**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF TEYNHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH APRIL 2025 AT COMMUNITY HALL, 89 STATION ROAD, TEYNHAM AT 7.30PM**

**Present:** Cllr Barnett, Cllr Brodigan, Cllr Dunne, Cllr Mann, Cllr Saromi, Cllr Sharman, Cllr Townson (Chairman), Clerk Hayley Steel.

**Absent:**

**1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Simester, Cllr Dixon, KCC Lehman.

**2. Declarations of Interests on Items on the Agenda**

Cllr Townson declared his interest in Frognal Farmhouse as it is directly impacted by the Highsted Park Planning Application.

**3. To confirm that any changes to the Registers of Interests have been**

**Forwarded to the Monitoring Officer.**

None.

**4. Public Session for 20 minutes to allow members of the public and**

**Councillors with pecuniary interests to speak for no more than three**

**minutes in respect of the business on the agenda. A question shall not**

**require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question.**

No members of the public wished to speak.

**11.1 Receive Police report: Update on Meadow incident and antisocial behaviour on station road (\*\*what can we do? \*\*)**

PC Divers was present at the meeting so we moved Agenda item 11.1 forward so he

could leave after his update.

Antisocial behaviour: There are two investigations ongoing involving youths and

parents/adults behaving inappropriately towards youths. He reassured the residents of Teynham that these are being investigated. Some antisocial behaviour warnings have been issued. He is trying to keep the situation calm.

The Chairman asked if these events were linked to the Meadow and were told that

there are other things going on in the village that he cannot talk about.

Cllr Brodigan asked if those causing trouble are from outside the village and we were

told that it is local residents involved and people who have lived in the village for a

long time.

There are also groups of youths going around Faversham, Sittingbourne and

Sheerness and PC Divers is aware and monitoring this.

There is now a weekly youth group at Creed Outdoor Centre run by Paul @ Creed

with funding from Ward Councillors. It was difficult to begin with but is now getting

better. The children are able to take part for free every Tuesday between 3.45pm

and 6.30pm. The Police are going to look for some funding for this.

Shoplifting at the Co-op was raised and PC Divers informed us that he talks to the

Managers on a regular basis and is not being told about shoplifting.

Kent Police are having a huge push on Violence Against Women and Girls and are

trying to put groups together to inform women on what Kent Police can do to help.

They are targeting year 6 pupils at primary school and will be going to secondary

schools talking to older boys.

PC Divers will email the Clerk posters that can be put on Facebook.

PC Drivers highlighted that he organisers are looking for looking for volunteers, and

that these activities work well in the summer months, but will need a venue for the

winter months

**10. To discuss and agree any new members to the Parish Council.**

We have received applications from two members of the public with an interest in

joining the Parish Council. They both introduced themselves and told us a little bit

about themselves and how they would like to serve their community.

The meeting was then closed to the Public so that members of the PC could vote.

Both applicants were then asked to return and the meeting resumed in open

session.

Both candidates were unanimously voted onto the Parish Council and welcomed by

their fellow Councillors.

Both councillors signed a copy of the acceptance form. The Clerk informed both new

councillors that Register of interest forms should be completed as soon as possible.

**5. Receive brief update from ward councillor (s) on items relating to the**

**Parish of Teynham (total of 5 mins, max).**

SBC Bowen informed the PC that work on devolution of local councils is still ongoing and that there is no clear view on how Local Council’s may be structured but there are regular meetings taking place on this.

SBC have agreed to reduce the number of committees they have.

SBC Bowen gave us an update on the good work that Creed are doing with Paul providing a youth service every Tuesday free of charge with a donation from the Wards Cllrs.

SBC Speed informed us that the S106 money for Frognal Place includes a £270K provision for a GP surgery in Teynham. He is trying to make sure that the money for a GP surgery stays in Teynham, so now a Deed of variation has been signed by Trenport.

Dr Nilam is looking at properties for his surgery to come back to Teynham and there are monthly meetings taking place with him MP Helen Whately, Swale Borough Council and ICB.

SBC Speed informed us that the abandoned AQMAS is being bought back so he will continue to fight that.

**6. To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting**

**on Tuesday 11th March 2025.**

It was moved by Cllr Barnett, seconded by Cllr Brodigan and

**RESOLVED:** “That the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council

Meeting on Tuesday 11th March 2025 be taken as a true record.”

**7. Matters Arising.**

None.

**8. Chairmans update.**

* Thank you to everyone who is able to spare time and effort to contribute to the community. This includes Planning for VE celebration and Highsted Park Planning inquiry (such as people delivering leaflets; people offering to place garden boards in their property and people offering to speak at the inquiry).
* Highsted Park update later in agenda
* In Memory: Rodney Thorpe

Chairman Paul Townson read the following statement.

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Rodney Thorpe, who died on

Sunday 30 March 2025.

Rodney served on Teynham Parish Council for over two decades and was a

cornerstone of the community. A proud Yorkshireman and Royal Navy veteran,

Rodney marched in the parade at Queen Elizabeth II’s Coronation in 1953. That

same quiet strength and sense of duty shaped everything he did thereafter.

Rodney was a steadying presence on the Council—committed, principled, and always

prepared. He served on a range of committees, including Finance & General

Purposes and Editorial, and was a key link with local policing initiatives, often

working alongside PCSO Graham Mart. He was also active in the local youth club and

a staunch supporter of the Teynham Sports Association and Frognal Lane Field.

Never one to rubber-stamp decisions, Rodney’s views were clear, grounded, and

respected by all. He spoke with conviction and acted with integrity. His long-standing

role as Treasurer of the Teynham Village Hall Management Committee demonstrated

the same thoughtful, measured approach he brought to all areas of his public life.

