

THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Meeting held at Thorndon Village Hall on 8 January 2015

Present: Cllr Cattermole, Cllr Le Gros (Vice Chairman), Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Ravenhill (Chairman) and Cllr Taylor

Also present: Mrs A Thompson (Clerk), Mr C Tilbury, Mr A Stringer, PCSO M Tucker, Mr M Sillett, Mrs C Owen, Mrs C Aldous, Mr M Reader and Mr C Brand

Meeting Opened 20.00

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest:

Apologies for absence: Cllr Bartlett, Cllr Botwright, Cllr Farquhar and Cllr Hayward

Declarations of pecuniary interests: None

Declarations of 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 3646.14 was declared.

Meeting closed to Public – 20.03

3. Approval of the minutes of the meetings of Thorndon Parish Council held on 4 and 11 December 2014

The minutes 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		
03.10.14 - 01	Liaise with Highways re verge repairs to Thwaite Road triangle	RJ
03.10.14 - 02	File complaint with BT re state of the telephone box	AT
03.10.14 - 03	Liaise with the Church re emergency provisions which can be jointly collated	JH & MR
03.10.14 - 05	To look into improving the broadband connection for the Post Office van	PB & MR c/fwd
06.11.14 - 01	Refer persistent delays regarding the Parish Council application for a vehicle activated sign to Cty Cllr Stringer	JH c/fwd
04.12.14 - 01	Continue to pursue details as to broadband speed upgrade for the Village	Complete
04.12.14 - 02	Contact Suffolk County Council re grit supplies	AT

03.10.14 – 01 Cllr Jenkins confirmed that he has not received any response on this, but felt this could be due to the Christmas break. He hopes to have feedback for the next meeting.

03.10.14 – 02 The Clerk has received a response from BT who have asked for confirmation of the telephone number to ensure they trace the correct kiosk. Mrs C Owen is to try telephoning the old number to see if that makes a connection.

03.10.14 – 03 Cllr Ravenhill has now spoken to the Vicar who has confirmed that she is thinking, together with other village organisations, of acquiring a generator with sufficient capacity to supply both light and heat for a prolonged period in the event of a power cut of the nature experienced in October 2013. The PCC meet next week at which this suggestion will be discussed and once a strategy, including location for the congregation of villagers during a power cut, is confirmed, the details will be included in the Parish Council's Emergency Household Resources Information Leaflet approved at the last meeting.

04.12.14 – 01 In the absence of Cllr Bartlett, County Councillor Stringer was able to give some clarity to this issue. He confirmed that the broadband speed around Thorndon varied between 2 – 5 mb/s, which under the terms of the first contract entered into with BT, is what was required and so has been delivered. We are now looking to ascertain when, under the second contract with BT, the superfast infinity services will be received in Thorndon. This next phase requires two BT cabinets to be upgraded in order that they can operate the necessary fibre optic technologies. Details of when this further improved service will be available should be known in June 2015.

04.12.14 – 02 The Clerk confirmed that she had received an email on 8 December from Suffolk County Council on 8 December confirming that they would be ensuring all grit bins are restocked. It was stated that the same remain empty and so the Clerk will chase this once more.

Meeting opened to Public 20.15

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: PCSO M Tucker from the Police was present at the meeting and delivered his report, a copy of which is attached.

Meeting closed to Public 20.30

6. Planning

6.1 Planning Applications: 3646.14: Application for change of use of land from agricultural to take off and landing model aircraft use and positioning of a twenty (20) ft storage container and creation of parking area for up to 15 vehicles at Five Cross Ways Deadmans Lane Wetheringsett cum Brockford. The application was supported following clarification of concerns raised by Councillors with Mr M Reader, the chairman of the model aircraft flying club who was present at the meeting. He was able to confirm that the application site comprises 5 acres of set-aside land and accommodates a portakabin which has been disguised by hay bales to reduce the visual impact. The model aircraft club has 60 – 70 members of whom about 4 – 5 fly at any one time. Any flying is strictly dependent on weather conditions. The model aircraft are largely electric airplanes which are silent flight, although there are a few motorised airplanes all of which comply with noise regulations. The club, which has its own rules and regulations observed by members, offers a leisure activity to a wide age range of people as well as the disabled.

