

Throop and Holdenhurst Village Council
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

11TH May 2022 – 7:00pm

Village Hall, Holdenhurst Village Road, Dorset BH8 0EE

Present: Cllr S R Fisher (Chair), , Cllr T Blackmore, Cllr N J Corcoran, Cllr J-A Houldey, Cllr P Hall and Cllr M J Waters

P Biles (Clerk)

Public attendance- 9

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr. L W Sabih

2. Welcome and Opening Comments from the Chair

The Chair welcome everyone to the inaugural Annual Parish Meeting of Throop and Holdenhurst Village Council and asked the Clerk to explain more about the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Clerk highlighted some questions:

- **What is an Annual Parish Meeting?** There can be, and often is, confusion between the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting. All Town and Parish Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting, which must take place between 1 March and the 1 June (inclusive). Meetings should not commence before 6pm.
- **Who can attend the meeting?** The Annual Parish Meeting is for all electors of the Parish. It is not a meeting of the Parish Council. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting however, only registered electors of the parish may speak and vote during the meeting.
- **Will I be able to ask questions and make suggestions?** Any registered elector may ask a question of the Council which will usually be answered by the Chair, the Clerk or the Council, or a designated Councillor. An elector may also make a suggestion and comment on anything pertinent to the residents of the Parish. This will be welcomed and is the whole purpose of the meeting.

3. First Year of Council from Chair

The Chair explained the background to this inaugural meeting of THVC

After a very active campaign by local residents in March 2019 with the proposal to establish a new Parish council for Throop and Holdenhurst, a petition was presented to former Bournemouth Council just one week before the creation of the new BCP authority. The petition contained 308 signatures from a possible 579 residents - 53% in favour of the creation of a Throop and Holdenhurst Village Council. This has given THVC a very clear mandate from the constituents. The clerk has kept archive documentation. THVC is the only parish Council in Bournemouth, the only other parishes within BCP are in Christchurch.

Initially THVC operated for 18 months as a Shadow Parish Council: Sarah Fisher as Chair, Malcolm Waters as acting Clerk, Laith Sabih, resident and, nominated by BCP the local BCP ward councillors Cllr Lisa Northover, Cllr Keiron Wilson and Cllr Derek Borthwick. The Chair noted that Cllr Borthwick never attended a Shadow meeting. The Chair recognised the outstanding work that Malcolm Waters conducted during this time to create and establish THVC.

Throop and Holdenhurst Village Council

On 4th April 2021 the new Parish Council of Throop and Holdenhurst Village Council was legally constituted. First elections took place on 11th May 2021, with seven candidates for seven councillor appointments.

THVC is at the epicentre of four major strategic operations within BCP.

1. **A338 and possible new road into the Parish.** This is a ongoing project about which the residents of Holdenhurst have been active for many years.
2. **BCP 'Transforming Cities'. Merley to Christchurch Cycle Highway** has a major new spur from Broadway Lane via Taylor Drive in Throop Conservation Area, through the SANG and over the water meadows to Hurn. The current proposals use the existing road network but a new off-road 3.5m dedicated cycle way is mooted over the water meadows which will have an impact on the ecology and river side habitats.
3. **Throop SANG** to be created as mitigation against the BCP development of the Winter Gardens in the Town Centre. Planning permission was granted for the SANG at a hastily convened extraordinary meeting of the BCP planning committee in August 2021. Para 193: *'the car park is inappropriate development in the green belt, but the need for a SANG provides a Very special Circumstance, combined with further Very special Circumstances to justify it.* 22 planning conditions are attached. Currently there is a working party working THVC /BCP.
 - The BCP default name of the SANG is Throop Nature Park. A number of residents have expressed unfavourable comment to the name and THVC will be seeking constituents' opinion on a more appropriate name.
 - There will be no access to the river, as there will be fence eight metres from the river due to historic riparian rights.
 - The wildlife surveys are currently underway to establish a baseline for biodiversity. THVC is pressing BCP for publication of all data historical and current surveys as a proper baseline for future reference to this special area.
 - Stour Valley Park. BCP is creating a longitudinal park from Hengistbury Head to Kingston Lacey, with a major access route through Holdenhurst Village Road, Throop Road and Muscliffe lane. This will include a visitor centre at Hicks Farm. THVC has requested a copy of the latest report by their consultants Landstory.
4. **New Residential Housing Development.** BCP 'call for sites' 2021. 3000+ units have been submitted by developers for potential development within THVC. The only place in the area without a call for sites are the THVC Allotments.

A comment from the public was made about the BCP City Bid. The Chair explained that Throop and Holdenhurst's precept does not include a contribution to the Mayoral Precept. As the Mayoral Precept is funding the City Bid, THVC is therefore not part of the City Bid and if granted THVC will not be part of the City.

4. Clerk Report

The clerk gave a short explanation of how the Council is funded and a brief update on the Councils finances. The Parish Council receives its money from a precept. The precept is the council tax that the billing authority – BCP - collects on behalf of a parish council. The precept is calculated as part of the parish council's budget; it fills the gap between the parish council's planned expenditure and its estimated income. Parish councils do not receive any direct funding from central government and so the precept is a hugely important part of a parish council's income.

Throop and Holdenhurst Village Council

The Budget 2020/2021

Precept calculation set at £34.93 per band D property

The precept received £10,120 from BCP

The Budget for 2021-2 was set at a total of £11,420.

During the year, the Parish Council spent £6785 And 'earmarked' £2057 for projects started in the financial year but not yet invoiced (Holdenhurst Village Notice board and Jubilee Trees) this Resulted in an underspend of £ 1278.

The Budget for 2022/2023

The estimated precept calculation was £33.74 per band D property

All finance reports are on the Throop and Holdenhurst Village Council website.

5. Questions

The recently distributed leaflet was commented on, that it is very good. The Chair encouraged people to sign up to the newsletter, on the THVC website as it's a good vehicle to collect views and opinions from the Parish. (A box has been added to the sign-up form to help us establish who is from the Parish.

The dates and times of the Jubilee Celebrations in June were briefly discussed.

The War Memorial was then positively discussed, and it was mentioned that donations would be most welcome. The Council do need the funds in place prior to ordering. The Chair thanked Jean Kirk for raising the idea.

It was brought up that there was an accident, that evening, where the entrance of the SANG will be. It raised concerns over the traffic safety in the area.

A question was raised about the number of dead and dying trees in the area which could fall down

A comment was made about the traffic island in Muscliffe lane, looks untidy. Also, the traffic calming 'chicanes' in Muscliffe Lane are untidy, and something should be done about it. It was mentioned that it was 'no mow' May to help the bees so its something to monitor after this time.

Meeting closed at 6.57pm

Signed.....