

THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Meeting held at Thorndon Village Hall on 6 December 2012

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

Also present: Mrs A Thompson (Clerk), Mr A Stringer, Mr C Tilbury, Mr M Sillett, Mr & Mrs A Storer and Mr C Brand

Meeting Opened 20.00

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest:

Apologies for absence: Cllr Horton

Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests: None

2. Open Meeting to Public – 20.01

The Chairman asked members of the public to detail which particular agenda item, if any, they had an interest in. No interests were specified although it was confirmed that Mr & Mrs Storer were in attendance specifically to talk about speeding traffic through the Village.

Meeting closed to Public – 20.02

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of Thorndon Parish Council held on 1 November 2012

The minutes from the meeting held on 1 November 2012 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Action Points/matters arising from those minutes

Summary of Action Points for Next Meeting		
06.09.12 01	- Speak to Chairman of Stoke Ash Parish Council about the speed activated sign on the A140	MR c/fwd
01.11.12 01	- Transfer Bank Accounts to Barclays Bank plc	Complete
01.11.12 02	- Write to Robert Fiebelkorn re Grasscutting Contract	Complete
01.11.12 03	- Speak to Andrew Weaver at Mid Suffolk District Council re vacant property in Fen View	MR c/fwd

01.11.12 – 01 The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Barclays Bank plc in connection with the transfer of the Parish Council's account. She had established that the current Bank mandate was inoperable, and should be updated as Cllr Faulkner remains the only current signatory. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Taylor would now be included on the mandate.

01.11.12 – 02 Mr Fiebelkorn has provided a quotation for the grass cutting contract for the next 3 years, with an estimate of the total cost per year. The quotation was accepted by the Parish Council.

Meeting opened to Public 20.07

5. Reports

5.1 County Councillor's Report: Cllr Stringer was present at the meeting and delivered his report, a copy of which is attached.

5.2 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Tilbury was present at the meeting and delivered his report, a copy of which is attached.

5.3 Police Report: No representative from the Police was present at the meeting but they did provide a report, a copy of which is attached.

Meeting closed to Public 20.18

6. Planning

6.1 Planning Applications: None

6.2 Approvals: 2875/12 Retention of change of use of farm building to microbrewery at Shorts Farm Wetheringsett Road Thorndon. The application has been approved.

6.3 Refusals: None

6.4 Listed Building Consent: None

7. Clerks Report

7.1 Financial Update: The current balance is £11,011.47.

7.2 Payments to be made:

Date Rcvd	Payee	Purchase/Service	Amount (£)	VAT/IPT	Total (£)	Agreed/ Declined	Chq No. (& ref)
06.12.12	HMRC	PAYE	50.60		50.60	Agreed	000291 (12/13 - 28)
01.11.12	Mrs A J Thompson	Salary Months 6 & 7	202.50		202.50	Agreed	000292 (12/13 - 29)
		TOTAL	£253.10		£253.10		

7.3 The precept must be agreed at the January Parish Council meeting. Cllr Faulkner will meet with the Clerk to review the accounts and prepare a budget for 2013/2014.

7.4 A review of the issues highlighted by the Village Questionnaire was made and confirmed the following:

- Replacement Post Box on The Street: Cllr Ravenhill confirmed that she was finally in touch with the correct department at The Post Office and hoped to make some progress on this matter.
- Potholes: This issue has been addressed, with Villagers advised of the relevant telephone number to use to report potholes. This is not a responsibility for the Parish Council, rather Villagers should undertake the reporting of potholes themselves. However, if Villagers are not satisfied with the response they receive, please revert to the Parish Council who will endeavour to assist.
- Cleaning of Road Signs: This had been undertaken.
- Speeding: Please see 8.1 below.
- Hedge Cutting: There remains a problem on Thwaite Road, with the Landowner failing to respond to the Clerk's letter sent in the Summer. Another letter will now be sent by recorded delivery. **Action Point 06.12.12 - 01**
- More affordable housing: This issue has been looked into, and it was confirmed that all planning permissions are currently 'on hold'.

- Clarification on what the Parish Council is and what it does: It was agreed that the names of all Parish Councillors and their contact telephone numbers should be printed in Village Life. It was also suggested that Parish Councillors photographs and telephone contact details appear on the Village website. Parish Councillors will consider this and revisit the suggestion at the next meeting. **Action Point 06.12.12 - 02**

Generally, the Parish Council agreed to review these issues on a three monthly basis.

7.5 The Parish Council has received a draft report from Suffolk County Council's Rights of Way Committee regarding a claimed Restricted Byway between Lampits Farm and Dairy Farm. Cllr Theobald confirmed her comments on the draft report, otherwise the Parish Council had no observations to add.

7.6 Concern was raised about the obstruction on The Street caused by vans parked outside the building plot adjacent to the Old Post Office which is now being developed. Whilst recognising that there were few other places for the vans to park, the Chairman confirmed she would speak to the contractors about the concerns raised. **Action Point 06.12.12 - 03**

7.7 Concern was voiced about the parking of cars around the Church by parents collecting children from school, particularly on Tuesdays when there is a function at the Church itself. The parked cars pose a potential danger for other traffic passing through the Village. The Chairman confirmed that she would, in the first instance, approach the Police about the problem and invite them to attend the scene at the end of the school day as they may be able to proffer advice on the issue. **Action point 06.12.12 - 04**

8. AOB and Meeting opened to the Public 20.38

8.1 Mr and Mrs Storer attended the meeting to raise the issue of speeding through the Village and highlight specific instances they had witnessed from their home next to the lay-by at the Kerrison end of The Street. They compared Thorndon to Occold and asked whether traffic calming measures equivalent to those in Occold could be placed in Thorndon. Cllr Stringer confirmed the position of Suffolk County Council, namely that no new speed limits are to be imposed. However, Cllr Stringer will ask if a traffic survey can be arranged in 2/3 locations around the Village where speeding traffic is known to be a problem.. Any survey, it was agreed, should be undertaken during term time, and the results could provide valuable data indicating what measures should be implemented.

8.2 The Chairman referred to the position of the NHS locally following the assumption by SERCO of services previously provided by Suffolk Community Healthcare. SERCO has announced that it is to lose 147 clinical posts affecting nurses and other ancillary medical personnel. No public consultation was undertaken prior to this announcement. The Chairman has contacted other Parish Councils with a view to forming an action group to identify local needs. She will report back to the meeting in January. **Action point 06.12.12 - 5**

8.3 Mr Brand delivered his report on behalf of neighbourhood watch.

Meeting closed to the Public 21.08

9. Next meeting date was confirmed as Thursday 3 January, 2013, 8.00pm.

MEETING CLOSED 21.10

Summary of Action Points for Next Meeting		
06.09.12 01	- Speak to Chairman of Stoke Ash Parish Council about the speed activated sign on the A140	MR c/fwd
01.11.12 03	- Speak to Andrew Weaver at Mid Suffolk District Council re vacant property in Fen View	MR
06.12.12 01	- Send recorded delivery letter to the landowners on Thwaite Road re overgrown hedges	AT
06.12.12 02	- Consider photographs for Village website	All
06.12.12 03	- Speak to the contractors working on the building site adjacent to The Old Post Office	MR
06.12.12 04	- Speak to the Police concerning the parking of cars around the Church at the end of the school day	MR
06.12.12 05	- Report back on the reaction of other Parish Councils to SERCO's job cuts	MR