

THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Meeting held at Thorndon Village Hall on 3 December 2015

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

Also present: Mrs A Thompson (Clerk), Mr G Horn, Mr A Stringer, Mrs C Aldous, Mr M Sillett, Mr J Hartwell, Mr I Baker, Mr D Youles, Mr M Steele, Mrs J Steele and Mr C Brand

Meeting Opened 20.01

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 – 20.02

The Chairman asked members of the public to detail which particular Agenda item, if any, they had an interest in. No Agenda items were identified.

Meeting closed to Public – 20.03

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of Thorndon Parish Council held on 12 November 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 – 03	Liaise with the Church re emergency provisions which can be jointly collated	JH & MR c/fwd
02.07.15 – 01	Contact BT to ascertain the cost of reinstating the public telephone as a payphone	MR c/fwd
02.07.15 – 04	Proposed establishment of a working group of local Parish Councils to discuss local planning issues	Complete
12.11.15 – 01	Meeting with John Simpson re VAS Response	JH
12.11.15 – 02	Contact Richard Anscombe re Neighbourhood Plan	MR c/fwd
12.11.15 – 03	Review RoSPA Report	Complete

03.10.14 – 03 Cllrs Hayward and Ravenhill have met with Rev J Lall together with Brenda and John Stanley to discuss the proposal that a generator is installed at the Village Hall. Rev Lall confirmed that the Church was in agreement with the proposal and would like the opportunity to make a donation towards its acquisition. This will be discussed at the next PCC meeting to be held on 7 December next and she will revert to the Parish Council thereafter. In addition to this, Rev Lall confirmed that the Church could provide practical support in the event of an emergency necessitating the use of the generator.

02.07.15 – 01 Cllr Ravenhill advised that she had no further information on this following her report at the last meeting.

02.07.15 – 04 Cllr Ravenhill confirmed that she had attended a recent meeting with SALC at which she had raised the issue of Functional Clusters. SALC will revert back to MSDC on this initiative. District Cllr Horn advised the meeting that he understood the intention behind the correspondence on Functional Clusters was to elicit feedback from Parishes which could then be incorporated into the Joint Local Plan which is currently being drafted. MSDC did not envisage a timeframe in which to revert to Parishes, but he will follow up on this matter and report back.

12.11.15 – 01 The Clerk advised Councillors of the dates provided by John Simpson as possible dates for a site meeting. It was agreed to respond confirming 18 December 2015 would be convenient.

12.11.15 – 02 Cllr Ravenhill had made an initial contact with R Anscombe at Wetheringsett Parish Council but awaits a response from him.

12.11.15 – 03 Cllrs Hayward and Cattermole confirmed that they have attended to the issues highlighted in the RoSPA report but would wait until the spring to complete some elements of the task, particularly reinstatement of the grass, addition of bark and trip hazard on the roundabout. They are also looking into the issue of the handrail.

Meeting opened to Public 20.20

5. Reports

5.1 County Councillor's Report: Cllr Stringer was present at the meeting and delivered his report to the meeting, a copy of which is attached. Mr Horn reminded Councillors of his 'one off' locality budget, applications for which must be submitted by 8 January next. The Clerk has already passed a copy application for to the Community Council who may apply for assistance towards the purchase of the generator. The Parish Council can also make a similar application and the Clerk will circulate the application form to Councillors for completion.

5.2 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Horn was present at the meeting and delivered his report to the meeting, 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 20.30

6. Planning

6.1 Planning Applications: None.

It was noted that the Planning Application for Kerrison was received on 30 November, too late for inclusion on the Agenda for tonight's meeting. The Clerk is trying to secure an extension of time limit for response by the Parish Council to allow for the same to be discussed at the next meeting in January. Cllr Bartlett requested a concise briefing on the current Section 106/ infra structure levy position, particularly the options available to Parish Councils, in advance of consideration of this application. Cllr Horn said he would provide an input for the Clerk to draft a short note.

6.2 Listed Planning Applications: None

6.3 Approvals:

- **3363.15:** Outline planning permission consent has been granted for the erection of a detached dwelling and garage on land at Thwaite Road Thorndon
- **3368.15:** Outline planning permission consent has been granted for the erection of a detached dwelling and garage on land at Thwaite Road Thorndon

6.4 Refusals: None

6.5 Listed Building Consent: None

Meeting opened to Public 20.32

6.6 Other:

- On hearing of the two grants of outline planning permission detailed above, a considerable amount of disquiet was expressed by both Councillors and members of the public that the views of both the Parish Council and residents are apparently being ignored by planning officers when considering planning applications and the resultant impact on villages and their communities of their decisions. There was particular strong feeling for the fact that these applications have been granted for development outside the village envelope. The fact that MSDC (like 80% of other local authorities) does not have a five year land supply has resulted in the 'suspension' of the local plan and all applications are now assessed solely in accordance with the criteria set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, the main requirement being that a proposed development must be sustainable. District Cllr Horn suggested that Community Led Parish Plans should form part of the Parish Council's overall consideration of Neighbourhood Plans and confirmed he would provide full details thereof.

Meeting closed to Public 21.05

7. Specific Agenda Items:

7.1 The current grass cutting contract has expired and the Clerk will advertise in Village Life for quotations for consideration by the Parish Council.

7.2 The question of Brome Recycling Centre was raised and the fact that the business is clearly struggling to survive against a background of falling international prices for recycled materials. As this is a private business, Suffolk County Council is limited in its ability to support the enterprise as it cannot directly subsidise the same. Cty Cllr Stringer did, however, assure the meeting that Suffolk County Council is actively supporting the Centre. Mr Brand confirmed that he would publish the opening hours through his email network.

