

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – THORNDON**

### **Minutes of Meeting held at 7.30pm, Thorndon Village Hall on 20 May 2021**

Present : Cllr Bridge, Cllr Cattermole, Cllr Hayward, Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Ravenhill, Cllr Taylor, Mrs A Thompson, Mr T Rowe, Mr T Cherrett, Mr S Marshall, Mr M Sillett, Mrs C Aldous, Ms J Wilson and Mr C Brand

#### **Meeting Opened at 19.30**

#### **1. Election of Chairman and apologies for absence:**

Election: Cllr Ravenhill was elected to chair the meeting.

Apologies: None

#### **2. Approval of minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 9 May 2019**

The minutes were agreed as a true & accurate record of the meeting & signed by the Chairman.

#### **3. Actions & matters arising from minutes of 9 May 2019**

None

#### **4. Reports**

##### **4.1 Parish Council Chairman's Report**

Cllr Ravenhill started her report by thanking Cllrs and members of the public for their attendance at meetings and support over the past year, a year in which the village rallied to meet the challenges presented by the Covid 19 pandemic with volunteers collecting prescription medicines and shopping for residents and driving them to appointments. Thanks were extended to the volunteers in the community shop for their sterling efforts over the past 15 months.

Since the last meeting in 2019 Cllr Ravenhill noted that the village now has better broadband and the Post Office mobile van attends the village twice a week. More recently, a planning application for poultry units at Castle Hill saw residents come together in opposition to the application; CCTV is to be installed at the Play Area; discussions are ongoing to secure land along Clint Road for dog walkers and thanks to the tremendous effort by Cllr Hayward and Stephen Page the Thorndon Neighbourhood Plan should be adopted in the near future.

##### **4.2 Police**

No representative from the Police was able to be present at the meeting but did they provide a report as follows:

‘Thorndon Annual Police Report For Period 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Suffolk Constabulary has recorded a total of 13 investigations for Thorndon for this period which compares with 13 for the same period for the preceding twelve months.

The investigations for the period 2020/2021 are of the types shown below:

Drugs offences – 1

Violence & Sexual offences – 5

Public Order – 0

Motor Vehicle Offences (Theft of & from & Interference with) – 0  
Burglary Non-Dwelling – 1  
Theft Offences – 0  
Criminal Damage Offences – 2  
Anti-Social Behaviour – 4

Total = 13

For the period 2019/2020, the number of offences recorded was 13.

In August 2020, a new pro-active team of officers was created named 'Kestrel'. The team consists of six PCs & a Sergeant who are presently based at Eye police station at Hartismere Hospital. They deploy throughout Suffolk and are requested by area Inspectors to impact principally upon ASB & drugs type offences. The Kestrel teams' funding has been provided by last years' increase in the Police precept, initiated by Police & Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore.

Since August, the team have deployed frequently in the Mid-Suffolk area, conducting high visibility patrols in (mostly) towns, targeting areas of known ASB & dealing with individuals suspected to be involved with drugs supply. The team have made arrests in Mid-Suffolk towns & villages as a result and have engaged with members of the public during patrols who have provided useful information about where criminality has been dispersed to. It is important that incidents are reported to Police so that teams such as Kestrel can be actively deployed and target areas of the town where issues are most prevalent.

The Halesworth Safer Neighbourhood Team have been working with partner agencies in Mid-Suffolk when individuals come to Police attention and are making efforts to provide support for individuals where appropriate and initiate more long-term diversionary activities. The SNT is the team which deals with on-going, community issues and specialises in working with partners to divert those most likely to be involved in criminality or vulnerable to it.

Please can I also draw attention to the Suffolk Constabulary crime reduction resource which can be found on the 'First Principle' page of the Constabulary website at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/crime-prevention-z>

Please also find attached the Suffolk Constabulary funding document for 2020/21 which shows how public money has been spent during this period'.

### **4.3 Thorndon Town Trust**

John le Gros provided the following report on behalf of Thorndon Town Trust:

'We haven't had a meeting of the trustees due to the pandemic so very little to report. I'm not sure if we informed Parish Council that Mr J Coy resigned as trustee and chairperson. Mr G Botwright has taken on this role for the current period.

We will keep you updated once we have had a meeting'.

### **4.4 Community Council**

Cllr Cattermole advised that as a result of Covid 19 there was nothing to report.

### **4.5 VH Management Committee & Social Cub**

Cllr Ravenhill reported that following the resignations of the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer she has assumed responsibility for overseeing the transition of the Village Hall otherwise, as a result of Covid 19, there is nothing to report.

## 4.6 Community Shop

Cllr Ravenhill reported on the Community Shop. The community shop continues to 'hold its own' and during the periods of lockdown saw an increase in customers and a steady number of volunteers enabled the shop to remain open 7 days per week. The range of goods available is unchanged and customers appear happy with the same. The gradual re-opening of retail has seen a small reduction in customer numbers.

