

## THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held in the Village Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2021 starting at 8pm

**Present:** Cllr Peter Bridge, Cllr Tim Cherrett, Cllr Robert Jenkins, Cllr Emma Milton,  
Cllr Marion Ravenhill, Cllr Peter Taylor, Cllr Jill Wilson

**In attendance:** Odile Wladon (Locum Clerk), Cllr Andrew Stringer (County & District),  
Mr Claude Brand (Neighbourhood Watch)

Item Ref	Description
21.12.01	<b>Chairman's welcome</b>
21.12.02	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> (a) Councillors received apologies from Cllr James Hayward (b) Councillors voted to <b>accept</b> the apologies.
21.12.03	<b>Declarations of Interests – in subsequent agenda items</b> (a) There were no Declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interests to note. (b) There were no Disclosable Pecuniary Interests to note.
21.12.04	<b>Dispensations:</b> none were requested.
21.12.05	<b>Minutes:</b> Councillors reviewed and <b>approved</b> the minutes as a true record of the business conducted at the meeting held on 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2021.
21.12.06	<b>Reports:</b> (a) County Councillor – copy of the submitted report is appended to the minutes. (b) District Councillor – Mid Suffolk have carried out a peer review of the planning committee process. A report will be reviewed and a revised system will be published. A date for the referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan referendum has yet to be set due to electoral services not feeling the winter being a good time to hold one. The Clerk will chase the department and ask for a date to be set as soon as possible.
21.12.07	<b>Public forum:</b> There were no questions or comments from the public forum.
21.12.08	<b>Planning</b> (a) Councillors to review planning consultations received: <b>DC/21/06244</b> – Outline planning permission (some matters reserved, access to be considered) Erection of 4 no. dwellings with access off Stoke Road (following removal of existing barn/outbuilding) (amended scheme to withdrawn application DC/21/02830). Hope Barn, Stoke Road, Thorndon, IP23 7JG Councillors voted to <b>SUPPORT</b> this application as it is contained in the examined Neighbourhood Plan, comments regarding type of dwellings and matters concerning access, bins and flooding will be submitted. <b>DC/21/06054</b> – Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to a flexible use within Storage or Distribution (Class B8) Hotels (Class C1) Commercial/Business/Service (Class E) uses previously classified as Assembly and Leisure (Class D2) Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 3; <b>Class R</b> – change of use of agricultural barn to dance hall. Hill Farm, Huggins Lane, Stoke Ash

Item Ref	Description
	<p>IP23 7ER</p> <p>Councillors voted to <b>REQUEST A FULL PLANNING APPLICATION</b> on the grounds of noise and highways concerns.</p> <p><b>DC/21/06515</b> – Replacement of existing rough cast cement render on South-west and North-west elevations with lime render. Carry out necessary timber repair.</p> <p>Replacement of existing 20<sup>th</sup> century porch with new porch and glazed canopy roof line. Lampits Farm, Bakers Lane IP22 7LT. Councillors noted this late received consultation and agreed it was not necessary to submit any comments.</p> <p>(b) Other Planning matters: The Clerk was invited to attend the peer review process on the planning committee process and commented on how the process could be streamlined from a Parish Council point of view.</p>
21.12.09	<p><b>Kerrison Development:</b> Councillors noted that the Principal’s House is being cleared out; it is assumed a sale is on going.</p>
21.12.10	<p><b>Bus Shelter:</b> Cllr Ravenhill is still waiting for a date to meet with the Chair of Trustees, Simon Bird QC.</p>
21.12.11	<p><b>Quiet Lanes:</b> There was no update for this meeting.</p>
21.12.12	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan:</b></p> <p>Cllr Stringer reported earlier in the meeting that a date had yet to be set for the referendum</p>
21.12.13	<p><b>Training</b></p> <p>(a) Cllr Cherrett found module 6 a little long but well delivered.</p> <p>(b) Cllr Milton is interested in undertaking more training on planning.</p>
21.12.14	<p><b>Playing field/play area</b></p> <p>(a) Councillors noted that whole of the fencing around the play area has been assessed and it appears that it will all need replacing.</p> <p>(b) Jubilee Wood: A conversation will take place shortly on a plan to get the trees that have been delivered planted.</p> <p>(c) Councillors noted outcome of the RoSPA inspection and will investigate obtaining a piece of equipment to undertake the recommended resistograph test.</p>
21.12.15	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>(a) Councillors <b>approved</b> the following cheques for payment:  RoSPA Play Safety: £99.00 (£82.50 plus £16.50 VAT) – Open Spaces Act 1906 s.9&amp;10  SALC – training x 2: £60.00 (£50.00 plus £10.00 VAT) – Local Government Act 1972 s.111</p> <p>(b) Councillors noted that with possible COVID restrictions in the New Year a precept figure should be set at this meeting. Cllrs Milton and Hayward had met with the Clerk and reviewed 3 years accounts and proposed a precept figure of £21,500 for the financial year 2022/23. Councillors voted to <b>accept</b> this figure.</p> <p>(c) Due to concerns with regards to possible COVID restrictions in the New Year, Councillors <b>approved</b> an emergency scheme of delegation to allow Council business to continue should face to face meetings not be possible.</p>
21.12.16	<p><b>Clerk’s report</b></p> <p>Councillors noted the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lorry Watch</b></li> </ul> <p>Councillors reviewed the following request for information from Suffolk County Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is there any damage to the signage along the area where the order will be in place?</li> <li>b. Should the signage be at both ends of the street (A1040 and B1077)?</li> </ol>

