

THORPE MALSOR PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Thorpe Malsor Parish Council Meeting held on 19th March 2019 in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Mrs F Pope (Chairman), Cllr Mrs H Sharp, Cllr Mrs Z Powell, Cllr Mr R Walton and Cllr Mr E Stevenson and 4 villagers

Clerk: Mrs Anne-Marie Walton-Miller

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None made.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS LAST MEETING

a The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd January 2019 were read, accepted and signed.

b MATTERS ARISING

i) INCONSIDERATE PARKING

A member of the attending public advised the committee that visitors to the Square were parking inconsiderately on a daily basis. Cllr Mrs Pope reported that signage had been promised by KBC but as yet had not been received, Cllr Mrs Pope to chase this up again with KBC.

ii) DEFIBRILLATOR FOR INSERTION INTO THE PHONE BOX

Cllr Mrs Pope reported that enquiries were still ongoing.

iii) PLAY AREA

Cllr Mrs Pope reported that there had been no further communication from KBC however in order to progress the matter the PC needs to ascertain from KBC what equipment is available so that there can be consultation with residents before equipment is ordered. Cllr Mrs Pope to chase this up again with KBC.

iv) COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Mr Stevenson reported that preparation of the CEP was still in progress.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No were no questions raised by the public.

5. FINANCES

The Clerk presented the accounts as at 8th February 2019.

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

Cheque no 10033	Payee: A-M Walton-Miller	Amount £11.99
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Cheque no 100334 Payee: CPRE (membership) Amount £36.00

Cheque no 100335 Payee: Northants ACRE (membership) Amount £35.00

It was resolved that these would be paid.

6. PLANNING

a) KET/2019/0089 – Full Application. 2 no shepherd huts and 2 no log cabins for use as holiday lets. Siting of mobile unit for use as cafe at Cransley Eco Park CIC. The Old Filter House, Eagle Lane, Cransley

The planning application was considered by the Councillors and the attending members of the public and the following observations were made in relation to the application form:

- Survey of the amount of traffic is not substantiated.
- Insufficient information regarding the use of a cafe/provision of beverages – further clarification required.
- Query over statement that 800 trees have been planted, one resident states she counted between 45-50 new trees.
- Require clarity regarding numbers. The site is not big enough to be an eco-park and to sustain the amount of people likely to visit.
- Inadequate sewerage system.

The Committee raised the following concerns:

TRAFFIC, HIGHWAY SAFETY AND PARKING:

- Potential for serious traffic issues: both Northfield Road and Eagle Lane are single track roads and there will be increased traffic volume through Thorpe Malsor village.
- Concern raised about the intensity of traffic, the roads leading to the site are already congested and unworkable and the road infrastructure is not sufficient to cope with the potential increase in volume of traffic from staff and visitor numbers.
- Public safety issue: this is a rural area and very popular walking route using footpaths and Eagle Lane.
- Plans identify car parking for 76 vehicles but a portacabin is to be sited in the car park.
- Grass verges are already being destroyed by traffic using the current route, this will be exacerbated by increasing traffic flow.

EFFECT ON TREES:

- The place where the shepherd huts are to be sited will require a number of trees to be felled.
- Trees are home to the nesting red kites which are a protected species. Any proposed tree felling would cause disturbance to habitat and wildlife and could potentially destroy the natural pond.
- Trees are subject to Tree Preservation Order,
- The site is a designated wildlife site.
- Application is out of context with the size of the area.

RELEVANT PLANNING POLICIES

- KBC's Local Plan 7 (Protection of the open countryside) and 10 (Cransley and Thorpe Malsor Reservoirs) are relevant.
- Curtilage of Filter House already extended over and above what was previously agreed in 2013 without appropriate consents, concern that if permission granted this may be exceeded too.

Taking into account the above observations/concerns, the Committee voted to object to this Application with 2 abstentions.

b) KET/2018/0981 – Full Application. Change of use of old weir house and sand washer to education centre and museum with additional parking.

The Committee members having scrutinised this planning application raised the following concerns:

- Development will compromise recreational facilities that have been enjoyed by many over many years.
- Sailing club will lose their parking spaces – the sailing club vulnerable.
- Same traffic issues as highlighted above, plus school buses are not permitted to use Northfield Road or Eagle Lane.
- The building is not a weir house, it is a reconstructed building on the foot-print of the former weir house.
- Query over the integrity of the proposal.
- Trees have already been removed without permission.
- Should not be classed as a change of use application as no planning permission was granted in the first place therefore cannot be deemed a change of use but rather a new development.
- Fencing has been installed without permission and is blocking the wildlife corridor.
- Village plan – ethos of which is peace and tranquillity and a rural setting – proposed development will not enhance the area.
- Visual amenity.

Taking into account the above observations/concerns, the Committee voted to object to this Application with 1 abstention.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

The “Sponsor a dedicated PCSO” was discussed and considered to be good idea in principal but the considerable cost was outside the PC's budget.

8. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING : The date of the next meeting remains to be finalised.

Signed.....

Dated.....