

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of Thorley Parish  
held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Subject to change when approved**

<b>Present:</b>	Mr R Lumsden	Chairman
	Mr R Lavender	Vice Chairman
	Mrs M Read	Councillor
	Mrs J Rolph	Councillor
	Mrs E Eldred	Councillor
	Mr R Cox	Clerk

**1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.**

Councillor Lumsden was elected as Chairman (proposed Councillor Eldred and seconded by Councillor Rolph) and Councillor Lavender was elected as Vice Chairman (proposed Councillor Read, seconded by Councillor Lumsden)

**2. Chairman's welcome.**

The Chairman R Lumsden welcomed members of the public and Parish Councillors Mrs J Rolph, Mrs L Eldred, Mrs M Read

**3 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Lavender and Nicholls. Both were given the approval of the Parish Council to sign their declarations of office before the next meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2019

**3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Chairman's Report 2019**

The Chairman began by outlining what had been a busy year for Councillors given activity relating to the District Plan, the Calling in, the fight to save Thorley parish from extinction. Following the adoption of the Plan the hybrid planning application for Bishops Stortford South was strongly objected to.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors as a group for their hard work in researching documents, attending meetings, handing in vital information and delivering leaflets to inform the public.

Thanks were given to the Clerk and to individual Councillors. The newly elected Councillor Nicholls was thanked for attending external meetings and contributions to the fight against what we see as tyranny. Thanks were to Councillor Read for her local contributions, particularly in dealing with allotment and cricket club related tasks. Councillors Eldred and Lavender were thanked for their contribution on all objections and keeping us abreast of local issues. Councillor Rolph was thanked for her knowledge and retention of historical documents which were of value to our ability to object.

The Chairman paid special tribute to Councillor Robins for his continued advice and efforts on legal issues as well as other activities. The Chairman expressed regret that Councillor Robins had decided not to stand for re-election this year, but expressed the hope that he will continue to give advice in the future.

Gratitude to Councillors McAndrew and Devonshire were expressed for their help and advice over the past year.

The Chairman also referred to the cooperation between the Parish Council and OTTRA regarding the fight to save the village and against BSS. Colin Arnott was singled out for special praise. He acts as planning consultant to OTTRA and the Parish Council and did an outstanding job in analyzing information and highlighting problems.

Local residents were thanked for reporting problems and providing information, helping to deliver information locally, written to the local press, attending important meetings in support, and rallied to send in overwhelming numbers of objections.

## **5. Open Discussion**

Mrs Macdonald asked the Chairman if Thorley Parish Council will be contributing to initial costs of the Judicial Review application being pursued by OTTRA. The Chairman replied that the Council would not contribute to initial costs but that it was supportive if other groups were involved. He said that Bishops Stortford Town Council and the Bishops Stortford Civic Federation had been contacted but that the Election had delayed the BSTC response.

Mrs Macdonald asked for the minutes to be provided. She, and other attendees were told that the minutes were online. Mrs Macdonald asked to be sent a copy ACTION the Clerk. Financial information was also requested and a table showing expenditure was handed over. The Clerk advised the meeting financial information was online.

Mr Pigott informed the meeting of his application to the Local Ombudsman about the failure of the East Herts Council to hold their Development

Management meeting in Bishops Stortford. He saw the best hope of progress as being with Equality Commission and there could be a case of maladministration. Mr Pigott reported that the Planning Casework Unit in Coventry recognized Thorley as a Village and recognized the importance of the Green Belt and consultation. He also said his efforts would continue.

Mr Halford reported that his efforts to get a Road Structure Study of Pig Lane, which he had requested on December 3<sup>rd</sup> last year were unsuccessful, with Hertfordshire Highways being unhelpful. He has written to Councillor Mcandrew. Mrs Macdonald wondered if something could be done retrospectively about the ministerial refusal to call in the District Plan. She was concerned that East Herts Council had had a meeting with the minister and did not feel that local people had been properly consulted.

It was reported that OTTRA had attended a meeting to discuss the Judicial Review that day. They would need to digest the information before commenting further.

Mr Arnott discussed the latest Schools Planning Application, saying that it was, in fact concerned with getting roads in, and that it could not be operative until the main application was shown as decided. It was noted that Schools on the site had twice been rejected and the infrastructure situation is worse. It was recognized as important that the Parish Council as a statutory body object

Hertfordshire Highways were criticized for not having referred to transport modelling. There were also concerns about Condition 14 of the BSS Planning Application.