3547.14: Application for the erection of a wooden garden shed at Manor Farm House Rishangles Road Thorndon. The application was supported.

6.2 Listed Planning Applications: None

6.3 Approvals:

- **3341.14:** Planning permission has been granted for the continued use of a 6m x 6m unit as a village shop at The Black Horse Inn, The Street, Thorndon. .
- **3547.14:** Planning permission has been granted for the erection of a greenhouse in the front garden at Appletree House The Street Thorndon

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 £20,190.37.

7.2 Payments to be made:

Date Rcvd	Payee	Purchase/Service	Amount (£)	VAT/IPT	Total (£)	Agreed/ Declined	Chq No. (& ref)
08.01.15	SALC	New Councillor Training	£98.00	£19.60	£117.60	Agreed	100627 (14/15 - 46)
08.01.15	Mrs A Thompson	Clerk's Salary	£207.12		£207.12	Agreed	100628 (14/15 - 47)
08.01.15	HMRC	PAYE	£51.78		£51.78	Agreed	100629 (14/15 - 48)
		TOTAL	£356.90		£376.50		

7.3 The Clerk confirmed that having met with Cllr Hayward they agreed that the Parish Council's projected expenditure for the next financial year would be £9,200.00 which sum includes the potential cost of a contested election in May of £1,200.00. Given the Parish Council has a number of capital projects it is currently considering including expansion of the Play Area facilities; vehicle activated signs and contributing towards the acquisition of a generator as well as other potential projects with which it might need to undertake in the coming financial year it was felt by Councillors that the precept (£12,000.00) should be increased by 10% (£1,200.00) for the forthcoming year. This was unanimously agreed.

8. AOB and Meeting opened to the Public 20.45

8.1 Cllr Ravenhill mentioned a concern she has regarding the Post Office Van and the fact attendance in Thorndon has been erratic in recent weeks. The village is notified on some occasions, but not all and sometimes the reason given is that the driver is required to assist at the Stowupland Post Office. Cllr Ravenhill is concerned that if villagers feel they cannot rely on the Post Office Van coming to the village, they will make alternative arrangements and if usage of the facility reduces that might compromise the continued service. She proposes to speak with Anna Bloom to establish what the current problems are and seek assurance as to the continuation of this amenity.

8.2 The trees in Fen View will require pruning in the near future, an undertaking Mid Suffolk District Council state they cannot afford, albeit they have recently attended to the damage being caused by their roots. In the absence of Cllr Farquhar at the meeting, it was agreed to leave further discussion on this issue until the next meeting.

8.3 The ditch adjoining the Play Area is blocked. Cllr Cattermole will look into the possibility of clearing it out with a digger.

8.4 Mr Brand delivered his report on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch.

Meeting closed to the Public 21.19

9. Next meeting date was confirmed as Thursday 5 February 2015 at 8.00pm.

MEETING CLOSED 21.20

Summary of Action Points for Next Meeting		
03.10.14 - 01	Liaise with Highways re verge repairs to Thwaite Road triangle	RJ
03.10.14 - 02	File complaint with BT re state of the telephone box	AT
03.10.14 - 03	Liaise with the Church re emergency provisions which can be jointly collated	JH & MR c/fwd
03.10.14 - 05	To look into improving the broadband connection for the Post Office van	PB & MR
06.11.14 - 01	Refer persistent delays regarding the Parish Council application for a vehicle activated sign to Cty Cllr Stringer	JH c/fwd
04.12.14 - 01	Continue to pursue details as to broadband speed upgrade for the Village	PB & JH c/fwd
04.12.14 - 02	Contact Suffolk County Council re grit supplies	AT