

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THORNHAM MAGNA VILLAGE MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON 11th MAY 2011

Present: 23 members incl officers, John Cousins – Thornham Estate Trustees, John Cairns – resident but not yet on the Electoral Roll

1 Apologies were received from: Dave Cowdell and Nigel Merriam both of whom were at the TMCOS Annual General Meeting, Sara and Paul Dobson, Joyce Mayes, Olive Howlett, Bente Henniker Major, Mark Hatton, Vanessa Simmons, Janine Eves, Jess Palmer, Councillor Diana Kearsley, Helen Sibley.

2 Nominations and voting for officers

Jude Farrell took the Chair and asked for nominations for the position of Chair. Joan Maughan accepted nomination and was unanimously elected. Joe Vaudrey proposed that a vote of thanks should be recorded for all Joan had done for the Meeting. Motion from the floor unanimously agreed.

Joan took the Chair and asked for nominations for a Vice Chair. There were no nominations but it was understood that one or two people had been approached and were considering their responses.

Nominations were asked for the position of Clerk. Joan Maughan asked Tina Schwarz if she was prepared to stand, reply yes. This too was unanimously agreed. Julia Henniker agreed to continue as Minute Secretary. Joe Vaudrey proposed a vote of thanks for all Tina's work for the Meeting. This too was unanimously agreed.

3 Minutes of the meeting of January 18th 2011

These were agreed as a correct record, with one amendment, in item 6, amend to 'IT thanked Mark Hatton for the low cost of the website, some people agreed'. Minutes passed unanimously.

4 Matters arising

Brian Haynes asked that names should be written in full, initials can be confusing, The Minute Sec promised to do her best.

The Clerk reported on various queries and comments made by Irene Tibbenham at that meeting:

a cost of Insurance – Came and Co would only insure if premiums pa were more than £265.

b cutting of the verges and the repayment of £100 donation. The donor had been contacted and was happy that the money would be spent to cut the road hedge at the Village Hall later in the year.

c inspection of Playground - this was routinely done by MSDC and would continue.

5 Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting held in the Village Hall on 28th March 2011

Chaired by Councillor Tim Passmore and Minuted by Councillor Diana Kearsley

The Minutes were accepted as a true record by 18 for and 6 abstentions 0 against

6 Matters arising

It was noted with regret that TMCOS was not represented, as this meeting had been arranged in order to reach common ground and move forward with the plans for the Walks Playground.

It was noted that Village relationships with the Walks and the Estate were good and there had never been a problem with a playground, the problem lay in the process. Jennie Groeneveld commented that this Meeting was statements of peoples individual opinions. Dame Anne asked that the Meeting should send its best wishes to the Walks and hoped that the building of the new Playground would help to keep them going.

It was also noted that Tim Passmore was trying to arrange a meeting with Irene Tibbenham to discuss the official complaint that had been made at Christmas time.

7 Report from the Chair

It has proved to be a difficult year for the Village Meeting but despite that much has been achieved. The meeting has regularised its position with MSDC and is a full member of Suffolk Association of Local Councils, enabling us to access advice and guidance on a range of matters. The Meeting now has the additional powers required to provide a playground on the site adjacent to the Village Hall, and a lease has been obtained from the Estate.

Thanks to the sterling efforts of Dame Anne Warburton and Steve Schwarz we have Standing Orders in place to guide the work of the Village Meeting.

The licence for the Millennium Walk has also been regularised.

We are pleased that the Village Hall obtained funds to enable the necessary repairs to the roof.

Despite the efforts of the previous committee and of the current Clerk we have made no progress with the speeding matter in the village. We will not give up but will need evidential support from villagers wherever this can be found.

Following a meeting with a group of villagers in December 2010 Councillor Tim Passmore, Leader of MSDC, was sufficiently concerned at the issues raised to decide that any monies forthcoming from the Lottery bid should be 'held' until local matters were resolved. He was reassured that everyone supported the development of the Thornham Walks playground. Despite many efforts no resolution was forthcoming and my personal thanks go to everyone who attended the meeting with Councillors Tim Passmore and Diana Kearsley on March 28th.

I realise that the outcome was disappointing. Lottery funds have been released to progress the Walks playground but I am sorry to have to tell the meeting that, despite several attempts, Tim has been unable to secure a date to meet with Irene Tibbenham, thus far, to progress resolution of outstanding matters. The TMCOS AGM is being held tonight at the same time as the Village Meeting.

At the January meeting it was decided to defer any further work on the village playground until the outcome of the Lottery bid for a playground at Thornham Walks was confirmed. The award was made in February. We understand that the original site proposed, that included a parcel of land from the Estate parkland, required planning permission for change of use. No application was made and the site has been modified - thus the new playground will go on the existing site.

We also understand that the first round of tenders for provision of equipment was not successful due to a lack of competitive interest from providers and the proposals have been re-tendered by MSDC.

There have been several successful events during the year that have been well supported by villagers and I understand there are a good few more to come. Particular thanks are due to all those who have helped organise and run events and to everyone who turned out to help with initiatives such as the Litter Pick.

Thank you all for your continued support.

