

MINUTES OF THE THORNHAM MAGNA VILLAGE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2012 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: 16 members present plus two officers: Tina Schwarz (Clerk) and Julia Henniker (Minutes); Cllr Diana Kearsley arrived later.

Apologies for absence were received from Joe Vaudrey, Dave Cowdell, Ben and Clare Hall, Mark Hatton, Olive Howlett, Joyce Mayes, Joan Maughan, Eileen Chandler

As the Chairwoman was away it was proposed by Brian Haynes and seconded by Jennifer Vaudrey that Janine Eves should take the Chair for this meeting. This was agreed by all.

1 The Chair welcomed everyone.

2 Minutes of the Meeting of 8th May 2012 were agreed as a correct record subject to one amendment from Janine Eves who felt that item 4, the report on her contact with the new Gislingham Youth Club to enquire whether the Thornham teenagers were eligible to join, had not quite reflected the response she had had from Jose Pitt.

3 Matters arising: Tennis court: There had not been any reaction from any quarter to the proposal from JH that the Red House tennis Court should be run as a club. The court needed little to smarten it up – just a day's labour to put new lines in and new net posts. ArtActive at the Cabins had expressed interest in using the court and would contribute to repairs if things went ahead.

4 Financial report: The Clerk explained that now the playground had been paid for our bank balance is much lower, which pleased the auditors. The playground had cost £1,442.43, of which £1361.23 had been donated by villagers, and the Clerk was looking for a bench to cost a maximum of £350. The Clerk had updated the budget. Grass cutting had cost more this year because of the wet summer, but all agreed that the grass looked marvellous.

5 Playground adjoining the Village Hall: The playground inspection had been made and the inspector had congratulated the village on the simplicity and attractiveness of the site. There were one or two very minor items of 'risk' such as pruning the lower branches of the tree behind the slide and moving the picnic table. The trampoline from the Red House was not considered suitable as an adult had to be supervising when it was used. Priscilla and Ian Macrae were thanked for the new fence around the recycling bins. It was suggested that a see-saw would possibly make a good addition, Clerk to get this costed in time for decision at next meeting.

6 Village website – what next?: JE had a report from Mark Hatton. The £40 cost of another year's hosting had been generously paid for by James Warner. MH is willing to continue running the site and keeping it up to date for no charge. It was generally felt that many people found it difficult to submit material and to navigate. OneSuffolk websites were discussed as an alternative. It was agreed that comments and ideas should be emailed to the Clerk who would collate them and give the results to MH.

7 Flooding: The committee set up at the last meet was still working. Eileen Chandler was to go to a conference in Needham Market and would report back at the next meeting.

8 Future events were reported.

9 AOB

Cllr Diana Kearsley was invited to give a report on the progress of the integration process between MSDC and Baburgh District council. She invited us to an event called Open Space Conference at Wingfield on October 4th. This would involve all residents and organisations of the villages in her ward who would meet officials and exchange ideas. 40% savings had to be made over the next four years and MSDC is charged with finding out what really mattered to people and if there was any chance of co-operation/shared facilities and cross fertilisation of ideas. The Meeting was not very enthusiastic about the idea or its confusing title but DK explained that the officials were keen to make the process of making cuts as painless as possible.

The Meeting wanted to record its best wishes to Olive Howlett who had fallen.

Brian Haynes thanked the Village for making the picnic such a lovely event.

Ben Hall asked for more volunteers at the Walled Garden at weekends. There had some low level vandalism this summer. He also said he would collate and forward any news from the Thornhams for the Messenger which was asking for more items from Thornham.

The fallen tree on the Carnser. SCC contacted the Estate who will clear their tree when the sugar beet in the adjacent field is lifted.

Helen Sibley, Thornham Walks, sent a report. Until the MSDC restructuring was finalised the future of the Walks was in the balance. The Friends were up and running and their new playground had been a great success this summer. A record number of visitors has increased the take at the car park.

Speeding through the village and along the Gislingham road was no better. The increase in visitor numbers at the Walks this summer has created a parking problem and visitors are to be directed to use the tennis court parking if possible which will create more danger as they had to cross the road. DK will pressure SCC.

10 Date of next meeting: 8th January 2013.

The meeting closed at 9pm.