

## THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting in the Village Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> October 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) and 3 members of the public

Item Ref	Minute
<b>21.10.01</b>	<p>The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>(a) The whole council expressed their thanks to Amanda Thompson for her work over the years as Clerk to the Council.</p> <p>(b) Odile Wladon was welcomed as the Locum Clerk.</p> <p>(c) The meeting was informed of the resignation of Cllr Clinton Cattermole, the Councillors joined the Chairman in thanking him for his service and noted that he will be greatly missed.</p>
<b>21.10.02</b>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>(a) Councillors received apologies from Cllr James Hayward.</p> <p>(b) Councillors voted to acceptance the apologies.</p>
<b>21.10.03</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interests – in subsequent agenda items</b></p> <p>(a) There were no Councillor Declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interests noted.</p> <p>(b) There were no Councillor Disclosable Pecuniary Interests noted.</p>
<b>21.10.04</b>	<p><b>Dispensations:</b> No requests for dispensations were received.</p>
<b>21.10.05</b>	<p><b>Minutes:</b> Councillors reviewed and approved the minutes as a true record of the business conducted at the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021.</p>
<b>21.10.06</b>	<p><b>Reports:</b> Councillors received reports from the County &amp; District Councillor – these are appended to the minutes.</p>
<b>21.10.07</b>	<p><b>Public forum:</b> No matters were brought to the Councillors’ attention.</p>
<b>21.10.08</b>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>(a) New planning consultations: There were none.</p> <p>(b) Councillors noted the outcome of planning decisions reached by MSDC:  <b>DC/21/04151</b> – Discharge of conditions for DC/21/00997 – condition 15 (Details of Proposed Access) and Condition 17 (Construction Management Plan) – Castle Hill Farm, Castle Hill, Thorndon, Suffolk <b>ACCEPTED</b></p> <p>(c) Other Planning matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Councillors noted that <b>DC/21/04091</b>   Application for prior approval for a proposed: Change of use of Agricultural Building to Assembly and Leisure (Class D2) under Schedule 2, Part 3, Class R of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development)(England) Order 2015 (as amended) for an events/wedding venue.   Hill Farm Grasshopper Lane Stoke Ash Suffolk IP23 7ER has been withdrawn.</li> <li>ii. Councillors received an update on the Joint Local Plan Hearings and noted that the question of policies for intensive poultry industry is being raised whenever possible.</li> </ol>

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21.10.09	<p><b>Kerrison Development</b> There was no update available for this meeting.</p>
21.10.10	<p><b>Bus Shelter</b> Councillors noted that the Kerrison Trust have not given permission for any land to be used for the Bus Shelter. The site proposed by the Parish Council was not considered suitable. The Chairman offered to speak with the Chairman of the Trust to see if the matter could be revisited.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: MR</b></p>
21.10.11	<p><b>Signage for Stewardship Lane</b> Councillors noted that there was no long a need for the signage and that dog walkers have are now clearing up after their dogs. The matter is now closed and will be removed from the agenda.</p>
21.10.12	<p><b>Quiet Lanes</b> The county team working on this matter have now returned to work. The installation of the signs has been delayed and it may be possible for Parish Councils to collect signs and have then installed on existing posts. Further information and updates are awaited.</p>
21.10.13	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan</b> Places4people have stated the revised plan has been submitted to MSDC. A referendum will be arranged once MSDC are satisfied that the examiner recommended changes have been made.</p>
21.10.14	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Councillors reviewed and noted the external audit report and noted the additional cost incurred for the letter requesting information. Councillors approved the changes to the AGAR which were initialled by the Chair and Clerk.</li> <li>(b) Councillors approved that the bank mandate should be updated to remove Cllr Cattermole as a signatory, add Cllr Milton as a signatory and appoint the Locum Clerk as administrator on the account.</li> <li>(c) Councillors reviewed 3 quotations received for annual insurance cover and approved the appointment of Zurich for the annual insurance.</li> <li>(d) Councillors approved a proposal to enter into a 3 year long term agreement with Zurich.</li> <li>(e) Councillors noted that account balances at the last statement date were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Current Account: £58,319.79</li> <li>ii. Saver Account: £4,015.92</li> </ul> <p>The bank statements were initialled by the Chairman.</p> </li> <li>(f) Councillors approved payments to be made - as per the schedule attached.</li> <li>(g) Councillors noted receipt of 2<sup>nd</sup> half of precept.</li> <li>(h) Councillors reviewed and approved a proposal that SALC are appointed to manage the Parish Council's payroll on a quarterly basis. The cost was noted as £38 +VAT per annum.</li> </ul>
21.10.15	<p><b>Clerk's report</b> A request has been received for the Parish Council to purchase an outdoor cabinet for a defibrillator at the Village Hall. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting. Lorry Watch – an appointment has been made to co-ordinate the scheme and 11</p>

