the clerk advised that the builder contracted to renovate the men’s toilets has done approx 50% of the work but has not been back to the hall to complete the work since the very end of January despite numerous promises to return. He has now stopped taking calls and messages from us forcing us to look at other options for completing the work. Work will start on Monday 7th June and is expected to be completed in 2 weeks so should be read by 18th June latest. Paul West Builders krupt and leave us without compensation anyway so the parish council decided not to pursue any action and concentrate on getting the toilet operational.

**Mover: Councillor A Martin Seconder: Councillor R Thomas**

**Resolved: That West Direct Build (P West) continue and finish the work of renovating the Men’s toilet at a cost of £6130.**

**010/21 Bench on Hollings Lane Field** – the bench is now ready but just needs the name plaque to be fitted and will then be put on site by w/e 11th June.

**014/21 Covert Camera for Hollings Lane Field** – The order for the new covert camera has been placed and we are awaiting details of delivery and when the camera will be fitted to site.

**112/20 Sponsored Bench at Hope Fields, Thrybergh Country Park** – The plan is for our bench to be carved from stone and we have given a budget of £500 to £750 for the bench. We are still awaiting details of plan of work and specification for the bench from Kevin Burke. The clerk will bring these details to council as soon as we have them.

**073/21 Bench on Fullerton Fields -** the bench is now ready but just needs the name plaque to be fitted and will then be put on site by w/e 11th June.

**055/21 Fence on Fullerton Fields** – Fence now installed and all work completed.

**072/21 Salt/Grit Bin For Hollings Lane** – It was agreed to use part of the CIL money from the Whinney Hill/Chesterhill developments for the bin to replace the damaged on that used to be on Townend Avenue. The clerk advised that he had some costs for a new bin with the same specification of the five parish council provided bins already in place (200 litre capacity with empty bin weight of 10.5kg)). Cost from Roadware is £166.95 ex-vat which includes 200 litres of salt. From Barriers Direct the price is £113.81 without salt. The cost from RMBC to fill a single bin is £67.77 ex vat so the cheapest option is the one from Barriers Direct.

 **Mover: Councillor A Martin Seconder: Councillor R Thomas**

**Resolved: That the parish council would purchase a new grit/salt bin for the Oldgate Lane area from Roadware at £166.95 complete with 200 litres of rock salt.**

**070/21. Repair and Renewal of the Bench on Thrybergh Lane.**

The clerk advised that this bench had originally been placed on Thrybergh Lane by Rotherham Borough Council and not the parish Council. We had advised the Borough that the surrounding vegetation had been cut back and the bench and steps opened up again by someone from the Thrybergh community and that the people of Thrybergh wanted the bench renewing. The site has been visited by Borough engineers and they have condemned the bench, concrete steps and location as being unsafe due to the steepness of the steps and location i.e. there is not a pavement and the steps lead directly onto the road with blind bends on either side. Because of the factors the bench will be removed by RMBC. They have agreed to replace it with a new bench but not in this location and a more suitable location needs to be found and advised to RMBC. We had suggested the entrance to the Country Park on Thrybergh Lane but this was also deemed unsuitable as was the further suggestion to place it near the brook between Thrybergh Lane and March Flatts Road. The resident who opened up the bench has complained to the council about its removal and demanded that it is re-instated and further stated that it was a public bench and it was for the public to repair. This is not true as the bench and all matters relating to it belong to RMBC.

The Advertiser is now looking to run a story on this which seems a strange choice given how dangerous the bench was and, without understating it, it was a death trap.

The resident who opened up the bench is unlikely to have any liability insurance so it was also for his financial protection that the bench was taken out. The Borough took out the bench to prevent potential accidents and injury due to this unsafe bench.

They have offered a new bench to locate it but it cannot be on Thrybergh Lane. It was suggested that a suitable site could possibly be Fullerton Field on Vale Road and could be a companion bench to the one being put in by the parish council.

Ward Councillor said he would ask for possible new locations on his web posts and will pass them onto the clerk. If no further suggestions are forthcoming them we will ask RMBC to place the bench in Fullerton field.