The Clerk added that the Monitoring Officer does not wish to sign the Millennium Walk Licence annually, she advises that the Chair and two other members of the Meeting should do so.

Extract from a report from Councillor Diane Kearsley to Thornham Magna – 11th May 2011 (*full report available from the Clerk*)

A brief update on recent issues:-

Firstly, may I say sorry for not attending this meeting but a huge 'thank you' to everyone who supported me in the recent District Council Election. I did have quite a large majority and overall in Mid Suffolk the existing administration will remain in office. This is good news as we will be able to continue with the work we were doing and planning which in turn will hopefully see us through to a sound and successful future in Mid Suffolk. With reference to the outstanding arrangements for Cllr Tim Passmore to meet Mrs I Tibbenham, I have to advise you that we have been unsuccessful in organising this meeting.

There have been continuous attempts to find a mutually convenient date, but I have to say there is always something in the way and Mrs Tibbenham has not come up with the request for suggested alternative dates. I believe Cllr Passmore, now that the election is out of the way, will try to make direct contact with tmcos and will then hopefully establish a way forward so that Thornham Magna will, as we have always said, return to the untroubled small village that it has always enjoyed.

I started with a 'sorry' and I have to conclude with 'sorry' too – we had all hoped that this matter would have been resolved by now; please be assured it will be resolved and I shall keep you informed as soon as something is organised. Again, thanks for your support.

Cllr Diana Kearsley

8 Budget for 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012

The Clerk presented the budget and accounts, which were accepted unanimously by the Meeting. Details will be on the Notice Board and Website. Christopher Dale had offered to prepare the internal audit of the accounts again next year. His offer was accepted unanimously.

9 Signing the Lease for the village playground at the Village Hall

A new lease had been drawn up by the Estate solicitors and is being signed by the parties and the Monitoring Officer at MSDC/Babergh. It had unfortunately cost £540.

The basic principles are:

- a The signatories are the Thornham Settled Estate, the Village Meeting chair and the MSDC Babergh Monitoring Officer.
- b The Lease will run for 20 years
- c The rent will be 1 peppercorn pa
- d The area and access from The Street via the Village Hall are as before
- e The hedges and grass to be kept cut
- f No signage to be erected without permission but permission not to be unreasonably withheld.
- g Public liability insurance will be £5 million
- h Liabilities of the Trustees are limited to the funds of the Meeting

Resolution

Resolution of the Thornham Magna Parish Meeting Meeting of 11 May 2011, 7.30 at Thornham Magna Village Hall

That the Meeting resolves that a Lease of the land adjacent to the Village Hall (known as the Playground) be entered upon the terms set out in the form of Lease appended to the agenda and that the Parish Trustees be authorised to enter the said Lease.

The resolution was proposed by Nigel Merriam and seconded by Jennifer Vaudrey 23 members of the meeting voted in favour 0 voted against 1 member abstained

10 Millenium Walk Licence Discussed above.

11 Future events

MAY 27th Wine and Cheese in Village hall for Hall funds. No tickets needed

JUNE 25th Photographic exhibition entries - over the 24 hours on June 25th wherever and whatever a snapshot in time - 3 photos per person

JULY 2nd Jess Palmer will be running a half Marathon starting at 9am at the Red House, in aid of the Church building and would welcome fellow runners/walkers/cyclists riders/SPONSORSHIP.

JULY 16th Church Concerts in Parva and Magna with lunch at the Walled Garden and Tea and Book Fair at the Village Hall

SEPT 4th Barbeque for Village Hall

SEPT 13th Suffolk churches Bike ride

OCT 23rd Apple Day at Walled Garden. Volunteers needed to help. Contribution to be made to the Village Hall
Litter Pick sometime in the winter

Ben Hall on behalf of Helen Sibley, explained that The Friends of Thornham Walks was to be launched soon and that contributions and membership fees would help to keep the Walks open.

Brian Haynes suggested that a list of cricket fixtures would help to keep the village connected to the cricket ground.

12 AOB

John Cousins reported on a new disease that had attacked the oaks on the Estate. A survey had been done and 50–100 trees found to be affected. They would be felled and new trees planted to replace them. Work would also be done on tidying up the Park and plantings would enhance and finish the scheme started by the late Lord Henniker.

John had also been approached by the Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees asking if the Estate would register the land round the village Hall as a Village Green. It was decided it was for the Village Hall Trustees to look into the costs and advantages and otherwise of such a move.

There was discussion of the merger of MSDC and Babergh as the vote is on 6 June. Dame Anne suggested that village meetings should be included on the Council literature. Jennie Groeneveld pointed out that there were many existing examples of partnership working between MSDC and Babergh. There would be financial savings.

Mik Farrell was concerned about changes to the village website as items seem to be difficult to find and suggested we need an update from Mark Hatton. It was hoped to make it an item on the next agenda, the Clerk will consult with him.

Jude Farrell looked for and received confirmation from John Cousins and Joan Maughan that the Meeting could never be placed in the position of having any financial responsibility for the new playground at Thornham Walks.

Date of next Meeting Wednesday Sept 21st 7.30 at the Village Hall

close of meeting 9.15pm

contacts: Joan Maughan 788468 and Tina Schwarz 788788 mail@sandts.com