<b>Item Ref</b>	<b>Minute</b>
	volunteers have come forward to take part. Councillors expressed their thanks to Hilary Pearson for her work on this.
<b>21.10.16</b>	<b>Policies</b> CCTV Policy – a draft policy was reviewed and will be c/f to next meeting to allow Cllrs time to look at outstanding areas.
<b>21.10.17</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Watch Report:</b> Councillors received a report from Mr Brand.
<b>21.10.18</b>	<b>Meeting opened to the public:</b> A member of the public was concerned about possible blocked drains outside the Village Hall – Cllr Stringer reported these to Suffolk County Council’s Highways Department during the meeting.
<b>21.10.19</b>	<b>Correspondence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Councillors reviewed correspondence regarding email communication within the Council and it was agreed that a communication protocol would be prepared for review at the next meeting.</li> <li>ii. Correspondence concerning dog poo was noted.</li> <li>iii. Councillors noted an email sent in which contained a response from Suffolk County Council regarding the report of a blocked drain.</li> </ul>
<b>21.10.20</b>	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Meeting closed at: 9.15pm**

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

Date:

## District Councillors' Parish Report: - October 2021

MSDC Council meeting	<p>The full Council meeting was on 23<sup>rd</sup> September with a very full agenda due to the cancellation of the July meeting. Items included: a No Casino motion, senior staff pay review, CIFCO business plan, changes to Neighbourhood Plan procedures, wellbeing strategy, wildlife friendly street lighting motion and a motion on proposed voter ID. The meeting adjourned after 4.5 hours meaning the last two items were not heard.</p> <p>The senior staff pay review was withdrawn after Babergh District Council voted against it two days earlier. The proposal was to significantly increase senior staff pay without a review of a majority of staff.</p> <p>The Wellbeing Strategy is very welcome and received unanimous approval.</p>
Council: No Casino policy	<p>At the meeting, Councillors defeated the Administration motion which was asking <i>not</i> to have a "No Casino" policy. The majority wanted to have a No Casino policy meaning we do not welcome casinos in Mid Suffolk, giving certainty to developers and residents.</p>
Council: CIFCO	<p>The business plan for CIFCO, the Council's investment arm, was discussed. The commercial property portfolio is from an investment of £100 million by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils in which each council had £5 million equity. This equity is now at zero although expected to improve over the next 10 years. There is currently a book value of £83 million on this portfolio. The business plan was approved by a margin of six votes.</p>
Council: Scrutiny Committee	<p>A review the health provision in and around Stowmarket – particularly regarding the current shortage of GPs and lack of dental services.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Committee is currently reviewing rural transport such as access to bus services.</p>
Joint Local Plan examination	<p>The public hearing for the draft Joint Local Plan has re-started and all sessions are online via Microsoft Teams. For details on how to take part, go to <a href="http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk">www.midsuffolk.gov.uk</a> and search for Joint Local Plan.</p> <p>Various witnesses have been contributing to this including Myself – notably on housing and environment issues.</p> <p>Once complete, a report from the Planning Inspectors will then be provided to the Council for Mid Suffolk to act on.</p>
Planning updates	<p>The planning appeal for the 8 plots in Brockford road that have appealed against their enforcement action are due to be heard beginning on October the 12 and are due to run for four days.</p> <p>The neighbourhood plan process has now been slightly simplified, the council has withdrawn the need for the cabinet and council needing to vote on these plans, this will mean the once plans pass inspection they can proceed directly to referendum, and if a referendum is a majority yes, then the chief executive can simply approve.</p>