**091/20 Reopening of the Parish Hall** – the planned reopening for usual activities i.e. bingo, slimming world, art group, Boxercise and possibly indoor bowling was 17th May but problems with completing the men’s toilets have impacted on this as has the recent Indian variation of COVID virus. The parish council decided to delay re-opening the hall and discuss again at the 3rd June meeting. There was then much debate on the matter especially when the information coming from the Government is, at best, contradictory. It now seems that there will be an official announcement on Monday 14th which will confirm whether there will be a lifting of all restrictions on 21st June or if some will stay in place. The current scientific advice is to remain cautious as the so called Indian variant of the virus (now categorised as Delta Covid) spreads throughout the country and appears to be more contagious than other variants. The chair advised that we have a provisional booking in the diary from the church group on Saturday 26th June but this also depends on the Government announcement as they will be singing and currently the legal maximum for singing indoors is six. There was a discussion to delay re-opening until we have discussed further at the 1st July meeting but the consensus was that we will re-open on 21st June if all Government restrictions are lifted. If not, then a closure will remain in place. The clerk will contact all councillors after the Monday 14th announcement and we will then open or remain closed dependant on Government advice at that time.

**090/21. Police Report.**

The latest crime statistics were given for April and they showed a fall on March (but March was a particularly high month), April’s figure was 47 incidents compared to 67 for March.

The police profile on off-roaders remains high and they are actively targeting this anti-social behaviour. It was also reported that a property on Wootton Court had been subject to a drugs raid by South Yorkshire police with investigations on-going.

There was a Police Speedwatch Campaign on Vale Road on 22nd April with 60 vehicles checked in 30 minutes with 2 vehicles exceeding 35mph and 1 with a speed of 44mph (in a 30mph limit). Action will be taken with the drivers of the three vehicles.

**091/21.Renewal of the Clerk’s Membership to The Society Of Local Council Clerks (SLCC).**

The chair advised that last year’s membership was £161 and is now £166 for the year 2021/22. It is also a legal requirement that the clerk is a member of SLCC.

**Mover: Councillor A Martin Seconder: Councillor B Shaw**

**Resolved: That the parish council renew subscription to The Society of Local Council Clerks for 2021/22 at a rate of £166 per annum.**

**092/21. Silverwood Colliery Heritage Group**

It was reported that we had been approached by the Silverwood Colliery Heritage Group and invited to a meeting taking place at Silverwood Miner’s Welfare Thursday 24th June at 2pm. Clerks and councillors from Ravenfield and Dalton parish councils have also been invited. The initial contact goes back to pre-COVID when they approached the hall secretary to see if we had a room available so that they could look at a meeting then to increase support. The group mainly seems to consist of former miners from Silverwood Colliery and they have been accumulating mining memorabilia with a view to having some sort of public exhibition or mini-museum. The group would like to improve the area and would like some sort of remembrance/memorial Garden in the Wheel area. They are to draw up proposals and submit them to Ogden’s, the mining group that owns the land. The area would then be maintained by volunteers/Schools etc. It was discussed by council and decided that the clerk and vice chair would attend the meeting. Councillor G Senior also said he would attend if work commitments allowed. We will attend in a fact finding capacity and revert to council with any possible action items.

**093/21. Missing Manhole Covers on Drains in Roundwood and Silverwood.**

The clerk advised that we had been advised of missing manhole covers in Roundwood. Investigations led to the discovery that 2 covers had been stolen (presumably for scrap), a third one showed signs of attempts to remove it and a fourth that had been covered with covered in emergency tape and covered with plasterboard which had now crumbled. It was understood that RMBC had done this work. We had been advised by RMBC that the area had to be made safe immediately and West Direct Build were contracted to make them safe. They did this by covering with 50mm paving slabs and then concreting in place. The cost of the work was £575.

**Mover: Councillor R Thomas Seconder: Councillor Parsons**

**Resolved: That the work be approved by the parish council at the cost of £575.**

**094/21. Items Of Correspondence**

To consider the following new Correspondence that has been received since the March meeting and to decide actions where necessary.

