

THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Meeting held at Thorndon Village Hall on 4 January 2018

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, Mr M Sillett, Mrs C Aldous, Mr S Cattermole, Mr I Wilding and Mr C Brand

Meeting Opened 20.00

Cllr Ravenhill announced that Cllr Botwright has resigned from the Parish Council for personal reasons. The Parish Council will now look to co-opt a replacement Councillor until the election in May.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest:

Apologies for absence: None

Declarations of pecuniary interests: None

Declarations of non-pecuniary interests: Cllr Cattermole expressed an interest in Planning Application **DC/17/05894**

2. Meeting opened to Public – 20.03

The Chairman asked members of the public to detail in which particular Agenda item, if any, they had an interest. Interests in Planning Application **DC/17/05894** were expressed.

Meeting closed to Public – 20.04

3. Approval of the minutes of the meetings of Thorndon Parish Council held on 7 December 2017

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		
02.06.16 - 02	Liaise with landowner re board walk for footpath	PT c/fwd
08.09.16 - 01	Identify landowners of blocked watercourses	RJ c/fwd
08.09.16 - 03	Seek update on Kerrison redevelopment	PB c/fwd
03.11.16 - 01	Arrange public meeting to discuss neighbourhood plans with a representative from Mid Suffolk District Council	JH Defer to Feb 18
05.01.17 - 01	Consider making Freedom of Information request to Post Office Ltd re mobile Post Van	PBr c/fwd

02.02.17 - 01	Report flooding on Thwaite Rd using Suffolk County Council's online reporting tool & speaking directly to Richard Porter at Highways	RJ & PB c/fwd
02.03.17 - 01	Monitor Faster Broadband	PB
13.07.17 01	Consider criteria for self-assessment of new VAS pole on High Street	JH
07.09.17 - 02	Compile list of sign in the village which need to be replaced	MR c/fwd
07.12.17 - 01	Consider legality/viability of VAT recovery for Village Hall expenditure	AT

02.06.16 – 02 Cllr Taylor advised that the 3 bridges and 57m of boardwalk required are fully funded and that the works started this morning.

08.09.16 – 01 To date Cllr Jenkins has not received a response from Mr Minter. He will now contact Anglian Water to see whether they have the information required.

08.09.16 – 03 Cllr Hayward informed the meeting that as part of the Neighbourhood Plan preparations he has spoken to the developer of the Kerrison site asking for their proposed asking prices for the refurbished units. In discussing these, the development company confirmed that its latest starting date is early February and that, once completed, it would like village residents to have a right of first refusal for the units. The developer will contact Cllr Hayward nearer completion to discuss the logistics of this preference.

05.01.17 – 01 Cllr Ravenhill reported that she had no update nor any response from Dan Poulter MP. Cllr Bridge advised that he has not received any response to his Freedom of Information request but that he will pursue the matter until a response is received

02.02.17 – 01 Cllr Jenkins advised that the gully which was cleared appears to be working and that the junction with the A140 is clear. Reference was made to the flooding at the Wash in respect of which Cllr Ravenhill advised that responsibility for this area is within the remit of Occold Parish Council. Notwithstanding this fact, Cllr Jenkins has reported the flooding and the area has now been cordoned off whilst the water subsides.

02.03.17 – 01 Cllr Bartlett suggested that the most up to date position is detailed in Cty Cllr Stringer's report.

13.07.17 01 Cllr Hayward has spoken to Mike Mottram at Highways who is the manager in charge of VAS applications. He is currently bringing applications 'in-house' with a view to expediting their consideration.

07.12.17 – 01 The Clerk confirmed that she has spoken to HMRC outlining the proposal put forward at the last meeting, namely grants etc destined for the Village Hall could be diverted to the Parish Council who would 'ring fence' the monies using them to acquire goods or services for and on behalf of the Village Hall. Those goods and services would then be gifted by the Parish Council to the Village Hall, the Parish Council thereby being able to recover any VAT element of the same. HMRC had suggested that such a structure was a deliberate attempt to avoid the payment of tax and as such was a fraud on HMRC. As the Responsible Financial Officer, the Clerk confirmed that she was not content to adopt this scheme. It is important to

establish the identity of the initiator of the project, and if the Parish Council are minded to gift goods or services to the Village Hall those items should be included in its budget. Cllr Taylor asked where matters stood in relation to monies due to the Village via S106/CIL receipts. This is an area for further investigation.

Meeting opened to Public 20.39

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 Horn was not present at the meeting and did not provide report.

