**LITTLE THURLOW PARISH COUNCIL**

**Draft Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on 27 April 2021 at 7 pm**

Those in attendance: C. Field (Chair), J. Hale, A. Dickson, C. Lowe, G. Patient, M. Fenner, W. Griffiths, DC P. Stevens (Part), one member of the public and the Clerk.

1. **Apologies for Absence.**

None received

1. **Declarations of Interest:**

None

1. The **Draft Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on 16 March 2021**, and the **Virtual Extraordinary Meeting held on 24 March 2021,** having been previously circulated, were approved.
2. **Public Forum**

A Loveday reported that he had forwarded an invoice to the Clerk for the annual insurance for the Sports Club for approval and payment. He confirmed that despite an increase in the value of cover by 15%, the premium had come down quite a bit. He also pointed out that they were at the beginning of a new five year term over which the premium would remain fixed.

He confirmed that treads for the zip wire would probably need replacing this summer. In addition, A Loveday confirmed that WSC has sent out a Sports Facility Strategy Survey which he would be completing on behalf of the Sports Club.

W Griffiths reported that the tennis court surface would be cleaned and repainted at some point in the next twelve weeks.

C Field raised the issue of the email received from Adam Mepham regarding speeding traffic through the village. Adam had planned to attend the meeting but was unable to do so. There was some discussion and a general consensus that this continued to be an issue for the village and also that that perception did not necessarily marry up with the data. There were suggestions for a physical barrier of some sort, a permanent VAS sign, and planned speed watches. It was agreed that this issue should be pursued with the newly elected County Councillor.

1. **Reports:**

* No report from CC Evans due to County Council Elections.
* DC Stevens reported that:
  + the planning issues in respect of the Old House had now been resolved;
  + grass cutting was up to date and moving forward quite successfully due to the dry spring, although unfortunately there was an increase in litter in public spaces;
  + the Council had been discussing the waste strategy that had been bought forward by the government, which would result in far reaching changes to the approach to waste collection and recycling;
  + the Local Plan was moving through its various stages;
  + that the Council was processing the Restart and Welcome Back funds to help regenerate local town centres and local businesses, and
  + he was happy to consider any claims for funds from the new Locality Budget for the coming year.

1. **Progress Report:**

* **Walking & Cycling Route –** Agreed still worth pursuing but no further update.
* **30 mph Signs –** To be discussed with newly elected County Councillor.
* **Flooding Temple End Junction –** It was noted that a collapsed drain will need some repair.
* **Quiet Lanes Initiative –** J Hale reported that applications had been closed. She had emailed Quiet Lanes Suffolk to ask that the village be considered for the next round of funding. It was agreed to include both Temple End and Broad road.
* **Wild Spaces Initiative** – J Hale confirmed that West Suffolk had no such initiative, but it was worth pursuing to have a similar sort of initiative to East Suffolk.

1. **Review of Internal Controls and Standing Orders**

It was agreed to postpone reporting to the next meeting. C Lowe had reviewed the Internal Controls and had made minor amendments.

1. **Confirmation of appointment of Responsible Financial Officer**

The appointment of Mandy Whitlock as Responsible Financial Officer was confirmed.

1. **Confirmation of the eligibility for exemption from a Limited Assurance review for the year of account ended 31/3/21.**

The Parish Council certified itself as exempt from a Limited Assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

1. **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Clerk confirmed that there was a requirement this year to hold an annual parish meeting, which has to be held by 1 June 2021. It was agreed that the Clerk should establish the availability of the Village Hall for a meeting towards the end of May and then contact Great Thurlow to confirm whether there would be a joint or separate meeting. It was agreed that any of the parishioners wishing to attend would have to do so via zoom.

1. **Finance:**

iA up to date Financial Statement on the Treasurer’s Account had been circulated to members and showed a balance of £12,784.64 on the current account and £1,501.27 in the reserve account, in respect of play equipment replacement as at 31/3/21. There had been very little activity in April.

ii Internet Payments of £143.47 to SALC and £132.08 to Thurlow Sports Club were approved.

iii A payment of £14.39 to Zoom was noted.

Iv It was agreed that the following amounts should be transferred to the reserve account:

* + £200 received from Locality Budget for Play Equipment maintenance
  + £1,000 re High Sheriff Award
  + £1,000 re Play Equipment reserve
  + £1,600 in respect of VE75 monies not spent in 2020/21.

1. **Correspondence**

None

1. **Councillors’ reports and Items for future agendas**

None

1. **Date of next meeting** – Scheduled for 18 May 2021 (Annual Meeting)

The meeting closed at 8.13 pm