(a) NALC Chief Executive’s Report.

(b) YLCA Training Programme.

**095/21. Items of Report.**

Ward Councillor M Sylvester presented his Ward report to the parish council.

**Oldgate Lane** - Oldgate Lane had been proposed for the 2021/22 resurfacing programme but is currently awaiting confirmation.  This is due to the ongoing impact of the building work on Whinney Hill and Chesterhill with both having ongoing construction traffic and the need to install utilities which requires work on Oldgate Lane. The Ward Councillor will keep the parish council informed as further developments occur.

**Replacement Pink Bin Policy** – it was confirmed that RMBC policy is to allow one free replacement bin and then to charge for any more.  This is to avoid excess costs to the council and prevent habitual loss and damage by some residents.  Ward Councilor Sylvester will argue for changes to take account of provable theft or third party damage.  In the meantime he will ask that parish councillors make residents aware that those over 60 or on low incomes do currently receive a 50% discount on replacement bins with a Rothercard and would urge qualifying residents to apply for their free card should they need to access any services that are subject to Rothercard discount.

**Policing Concerns** - At time of writing Ward Councillors have yet to hold their first ward neighbourhood briefing but one item for discussion will be the make-up of our local CAP (Community Action Partnership) and the hope is that there will be apermanent place for a parish council representative to express the concerns you have.

**Planning Application for variations to planning permission on Chesterhill** – It was advised that councillors may see notices regards a variation and letters are going to neighbouring properties and previous respondents to the original planning application.  I have forwarded the plans to the clerk but see little of concern with changes mainly to internal specs of properties and some landscaping changes.  The link to the plans can be supplied if anyone requests it.

**Section 106** - monies from Chesterhill - Councillors may recall the planning permission included a requirement for developers to pay monies to offset impacts from the developments specifically £47,000 for green spaces, £11,000 to improve playing pitches within 1.5 miles of the development payable to Dalton and Thrybergh Parish Councils and £118,000 for a sustainable travel plan. Chasing these Ward Councilor Sylvester has been informed that 50% will be payable by 50% occupancy of the development with the remainder payable by 80% occupancy.  Ward Councilor Sylvester will continue to track these and as part of the new ward plan will seek local input into using the sustainable travel monies to improve walking and cycling routes off the development.

**Widening of A630 in Dalton** - In order to relieve congestion off the mushroom roundabout Sheffield City Region are funding a scheme to be delivered by Rotherham Council to increase the A630 to 4 lanes by approximately 150 metres into Dalton.  Though this will happen in Dalton it will have an impact on Thrybergh.  Plans will be available for public consultation in July/August with construction intended to take place between March and October 2022. The August consultation may cause a problem for parish council input (there is no meeting in August) and will aim to keep us all closely informed.

**Brook clean up** - The community litter picking group had arranged via the Love Where You Live service for a specialist clean up team from the Don Valley River Catchments Trust to clean the brook between March Flatts and the country park last September.  This had to be cancelled due to the pandemic and DVRT relying on volunteers.  There has now been confirmation from Love Where You Live that they still aim to carry out this clean up once the bird nesting season is over in September.

**Surgeries** - Hopefully later this month indoor surgeries can resume and the Thrybergh surgery will be every week on a Monday 5.30 to 7.30pm in the Parish Hall bar. In the meantime if councillors encounter any residents wishing to contact Ward Councilor Sylvester then he will be outside the St Leonard’s Premier Store every Monday 5 to 7pm. His contact details are 07432509987 or 01709 807944 or by email michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk

The clerk then advised that he had attended the Liaison Meeting on 25th May and reported that Covid rates are falling in Rotherham and we are now in the ‘green’ zone. There has been an excellent uptake on Vaccinations but plans are in place for those who are vaccine resistant. Lateral flow kits now available from local libraries. Some libraries re-opened on limited times in 14th April and a number remain closed due to refurbishments. Riverside library is likely to reopen July 21. Rotherham leisure centres are open for swimming, gym, racket sports and classes but with maximum of 6 and from 2 households only. Exercise for up to 30 is OK outdoors. Indoor bowls is currently restricted to maximum of 6 people from 2 households.

