

THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of Meeting held at Thorndon Village Hall on 5 January 2012

Present: Cllr Bartlett, Cllr Botwright, Cllr Cattermole, Cllr Faulkner, Cllr Horton, Cllr Le Gros (Vice Chairman) and Cllr Ravenhill (Chairman) and Cllr Taylor

Also present: Mrs A Thompson (Clerk), PC N Emerick, Mrs C Owen, Mrs C Aldous, Mrs C Rich, Mr C Stevens, Mrs S Stevens and Mr C Brand

Meeting Opened 20.01

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest:

Apologies for absence: Cllr Theobald

Declarations of interest: None

2. Open Meeting to Public – 20.03

The Chairman asked members of the public to detail which particular agenda item, if any, they had an interest in. No interests were specified.

Meeting closed to Public – 20.04

3. Approval of the minutes of the meetings of Thorndon Parish Council held on 1 December 2011

The minutes from the meeting held on 3 November last meeting were agreed as an accurate record save for the addition of confirmation that Cllr Taylor had installed the new dog bin and that Cllr Botwright was not present at the meeting.

4. Action Points/matters arising from those minutes

Summary of Action Points arising from Last Meeting		
11.06.09 - 04	PO Boxes, relocation & collection times. Response from Post Office?	MR c/fwd
07.07.11 - 02	Review of products available to Parish Councils from Banks and Building Societies	AT c/fwd
07.07.11 - 03	Paint the posts for the Thorndon Roadside Nature Reserve	Complete

Cllr Bartlett reported back to the meeting on his progress with Suffolk County Council's Highways Department regarding the white lining and potholes around the Village. He advised that the white lining outside Kerrison had not been undertaken in November as it is inadvisable to execute such works during the winter months. The job had been scheduled for March 2012. As regards the various potholes identified, some had already been repaired, whilst others awaited attention. A contractor will be in Thorndon on 6 January and Cllr Bartlett will liaise with him to ensure that the most urgent potholes are repaired, particularly the one outside 'The Oaks' by the School. Cllr Bartlett has proposed that he keeps a record of all potholes which are causing concern and which he can then refer to the Highways Department.

Meeting opened to Public 20.09

5. Reports

5.1 County Councillor's Report: Cllr Stringer was not at the meeting but provided a copy of his report, a copy of which is attached.

5.2 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Tilbury was not at the meeting and did not provide a report.

5.3 Police Report: PC D Emerick from the Police was present at the meeting and delivered his report, a copy of which is attached.

Meeting closed to Public 20.16

6. Planning

6.1 Planning Applications: 4167.11 for the erection of a single storey Oak Framed Orangery at The Chestnuts Hestley Green Thorndon. The application was supported.

6.2 Approvals: None

6.3 Refusals: None

6.4 Listed Building Consent: None received

7. Clerks Report

7.1 Financial Update: The current balance is £9,836.02 which includes the Play Area account in the sum of £4,422.69.

7.2 Payments to be made:

Date Rcvd	Payee	Purchase/Service	Amount (£)	VAT/IPT	Total (£)	Agreed/ Declined	Chq No. (& ref)
05.01.12	B Atkinson	Village Notice Board	108.00		108.00	Agreed	000263 (11/12 - 31)
05.01.12	Mrs A Thompson	Salary Month 9 & Expenses	202.50		202.50	Agreed	000264 (11/12 - 32)
05.01.12	HMRC	PAYE	50.60		50.60	Agreed	000265 (11/12 - 33)
05.01.12	Cherry Rich	Village Recorder - Records	74.23		74.23	Agreed	000266 (11/12 - 34)
		TOTAL	£435.33		£435.33		

7.3 Annual Precept

The amount of the annual precept was discussed. The Clerk confirmed that in order to meet all expenses it had been required to be make in this financial year, allowing for some small uplift in cost, that the Parish Council would need £7,577.00 for next year. This sum would not allow any flexibility to pay for other projects around the Village.

In particular the question of speeding through the Village was discussed in relation to the precept, as this is an issue consistently raised, and to date, little has been done through the agency of the Police, to monitor the problem. The Clerk confirmed that, having spoken to the Highways Department at Suffolk County Council, the Parish Council cannot unilaterally install solar powered speed signs around the Village. These can only considered with the prior consent of Suffolk County Council. In turn Suffolk County Council would need to examine data showing the volume and speed of traffic through the Village as well as the number accidents which had occurred. Cllr Taylor proposed an alternative solution for addressing this problem in the form of a mobile unit which could be installed around the Village and used to collect the data required by Suffolk County Council. Such a unit does not require the consent of any third party and would cost in the region of £4,500.00. If the Parish Council considered it appropriate, the cost would need to be covered by the level of precept requested for the next financial year.

In addition, following the presentation given at December's meeting by Suffolk Acre regarding the preparation of a Parish Plan/Village Review, the Parish Council considered whether it was appropriate to engage the services of Suffolk Acre at a cost of £525.00 plus VAT to assist in the preparation of a Village Review. Again this cost would need to be factored into the precept for 2012/2013. It was agreed that the assistance of Suffolk Acre was unnecessary and that the Parish Council would prepare a questionnaire to be circulated to all households in the Village Life, inviting villagers to raise any points of concern they may have. Cllr Faulkner will, in the first instance draft a questionnaire. **Action point 05.01.12 - 01**

There were two proposals for the precept put to a vote:

- a) An increase to £9,000.00. For: 2
Against: 6
- b) An increase to £7,500.00. For: 5
Against: 3

7.4 Grass Cutting

It was thought that the 3 year grass cutting contract needed to be put out to tender, but the position requires clarification. **Action point 05.01.12 - 02**

8. AOB and Meeting opened to the Public 21.36

8.1 Mention was made to the fact that the speed limit sign on the left hand side as one enters Fen View remained damaged

8.2 The brambles in the playing fields need to be cut back. Cllr le Gros confirmed that he would be prepared to cut the same but would need to hire machinery to execute the work. He will obtain quotations for the cost of hire. **Action point 05.01.12 - 03**

8.3 Cllr Faulkner's feedback on the RoSPA report is to be placed on the Agenda for February.

8.4 Water is apparently coming up through a manhole in Fen View.

8.5 Claude Brand reported to the meeting on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch.

8.6 Meeting closed to the Public 21.45

9. Next meeting date was confirmed as – Thursday 2 February, 2012, 8.00pm.

MEETING CLOSED 21.45

Summary of Action Points for Next Meeting		
11.06.09 04	- PO Boxes, relocation & collection times. Response from Post Office?	MR c/fwd
07.07.11 02	- Review of products available to Parish Councils from Banks and Building Societies	AT c/fwd
07.07.11 03	- Paint the posts for the Thorndon Roadside Nature Reserve	BH c/fwd
05.01.12 01	- Preparation of questionnaire for the Village Life	KF
05.01.12 02	- Confirm the expiry date for the grass cutting contract	AT
05.01.12 03	- Cost of hire of machinery to cut back the brambles on the playing field	JLG