

THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held in the Village Hall,
on Thursday, 9th November 2023 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Tim Cherrett, Emma Milton, Stephen Marshall, Jill Wilson

In attendance: Odile Wladon (Clerk), Cllr Andrew Stringer, Claude Brand (Neighbourhood Watch)
and 15 members of the public

Item ref	Description
23.11.01	<p>Chairman's welcome</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and noted that the meeting was called in light of the recent storms and floods within our community.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that all the parish council members would like to extend their sincere sympathy to those directly impacted by the flooding and extend their thanks to all of those joined the effort to help those when needed the most.</p> <p>Information from Matt Hullis, Head of Environment Strategy at Suffolk County Council regarding Storm Babet was shared. It was noted that: <i>Over 75mm rain fell over large areas of the County from Thursday night into Friday, an event this severe has less than a 1% chance of happening each year. The storm resulted in more than a month's worth of average October rainfall in just 24 hours. This is the most widespread flooding event to impact the County for a significant number of years and it is anticipated that several hundred homes may have been internally flooded from rivers and surface water.</i></p> <p><i>Suffolk County Council is designated as the Lead Local Flood Authority, and has a duty to collect information about the impact of flooding including undertaking investigations into "significant" flood events. Council staff will carry out these investigations when internal flooding as occurred multiple times for a single dwelling or when five or more homes are internally flooded in a specific location. Once investigated, the resulting reports seek to highlight the likely causes, options to reduce future flood risk and the relevant organisation/homeowner responsibility for undertaking any improvements. The Council has no powers to require any of the responsible bodies to take action, but the reports are published on the Council's website.</i></p> <p>The Chairman noted that at this meeting, Councillors were here to listen to experiences, understand what could have been done differently as a community and create a way forward to mitigate any risk faced in the future.</p>
23.11.02	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>(a) Councillors received apologies from Cllr Jenkins (b) Councillors voted to accept the apologies.</p>
23.11.03	<p>Declarations of Interests:</p> <p>(a) Pecuniary Interests - none (b) Other registerable interests - none (c) Non-registerable interests – none</p>

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23.11.04	Dispensations: None requested
23.11.05	<p data-bbox="293 277 1501 315">Public forum:</p> <p data-bbox="293 318 1501 389">The meeting was called to allow members of the public to address Councillors regarding the recent Storm Babet which led to significant flooding in the parish.</p> <p data-bbox="293 439 1038 477">A summary of the comments received is included below:</p> <ul data-bbox="347 479 1485 1272" style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of properties were flooded from the exceptional rain. • Neighbours helped but little outside help. • New houses have been built on land that would have soaked up flood water in the past. • Infrastructure not adequate. • Clint Road was particularly badly affected, but other areas were flooded too. • Culvert under the road – pipes not large enough to cope with the flow of water. • Ditches were overflowing and there was a significant run off from fields. • All ditches in the area need maintenance as does the River Dove which was blocked in places causing it to over top. • Some homeowners are unaware that maintenance of ditches on their property are their responsibility. • Surface water drains on roadsides were overflowing and need to be cleared. • Some large fields do not have ditches, therefore the water is flowing directly onto roads. • It was noted that ditch and hedge maintenance is a winter job. • The cross roads at the “Wash” had severe flooding, but the nearby properties did not seem to be affected. • Historical issues with the override system at the sewage pumping station have not been dealt with. <p data-bbox="293 1319 746 1357">Cllr Stringer advised the following:</p> <ul data-bbox="347 1359 1485 2018" style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants will shortly be available to assist owners of properties damaged by flooding. £500 one off grant to householders, plus a further £5,000 contribution towards flood prevention measures. • Suffolk County council is the Flood Authority and responds to planning applications and holds drainage maps. • Anglia Water state there is no capacity, but cannot refuse a new development. • All new developments must have a surface water drainage strategy. • Everyone should check their bills – particularly those in newer developments - as sometimes Anglian Water are still making a charge for surface water drainage which is now separate. • The issue with culvert under Clint Road was noted. • Everyone is advised to report property flooding to Suffolk County Council using the Report It tool on the website. This can also be used to report the blocked drains. • All gully drains should be cleared twice a year. • Mid Suffolk Road sweepers will be used to clear silt from roads where there is a verge – all other areas are the responsibility of Suffolk County Council. • Land owners and farmers can look at land management to see if there are any

