

THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held in the Village Hall,
on Thursday, 11th January 2024 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Robert Jenkins, Stephen Marshall, Emma Milton, Jill Wilson

In attendance: Odile Wladon (Clerk), Cllr Andrew Stringer, Claude Brand (Neighbourhood Watch) and 2 members of the public

Item ref	Description
24.01.01	<p>Chairman's welcome The Chairman wished all present a Happy New Year and noted that flooding had occurred again due to Storm Henk.</p>
24.01.02	<p>Apologies for Absence (a) Councillors received apologies from Cllr Cherett (b) Councillors voted to accept the apologies.</p>
24.01.03	<p>Declarations of Interests: declarations in subsequent agenda items (a) Pecuniary Interests - none (b) Other registerable interests - none (c) Non-registerable interests - none</p>
24.01.04	<p>Dispensations: There were no requests for dispensations</p>
24.01.05	<p>Minutes: Councillors reviewed and approved the minutes as a true record of the business conducted at the ordinary meeting held on 7th December 2023</p>
24.01.06	<p>Reports:</p> <p><u>County Council</u> Following the recent bouts of bad weather, any flooding incidents should be reported. The County Council are working out an order for section 19 notices to be actioned. Trees on River Dove at Stoke Ash will be left until the summer. Cllr Stringer happy to attend any working group meeting on flooding issues. <i>Cllr Wilson advised the contractor for Kerrison land would be coming to clear the ditches in under their responsibility.</i> Budget 2024-25 – not good, poor settlement received from central government – it is proposed that there will be a lot of cuts to services, examples were given. MSDC may step in to help with cuts to the funding of the Arts proposed by SCC for those events that are already in the advanced planning stage.</p> <p><u>District Council</u> The council tax on empty homes will be increased. Officers have been charged with looking at council housing stock to achieve negative void periods. Some charges will increase, eg bin emptying. SHELF project has been split into 4 smaller, more manageable, projects. Cosy Homes – now launched Flood payments – being distributed. Joint Local Plan (Part 2) – call for sites will be made soon. A 2nd call for sites for Gypsy and Travellers – following a review of existing.</p>

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	Cllr Stringer advised that the current made Neighbourhood Plan in Thorndon will be taken into account in the Part 2 review.
24.01.07	<p>Public forum:</p> <p>A question was raised concerning the Jubilee Wood proposal (Item 24.01.15) and whether it was being proposed to hand ownership of the land over. <i>Councillors confirmed that it was not the intention to relinquish land but to get help with more trees for the area.</i></p>
24.01.08	<p>Emergency Planning:</p> <p>Cllr Milton has contacted Suffolk Prepared but not yet received a response. There is an information sheet that could be shared in Village Life and be part of the welcome pack.</p>
24.01.09	<p>Planning:</p> <p>(a) There are no planning applications for review.</p> <p>(b) Decisions reached by Mid Suffolk: DC/23/05358 – White House Farm. Discharge of conditions 3 – 7. APPROVED</p>
24.01.10	<p>Finance:</p> <p>(a) Councillors received an update on the current situation regarding the Council’s bank account. The Clerk was advised that the account had been closed in error and that it would be reopened as a matter of priority. As of 11/1/24, 3 of the 4 actions required have been undertaken, the 4th – returning the money – has yet to be completed.</p> <p>(b) Councillors approved payments due in the month, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Salary for Clerk: £1311.82 ii. HMRC: £328.00 iii. O2 SIM Top Up – refund to Clerk: £60.00 <p>(c) Councillors approved the precept for 2024/25 as £22,500.</p> <p>(d) Update on a new bank account with Unity Trust Bank – this is being progressed and once funds can be taken from Barclays the application will be finalised.</p>
24.01.11	<p>Clerk’s report:</p> <p>(a) Correspondence received by the Clerk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email from the Environment Agency re flooding at Clint Road. Clerk to forward to Cllr Stringer. • MSDC – costs for dog/litter bin emptying for 2024/25 were noted, an increase was included in the budget for the 2024/25 financial year. <p>(b) Open Space at Kerrisons – no update, Councillors noted that the area is designated as a green space in the made Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>(c) Updates from Thorndon Primary School – thanks were expressed for the work to cut back the hedge that had overgrown the pavement. Councillors noted that numbers on roll are increasing. The school is busy preparing for the 150th anniversary and has events planned for the year. The Community Council is helping the Friends of the School to work on the playground area.</p> <p>(d) Training – Cllr Marshall has requested access to E-learning: Introduction to Local Council and Introduction to Planning, these will be booked by the Clerk.</p>
24.01.12	<p>Highways:</p> <p>(a) Councillors received updates on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Community Speed Watch – no further action is expected before Spring. (ii) Lorry Watch – the scheme continues to report, no up to date data is available from Trading Standards. The Lorry Watch co-ordinator requested that signs be purchased. Clerk advised that Trading Standards have said they are not necessary

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	<p>and none are available.</p> <p>(iii) SID data – the data has been downloaded but help is needed to review and present the data to the Council.</p> <p>(iv) Path near Church – no updates.</p> <p>(v) Experimental TRO in Eye – A joint submission from Thorndon and 6 other parishes was made. Pre and post implementation survey data has not yet been received and a further request will be made.</p> <p>(b) Other highways information:</p> <p>(i) A broken drain cover has been replaced.</p> <p>(ii) No further action currently planned for Clint Road – on inspection rota.</p> <p>(iii) Footbridge – works not yet complete.</p> <p>(iv) Potholes – areas have been marked today.</p>
24.01.13	<p>Parish Council 4 year plan:</p> <p>(a) Cllr Marshall will review which area of plan he wishes to lead on. Cllr Milton has reached out to the Primary School about a youth council. No other specific updates were received.</p> <p>(b) Councillors reviewed the requirements for a PIIP. The first stage is an audit of requirements from Village Groups.</p>
24.01.14	<p>Play Equipment:</p> <p>(a) Repairs – the quote from Manning & Woods has been revised to encompass further works identified. Councillors voted to approve the revised quote.</p> <p>(b) RoSPA update – a copy will be sent to Cllr Jenkins and Manning & Woods.</p>
24.01.15	<p>Jubilee Wood:</p> <p>A meeting took place with MSDC re bio-diversity. 200 trees could be available to replace those that did not survive the hot and dry months. Councillors noted that 20 to 30 of the original trees have survived and Cllr Jenkins has removed all the dead trees, this could include some fruit trees. Recommendation that volunteers are given 10-12 trees each and they plant them. The area should not be cut once the trees are planted. The Council will investigate seating options available from Realise Futures.</p>
24.01.16	<p>Meeting opened for brief matters of report/agenda items for next meeting.</p> <p>Youth council</p> <p>Cllr Jenkins raised the matter of the payment to RBL for the wreath. The Clerk advised that a wreath was obtained and the donation cheque given. However, further wreaths were delivered to Thorndon. Cllr Jenkins will advise that the donation was made and that no further wreaths are to be delivered unless specifically ordered.</p>
24.01.17	<p>Neighbourhood Watch report</p> <p>Flooding at Castle Hill will be reported with photos to Suffolk County Council.</p> <p>One bunch of keys were lost and found.</p> <p>Constable County newsletter (police) was circulated, and contained information that the 101 service has been improved.</p>
24.01.18	<p>Date of next meeting: 2nd February 2024.</p>

Meeting closed at: 9.20pm

Signed: _____

Date: