

THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Meeting held at Thorndon Village Hall on 5 December 2013

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

Also present: Mrs A Thompson (Clerk), Mr C Tilbury, Mr M Sillett, Mrs C Aldous, Mr & Mrs A Jennings, Mrs P Pearce and Mr C Brand

Meeting Opened 20.00

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest:

Apologies for absence: Cllr Botwright

Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests: None

2. Open Meeting to Public – 20.02

The Chairman asked members of the public to detail which particular agenda item, if any, they had an interest in. Interest in planning application number 2995.13 was specified.

Meeting closed to Public – 20.04

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of Thorndon Parish Council held on 7 November 2013

The minutes from the meeting held on 7 November 2013 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman

4. Action Points/matters arising from those minutes

Summary of Action Points from Last Meeting		
06.06.13 - 01	Speak to F A Edwards re the overgrown hedge on Thwaite Road	Complete
04.07.13 - 02	Review and cost options for enforcement of speed limit in The Street	JH c/fwd
05.09.13 - 02	Retrieve roundabout from Action Play and Leisure	Complete
05.09.13 - 03	Establish whether a bus shelter is available for the Play Area	JLG c/fwd to March 2014
03.10.13 - 01	Speak to Kerrison Trust following discussion with Messrs Beech and Bush	MR/PB c/fwd to February 2014
03.10.13 - 02	Contact Highways Department re faded signs around Village	PB c/fwd
07.11.13 - 01	Request site meeting re planning application 2995.13	Complete
07.11.13 - 02	Speak to Action Play & Leisure Limited re the roundabout	Complete
07.11.13 - 03	Order new Dog Waste Bin	Complete
07.11.13 - 04	Write to owner of the chicken sheds in the vicinity of Thwaite Road	AT c/fwd
07.11.13 - 05	Write to J Wallace about his overgrown land on Hall Road	Complete

06.06.13 – 01 Cllr Ravenhill has received an email from Ian Smith who has confirmed that some trimming and remedial work has been undertaken. It was agreed to remove this item and reinstate the same should the issue arise in the future.

04.07.13 – 02 Cllr Hayward has written to the Police Commissioner following the response received from Suffolk County Council to the Parish Council's proposals for speed enforcement. He has been asked to re-submit the application for review.

05.09.13 – 02 Cllr Hayward confirmed that the roundabout has been retrieved from Action Play and Leisure and payment for the work done to date paid.

03.10.13 – 01 It is thought that the better approach to this matter is to see how discussions between Kerrison Trust and the planning department unfold, before pursuing this matter further. It was confirmed that there is no possibility of Thorndon Town Trust being able to assist in this.

07.11.13 – 01 Following a request by the Clerk to MSDC Planning Department for a site meeting, the planning department responded indicating that such a meeting was not an option and that whilst the Parish Council was at liberty to hold a meeting of Councillors and/or interested parties, no Planning Officer would attend. This response was pursued by Cllr Bartlett and referred to Cllr Tilbury, present at the meeting who, in turn, will follow this up. In the meantime Cllr Ravenhill has arranged a site meeting at 9.00am on 12 December next for Parish Councillors, the Architect, Sarah Roberts and members of the public after which the Parish Council will respond formally to MSDC.

07.11.13 – 04 The Clerk spoke to Two Sisters Food Group in Eye who advised that responsibility for any smell would lie with their supplier, a party independent of themselves and provided a mobile telephone number for the farm manager. To date, however, the Clerk has been unable to make contact with the manager. Cllr Ravenhill will now attend the farm in question to ascertain the cause of the offensive smell.

Meeting opened to Public 20.20

5. Reports

5.1 County Councillor's Report: Cllr Stringer was not present at the meeting and did not provide a report.

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 Police was present at the meeting but they provided a report, a copy of which is attached.

