

## THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### Minutes of Meeting held at Thorndon Village Hall on 7 January 2016

**Present:** Cllr Bartlett, 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 A Stringer, Mrs C Aldous, Mr M Sillett, Mr S Dean, Mr J Howard, Ms B Sillars, Ms J Wilson, Mr S Reece, Mr I Baker, Mr D Youles, Mr M Steele, Mrs J Steele and Mr C Brand

#### Meeting Opened 20.02

#### 1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest:

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr Botwright

**Declarations of pecuniary interests:** None

**Declarations of non-pecuniary interests:** None

#### 2. Meeting opened to Public – 20.03

The Chairman asked members of the public to detail which particular Agenda item, if any, they had an interest in. Interest in planning application 4287.15 was expressed.

#### Meeting closed to Public – 20.04

#### 3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of Thorndon Parish Council held on 3 December 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		
<b>03.10.14 – 03</b>	Liaise with the Church re emergency provisions which can be jointly collated	JH & MR c/fwd
<b>02.07.15 – 01</b>	Contact BT to ascertain the cost of reinstating the public telephone as a payphone	MR c/fwd
<b>12.11.15 – 01</b>	Meeting with John Simpson re VAS Response	Complete
<b>12.11.15 – 02</b>	Contact Richard Anscombe re Neighbourhood Plan	MR c/fwd
<b>03.12.15 – 01</b>	Monitoring of the Post Office Van	MR c/fwd
<b>03.12.15 – 02</b>	Letter to Dr D Poulter MP re Hartismere Hospital	PB c/fwd

**12.11.15 – 01** Cllr Hayward confirmed that a meeting had now taken place with John Simpson and that they had agreed on the positioning of 3 poles for the mobile vehicle activated speed sign. Cllr Hayward has spoken to the landowners adjacent to whose properties these poles will be sited, and all have confirmed they have no objection to the installation, and this confirmation needs to be conveyed to John Simpson. In turn John Simpson will prepare an updated proposal reflecting the agreement reached after which the

Parish Council will be asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding and can then consider the type of unit to be acquired.

**03.12.15 – 01** Cllr Ravenhill confirmed that the Post Office van had attended Thorndon since the Christmas break but that the situation would continue to be monitored.

**03.12.15 – 02** Cllr Bartlett advised that in preparing a draft letter, he felt some of the concerns had been overtaken by events, albeit the issue needed to remain on the Parish Councils 'radar'. The item will, therefore, remain on the Agenda.

## **Meeting opened to Public 20.20**

### **5. Reports**

**5.1 County Councillor's Report:** Cllr Stringer was present at the meeting and advised that he had nothing to report.

**5.2 District Councillor's Report:** Cllr Horn was not present at the meeting and did not provide a 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.

## **Meeting closed to Public 20.25**

### **6. Planning**

#### **6.1 Planning Applications:**

- **3701.15** Conversion of Kelly House to residential use, conversion of the Old Chapel to residential use, demolition of workshop adjoining the Old Chapel, demolition of free-standing workshop building and the erection of 7 new houses. Councillors agreed to support this application subject to specific comments relating to:
  - Footpaths – It was felt that a footpath within the site should be provided to ensure that residents were not obliged to walk on the road abutting the site which forms a dangerous bend
  - Water and Drainage – Councillors were concerned to ensure that the application was not decided without a full report from the water and sewerage undertaker given the fact that the drainage infrastructure in this part of the village is not coping with the output from the current housing, and that this development, by the number of units it comprises, will cause a significant increase in effluent
  - Traffic – Concern about the significant increase in traffic flow was expressed and possible dangers especially at the entrance to the site. Councillors want the planning authority to ensure that this issue is properly considered
  - Section 106 Agreement – Councillors were given a copy of the recommendation provided on behalf of Suffolk County Council as to the impact on infrastructure this development will have on the services it provides, and proposed payments to be agreed to cover these additional costs. Councillors felt the estimate of school age children was low and were concerned to seek assurance that any monies received under any Section 106 Agreement for primary education would be allocated to Thorndon Primary School
  - Reference to 'The Old Chapel' – 'The Old Chapel' as an address already exists and the same should properly be referred to as 'The Kerrison Chapel'

#### **6.2 Listed Planning Applications:**

- **4287.15** Repairs to roof structure following damage to Holly Cottage The Street Thorndon. This application was supported

**6.3 Approvals:** None

**6.4 Refusals:** None

**6.5 Listed Building Consent:** None

**6.6 Other:** None

**7. Specific Agenda Items:**

**7.1** Car Parking at the Church – Cllrs Hayward and Ravenhill have met with Rev Lall to discuss ways of improving the car parking availability at the Church. In the light of the response from Thorndon Town Trust, it is felt that the only option is to better utilise the space currently available with the possible creation of an additional 4/5 spaces. Suggestion has been made that in order to make the car park safer, low visibility lighting from the Lych Gate could be installed with movement activated lights along the perimeter. The Church Council meets later in January after which these issues can be discussed further.