## 4.7 All Saint's Church

Church Warden Tim Rowe was present at the meeting delivering his report as follows:

'It is fair to say that Covid-19 and the enforced lockdowns in the UK from March 2020 had a fundamental, and life-changing impact on the life of our church. With the initial cancellation of all church services and gatherings, PCC meetings (including the APCM), home-groups and T Plus (to name the most obvious), cleaning and the placing of flowers, church life was initially suspended whilst the UK, and the world, adapted to tumultuous events which impacted the very core of society. Some said that churches closed at the very point in time when perhaps they were needed the most, but focus was placed on the extremely basic of needs to sustain everyday life and communities came together to support the elderly and the vulnerable. Church did not stop, it just changed unrecognisably to what it had been just weeks before. The Porch became home for the Community Library, as well as a place where toys and games could be left and taken for free as children suffered as much as anyone with the closure of schools and the limits placed on outdoor activities.

Church services moved on-line and were broadcast from the rectory over the Spring and Summer, 'on-line church' evolved as all forms of social media were used to provide 'church' in new ways – with regular evening prayer broadcasts in addition to Sunday worship. The result was that we reached many who we may not have reached had that change not been thrust upon us in such a brutal way. It was a cause for celebration at a time when the world's outlook remained bleak. We enjoyed a brief respite in July 2020, as the lock-down was eased, churches could open periodically for private prayer, with a 72-hour restriction placed between closing and opening. Later in August, churches were re-opened for small acts of public worship with obligatory Track and Trace processes to follow in addition to hand gel and surface wipes. Singing, close contact, and handshakes during the peace were prohibited and face masks were made mandatory and limits placed on the size of the congregation to ensure that the 2 metre social distances were kept as well as areas of the church remaining closed off.

Things were beginning to adapt to the new normal with the Lay ministry team organised into clusters to ensure that they remained safe and did not circulate outside of their small cluster of parishes. Rev Julia arranged outside activities for the children in the church yard, and briefly, before the poor weather of Autumn set in, T-Plus, took on a new form of Bring your own tea and coffee outside in the church yard.

At the end of October, we were once again rocked by the announcement of a further lockdown. This meant the momentum which had started to build up had to cease immediately impacting the light-wave group meetings, the Toddler group; the Parish Council (who had made use of the building to host their activities); and Connect, which had started to gather a regular number of families on a weekly basis. We did manage to hold a very delayed APCM on October 30<sup>th</sup> in Covid-19 friendly way. With Covid-19 taking hold again and with the real threat to life, the preventative measures which were required, and lockdown restrictions imposed across the UK, had an immediate inertia on church life and the church was closed once again for all but two weekly sessions for private prayer. The Act of Remembrance and later the Christingle were held outside although an exceedingly small, and subdued, Midnight Communion was held.

We have to thank the Rev Julia for her time, effort, patience, and sheer determination, not to mention a steadfast Faith, and the ingenuity of the Rev Julia and her team, who have worked tirelessly to maintain worship in all forms in 2020.

**Fabric** – The Quinquennial report was received, and I am glad to say that with the action we have taken over recent years to address the priority and urgent repairs, there were no surprises and no additional urgent repairs identified. The Site Committee took the decision to

widen the scope of the vestry wall repairs scheduled for 2021 to include additional repointing to the East and North sides of the vestry walls, as well as including an airbrick to the internal blocked up fireplace to allow air to circulate around the redundant brick chimney. Additional permissions were received from the DAC following a revised specification from Hugh. This will take the cost of repairs in 2021 to approx. £11,000, above the £8,000 agreed the site committee can authorise. These costs are covered by the anonymous donation given in 2019 to cover the cost of all the repointing work.

**Churchyard** - The Community Payback Team had to cancel all grounds maintenance at the churchyard due to COVID-19, so the Parish council funded the costs of having the grass cut for us in the Autumn and for which we were incredibly grateful. New benches were installed in the church yard for those to come and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the grounds in a year which was anything but.

**Fund raising** - The Friends of Thorndon Church scheme provided a small income to assist with fabric repairs. The income from T Plus was significantly reduced due to Covid-19 restrictions. With the cessation of most regular activities and worship, the PCC reached out to all members of the congregation and electoral role to encourage everyone to consider alternative forms of giving, through Standing Order or signing-up to the Parish Giving Scheme. The impact of the loss of income in 2020 may well have a long lasting and reaching impact on All Saints church and beyond'.

#### **4.8 Village Life Magazine**

Cllr Hayward was present at the meeting and provided his report as follows:

'The magazine continues to be printed on a monthly basis with ten issues per year. January and August are the missing months. Over the past two years the number of copies produced has remained at three hundred and ninety but is expected to increase over the coming years due to the development of additional housing.

Over the past two years it has been increasingly difficult to secure interesting articles and features although there have a number of regular contributors, one in particular being the 'Potting Shed Ponderings' which I think is well received. The Puzzle page also seems very popular although this is not expected to be a permanent feature.