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	<p>c. Would you also be interested in any Lorry Watch Signage? Attached to the lorry watch signage would be costs which we are in the process of finding out. Hilary Pearson will be asked whether she has any comments to submit on this matter. Councillors <b>approved</b> a budget of £200 for four signs should this be required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Joint Local Plan Hearings</b> Councillors noted that BMSDC have drafted proposals for the review of information and that the inspectors have called a meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December@10am with the councils to discuss the proposed work programme.</li> <li>• <b>Lorry Route review</b> Councillors agreed the following response: <i>Thorndon Parish has a long established HGV ban through the parish which must be maintained.</i> <i>A lorry watch scheme is currently being established with Suffolk Trading Standards. This scheme needs to be included on the Suffolk Lorry Route map to ensure that all HGV drivers are aware that the HGV ban will be monitored and enforced where necessary.</i> <i>To this end, the HGV ban needs to be made much clearer on the Suffolk Lorry Route Map and by using notices on the junctions with the A140 at Stoke Ash and Wetheringsett – alongside those already in place at the entrances to the village.</i></li> <li>• <b>Meeting start time</b> Councillors reviewed and <b>approved</b> a proposal that full council meetings should start at 7.30pm with effect from January 2022.</li> <li>• <b>Cllr vacancy</b> Councillors noted that no election has been called. The vacancy can be filled by co-option. Councillors agreed a notice will be placed in the next edition of Village Life.</li> <li>• <b>Signposts</b> Councillors noted that SCC have responded to Cllr Stringer. However, the report is too large to share, Cllr Stringer will investigate whether the County Councillor officer can share it directly with the Clerk. Costings will be prepared as soon as the report can be accessed.</li> </ul>
<b>21.12.17</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Watch Report:</b> Councillors received a verbal report from Mr Claude Brand.
<b>21.12.18</b>	<b>Meeting opened to the public for brief matters of report</b> There were no matters brought to the attention of the Councillors.
<b>21.12.19</b>	<b>Correspondence:</b> there was no correspondence to review at the meeting.
<b>21.12.20</b>	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 starting a 7.30pm

Meeting closed at: 9.30pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

## District Councillors' Report for Parish Councils – December 2021

<p>Peer Review Into MSDC Planning</p>	<p>Mid Suffolk Has conducted a “Peer Review” to address several concerns.</p> <p>There is concern that some Councillors &amp; Communities have lost confidence in how the planning process is operating to genuinely represent their local interests. This may be the inevitable consequence of a finely balanced political environment but what more can be done to manage or address this so that the planning process can maintain its integrity so that the decisions are undertaken, on behalf of communities, in a fair, impartial and transparent way.</p> <p>Some Councillors feel that they should have more local autonomy and find it difficult to accept the authority of national policy in determining planning applications, particularly those involving multiple applications within the same area or where there is strong local opposition to the proposals. Given the ‘out of date’ status of some current District policies and limited weight attached to emerging policies, what alternative approaches which can deliver robust decision making should be explored?</p> <p>There appears to be limited mature discussion between Committee Members and Officers in advance of “overturn” decisions in the manner described in “Probity in Planning” and some Councillors consider that such discussions only give advance notice of intention and enable Officers to ‘find ways around areas of concern’.</p> <p>Some Councillors also feel they should be given more support when they wish to make a decision that runs counter to officer recommendations. Once a resolution to overturn an Officer recommendation is gaining traction in debate there is often a pressure to proceed swiftly with any related advice. This places pressure on Officers to alert Councillors to risks, advise on planning/non planning issues and generally provide objective advice on the course of action emerging.</p> <p>How well do planning officers and Councillors engage to discuss planning matters at an early stage and throughout the process? How could this be improved to strengthen the relationship, instil confidence in the process and improve planning outcomes?</p> <p>Are officers energised or bruised when they present applications to committee and what can be done to ensure Officers are valued for their professional work regardless of the recommendations? Given that Officers at all career grades present applications to committee what steps can be taken to ensure there is a positive and developmental experience for junior officers which builds confidence in the planning approach of Councillors even when applications are overturned?</p> <p>What happens when things go wrong, do we see this as an opportunity to improve or do we become more risk averse? Are Councillors in a position to be able to provide leadership and vision? A Full report will be published to answer the questions posed.</p>
<p>Tree For Life Project</p>	<p>A Tree for Life scheme in Babergh and Mid Suffolk which offers a free tree for new parents, is open for 2021 applications.</p> <p>The scheme is open to all families in the districts who have or are welcoming a new arrival between 1 January and 31 December 2021. Parents who may have lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a remembrance tree.</p> <p>The initiative offers parents with a new born or newly adopted child the chance to mark their arrival by planting a tree. It aims to benefit families, communities and the environment by boosting tree coverage across the district.</p> <p>So far the councils have given out over a thousand trees through Tree for Life, with 2020 applicants collecting their trees last month following a necessary delay to allow the council to prioritise essential services during the pandemic. Expert help is always on hand on collection to advise families on their tree choice and aftercare at home.</p>

Also open to those without a garden, a selection of the trees continue to be planted at key locations in the districts including Needham Lake, Shotley Golden Wood, Broom Hill in Hadleigh, Gallowsfield Wood in Haughley and Sproughton Millennium Green.

Over 100 families have already applied to the 2021 scheme, but the councils are encouraging even more people to apply for their tree on the councils' website before the 10 January 2022 deadline.

Councillor Andrew Stringer