

THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting in the Village Hall on 4th November, 2021 starting at 8pm

Present: Cllr Peter Bridge, Cllr Tim Cherrett, Cllr James Hayward, 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) and 1 member of the public.

Item Ref	Description
21.11.01	The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.
21.11.02	Apologies for Absence There were no apologies
21.11.03	Declarations of Interests – in subsequent agenda items (a) Councillor Declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interests – none declared (b) Councillor Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – Cllr Hayward agenda item 21.11.15 (ii)
21.11.04	Dispensations: no requests were received.
21.11.05	Minutes: Councillors reviewed and approved the minutes as a true record of the business conducted at the meeting held on 7 th October 2021.
21.11.06	Reports: (a) County Councillor – copy of report appended to minutes (b) District Councillor – copy of report appended to minutes
21.11.07	Public forum: No comments were received.
21.11.08	Planning (a) Councillors reviewed planning consultations received and agreed the following: DC/21/05675 – Erection of garden building (resubmission of DC/21/00488) Town Farm, The Street, IP23 7JN SUPPORT subject to any comments submitted by the Heritage Officer. (b) Councillors noted the outcome of planning decisions issued by MSDC: DC/21/04864 – Laurel Cottage, The Street IP23 7JN GRANTED DC/20/02052 – Castle Hill Farm, IP23 7JT APPEAL DISMISSED
21.11.09	Kerrison Development: There was no update available for this meeting.
21.11.10	Bus Shelter Councillors noted that Marion Ravenhill has been unable to reach the Chair of the Trustees to discuss the correspondence reviewed at the last meeting. The Clerk of the Trust asked MR to outline the matters to be raised in an email which would be forwarded to the Chair for him to determine whether he could speak on the matter.
21.11.11	Quiet Lanes: No update received for this meeting.
21.11.12	Neighbourhood Plan Councillors noted that the final version of the plan was submitted to MSDC on 28 th October, confirmation has been received that Electoral Services have been instructed to arrange a referendum. Councillors noted that the referendum is likely to be early in 2022.

Item Ref	Description
21.11.13	<p>Training</p> <p>(a) Councillors received feedback on training attended and noted that it was proving difficult to print off certificates of attendance.</p> <p>(b) The link to the SALC webpage of available training will be circulated to all Councillors.</p>
21.11.14	<p>Village Hall – defib cabinet</p> <p>Councillors reviewed a request from the Village Hall to purchase an outside cabinet to be attached to the hall to store a defibrillator for community use and agreed a budget of £650 for the project.</p>
21.11.16	<p>Playing field/play area</p> <p>(a) Councillors received an update that the vehicle barrier at the playing field has been installed and a combination padlock purchased.</p> <p>(b) Councillors discussed updating the fencing around the playing field and children’s play area. Cllrs Hayward, Jenkins and Milton would meet on site to discuss the best way forward and investigate costings for metal fencing. The Councillors will also investigate the two openings in the hedge leading to/from the playing field.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: JH/RJ/EM</p> <p>(c) Councillors noted that 14 people had volunteered to help with the planting of the trees for the Jubilee Wood, a number of Councillors volunteered to help with the project.</p>
21.11.15	<p>Finance</p> <p>(a) Councillors to approve the following cheques for payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) AN Fabrications Ltd - for gate (Open Spaces Act 1906) Gross £3,336.00 Net £2,780.00 VAT £556.00 (ii) Cllr Hayward reimburse / Lawes Ltd – for padlock (Open Spaces Act 1906) Gross £39.95 Net £33.29 VAT £6.66. (iii) Thorndon Village Hall (Local Government Act 1972 s.111) Total £84.00 (iv) Zurich Municipal (replacement cheque) £721.74 <p>(b) Councillors noted receipt of a CIL payment of £3,073.38 and that the total CIL available is £19,932.12</p> <p>(c) Councillors agreed a timetable for budget planning for 2022/23 – Cllrs Milton and Hayward will meet with the Clerk immediately before the December meeting to review items to be included in the budget.</p>
21.11.16	<p>Clerk’s report</p> <p>Councillors noted the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lorry Watch The Clerk confirmed to Suffolk Trading Standards that the Parish Council is aware of, and supports, the Lorry Watch Scheme and confirmed the local contact as Hilary Pearson. • Joint Local Plan Hearings The hearings have been suspended pending both Councils undertaking further work on the Spatial Distribution, Settlement Hierarchy and Sustainability Appraisal. • Lorry Route review Suffolk County Council have commenced a public consultation on the Lorry Route review, all responses should be through the parish council. The Clerk and Cllr Ravenhill will review the documentation ahead of the December meeting.

