

THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Meeting held at Thorndon Village Hall on 5 February 2015

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

Also present: Mrs A Thompson (Clerk), Mr A Stringer, Mr M Sillett, Mr S Woods, Mr F Head,
Mr R Fiebelkorn, Ms B Sillar, Mr A Barnard, Mr R Hunt, Mr D Youles, Mr J Wilson, Mr G Head,
Mr P Wiltshire and Mr C Brand

Meeting Opened 20.00

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest:

Apologies for absence: None

Declarations of pecuniary interests: None

Declarations of non-pecuniary interests: None

2. Meeting opened to Public – 20.01

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 – 20.02

3. Approval of the minutes of the meetings of Thorndon Parish Council held on 8 January 2015

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 from Last 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	Complete

03.10.14 – 01 Cllr Jenkins confirmed that he has received a response from John Simpson who is reviewing the costings with the Contractor to confirm that the quotation given is realistic. John Simpson is concerned that because of the change in design the project may now be more expensive.

03.10.14 – 02 The Clerk has not heard from Mrs C Owen as to whether the old telephone number is still connected. The will chase this.

03.10.14 – 03 The Vicar who is currently away on holiday, but in the interim the Village Life has run an article inviting villagers to provide details of any expertise they may be able to offer in case of emergency. Responses are being collated by the Clerk.

03.10.14 – 05 An engineer from BT attended to fit a box to a pole at the Black Horse only for it to be discovered that the box had not been ordered. This issue continues to be a problem and Cllr Ravenhill confirmed she would continue to keep pressure up for a resolution as soon as possible.

06.11.14 – 01 No progress can be reported on this, and Cty Cllr Stringer has no feedback to give. Cllr Hayward will provide Cty Cllr Stringer with his email chain who in turn will pursue the matter.

04.12.14 – 01 Cllr Bartlett has been liaising with Cty Cllr Stringer on this. The current position is that whilst Thorndon was included for Phase I of the project which aimed to provide 55 – 85% coverage for Suffolk, the funding ran out so that Thorndon was omitted from that contract. Phase II is now underway which is looking to secure coverage for 95% of properties. Thorndon is within the scope of Phase II. The programme is currently at the planning stage and is being prepared on a cabinet by cabinet basis. Details of the programme should be available in Autumn 2015 when it will be clearer as to when Thorndon can expect to be upgraded.

04.12.14 – 02 It was confirmed that the grit bins have been re-stocked.

Meeting opened to Public 20.27

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 not present at the meeting but he provided his report, a copy of which is attached.

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

Meeting closed to Public 20.32

6. Planning

6.1 Planning Applications: 3642.14: Application for the erection of 4 new dwellings & associated garaging. Provision of new vehicle access from highway and removal of existing access. Erection of two storey extension to Foundry House (existing dwelling) all at Foundry House Stanwell Green Thorndon IP23 7JH

The planning authority has issued revised plans/additional information in respect of this planning application which were reviewed by Councillors before the meeting was opened to the public for discussion. Councillors could not identify any significant difference in the revised details which clearly had not addressed any of the issues previously raised.

Meeting opened to Public 20.36

The application and its revisions were discussed and the following issues identified/reiterated:

- the revised plan has realigned the boundary
- two ponds have been included but the same are designed to drain into an adjoining ditch whose owner was present at the meeting. She confirmed that the application

site has no legal right of drainage into the ditch in which there is clear evidence of water vole activity. The local planning authority cannot approve any application which might harm and protected species and so a proper report should now be obtained.

- there has been no significant change in the height and style of the proposed dwellings in respect of which all previous objections stand including the fact that the proposed development fails to address the strategic housing policy of Mid Suffolk District Council.
- none of the concerns as to drainage and sewerage back up have been addressed. Since the last meeting when this planning application was considered Anglian Water have had to attend the vicinity of the application site on five separate occasions to pump out the drainage system. Anglian Water has a legal duty as sewerage undertaker to dispose of foul waste from the site. These concerns can be dealt with as a pre commencement planning condition.
- a bat survey has been carried out but at a time when bats are in hibernation. An activity survey should be conducted between April and September.
- The application site was formerly a foundry. An environmental search should be carried out.

Meeting closed to Public 21.20

It was agreed that the Parish Council would respond to the revised details making the following points:

- Design and layout not in keeping with the character of the Village
- The size of the dwellings overlook adjoining properties
- The fact that the proposed development is contrary to Mid Suffolk District Council's own housing policy
- Overcrowding on site
- Green roofing on garages are a concern as to maintenance which could become unsightly if neglected
- Questioning whether the proposed ponds and rainwater soakaways will provide sufficient drainage from the site
- The proposed resin coated gravel is not acceptable
- The eco report is flawed
- A flooding report should be requested and Anglian Water should be asked to provide a report on the application
- Car parking on site is insufficient
- The drawings are inaccurate. They mark a footpath which doesn't exist and the adjoining properties are not correctly shown

6.2 Listed Planning Applications: None

6.3 Approvals:

- **3547.14:** Planning permission has been granted for the erection of a wooden garden shed at Manor Farm House Rishangles Road Thorndon.

6.4 Refusals: None

6.5 Listed Building Consent: None.

6.6 Other: None

7. Discussion regarding extending the Play Area with the possible provision of a skateboarding park was deferred to the next meeting.

8. Clerks Report

8.1 Financial Update: The current balance is £19,828.86

8.2 Payments to be made:

Date Rcvd	Payee	Purchase/Service	Amount (£)	VAT/IPT	Total (£)	Agreed/ Declined	Chq No. (& ref)
08.01.15	Mrs A Thompson	Clerk's Salary	£207.12		£207.12	Agreed	100630 (14/15 - 49)
08.01.15	HMRC	PAYE	£51.78		£51.78	Agreed	100631 (14/15 - 50)
		TOTAL	£258.90		£258.90		

9. AOB and Meeting opened to the Public 20.45

9.1 Cllr Ravenhill followed up on an issue which has been discussed in the recent past, namely the problems being caused by some trees in Fen View. An arboriculturalist has attended the site and confirmed that some of the trees could be felled, but in any event the trees will require pruning in the near future. The cost for pruning the trees is £180.00 + VAT a cost Mid Suffolk District Council state they will not meet. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to Mid Suffolk District Council indicating that the trees are the Council's responsibility and that they should meet the costs of resolving the problem. **Action Point 05.02.15 - 01**

9.2 Cllr Bartlett will liaise with the Kerrison Trust and report back to the next meeting **Action Point 05.02.15 - 02**

9.3 Cllr Ravenhill has received correspondence offering a free defibrillator and training but the village would need to purchase the box with link to the Ambulance Service for £590.00 + VAT. Applications need to be made before the end of March. It was agreed that Cllr Ravenhill should take this forward. **Action Point 05.02.15 - 03**

9.4 Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils are holding consultations on planning changes in February and March. Cllr Ravenhill will attend on 10 February and would like another Councillor to attend one of the March sessions. The Clerk will circulate the email to all Councillors.

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

Meeting closed to the Public 22.04

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

MEETING CLOSED 22.05

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
05.02.15 - 01	Write to Mid Suffolk District Council re trees in Fen View	AT
05.02.15 - 02	Report on Kerrison proposals	PB
05.02.15 - 03	Apply for defibrillator	MR