**096/21. Matters Requested by Councillors and/or AOB.**

We have received a communication from YLCA that they are running a ballot on behalf of RMBC to select three parish council representatives and a deputy to RMBC standards and ethics committee. The item was discussed and Ward Councillor Sylvester and Councillor Bates are already on the committee. It was deemed that it was not necessary for any further nominations from Thrybergh parish council.

It was reported at last month’s parish council meeting that there is an opportunity for Parish Councils to contribute to the setting of ward priorities. Any thoughts should be sent to RMBC through the clerk, Ward Councillors or Martin Hughes at RMBC. There was a discussion about priorities and these included some provision for youth services and/or a return to RMBC providing youth clubs and centres, Also of interest would be any leisure facilities or services. All new Ward Councillors will be setting out their ward plans shortly and this is the ideal time to inform them of any requirements.

It was then reported that the flower baskets and planter outside St Leonard’s would be installed by 10th June latest.

We have been advised that the Parish Council Liaison Officer Janice Curran is now on secondment for 10 months and Martin Hughes will be acting Parish Liaison Officer (he is currently Head of Neighbourhoods).

The clerk then made available an open letter from Sue Baxter (chair of NALC) to Councillors. This was basically a welcome to office and a reminder of the high standards and principles expected from councillors.

**THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WERE THEN INVITED TO LEAVE THE MEETING.**

**097/21. The Internal Audit of Thrybergh Parish Council for 2020/21.**

The internal Audit for 2020/21 was circulated and read by the parish council.

**Mover: Councillor A Martin Seconder: Councillor R Thomas**

**Resolved: That the Internal Audit for 2020/21 be accepted.**

**098/21. Appointment of an Internal Auditor to Thrybergh Parish Council for 2021/22.15.**

**Mover: Councillor D Bates Seconder: Councillor T Knapton**

**Resolved: That Thrybergh Parish Council appoint Richard Bellamy as the Internal Auditor for 2021/22.**

**099/21. Annual Governance Statement of Thrybergh Parish Council for 2020/21.**

**The Annual Governance Statement was circulated and discussed by the parish council.**

**Mover: Councillor B Shaw Seconder: Councillor A Martin**

**Resolved: That Thrybergh Parish Council accept the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21.**

**100/21. Annual Accounting Statement of Thrybergh Parish Council for 2020/21.**

The Annual Accounting Statement was circulated and discussed by the parish council.

**Mover: Councillor B Shaw Seconder: Councillor G Senior**

**Resolved: That Thrybergh Parish Council accept the Annual Accounting Statement for 2020/21.**

**101/21. Annual Accounts of Thrybergh Parish Council for 2010/21.**

The Annual Accounts of Thrybergh Parish Council were circulated and discussed by the parish council.

**Mover: Councillor A Martin Seconder: Councillor K Endicott**

**Resolved: That Thrybergh Parish Council accept the Annual Accounts for 2020/21.**

**102/21. Clerk’s Contracted Working Hours.**

The clerk advised that his current contracted hours are 20 per week but they are insufficient based on the workload experienced. The YLCA has advised that clerks should only work to their contracted hours and not one minute over! It was agreed that the matter of the clerk’s hours be referred to the staffing committee and they will report back with recommendations at the July meeting of the parish council.

**103/21. Accounts For Payment.**

The Council considered the schedule of accounts for payment June.

**Mover: Councillor D Bates Seconder: Councillor A Martin**

**Resolved: That the schedule of accounts for payment be approved and signed by the Chairman.**

**104/21. To notify the Clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.**

There were no items raised.

**Date Of Next Meeting**

T**he date of the next parish council meeting will be Thursday 1st July,** starting at 6:30pm.

**Closure of Meeting at 8:30pm.**

Chairman ………………………………………………