

THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Meeting held at Thorndon Village Hall on 7 April 2016

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

Also present: Mrs A Thompson (Clerk), Mr A Stringer, Mr G Horn, Ms C Clarkson, Mr M Sillett, Mrs C Aldous and Mr C Brand

Meeting Opened 20.01

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest:

Apologies for absence: Cllr Botwright, Cllr Hayward and Cllr Ravenhill (Chairman)

Declarations of pecuniary interests: None

Declarations of non-pecuniary interests: Cllr Clinton declared an interest in planning application 0740.16

2. Meeting opened to Public – 20.02

The Vice Chairman asked members of the public to detail in which particular Agenda item, if any, they had an interest. No specific interest was expressed.

Meeting closed to Public – 20.03

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of Thorndon Parish Council held on 3 March 2016

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Vice 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
04.02.16 - 01	Speak with D Cllr Horn re Community led plans	Complete
04.02.16 - 02	Write to Galloways & planning re the Hopkins Homes sign	Complete
04.02.16 - 03	Ascertain whether the 'Heart of Suffolk' fingerposts are to be replaced	AT c/fwd
03.03.16 - 01	Confirm position vis a vis insurance of the VAS	Complete
03.03.16 - 02	Write to Highways re blocked gully at junction on U5305 and A140	AT c/fwd

04.02.16 – 02 Cllrs Jenkins confirmed that together with Cllr Hayward they met with District Cllr Horn and Nick Ward, a town planner, on 23 March. Cllr Jenkins advised that to have a community led plan would be good for the village and feels that to do nothing is not an option. Whilst village boundaries remain, under the new rules there is no restriction on individuals applying for planning permission outside those boundaries and, indeed securing permission for development, something which has already happened in Thorndon. Community led plans are less onerous than Parish Plans and do involve the community and

have no hidden costs. Nick Ward has offered to attend a Parish Council meeting to provide more detail as to what is required, and it was agreed that Cllr Jenkins should arrange such an attendance for the meeting in June. The first step will be to conduct a survey of villagers which can be achieved through the Village Life magazine and online using 'Survey Monkey' a facility which is free to organisations such as Parish Councils. **Action Point 07.04.16 – 01**

04.02.16 – 01 The Clerk confirmed that a response from Galloways has been received in which they confirm that the sign has not caused any difficulty for their drivers and agree with the Highways Engineer's assessment of the same

04.02.16 – 02 The Clerk confirmed that to date no response has been received. She will chase up on this enquiry.

04.02.16 – 03 The Clerk confirmed that she has spoken to the insurers who advised that volunteers moving the equipment around the village would be covered by the Parish Council's public liability insurance but that the Parish Council would need to insure the posts and equipment itself against damage by vehicles and/or malicious damage. Based on an acquisition cost of £2,500.00, the insurance premium will increase by £17.96 p.a. It was agreed to add the equipment to the policy once the same is acquired.

04.02.16 – 04 The Clerk confirmed that she did write to Highways about the flooding following the last meeting, but to date has not received a response. Councillors noted that there is evidence of blockage in the ditches which will continue to cause a problem until cleared properly. The Clerk will write to Highways once more.

Meeting opened to Public 20.18

5. Reports

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

5.2 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Horn was present at the meeting and delivered his report for the meeting.

5.3 Police Report: No representative from the Police was present at the meeting nor did they provide a report for the meeting. Given the new regime under which the Police are now operating, it was agreed to invite a report from them quarterly.

Meeting closed to Public 20.37

6. Planning

6.1 Planning Applications:

- **0740.16** Application for proposed change of use of existing agricultural building and land within its curtilage to residential use and associated operational development at The Old Post Mill The Street Thorndon. This application was discussed at length and Councillors agreed to comment on the same noting the lack of adequate car parking and absence of garden and querying the reference to 'associated operational development' which it was felt fell outside the scope of the rules for permitted development.
- **0951.16** Application for change of use of agricultural barn to wedding venue/conference centre/multi purpose meeting centre at Shorts Farm Castle Hill Thorndon. This application was supported.
- **1587.16** Application for variation of conditions 4 and 5 to planning permission 0610.13 at Havenholme The Street Thorndon (retrospective). Councillors noted that this application as been f=before the Parish Council in the past and that their

response remains the same. The Clerk will respond accordingly, noting the Parish Council's stance on applications for retrospective consent.