8. Clerks Report

8.1 Financial Update: The current balance is £26,638.55

8.2 Payments to be made:

Date Rcvd	Payee	Purchase/Service	Amount (£)	VAT/IPT	Total (£)	Agreed/ Declined	Chq No. (& ref)
03.12.15	Mr C Cattermole	Timber for Play Area	£20.53		£20.53	Agreed	100677 (15/16 - 33)
03.12.15	Business Services @ CAS Ltd	Insurance Premium	£580.01	£28.99	£609.00	Agreed	100678 (15/16 - 34)
03.12.15	Mrs A Thompson	Reimbursement for Dog Bin	£210.08	£42.01	£252.09	Agreed	100679 (15/16 - 35)
03.12.15	Mrs A Thompson	Clerk's Salary & Postage	£213.60		£213.60	Agreed	100680 (15/16 - 36)
03.12.15	HMRC	PAYE	£51.78		£51.78	Agreed	100681 (15/16 - 37)
03.12.15	Thorndon Village Hall	Hire of Village Hall	£72.00		£72.00	Agreed	100682 (15/16 -

							38)
03.12.15	Suffolk County Council	Claude's Crimefighters Award Money	£99.80		£99.80	Agreed	100683 (15/16 - 39)
		TOTAL	£1,247.80	£71.00	£1,318.80		

8.3 It was agreed that the Clerk will meet with Cllr Hayward to discuss the budget for 2016-2017 in advance of the setting of the Precept at January's meeting

8.4 The Clerk confirmed that she has received notification from MSDC that they are no longer automatically sending copies of the Christmas collection dates/calendar to every household. These can be downloaded by individuals from MSDC's website. The Clerk has asked that a copy be placed on the website and has procured the distribution of the same via Mr Brand's email network. A copy has also been placed on the noticeboard. Some hard copies are available in the community shop and can be requested by telephoning the MSDC helpline on 01449 778678.

9. AOB and Meeting opened to the Public 21.36

9.1 Cllr Hayward reported that when meeting with Rev J Lall the issue of car parking had been raised and suggestions as to how better use of the space at the front of the Church could be made. The PCC are considering low level lighting along the front of the Church and as the Parish Council own the Lych Gate it could, maybe, install lighting to this structure as a power supply is already in situ. It was agreed that further discussions should be undertaken once the Parish Council receives a response from Thorndon Town Trust concerning its request to release some of the adjoining Trust land for relief car parking. The Clerk was able to confirm that a reply has now been received in which the Trust have reiterated that it is unwilling to release any of its land for this purpose.

9.2 Clarification was sought as to who bears responsibility for the repair of damage caused to verges by delivery trucks/construction vehicles at a development site and or damage caused to the verges as a result of passing traffic manoeuvring around obstructions caused by such activity as well as clearance of resultant mud from the road. It was confirmed that the developer has responsibility for verges surrounding the site otherwise it falls to the Highways Department at Suffolk County Council. Given the nature of the village roads, erosion of verges in certain parts where cars pass does occur. On a related note, there is a collapsed sewer at the junction of The Street with High Street which, because of an oak tree, the subject of a Tree Preservation Order, requires trenches to be dug out manually. The contractors have agreed to make good any damage necessarily caused to the verges but it was felt that Anglian Water Services Limited should be made aware that responsibility for these works properly lies with it.

9.3 Cllr Ravenhill raised the issue of the mobile Post Office van and its recent erratic attendance in the village. She has remonstrated with Anna Bloom at Allards, who is contracted by the Post Office to provide this service, about this and has been informed that when Allards are short staffed due to staff holidays or illness, the mobile Post Office van is likely to be cancelled. Cllr Ravenhill asked for a volunteer to monitor the attendance of the van and to contact Anna Bloom whenever the same fails to turn up. Alternatively, a register of the van's attendance could be kept by the Community shop. The possibility of referring this matter to the Post Office was suggested, but gathering the data is the first priority.

Action Point 03.12.15 - 01

9.4 Cllr Ravenhill attended a recent meeting at Hartismere Hospital and was surprised to discover that SERCO are no longer contracted to provide services and that the Clinical Commissioning Group have taken over the contract for 1 year with an option to renew for a further 12 months. The CCG are now three months into their contract and are conducting a review of matters after which they will be in a position to consider what to do. It was felt that, given the nature of such deliberations and timescale involved, not much is likely to happen. Cllr Bartlett is to draft a letter to Dr D Poulter MP expressing the Parish Council's concerns at this matter which, once approved, will be sent via the Clerk. **Action Point 03.12.15 - 02**

9.5 Cllr Ravenhill drew attention to the Suffolk County Council Budget Briefing which has a target to save £73,000,000.00 during 2016-2018 which will inevitably result in significant cuts across all services.

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

Meeting closed to the Public 21.50

10. Next meeting date was confirmed as Thursday 7 January 2016 at 8.00pm.

MEETING CLOSED 21.52

Summary of Action Points for Next Meeting		
03.10.14 - 03	Liaise with the Church re emergency provisions which can be jointly collated	JH & MR c/fwd to November
02.07.15 - 01	Contact BT to ascertain the cost of reinstating the public telephone as a payphone	MR c/fwd
12.11.15 - 01	Meeting with John Simpson re VAS Response	JH
12.11.15 - 02	Contact Richard Anscombe re Neighbourhood Plan	MR
03.12.15 - 01	Monitoring of the Post Office Van	MR
03.12.15 - 02	Letter to Dr D Poulter MP re Hartismere Hospital	PB