Rodney retired from the Parish Council in 2023 and was awarded the Freedom of the

Parish in July 2023, in recognition of his exceptional service. Rodney’s commitment

to public life, his care for the community, and his steady moral compass leave a

legacy that will not be forgotten. His absence will be keenly felt across the village.

We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Dorothea, and his many friends.

Rodney gave so much to Teynham. We are grateful for his service—and we will miss

him greatly.

Paul Townson, Chairman, Teynham Parish Council . April 2025

A longer version will appear on the website later this week.

**9. Correspondence.**

We have received the following correspondence

* Local Resident: Drawing attention that the London Road Car Park was busy and that cars from local businesses were parking all day
* Larissa Reed, Chief Executive: invite to meeting about Local Gov Reorganisation
* Local residents: offers of help with the Highsted Park response
* SBC CCTV team: update on recent incident
	1. **To request a regular CCTV Report**

It was agreed we would ask for monthly updates.

* 1. **To receive an update and agree actions on Car park (suggestions in advanced)**

It was agreed that Cllr Mann will look into more signage for the car park and the Clerk will write to local business owners. We will also look into enforcement options.

* 1. **To agree to request for double yellow lines on station road**

It was agreed that the Clerk would draw attention of issue to KCC Lehman to see if there is anything that can be done.

* 1. **To discuss and agree a date for a Litter pick?**

June was discussed with offers of volunteers coming from Cllrs Saromi, Jessup, Barnett and Mcdonald.

The exact date to confirmed shortly

* 1. **To receive and update on the VE Day Event including Budget (in**

**advance)**

The Parish Clerk provided a brief update, and drew attention to the low number of volunteers to help with the event. Clerk Steel offered 3 options, with the number of volunteers required to operate the event  (1) Smaller event in Community Hall (2) Medium size event in Village Hall (3) Large event in the Meadow. It was agreed to do a facebook post with the three options and see if we get more volunteers by Thursday 17th April and if no more volunteers come forward we would go with Option 1.

* 1. **To receive an update on the defibrillator**

The Clerk has been in touch with the company we purchased it from and they have given some suggestions. Cllr Sharman has asked for this information.

1. **Planning - Receive update on Highsted Park Planning Inquiry (including request for public speakers)**

Highsted Park

Cllr Townson provided an update on Highsted Park planning inquiry:

* Planning Inquiry ongoing, and will continue to 25 July
* Inspector will make her recommendation later in the year.
* Teynham PC continue to work with Doddington, Lynsted with Kingsdown, Newnham, and Tonge PCs
* Cllr Townson had attended 6 days at Swale House (typically, 09:30-17:00) & feedback/debrief after
* Sessions open to all. Also available online, via youtube.
* Boards: Created 80+ garden boards, and distributed to the other PCs and directly to members of the community
* Fundraising: Raised £30k; Target £35K; Attending fundraiser in Norton
* Evidence: Reviewing draft transport report (Proof of Evidence). We believe we have a strong case.
* Comms: Updating website Teynham-Highsted.org
* Public Speakers: The Inquiry is seeking public speakers (Dates for public: 15th & 16th May)
* In a personal capacity, I spoke during Heritage week.
* Comms: Aware that local community would like an update
1. **To receive an update on Devolution and agree next steps.**

Carry over to next meeting.

1. **Financial & Risk**

**14.1 To agree to sign up for 3 year Insurance with Zurich at a more favourable rate.**

It was moved by Cllr Barnett, seconded by Cllr Sharman and

**RESOLVED:** “That Teynham PC would sign up for a 3 year insurance policy with Zurich at a more favourable rate.”

* 1. **To agree to have a RICS valuation**

Carry over.

**14.3 To note the annual donation towards the maintenance of St. Mary’s Churchyard and the Lych Gate War Memorial.**

Noted.

* 1. **To receive an update on the Community Hall Fire Risk Assessment (and actions).**

This will be discussed at the next Community Hall committee meeting then shared with the full PC.

* 1. **To consider option to provide device (laptop or similar) for council members to access emails.**

Carry over.

**15. Finance:**

 **15.1 Items to authorise**

 None.

 **15.2 To receive income and expenditure since last meeting**

Carry over.

**16. To agree applications and amounts for Community Grant Scheme.**

Friendly Faces of Kent have applied for a £500 grant to continue running their

sessions.

It was moved by Cllr Sharman, seconded by Cllr Barnett and

**RESOLVED:** “That Teynham Parish Council will award Friendly Faces the amount of £500 as a result of their application for a Community Grant Scheme.”

**17. Reports of Committee Chairman**

 a) Planning – Carry Over

b) Amenities – Carry Over

c) Finance and General Purposes – Carry Over

 d) Editorial – Carry Over

 e) Teynham Community Hall – Carry Over

**18. Reports by representatives on outside organisations**

 a) TVHMC – Carry Over

 b) KALC Swale Area Committee – Carry Over

**19. Advanced Notice of Items for the Agenda of next Ordinary Meeting.**

To be sent to Clerk.

**20. To note next year’s meeting dates**

* Tuesday 20th May 2025 Annual Parish Council Meeting & Ordinary
* Tuesday 10th June 2025 Extra Ordinary PC meeting (Audit)
* Tuesday 24th June 2025 Ordinary Meeting in Conyer (venue tbd)
* Tuesday 22nd July 2025 Ordinary Meeting
* Tuesday 9th September 2025 Ordinary Meeting
* Tuesday 21st October 2025 Ordinary Meeting
* Tuesday 9th December 2025 Budget/Precept & Ordinary Meeting

**21. Chairman’s Closing Remarks**

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and welcomed the new Cllrs and the meeting closed at 10pm.