6.2 Listed Planning Applications:

- **0295.16** Fix a cockerel weathervane to the eaves on the south facing elevation of Charity Farm Barn Stanwell Green Thorndon. This application was supported.

- **6.3 Approvals:**

- **0294.16** Fix a cockerel weathervane to the eaves on the south facing elevation of Charity Farm Barn Stanwell Green Thorndon.
- **0350.16** Demolition of existing car port and erection of single storey detached garage at Peelers Cottage Stanwell Green Thorndon.
- **0187.16** Outline application for the erection of detached dwelling and garage and construction of vehicular access on land at Thwaite Road Thorndon

6.4 Refusals: None

6.5 Listed Building Consent: None

6.6 Other: None: The Clerk noted the meeting of the Planning Committee to discuss the Kerrison application took place on 30 March last.

7. Specific Agenda Items:

7.1 Alternative solutions for broadband:

Cllr Bartlett has been looking into means of securing a faster broadband speed for Thorndon outside the Suffolk Better Broadband ('SBB') undertaking from which there remains no timetable for rollout. Community Fibre Partnerships is a project for which Thorndon currently qualifies as it is aimed at those communities who are not otherwise included within the SBB rollout. Once registered, BT will carry out a feasibility evaluation of Thorndon's infrastructure before moving onto the next stage. County Cllr Stringer urged Councillors to postpone any action on this for 1 week after which he was confident that SBB's rollout plans will have been published. He is anxious that pre-emptive action could adversely prejudice Thorndon's positioning within SBB's plans. It was agreed to defer any approach to BT until after 21 April next. **Action Point 07.04.16 - 02**

7.2 Grass Cutting Contract

The Clerk has received three tenders for the grass cutting contract for the next three years. The respective quotations totalled £771.00, £2,190.00 and £2260.00 respectively. It was agreed to accept the tender at £771.00.

8. Clerks Report

8.1 Financial Update: The current balance is £24,972.23

8.2 Payments to be made:

Date Rcvd	Payee	Purchase/Service	Amount (£)	VAT/IPT	Total (£)	Agreed/ Declined	Chq No. (& ref)
07.04.16	Mrs A Thompson	Clerk's Salary	£207.12		£207.12	Agreed	100696 (16/17 - 01)

07..04.16	HMRC	PAYE	£51.78		£51.78	Agreed	100697 (16/17 - 02)
		TOTAL	£258.90		£258.90		

8.3 The Annual Audit has been received and under the new the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 it is now necessary to complete the Annual Governance Statement before the Statement of Accounts. Councillors completed the Annual Governance Statement and then approved the Statement of Accounts. The Accounts will now be given to the Internal Auditor.

8.4 The Clerk advised vis a vis the Vehicle Activated Speed Sign that the German supplier will only accept a bank transfer for the order, something the Clerk is unable to authorise. The Councillors will need to attend the Bank in person to arrange payment. The Clerk will email the full details to Cllr Taylor. **Action Point 07.04.16 - 03**

9. AOB and Meeting opened to the Public 21.36

9.1 Cllr Clinton advised that there is a potential trip hazard surrounding the roundabout on the Play Area which needs to be cemented and bark refreshed around the equipment. He estimated the materials would cost £100.00. This expenditure was approved.

9.2 Cllr Cattermole confirmed that he would obtain quotations for the necessary repairs to the Play Area car park as identified last year. **Action Point 07.04.16 - 04**

9.3 Mr C Brand delivered his report to the meeting on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch.

Meeting closed to the Public 21.50

10. Next meeting date – the Annual Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as Thursday 13 May 2016 at 8.00pm. The Annual Meeting will start at 7.30pm

MEETING CLOSED 21.51

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
02.07.15 - 01	Contact BT to ascertain the cost of reinstating the public telephone as a payphone	MR c/fwd
04.02.16 - 03	Ascertain whether the 'Heart of Suffolk' fingerposts are to be replaced	AT c/fwd
03.03.16 - 02	Write to Highways re blocked gully at junction on U5305 and A140	AT c/fwd
07.04.16 - 01	Arrange for Nick Ward to attend Parish Council meeting in June	RJ
07.04.16 - 02	Apply to Community Fibre Partnerships	PB
07.04.16 - 03	Arrange money transfer for VAS	PT
07.04.16 - 04	Obtain quotations for repairs to Play Area car parking	CC