

## THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held in the Village Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2022 starting at 7.30pm

**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), Claude Brand and 2 members of the public

Item Ref	Description
22.03.01	<b>Chairman's welcome</b> Councillors <b>agreed</b> to move Neighbourhood Plan to after item 22.03.06 - Minutes
22.03.02	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> – there were none
22.03.03	<b>Declarations of Interests – in subsequent agenda items</b> (a) There were no Councillor Declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interests. (b) There were no Councillor Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
22.03.04	<b>Dispensations:</b> None were received.
22.03.05	<b>Councillor vacancy:</b> to note there have been no applications at the present time
22.03.06	<b>Minutes:</b> Councillors reviewed and <b>approved</b> the minutes as a true record of the business conducted at the meeting held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2022.
22.03.07	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b> (a) Councillors noted that the referendum result was as follows: Yes 92.9% No 7.77% (b) Following the successful result Mid Suffolk made (formally adopted) the plan on 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2022. (c) Stephen Page addressed the council on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan working group thanking Cllrs for enabling the Neighbourhood Plan to be developed through grant funding and hard work. Particular thanks were expressed the Cllr Hayward for his hard work throughout the plan making period. (d) Cllrs thanked Cllr Hayward, Stephen Page and the rest of the working group for all the work on the plan. (e) Cllrs <b>voted</b> to disband the working group with immediate effect.
22.03.08	<b>Report:</b> County Council – a report was circulated ahead of the meeting (copy appended to minutes), Cllr Stinger sent apologies as he was unable to attend. He advised via email that he was still chasing the outstanding estimates for signage repairs and sent congratulations on the made Neighbourhood Plan.
22.03.09	<b>Public forum:</b> A member of the public raised concerns about the board walk at the playing field.
22.03.10	<b>Planning:</b> (a) Councillors <b>agreed</b> a response to the following planning consultations: <b>DC/22/00792</b> – Prior approval for a proposed change of use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for conversion.

Item Ref	Description
	<p>Town &amp; Country Planning General Permitted Development (England) Order 2015 as amended schedule 2, part 3 Class Q – conversion of a barn into a dwelling. Thorndon Hill Farm, Rishangles Road IP23 7JU. Councillors voted to submit the follow comment: As the application was not in conflict with the Neighbourhood Plan, Councillors noted there was no reason to object</p> <p>(b) Councillors noted outcome of planning decisions reached by Mid Suffolk:  <b>DC/21/06515</b> – Lampits Farm, Bakers Lane IP23 7LT GRANTED  <b>DC/21/06516</b> – Lampits Farm, Bakers Lane (listed building) GRANTED</p>
22.03.11	<p><b>Finance:</b></p> <p>(a) Councillors <b>approved</b> the following cheques for payment:  Playsafety Ltd. Resistograph report (Open Spaces Act 1906)  £594.00 gross, £495.00 net, £99.00 VAT  Thorndon Village Hall. Donation for defib cabinet (LGA 1972 s.137)  £589.99 gross (no VAT)  Thorndon Village Hall. Hire fee for meetings (LGA 1972 s.111)  £60.00 gross (no VAT)  SALC – payroll services (LGA 1972 s.111)  £22.80 gross, £19.00 net, 3.80 VAT</p> <p>(b) Cllrs <b>agreed</b> the appointment of Dawn Crisp as internal auditor for the year ending 31/3/22.</p> <p>(c) A request for funding from the Friends of Thorndon School was reviewed and noted that the Parish Council is not in a position to help with this at the present time.</p>
22.03.12	<p><b>Playing field –</b></p> <p>(a) Fence – Cllrs <b>ratified</b> the appointment of Under One Roof (East Anglia) Ltd to carry out the work to replace the fence with a metal powder painted bow top railings and gates.</p> <p>(b) <b>Resistograph report</b> – Cllrs reviewed the report and noted the contents. Cllrs Hayward and Taylor would deal with the urgent matters, other matters will be reviewed in line with the review of the budget for 22/23 after the year end accounts have been finalised.</p>
22.03.13	<p><b>Clerk’s report</b></p> <p>(a) Correspondence was noted.</p> <p>(b) Cllrs <b>approved</b> the following policies subject to CCTV being added to GDPR policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Regulations (current) together with a Risk Assessment and Statement of Internal Control</li> <li>• Reserves Policy (new)</li> <li>• GDPR Policies (new)</li> </ul>
22.03.14	<p><b>Training :</b> Cllrs <b>agreed</b> to share the cost of any training undertaken by the Clerk with Stradbroke Parish Council.</p>
22.03.15	<p><b>Bus shelter:</b> There was not update for this meeting.</p>
22.03.16	<p><b>Quiet Lanes:</b> The Cllrs noted advice that the lanes were “coming soon”, no further formal update was available.</p>
22.03.17	<p><b>Highways</b></p> <p>(a) Report on highway signs in the Parish – Cllr Stringer is chasing the costings for the work.</p> <p>(b) To receive an update of SCC Lorry Route – it is intended that a new map will be issued over the course of the next few months.</p>
22.03.18	<p><b>Neighbourhood Watch report</b> – Cllrs received a report from Mr Brand.</p>