Meeting closed to Public 20.52

6. Planning

6.1 Planning Applications:

- **17.05894:** Application for erection of a dwelling with garage and new vehicular access on land a Stoke Road Thorndon. Cllr Cattermole left the meeting whilst this application was discussed. Councillors voted to support this application making observation that the reports from Suffolk Wildlife and the Archaeological Society were superfluous as outline planning consent had already been granted on appeal.
- **17.05861:** Application for the erection of two dwellings and garages and vehicular access on land adjacent to 17 Hall Road Thorndon. Councillors voted to support the application 7:0 with 1 abstention.
- **17.04154:** Application for change of use of agricultural barns to 3 residential units including demolition of ancillary barns and structures at Thorndon Hill Farm Rishangles Road Thorndon. Councillors voted to support this application

6.2 Listed Planning Applications:

- **17.04155:** Application for listed building consent for change of use of agricultural barns to 3 residential units including demolition of ancillary barns and structures at Thorndon Hill Farm Rishangles Road Thorndon. Councillors voted to support this application

6.3 Approvals: None

6.4 Refusals: None

6.5 Listed Building Consent: None

6.6 Other: None

7. Specific Agenda Items: None

8. Clerks Report

8.1 Financial Update: The current balance is £30,385.21

8.2 Payments to be made:

Date Rcvd	Payee	Purchase/Service	Amount (£)	VAT/IPT	Total (£)	Agreed/ Declined	Chq No. (& ref)
04.01.18	HMRC	PAYE	£51.78		£119.00	Agreed	100783 (17/18 - 37)
04.01.18	Mrs A Thompson	Clerks salary & expenses	£207.12		£542.95	Agreed	1007784 (17/18 - 38)
04.01.18	Royal British Legion	S137 - Poppy Wreath	£100.00		£100.00	Agreed	1007805 (17/18 - 39)
		TOTAL	£358.90	£0.00	£358.90		

8.3 Cllr Hayward and the Clerk have met to discuss the budget for the financial year 2018-19 and their calculation was circulated amongst Councillors. For the current financial year expenditure will be circa £8,000.00 plus donations to be decided at the next meeting for which £1,500.00 has been allocated in the budget. Allowing for a 5% increase of £475.00 on that figure and including £500.00 for the new Data Protection legislation coming into effect in May 2018 (as advised by SALC) and £300.00 for a new pole for the VAS on High Street results in a total expenditure of £10,775.00. In addition, there are items of expenditure for which the Parish Council needs to budget, namely £5,000.00 for repairs to the Church car park and £5,000.00 for repairs to the Church bells. Other items were proposed including a contract for the cleaning of village signs (£600.00), £3,000.00 for an additional VAS sign and £4,000.00 for ditch clearance. Having considered the proposals, Councillors agreed to set the precept at £12,875.00. Picking up on the proposal for ditch clearance, the Clerk will obtain a Land Registry mapsearch snapshot of Thorndon to help identify ownership of ditches. **Action Point 04.01.18 - 01**

9. AOB and Meeting opened to the Public 21.35

9.1 Cllr Hayward asked for a cheque for £100.00 for Royal British Legion for the Poppy Wreath to which the Parish Council contribute each year. The payment was agreed.

9.2 It was suggested that a cycle rack could be acquired to place behind the new bench outside the Church. The cost of such a rack will be ascertained for the next meeting. **Action Point 04.01.18 - 02**

9.3 Cllr Jenkins noted that the verges in the vicinity of the Burgess Homes development at Thwaite Road are being damaged by workers parking on the same. He suggested that a letter should be written to the developer asking that the same be reinstated.

9.4 Mrs C Aldous noted that the grit bin at Fen View has not been re-filled. The Clerk will contact Mid Suffolk to enquire as to why this is.

9.5 Mr Brand delivered his report for Neighbourhood Watch.

Meeting closed to the Public 21.27

10. Next meeting date was confirmed as Thursday 1 February 2018 at 8.00pm

MEETING CLOSED 21.50

Summary of Action Points for Next Meeting		
02.06.16 - 02	Liaise with landowner re board walk for footpath	PT c/fwd
08.09.16 - 01	Identify landowners of blocked watercourses	RJ c/fwd
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07.09.17 - 02	Compile list of sign in the village which need to be replaced	MR c/fwd
07.12.17 - 01	Consider legality/viability of VAT recovery for Village Hall expenditure	AT
04.01.18 - 01	Land Registry mapsearch snapshot of Thorndon	AT
04.01.18 - 02	Ascertain costs of cycle rack	AT