

# **THROWLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**ON THURSDAY ,4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019 AT 7.30 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Jackie Crawford, Julian Wisniewski, David Jordan, David Hayes, Ann Warwick Oliver, James McInnes, Dawn Hatton on behalf of the Archive  
Several members of the community

- (1) **Welcome:** Cllr Jackie Crawford thanked everyone for attending
- (2) **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. Paul Ridgers, Ian Brooker, Cllr. Duncan Vincent, Clerk Julie Macey
- (3) **The Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes for the APM held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were presented and signed by the Chair as a true record.
- (4) **Matters arising:** None other than those raised under the various headings.
- (5) **Reports:**
  - (a) **Chagford Church of England Primary School.** No report available.
  - (b) **Devon County Council.** Cllr. James McInnes confirmed that the Council 's net budget had risen to £493,850 from £479,426 in 2018. Children's services had risen by 9.4% and adult services by 2%. Highways had also had small rise on top of extra £18 million in 2018 received from central government. Against background of possible changes, council tax will rise by 3.9% which includes 1% rise in adult care. Cllr. McInnes continues as cabinet member of Children's services and schools and has also become Deputy Leader of the County Council. Improvements in children's services continue with overspend in budget and solutions are sought for services that can support whole family. Education funding in crises with 525 teachers and assistants leaving in last year and balancing budgets difficult. As part of F40 – over 40 councils that are poorly funded for education, cases are put together to drive the point home to the D of E. As from 1<sup>st</sup> April in an endeavour to make services as seamless as possible, health visitors and school nurses are being brought in house. With regard to highways it is important to continue to report potholes. It is possible that all divisions will see some investment from extra funding but will not cover many years of low investment. As chair of Development Management Committee of DNPA, progress is being made with local plan. Moor Than Meets the Eye project has been very successful and ways of continuing are being sought. Locality budget still in existence but not large sums of money. Cllr. McInnes discussed the actions the council was taking in respect of climate change and the environment.
  - (c) **West Devon Borough Council** There are only 22,000 homes from which to collect council tax in West Devon despite having the third largest area in country to cover. Our budget of £7.1m with a budget shortfall of nearly £1million. To reduce this the council has been included in a national business pilot, £250,000 saving has been received from letting new waste and recycling contract with South Hames, a new homes bonus grant of £375,000 for new properties in the borough, increase in income in rural councils by central government and income received from property investments. The council tax from West Devon has risen by 2.99% Whilst the Council has balanced its books this year, they will continue to lobby Government. Recycling levels reduced slightly to 52% and researching ways to recycle more materials particularly plastics. Peer Review team called in to review everything council does and good feedback was received.
  - (d) **Dartmoor National Park Authority:** Ian Brooker apologised for his absence on holiday. National park under scrutiny again. Glover Review has been asked for recommendations available for debate by autumn this year so that any recommendations can be taken forward to spending review. Engagement of young people, biodiversity and possibilities of streamlining governance on the agenda. Pressure on income generation. Car parking charges have been introduced in several areas. Ranger experience pilot project introduced to see feasibility of small groups of visitors to join

ranger for the day £125 per person. Good feedback but financially not viable. Thanks to voluntary warden Bob Haworth who has continued to give many hours of his time. He and other members of community continue to help with the work on the common removing gorse and improve grazing. Good to support village pond clearance. Ian has been co-ordinating with Throwleigh Commoners to control two areas of Japanese Knotweed on Way Down Common.

- (e) Police tabled their apologies. No report available.
  - (f) Throwleigh Centre for Young People: No report.
  - (g) The Archive: Work has continued throughout year to enable contents of archive to be more widely available. Committee has been enlarged to include Alan Endecott and Alan Clark. Receipts from sale of books and DVDs and stocks at excellent level. Formal constitution agreed. Ian Hamlett to act as archivist and has been supervising ongoing work of indexing and cataloguing. New cupboard in village hall being installed for hard drive and laptop. Much of this work is derived from the grant received from DNPA for Moor than Meets the Eye initiative. Dawn Hatton and Jon Bell asked to take part in film celebrating success of scheme. A heritage weekend has been organised from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May to allow residents and visitors to discover more about Throwleigh, its people, history and buildings.
  - (h) Friends of Throwleigh Church. Events held include tea at Blackaton and two summer concerts Moor Harmony and the Renaissance Music Group. In September a coffee morning at Endacott House was organised and October saw a welcome return of Original Rags, a concert in the Church. Finances remain in good shape standing at £15,600 after a few small purchases. No major expenditure is envisaged for this year. The main event planned in 2019 is the Heritage Weekend in conjunction with the Throwleigh Archive Group.
  - (i) Parish Council: There has been some changes in Parish Councillors this year with Dawn Hatton was co-opted for part of the year and Draeyk Horn then volunteering to take her seat. Councillors have placed their nominations in for the local council elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Roads have continued to be an issue and reporting of potholes and floodings is important to ensure issues are solved. It is easy to do this individually on line on the DCC website. We have been unaware of any lengthmens visits this year but we have some TAP funds available to carry this out. It will however be the last year that such funds will be available so future problems may prove more difficult to sort out. The defibrillator was set up at Barrowhead after the parish council arranging for a local craftsman to mend the telephone box. We now have two defibrillators in the village which are run by volunteers. Poor broadband outside the village remains a problem and currently no improvement has happened. The parish gritter was used briefly during the winter. Thank you volunteers who spent their time spreading salt over the roads. Beating the bounds will be happening this year and the first meeting should be in May. Any volunteers to help will be greatly appreciated. It is always a tremendous event. Once again thank you to the Parish Clerk for her hard work for the Parish Council
- (6) Matters raised by Parishioners: None
- (7) Any other business: None