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	<p>opportunities to hold the water back on their land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All deeds for houses and lands will show the ownership of the ditches, guidance on riparian responsibilities. • A member of the public asked what happens if owners do not clear/maintain their ditches. Cllr Stringer responded that insurance companies could ask those owners to contribute to the cost of flooding caused elsewhere by their lack of maintenance. <p>Actions agreed at the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr Stringer arranged to meet with residents of Clint Road to look at the inadequate culvert. 2. The Parish Council use Village Life to disseminate information on Riparian Responsibilities and to advise all land owners (including home owners) that they could be liable if poor ditch maintenance contributes to flood damage in a nearby property. 3. The Parish Council will write to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Kerrison Trust to advise of ditch issues. b. Environment Agency regarding the blockage under the bridge which is preventing the River Dove flowing fully. 4. All present were advised to use the Report It tool on Suffolk County Council's website to report blocked drains and properties that were flooded. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Public forum closed at: 8.30pm</i></p>
23.11.06	<p>Emergency Planning:</p> <p>(a) Councillors noted Suffolk County Council's guidance on flood recovery.</p> <p>(b) A discussion took place on the community emergency plan in light of the recent flooding event. Councillors noted that Suffolk Prepared is willing to work with the Parish and a working party will be set up to look into this. Debenham will be contacted to find out what worked and did not work as their emergency plan was invoked during Storm Babet. Cllr Stringer advised that the plan should be one page with easy to follow guidance. Cllr Milton will look into this and bring further information to the next meeting.</p> <p>(c) Some years ago sand and sand bags were purchased for use in Clint Road. During Storm Babet the location of this could not be identified. Cllr Wilson confirmed that some of the sand was inadvertently used by builders working on her behalf. Cllr Wilson will either replace or reimburse the Council if no location for sand can be identified. Councillors discussed where the sand and bags could be stored. It was agreed that there was not suitable location at the present time – therefore reimbursement from Cllr Wilson would be preferable. Homeowners present were asked to consider storing filled sand bags on their properties, this would enable speedy deployment in the event of predicted heavy rain and flooding.</p>
23.11.07	<p>Brief update from Cllr Stringer:</p> <p>MSDC have launched home insulations programme "cosy homes" with a budget of £2m. Consultation is running till mid November on a revised Corporate Plan. Consultation is running on ways to make it easier for Listed Buildings to make solar and low</p>

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	<p>carbon energy improvements.</p> <p>A large grid connection has been installed at Eye as a result of the new power station, there will be an opportunity for grid connections for renewable energy projects with 8km.</p>
23.11.08	<p>Brief update from Neighbourhood Watch:</p> <p>3 parcels missing parcels have been located.</p> <p>Footpath between Bowls Green and Stock Ash closed due to issues with the bridge.</p> <p><i>Cllr Wilson advised that the bridge is scheduled for emergency repair by Suffolk County Council.</i></p>
23.11.09	<p>Confidential items:</p> <p>(a) Councillors voted on a motion to close the meeting to the press and public to review matters of a confidential nature.</p> <p>(b) Councillors voted to accept the recommendation from NALC that the recently agreed national pay rise be adopted, and that this should be back dated to April 2023.</p> <p>(c) Councillors agreed a way forward for a colour scheme and wording.</p>
23.11.10	<p>Date of next meeting: 7th December 2023</p>

Meeting closed at: 8.50pm

Signed: _____

Date: