

THORPE MALSOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Thorpe Malsor Parish Council held on 31st August 2023.

Present: Cllr E Stevenson (Chair), Cllr J Harrison, Cllr C Holborow, Cllr H Sharp (Acting Clerk).
One member of the public attended.

1. Apologies for absence

None received.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Holborow declared an interest in Item 7, the land forms part of a farm in which his family has a beneficial interest.

3. Approval and signature of Minutes of the Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting of 25th May 2023.

The minutes were approved without amendment and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Open Forum (public participation session).

No members of the public initially attended, however one member arrived later and it was agreed that the time limit for speaking would be extended to allow representations relating to item 7, although this item had already been considered and a vote had been taken.

6. Finance

a) To receive the Finance Report and approve the Schedule of Payments.

The clerk presented the latest financial statement, which had been circulated prior to the meeting (copy attached). The invoice presented was approved.

b) To consider the amended quotation for repairs to the bus shelter roof.

The quotation was discussed in detail. The re-submitted quotation is £400 more than agreed in early 2022. At that time the work was not commenced due to access difficulties. The effects of inflation since then and further deterioration of the shelter has necessitated a review of the quotation prior to commencement of the work. It was agreed to accept the new quotation and the clerk will write to authorise commencement of the work.

7. Planning

To consider Planning Application NK/2023/0475: Change of use of land from agricultural to dog walking paddock with fencing and car parking area. Land to south of Loddington Road, Thorpe Malsor.

The application and associated plans were reviewed. It was noted that they did not contain sufficient information to properly explain the scheme:

1. No mention of opening hours – the application indicating that this is not relevant to the proposal.
2. States that no commercial activity will take place.
3. The gate and fences plan does not include the perimeter fence height, or describe the materials to be used. It was therefore difficult to visualise and understand the proposal.

The council's understanding is that this is intended to be a commercial enterprise run along similar lines to other dog walking fields in the area, with customers paying online for access and permitted to exercise dogs during daylight hours.

Noise Disturbance

Concerns were raised relating to the proximity of the field to the village / parishioners' homes. It was noted that other dog exercise fields are generally located in open countryside. There are already 2 dog walking fields (Harrington Road & Rushton Meadows) within 5 miles of Thorpe Malsor, neither of which is situated near homes.

It was remarked that there was a high risk of noise disturbance from barking or 'reactive' dogs and that these types of facility are also used for recall training. It was felt that this would lead to further noise disturbance, from both dog owners/handlers and their dogs which was also likely to upset the dogs that live in the village (dogs have exceptional hearing).

Appearance

It was noted that other existing fields set up for this type of activity have 6ft high fences constructed from deer wire. It was felt this would look out of place and was inappropriate in the location.

Highway Safety

- the field entrance is on a busy, fast stretch of Loddington Road, used by local traffic from Loddington, Cransley and further afield
- it becomes very busy when the A14 is blocked
- there is currently no gate but the site plan shows a gate in line with the hedgerow which will not give sufficient space for cars entering the field.
- part of the hedgerow would need to be removed to provide a safe visibility splay.

It was resolved to object to the application on the points outlined above.

8. Policies & Procedures

To review the following: Risk Assessment Policy & Register.

It was resolved to adopt the policy without change.

9. To review the appointment of a clerk.

Cllr Sharp advised that she had not yet prepared an advert for the NCALC website and would try to do this in the near future..

10. To consider further bulb planting.

It was agreed that a working party would be arranged to clear the weeds from the narrow verge on Church Way and remove the leaf waste from the bus shelter. Cllr Holborow advised that planting of other varieties of bulbs in that area might be successful and it was agreed that these and further daffodil bulbs be purchased for planting along Short Lane. Cllr Holborow to advise the clerk of a supplier.

11. To receive an update on the following projects:

a) Bench Seat

Cllr Holborow has arranged for the removal of the existing seat. It is proving very difficult to find a carpenter prepared to make a new seat. Cllr Sharp offered to again try to research a supplier on line.

b) Village Noticeboard

Cllr Sharp offered to speak with the resident who had previously offered to repair the noticeboard and

establish if he would still be prepared to carry out the work at some stage in the future.

c) Restoration works to the village well.

CLlr Stevenson offered to speak with the stonemason about a commencement date for the work.

12. Date of next meeting.

The clerk advised that the Village Hall was now available on Monday evenings and would again be free on Tuesday evenings after October. It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 13th November.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed:(Chair)

Date:

THORPE MALSOR PARISH COUNCIL

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Accounts to be passed for payment 31st August 2023:

* Denotes paid in advance of meeting.

| Payee | Details | Amount | Power |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| *Zurich | Parish Insurance | £214.00 | LGA 1972, s111 (1) |
| | | | |
| Total | | £214.00 | |

RECEIPTS SINCE: 25th May 2023:

| Date | Particulars | Amount | Account Credited |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| 05/06/23 | Interest | £1.32 | Premium |
| | | | |
| Total | | £1.32 | |

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

| Balances B/F 25/05/23 | | Receipts | Current Balances (after payment of above invoices) |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|---|
| Premium Account | £633.18 | £1.32 | £634.50 |
| Community Account | £8,698.67 | £0.00 | £8,484.67 |
| Total | £9,331.85 | £1.32 | £9,119.17 |