**7.2** Functional Clusters – Mid Suffolk District Council planners have adopted the concept of Functional Clusters as a means of looking at parishes in groups and the facilities available to them as an additional tool when considering growth in the area and the impact the grant of planning permission for developments may have on the existing infrastructure, including education, highways and utilities. Initially Mid Suffolk District Council had aligned Thorndon with Debenham, but following a discussion by the Parish Council, preference for alignment with Eye was expressed. A review of this preference was discussed in the light of planned development for these two areas and Councillors reaffirmed their preference that Thorndon remain aligned to Eye in a vote. Seven Councillors voted for the proposal with one abstention. **Action Point 07.01.16 - 01**

**8. Clerks Report**

**8.1 Financial Update:** The current balance is £25,319.75

**8.2 Payments to be made:**

Date Rcvd	Payee	Purchase/Service	Amount (£)	VAT/IPT	Total (£)	Agreed/ Declined	Chq No. (& ref)
03.12.15	Mrs A Thompson	Clerk's Salary & Postage	£207.12		£207.12	Agreed	100684 (15/16 - 40)
03.12.15	HMRC	PAYE	£51.78		£51.78	Agreed	100685 (15/16 - 41)
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£258.90</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£258.90</b>		

**8.3** The amount of precept required for the financial year 2016-2017 was discussed, with the clerk confirming that annual expenses are currently budgeted at £9,000.00 for the coming financial year and with various projects potentially requiring capital sums, namely:  
Redressing the Play Area Car Park  
Vehicle Activated Speed Signs and Posts  
Contribution towards the acquisition of a generator  
Community led Parish Plan  
Car Park lighting at the Church.  
Without allowing for the possibility of contributions from their locality budgets from either the District or County Councillors, there is the potential for a minimum expenditure of £10,000.00. Overall it was agreed to keep the precept at its current level of £12,500.00.

**9. AOB and Meeting opened to the Public 21.**

**9.1** The U5305 is once again flooded at Collingsford Bridge and at the junction with the A140. The clerk will write once again to Highways to report the problem. **Action Point 08.01.16 - 02**

**9.2** The sign erected advertising the Hopkins Homes development at Gislingham is impeding the visibility splay at the junction of the A140 and Stoke Ash White Horse Public House. The Clerk will write to Highways to report the concerns raised about this. **Action Point 08.01.16 - 03**

**9.3** Following the heavy rains and near flooding of a property on Clint Road today, it was discovered that no agency appears to stock sandbags. It was suggested that a supply of nylon bags and stock of sand in acquired in order that, in an emergency, sandbags can be filled. Cllr Cattermole is to produce some costings for consideration. **Action Point 08.01.16 - 04**

**9.4** Following last year's Poppy Appeal, Cllr Hayward has spoken to the new co-ordinator who confirmed will be looking to recruit volunteer poppy sellers from May onwards.

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

**Meeting closed to the Public 22.03**

**10. Next meeting date was confirmed as Thursday 4 February 2016 at 8.00pm.**

**MEETING CLOSED 22.04**

<b>Summary of Action Points for Next Meeting</b>		
<b>03.10.14 - 03</b>	Liaise with the Church re emergency provisions which can be jointly collated	JH & MR c/fwd to November
<b>02.07.15 - 01</b>	Contact BT to ascertain the cost of reinstating the public telephone as a payphone	MR c/fwd
<b>12.11.15 - 02</b>	Contact Richard Anscombe re Neighbourhood Plan	MR
<b>03.12.15 - 01</b>	Monitoring of the Post Office Van	MR
<b>03.12.15 - 02</b>	Letter to Dr D Poulter MP re Hartismere Hospital	PB
<b>07.01.16 - 01</b>	Confirm preference re Functional Clusters to MSDC	AT
<b>07.01.16 - 02</b>	Contact the highways department re flooding on the U5305 at the junction with the A140 and at Collingsford Bridge	AT
<b>07.01.16 - 03</b>	Contact the highways department about the sign advertising Hopkins Homes in Gislingham which impedes the visibility splay at the junction with the A140 at Stoke Ash	AT
<b>07.01.16 - 04</b>	Provide costings for a stock of sand and sandbags for use in an emergency	CC