Item Ref	Description
22.03.20	<b>Meeting opened to the public for brief matters of report</b> – there were no matters reported.
22.03.21	<p><b>Closed session</b></p> <p>In accordance with s.1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 - Councillors voted to close the meeting to members of the public and press to allow Councillors to review on confidential matters.</p> <p>(i) Cllrs <b>agreed</b> to extend the locum Clerk’s contract for a further 6 months.</p> <p>(ii) Cllrs noted information regarding Local Government Act 1972 s.249.</p>
22.03.22	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2022

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

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

Date:

### County Council report:

#### Biodiversity Recommendations

Suffolk County Council will be doing more for the county’s natural environment, as it confirms plans to enhance the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land by 2030. Our Group had a major influence in providing recommendations to SCC which are now a part of the Council’s ambitions moving forward to enhance biodiversity. Examples include planting more hedgerows, improving highway trees, and developing nature-based flood management solutions.

#### Changes to Highway Code

Several new changes to the Highway Code are now in force as of the 29<sup>th</sup> of January. According to The Department for Transport (DfT) the new regulations are about recognising and protecting the most vulnerable road users and making the highway safer for everyone. Suffolk Roadsafe’s Quiz helps illustrate the changes that are necessary to know and includes a link to further information.

#### Devolution Deal

The Government published its White Paper on Levelling-Up, within which it has agreed that Suffolk will be one of nine initial ‘County Deals’ up for negotiation. A new deal will potentially give local leaders more powers to make decisions for their communities for the first time. Our Group welcomes the idea of bringing more power to the communities of Suffolk. However, we are concerned about a potential Mayoral position created in Suffolk and the effect this may have on marginalising districts etc in Suffolk.

#### Full Council Budget Meeting

County Councillors met on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February to debate and vote on the Council’s budget for 2022-23. Suffolk GLI Group highlighted the need to invest more in adult social care, as well as an innovative project to reduce the energy bills of those most vulnerable, considering the current energy and cost of living crisis. Both ideas were rejected by the Conservatives, but our Group will continue to champion more investment into our social care and green technology.

#### Warmer Homes Suffolk

Suffolk residents who are struggling to keep their homes warm can contact a new project, named 'Warm Homes Suffolk', which offers funding and free advice. The project can offer expert advice on reducing energy bills, energy usage and identify benefits that residents may be entitled to, to help keep their homes warm.

#### **School Hill Old Newton**

Suffolk County Council contractors did some work to the drainage on School Hill during half term, it appears that only half the pipe route has been renewed, I have asked for an urgent update on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, despite constant reminders nothing has been reported back, as soon as I hear I will let you know.

#### **Back Lane Gipping**

The one way Diversion in Forward Green coupled with the temporary closure of Saxham Street has lead to the decimation of the verges etc in Back Lane Gipping.

Yet again I have asked for an urgent update and know one has seen fit to update me, despite numerous calls emails etc, I will keep persisting and let you know the outcome.

#### **Council links to Gazprom**

Back in 2017, Suffolk County Council, outsourced its energy procurement to "Vertas" an SCC wholly owned but independent company. The energy deal Suffolk County Council funds has included buying gas from Gazprom, This unfortunate position has been pointed out to SCC, and in the last few days we have sought to extricate SCC from this contract, to enable us to no longer indirectly fund the war currently raging in Ukraine.