

THROWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the PARISH MEETING held in Throwley Village Church on Monday 27st March 2017 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Frances Wilson (chairwoman)
Roger Clarke
Tim Young
Sian Lewis
Roger Scutt
Andrew Bowles
Jill Moore (Clerk)

Apologies; Cllr Prescott, Adam Jastrzebski, Dr Alan Murphy

1. **Minutes** of the Parish Meeting 2016 have been signed off. Minutes to TPC Meeting of Monday 16 January 2017 were taken as read.

2. **Chairwoman's Report**

The new chairwoman, Frances Wilson, introduced herself. She thanked the outgoing chairman, Roger Scutt, for his many years of valuable service to the PC and wider community, for his diligence in local matters and hard work in the role. Thanks also went to all councillors, who not only attend meetings but give up their time behind the scenes. Frances Wilson then went on to report on the main activities in the PC and the parish over the last year.

- a. Throwley is very social village and supports a large number of events for such a small parish. In the past year there was:-
The Village Clean up - thanks to all who supported it, especially to Tim & Alison Young for hosting and catering. There was also Carols on the Green (supported by TEA), Carol Service (supported by TEA), the Harvest lunch and the Village fete. Nothing can be achieved without support from local residents, please get involved if possible.
- b. Major issues this year were :-
Broad band provision in the parish is poor - councillors have been in touch with BT and KCC. Sterling efforts from Adam Jastrzebski resulted in a cabinet on the green. Paddy Reeves and Adam Jastrzebski are attempting to get a VFast antenna on the church roof. There is a new BT contract starting next year, quoting a minimum provision of 10 Mbytes/sec upload speed.
Local Affordable Housing Scheme - there is a joint development with other local parishes for 9 houses on a site near Leaveland church. The planning application is underway and there is a drop-in session from 3-7pm on 10 April at Sheldwich village hall.
- c. Over £550 will be received from Colin Prescott at Swale BC, for repairs to the electricity box on the green and posts around the green. Grateful thanks to Colin Prescott for helping to arrange this.
- d. Sink Holes and footpaths – the PC attempts to intercede with local landowners when problems are noted. Residents are urged to contact the footpaths offices at KCC and Pathwatch app.
- e. Road Repairs - Potholes are becoming more numerous. It is now no longer a requirement to contact the PC, residents can report directly on the KCC website.
- f. Accounts - the precept has been kept at the same level for the last 5 years. Value for money comes from having willing parishioners who give up their time & foster a sense of community

3. **Frances Wilson introduced the speaker, Clive Foreman, of the Faversham Society, on the topic of Throwley Airfield**

Clive Foreman gave a fascinating talk on Throwley Airfield in the context of WWI. The main points of which were:-

The airfield was situated adjacent to Bells Forstal, it was mainly in operation from 1917-1919. There is a bridal path right around the airfield which could potentially become a heritage pathway. Bells Forstal farm was used as the officer's mess. A number of wooden hangers were constructed on the west side, there were also support huts and a water tower. Some early aircraft (from 1912) were used during first years of the war, they dropped early incendiary bombs in the area. The major German air vehicle at this time was actually the airship, however their use came to an end in 1916 with development of new ammunition that exploded inside the airship.

By 1916, bombing aircraft were well developed in Germany, and in response Great Britain developed airfields to prevent the bombers reaching London. One of these was at Throwley, it housed 112 Squadron. There were typically 24 aircraft in a squadron, the main aircraft in use was the Sopwith 'Camel', it was developed as a night fighter.

Around half of the Sopwith Camels crashed during take-off or landing each time. There were 5 death from crashes at Throwley but only 1 was actually shot down. On 18-19 May 1918, 3 German aircraft (Gothas) were shot down, by this time the Germans were trying to push to the channel ports.

There are books available on the subject at the Fleur de Lis Museum, Faversham.

Frances Wilson thanked Clive Foreman and there were questions from parishioners.

Open Forum

Questions from parishioners covered the following points,

1. VFast dish on church tower - A parishioner reported that VFast have said it won't be worth then installing a dish as expensive scaffolding will be required. Frances Wilson reported that there is a joint enterprise with the Church of England to put antennae on rural church towers, this could be investigated. Under the new 2018 contract, to achieve the promised 10 Mbits/sec, BT will have to come up with other solutions. The subject was discussed.

2. George Chandler from KCC indicated that there would be fibre optics reaching to the green by the end of March 2017. Roger Clarke reported that there is work currently underway by a sub-contractor.

3. Memorial on the Airfield - Roger Scutt will release an update in due course. The memorial may take the form of a map and information (around 75 high x 1m wide) to be located on Roger Scutt's land. Andrew Bowles added that other parishes have not required planning permission and that there is funding available up to the centenary of the armistice (2019). Adam Jastrzebski is looking into costs.

The Parish meeting was closed

Throwley Parish Council meeting

1. Matters arising from the Minutes

- a. Posts around forstal have been replaced. The invoice has now been paid and the funds will be applied for. The big silver birch by the pillar box fell recently, it has caused some damage. **Action: Roger Clarke to contact Nick Stears.**
- b. Little Hockley Farm – No update from Colin Prescott at present.
- c. Notice board on the green – rights of way/footpaths. **Action: clerk to follow up with KCC**
- d. Tim Young reported that as the village lanes were badly littered this year, bringing the lanes clear up to an earlier weekend next year should be considered.
- e. Andrew Bowles reported that there will be extra monies for filling potholes next year.

2. Potholes on un-adopted road around the forstal

The PC were gifted the green in perpetuity and the roads around the green are not adopted. Those properties adjoining each section are expected to repair the appropriate section, the landowner may be liable if anyone has an accident on their section. The council are not responsible for or even entitled to repair these roads, and do not have the funds to cover it. The subject was discussed and it was suggested that a notice to the effect that the road is not adopted and not the responsibility of the parish council to maintain, be posted on the notice board and emailed. **Action: clerk/Frances Wilson.**

The time and date of the next meeting is Monday 15th May at 7.30 pm at Parsonage Farm after the AGM

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed _____ Date _____