Item Ref	Description
21.11.17	<p>Policies Councillors reviewed and approved the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV Policy • Communication Policy • Complaints Procedure • Grievance Policy • Disciplinary Policy • Standing Orders 2021
21.11.18	<p>Neighbourhood Watch Report Councillors received a report from Mr Brand.</p>
21.11.19	<p>Meeting opened to the public for brief matters of report A member of the public shared local knowledge of the landowners of the area adjacent to the playing field.</p>
21.11.20	<p>Correspondence Councillors noted correspondence on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive Poultry Units • Grit Bin • Container park at Eye airfield – Cllr Stringer informed the meeting that this was subject to a planning enforcement investigation.
21.11.21	Date of next meeting: 2nd December 2021

Meeting closed at: 9.35pm

Signed: _____

Date:

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – NOVEMBER 2021

COVID-19

From Monday 1 November, Suffolk will therefore become an ‘enhanced response area’ (ERA) for up to five weeks. This approach has already been used in other parts of the country to help reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission within the community and is also being taken in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough at the same time. To help reduce the spread, residents in Suffolk are now being encouraged to:

- Get fully vaccinated and your booster when it’s due
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water
- Always wear a face covering in crowded areas
- Ventilate indoor spaces
- Get tested regularly and stay at home if you feel unwell

Full Council – Motion and Decisions

The Suffolk County Council met for a Full Council meeting on the 21st October 2021. Our Group proposed a motion to support the Local Electricity Bill, to help proportion local energy supplier’s costs, making local electricity cheaper and more reliable. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Conservatives forwarded a motion to condemn Insulate Britain, which was passed with the following vote: 41 For, 9 Against, 7 Abstained.

Cabinet Meeting – 12th October

On the 12th October, the Cabinet and Councillors met to discuss the following two matters: Recommendations highlighted in the Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2020/21, and to vote on submitting the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), in relation to the Council’s Bus Back Better Strategy. Summary of the main decisions are below:

1. The Cabinet accepted the Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2020/21 and noted the report’s recommendations and the action that the Council was taking to address the recommendations.
2. The Cabinet acknowledged and agreed to the headline asks and order of costs contained in the proposed Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), as set out in the report.
3. The Cabinet delegated final development, including costings, and the submission of the BSIP, to the Executive Director for Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste.
4. The Cabinet noted that a further Cabinet paper on the Enhanced Partnership Arrangements would be provided prior to its submission in March 2022.

Suffolk Schools to Reintroduce Face Coverings

On Wednesday 20th October, the Directors of Public Health, and Children and Young People Services, released a statement notifying us that face coverings are to be reintroduced into schools from 1st November. This is due to the rising COVID cases in Suffolk, and therefore staff and students will have to wear face coverings in communal areas, outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons. Visitation will also be restricted to essential visits. A further review on its effectiveness will commence 15th November.

Sizewell C: Government Announce Support & New Funding Strategy

On the 15th October, Suffolk County Council announced their support for Sizewell C, and are taking up ‘important concerns’ to the Secretary of State. Our Group remains firmly against the project, believing there has been a political underestimation, and that the people of Suffolk are being sold short by the Administration’s inability to face the reality of the situation.

In addition, on 26th October, Business and Energy Secretary, Kwasi Kwarteng, announced a new government strategy for funding the nuclear power project in Sizewell. The project so far has been heavily contentious, suffering from delays and planning concerns, as well as increasing costs.

The Government has announced a Regulated Asset Base funding plan – a strategy that aims to retain investors, and deal with overflowing expenses by shifting the costs of the project onto the consumer - the British public. In the form of a taxpayer subsidy, the Government would pay the costs of the project to the developers that investors deem too risky to commit further.

Our Group has rejected this strategy, and recommends that the Government reconsiders before it puts the burden of cost onto our local communities, and instead looks into investing in cleaner, cheaper, and quicker forms of renewable energy available to Suffolk.

Bus Back Better: Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Approved

The Cabinet approved the new Bus Service Improvement Plan, as part of their new £50m Bus Back Better strategy – aimed at rejuvenating Suffolk’s bus service, in particular isolated areas of rural Suffolk. Our Group supports the essential commitment needed to help re-connect rural communities.

Bus Back Better aims at making bus services cheaper, more reliable, and carbon efficient.

District Councillors' Report for Parish Councils – November 2021

<p>Draft Five year land supply position</p>	<p>The District Council has published its latest five-year land supply position, it shows that we currently have a supply of 9.54 years, this means we have completed over 1100 homes over an annual target of 540 or so.</p> <p>To be in a position where we are delivering almost double the yearly requirement is a strong position, but it does suggest that Mid Suffolk's housing market could be overheated, or there has been significant "pent up demand".</p>
<p>Joint Local Plan Inspection</p>	<p>Public examination of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's Joint Local Plan – the strategic blueprint for future development of the districts - has been paused by the Planning Inspector to allow the councils further time to review its evidence.</p> <p>Work on the Joint Local Plan began in 2016 when the councils began gathering a range of evidence to help inform its preparation, including studies on retail, economic land needs, housing land availability and housing market assessments. The plan was then further developed following consultation with submission of more than 14,000 comments from over 1,300 people and input from both statutory consultees and cross-party councillors.</p> <p>The plan – which outlines housing requirements and considers the long-term impact of climate change, including flooding risk, water supply and biodiversity – is now in the final stage of the process. This involves submitting to the Secretary of State, who appoints a Planning Inspector to carry out an independent examination before recommending whether or not it can be adopted. The total process can be lengthy. According to the Government's Planning for the Future White Paper, development of a Local Plan takes on average seven years, with the examination element usually taking around 18 months – often with requests for further work or clarification.</p> <p>The inspector basically instructed Mid Suffolk to pause, following exploration of ambiguities in whether allocations for housing were part of a strategically lead approach, or a reaction to planning permissions granted while Mid Suffolk & Babergh lacked a 5 year land supply.</p> <p>The inspector has asked that Mid Suffolk conduct further work on its allocations approach, and reconsult on these works, telling Mid Suffolk not to rush this and to take its time and get it right. The pause will cause the plan to be delayed again, this time for probably 9 months or so.</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> <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 Sroughton Millennium Green.</p> <p>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.</p>