## **Report for October 2021 to Parish Councils Upper Gipping**

**from Andrew Stringer (SCC Councillor)**

### **Review of SEND provision Report**

Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision which has now been completed, and the report made public. The report, was limited to some specific areas of the service (communications etc) It does make a seriously worrying read, 195 children had not had an assessment by the legal deadline, as well as 45 children had no school placement at all, as well as parents and teachers were not kept informed in a consistent manner.

The report points out we have some good people but within a poor system, a system were Suffolk County Council failed to meet its statutory deadlines for EHC (education health & care) plans, a clear breach of compliance.

Some parents were made to feel pressured and some felt bullied into taking unsuitable placings.

Our group have called for the Education Scrutiny Committee, not due to sit until December, to be re-convened at the earliest opportunity. The administration has rejected these calls. One of the worrying aspects regarding the report, is that it calls for a better culture in how as a council communicates, yesterday the Council briefed journalists on the contents of the report, 2 ½ hours before councillors were given access to the findings. If anyone has any issues regarding the need for this provision, please tell them to get in touch.

### **Fuelling Debate**

The Green Suffolk website is promoting the District Councils local energy event at Wherstead Park Ipswich is running for two days, the free to attend event will showcase opportunities for energy generation etc, and a chance to speak to those in the trade to get the latest information on products and technological advances in the renewable energy sector. Mid Suffolk ran a similar event in 2008, and we ran out of room for the visitors wishing to attend. On area for debate is whether hydrogen would be classed as a renewable technology, and like many things on politics, there isn't a straight answer because it depends on the type. Hydrogens use in fuel production takes many forms, and is split into colours, Black, brown, grey, pink blue and green hydrogen are all forms of this technology, but only one of them could be classed as renewable,

- 21-22 October – Local Energy Showcase (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council)

Andrew Stringer  
County Councillor for Upper Gipping  
Green, Liberal Democrat, and Independent Group Leader

Thorndon Parish Council - Finance schedule

Bank Reconciliations:			Represented by:		
Account Balances at 1st April 2021	£	53,525.93	Barclays Current Acc	£	58,319.79
add Receipts in the year	£	19,742.85	<i>Less unpresented cheques</i>	-£	557.16
deduct Payments in the year	£	11,490.23	Current A/c available funds	£	57,762.63
Account Balances at 20th September 2021	£	<u>61,778.55</u>	Barclays Saver Account	£	4,015.92
				£	<u>61,778.55</u>

Payments	07/10/21							
Item	Payee		Cheque No.	Gross	Net	VAT	Power	
Cllr Training - E Milton	SALC		100983	£ 120.00	£ 100.00	£ 20.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s.111	
Cllr Training - E Milton	SALC		100983	£ 16.80	£ 14.00	£ 2.80	Local Govt Act 1972 s.111	
Cllr Training - J Wilson	SALC		100983	£ 16.80	£ 14.00	£ 2.80	Local Govt Act 1972 s.111	
External audit	PKF Littlejohn		100984	£ 288.00	£ 240.00	£ 48.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s.111	
Remembrance Wreath	The Poppy Appeal		100985	£ 200.00	£ 200.00	£ -	Local Govt Act 1972 s.138A	
Annual grass cutting	Mr R Fiebelkorn		100986	£ 771.00	£ 771.00	£ -	Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10	
village recorder expenses	Mrs C Rich		100987	£ 33.57	£ 33.57	£ -	Local Govt Act 1972 s.142	
annual insurance	Zurich Municipal		100988	£ 721.74	£ 721.74	£ -	Local Govt Act 1972 s.111	
				£ 2,167.91	£ 2,094.31	£ 73.60		

Receipts during September 2021:	
Precept	£9,500