Meeting closed to Public 21.26

6. Planning

6.1 Planning Applications: None

6.2 Listed Planning Applications: None

6.3 Approvals: None

6.4 Refusals: None

6.5 Listed Building Consent: None

6.6 Other: None

7. Clerks Report

7.1 Financial Update: The current balance is £14,769.73.

7.2 Payments to be made:

Date Rcvd	Payee	Purchase/Service	Amount (£)	VAT/IPT	Total (£)	Agreed/ Declined	Chq No. (& ref)
05.12.13	HMRC	PAYE	51.78		51.78	Agreed	100567 (13/14 - 26)
05.12.13	Mrs A J Thompson	Salary Month 8	218.37		218.37	Agreed	100568 (13/14 - 27)
05.12.13	Mrs A J Thompson	Refund cost of Dog Bin	95.74	19.15	114.89	Agreed	100569 (13/14 - 28)
05.12.13	Mr C Cattermole	Refund for Play Area materials	19.76		19.76	Agreed	100570 (13/14 - 29)
04.07.13	Action Play & Leisure Ltd	Play Equipment	515.00	103.00	618.00	Agreed	100554 (13/14 - 30)
		TOTAL	£900.65	£122.15	£1,022.80		

7.3 The vacancy for a Parish Councillor will be advertised with all enquirers directed to Cllr Ravenhill.

7.4 Cllr Hayward reported on matters arising at the Parish Liaison meeting last week including:

7.4.1 MSDC has to adopt a more commercial approach generally, particularly with Government cutbacks. The presentations were contradictory and confusing with a growth strategy based around the New Homes Bonus, which itself is set to reduce by 35% over the next 2 years

7.4.2 Villages are going to be able to compile a Register of Assets containing elements of their village considered to be important to the village, for example, the Church, school, play area, Village Hall and pub. In the event that an owner of any registered asset detailed on the Register wished to sell the same, there would be a six month moratorium on sale to allow the community time to purchase the asset. Assets on the Register can be added or removed at any time.

7.4.3 Parish Councils are now looking to set their precepts for the financial year 2014/2015. Following changes made to the way Council Tax benefit is administered, and reduction in the grant received by MSDC from Central Government to cover the shortfall in income as a result of this change as well as the possibility of the capping of precepts in the near future (although this is only speculation at the moment) the Parish Council will need to maximise the amount of precept available to it.

7.5 The Clerk and Cllr Hayward have yet to meet to consider the budget for 2014/2015 as the data necessary to assist this process is still awaited from MSDC. Whilst it had been promised for the end of November, this has been delayed to at least the end of this week.

8. AOB and Meeting opened to the Public 21.35

8.1 Following up on the issues raised by the RoSPA report Cllr Le Gros confirmed that he has made enquiries about ropes for the sides of the walkway identified as required, but that he has been unable obtain any. It was agreed to leave the same. Otherwise, Cllr Clinton has repaired to the 'loose' items identified and the roundabout has been recovered and a new bearing made for it.

8.2 Mention was made of activity on land next to Pit Hills which Cllr Le Gros said he would investigate. **Action Point 05.12.13 – 01**

8.3 The Clerk has received a request from the Deacon of Rishangles Baptist Church for a salt/grit bin to be placed behind the Baptist Church on the road which runs towards Bedingfield off the B1077. This was agreed.

8.4 A local resident has complained about parking on The Street during school hours which causes difficulties for residents looking to have oil delivered, manoeuvring mobility scooters etc. Cllr Ravenhill has responded to the email confirming the measures the Parish Council has taken to date and will now check with the Police as to what, if any, further action can be taken. It was agreed that something needs to be done. **Action point 05.12.13 – 02**

8.5 Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau have contacted the Clerk as they are looking to promote their services to local residents. They have asked for the opportunity to attend a forthcoming meeting, and it was suggested the meeting in March 2014 might be convenient. The Clerk will revert to Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau. **Action point 05.12.13 – 03**

8.6 Mr Brand delivered his report for Neighbourhood Watch.

Meeting closed to the Public 21.42

9. Next meeting date was confirmed as Thursday 2 January, 2014 at 8.00pm.

MEETING CLOSED 21.44

Summary of Action Points for Next Meeting		
04.07.13 - 02	Review and cost options for enforcement of speed limit in The Street	JH & PT c/fwd
05.09.13 - 03	Establish whether a bus shelter is available for the Play Area	JLG c/fwd to March 2014
03.10.13 - 01	Speak to Kerrison Trust following discussion with Messrs Beech and Bush	MR/PB c/fwd to February 2014
03.10.13 - 02	Contact Highways Department re faded signs around Village	PB c/fwd
07.11.13 - 04	Contact owner of the chicken sheds in the vicinity of Thwaite Road	MR
05.12.13 - 01	Investigate activity on land next to Pit Hills	JLG
05.12.13 - 02	Speak to the Police concerning the continued problem of parking between the Church and School during the school day	MR
05.12.13 - 03	Arrange for Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau to attend a forthcoming Parish Council meeting to give a presentation of the services it offers	AT