The production of the magazine is funded by subscriptions for advertising, this has resulted in a small profit for the past few years but will probably, at best, only break even for 2020/21. The recent subscription renewal for this year has again resulted in a number of cancellations although there have also been a few additions. The reduced advertising revenue set against the increased costs of producing a greater number of magazines will result in a loss being made going forward. After ten years of holding the price for advertising unchanged an 5% increase has been applied for this year. Any loss will obviously be mitigated by any additional new advertising forthcoming during the year.

Finally, thanks to the advertisers, the contributors, Mrs. Breda Hunt and the band of volunteers who deliver the magazine, without their assistance it would prove very difficult to continue the production of what I am told is generally considered an interesting read'.

#### **4.9 Thorndon Bowls Club**

Mr D Cattermole provided his report as follows:

'Since giving our last report in May 2019, the Club has undertaken some major projects. In late 2020 our members, despite being hampered by COVID restrictions, managed to complete the upgrade of the toilet facilities and a new equipment shed was built. The Clubhouse was also re-wired, re-decorated, furniture was replaced and a burglar alarm system has been installed. Thanks to the Parish Council's support we were able to replace our ageing lawn mower and now with a tremendous amount of work by the Greenkeeper we one of the best playing surfaces in the County.

Membership is continuing to grow following an active advertising campaign through flyers and the Thorndon Village Life. Our Wednesday Club Night is becoming a popular regular feature and all newcomers are welcome. Later in the season we hope to invite local schools to participate in the sport. We also anticipate increasing our social activities and the events will be published in due course'.

#### **4.10 Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator's Report**

Mr C Brand delivered his report as Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator as follows:

'Thorndon Neighbourhood Watch is now in its 25th year. The main areas covered by my e-mails are Thorndon, Hestley Green and Braiseworth.

Whilst not on my Patch, there are:

32 in Rishangles (12 not seen),

14 In Stoke Ash. Cllr Valerie Lane is now acting as the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Stoke Ash. These Addresses have all agreed for details to be handed over to Valerie but still want to remain on my Circulation List.

and

9 in Occold.

Of those seen, there are 31 not on a Computer and 5 who have declined.

Some Residents have left the Village during this time, and new ones have replaced them.

I have therefore Welcomed to Thorndon:

25. New Residents during May 2019 – May 2020.

44. New Residents during May 2020 – May 2021.

There are 29 Properties in the new Kerrison Gardens IP23 7JQ.

I have seen 11 of them. 9 have signed up, 1 outstanding and 1 Declined.

E-Mails are sent out Blind Copy to 378 Addresses.

Items sent out include: Thorndon Parish Council Agenda's and Minutes of Meetings are circulated, plus short notice Information and Items of local interest for various organisations, also, District and County Councillors Reports to the Parish Council.

Crime prevention and awareness are also Circulated and published in Thorndon Village Life.

Calls to the 101 police non-emergency number was made free from April 2020.

The phone service, which receives around 30m calls annually, connects the public to their local police force or one of their choice. *The service has not got any better so be prepared for a wait, and always ask for a report or an incident number. Then let me know.*

It was good to Report the return of the Monday Mobile Post Office on the 10th May. Returning us to the twice weekly service, pre Covid.

A sample of the items that were reported as Lost and Found during the Period.

- A pair of Sun Glasses. Found but not Collected. A pair of Glasses reported lost, was found inside the owners jumper.
- 3 mobile Phones. Found and returned to their owners. One in less than an hour from being handed in.
- 10 Cats Lost. 6 Found/Returned. 3 No Trace. 1 found Dead.
- Gents Ring. Found but uncollected. Returned to Finder.
- There were a total of Six Dogs found straying, during the period. They were Identified and returned/collected by their Owners. 1 No trace of the Owner, the Dog was rehomed.
- A Bracelet that was reported lost was found in the owners Freezer.
- A Bus Pass and a Credit Card.

Quarterly Locality meeting for Parish Councillors.

I did not attend the last Zoom meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> April, but in general these are poorly attended, I believe mainly due to the time of day.

The meeting of the Chief Constable and Police Crime Commissioner at the Wherry Hotel, Oulton Broad was attended by 40-50.

8<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

Tim Passmore continues as Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner after securing the 2021 election.

Litter Picking.

I would like to thank the team of Pickers who do this all through the year. Also, I thank the Community Council for allowing me to purchase a further 6 Picking Sticks. I have 3 more volunteers the youngest one being age 6 and is very keen.

If you see a problem area where litter needs picking, please let me know of the location. If it's a large dump then report it as a Fly Tip.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Villagers that have assisted me with information during the past 2 Years which has been very difficult due to Covid restrictions.

Also James Hayward and the Community Council for providing space in the Village Life, for my NW and other items of information.

Also, Thorndon Community Shop for allowing me to Display Relevant Posters.

I hope you have found the information that I circulate has been helpful, and as always my closing remarks are.

Remember! Crime cannot flourish in a community that cares'.

There were no other comments from the public and the **MEETING CLOSED at 20.00**