

MINUTES OF THORNHAM MAGNA VILLAGE MEETING  
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY JANUARY 18TH 2011

Present Joan Maughan Chair (JM), Tina Schwarz Clerk and Treasurer (TS), Julia Henniker Minutes (JH)

22 village members were present including the 3 officers

(incl Lorna Polke and John Cairns who came later, John is not yet on the electoral roll)

1. Apologies Bryan Haynes, Joyce Mayes, Bente Henniker-Major, James and Sylvie Fawcett, Fiona Lapper, Alan Armstrong, Olive Howlett, Jenny Groeneveld, Mik Farrell, Sarah Dobson

2. Minutes of 21 Sep 2010

For 19

Against 0

Irene Tibbenham (IT) wanted it minuted that she not accept the Minutes.

3. No matters arising

4. Vice Chair There had been no nominations for a Vice Chair. Would be a good idea to help spread the load. Anne Warburton pointed out that the Standing Orders say we do have a Vice Chair. We could dispense with VC role or split Clerk/Treasurer. If both the Chair and Clerk were absent then a member would need to take over on the spot. It was agreed that nominations would be taken along with those of the Chair, VC and Clerk/Treasurer, with a view to filling the posts, at the AGM. And confirmed, in reply to a question from Janine Eves, that we can always amend the Standing Orders. JE proposed we prepare a brief on all the roles for circulation before the AGM, agreed by the Meeting.

5. Adoption Standing Orders No amendments have been received after circulation of the Draft to the Village. AW proposed that the Meeting should be called the Village Meeting and not the Parish Meeting, less confusion with PCC. IT said she wants it to be called Parish Meeting.

For Parish 3

For Village 10

Abstentions 7

JM proposed that the Meeting should adopt the Standing Orders which had been posted on the Web site and circulated for consideration-

JE confirming that we can always amend in the future, yes we can.

For 16

Against 0

Abstentions 4

6. Finance TS presented the accounts for October 2010 to Jan 2011 and a budget for 2011-12. Clerk has budgetted 4p for each two sided sheet, as against the 20p commercial rate, she has spent £68 so far. In the budget she had allowed 5% for inflation, £100 contingency and asked the Meeting to set the Precept for 2011.

IT asked for further explanation, Clerk replied that we had no budget for last year so this budget is for 15 months. JE asked what the insurance costs covered: the Clerk replied: Village Hall playground area, Public Liability of £5 million, the Millenium bridge and path and two Carnser bridges.

IT thanked Mark Hatton for the low cost of the website, many agreed.

IT commented that SALC has access to cheaper Insurance cover, could save us £50, the Clerk will get a new quote.

IT also asked about the maintenance of the verges. A 3rd cut had been approved by the Meeting in 2009 but nothing had been done last year.

TS said that legal powers of a Meeting did not allow us to pay for maintenance of verges. Then, said IT we should repay £100 anonymous donation.

IT what is the precept proposal, Clerk said it is for the Meeting to decide the amount they wish to apply for.

IT also queried the cost of the survey.

AW asked do we have to have an annual inspection of the playground, yes, said the Clerk, she'd checked this point with Suffolk Acre. IT said playground inspection could be cheaper via MSDC.

Agreed by the Meeting that we will annualise the Budget from April before AGM.

BUDGET a vote for agreement in principle:

For 18

Against 1

Abstention 1

7. Speeding Lena and John Horner, Helen Sibley and Alan Armstrong had agreed to form a working group and report to the Meeting. The Horners had since moved and neither Helen or Alan were at the Meeting. The Clerk, therefore spoke, we have applied for 30mph extension, 7.5 tonne limit at Wickham Road and a 'Thornham Magna please drive carefully' sign at Brookside, we have again emphasised that the pub and Walks have a lot of traffic. No speeding cars have been reported. IT told us that she has a report on speeding evidence. Wickham Skeith have a speed gun and have reported 90 plus speeding cars to the police, the outcome is not known.

Vanessa Simmons reported that the speed of traffic down the Street at 6.00am rocked her fence. VS could take numbers. Ben Hall said he was willing to operate a speed gun if one could be borrowed. Dave Cowdell said these are expensive, but unlicensed speed guns quite cheap, perhaps we could buy one, and take numbers which would be more accurate than guessing speeds. IT gave us more advice on posts and dummies. And IT repeated that education is most important.

8. Website Report Deferred as Mark Hatton was not present.

9. John Cousins ( Estate trustee) Report on Suffolk Wildlife Trust/Estate management policy - Deferred. As cutting verges and hedges is important, no decisions will be made. BH: does that include interior of Carnser, in a pretty bad way. JH: it needs managing but not by individuals but how do we pay? VM has no authority on the Carnser. Needs more talking, with the Estate. IT said that there is a management committee for the Carnser, others thought not. After some discussion about the management of the verges and the Carnser, JM suggested that it should be an item at the next meeting. Meanwhile people were asked to think about a maintenance plan and how it should be implemented and paid for.

10. Progress on Playground at Village Hall JM outlined the position on the Lottery Bid which had been transferred to Thornham Walks in partnership with TMCOS. We suspended major capital expenditure, except lease until we met again, reassured village that if we want a small playground at VH this is still achievable.

The Village Survey had shown that many people preferred this option and everyone welcomed the initiative. However there had

been a formal complaint about the legality of TMCOS and its constitution with MSDC. These complaints were being investigated. JM asked the Meeting to consider the next actions depending on the outcome of the Lottery bid.

Option 2 If the bid is successful

suspend further action on the VH playground, apart from securing the lease, until the Walks playground is developed and see how well it meets village requirements, whilst holding on to restricted reserves.

Abandon plans for the VH playground in favour of a community space on the site that could include provision such as BBQ area, good quality seating etc.

SS there is a Walks playground and Walks even if they don't get the lottery money. DC existing playground was there at time of questionnaire so we all knew about that. IT on the playground, reminded by the chair that she has a vested interest and was asked not to go over old ground.

JE Village hall facility that others use helps the letting of the hall.

IT said we need 2 playgrounds.

DC we can't make a decision ideally until new playground built.

BH agrees with that and JM is right, we're fed up.

JM also agrees.

DC if the Walks playground goes ahead he would much prefer our money spent to redevelop as a social centre, barbbq etc, with different specific events, etc. Do something different as there's no need for a second playground and this option could well be cheaper to run long term.

IT 0-8 is her bid at Thornham Walks.

JM the same age group being catered for at the VH site.

AW over 60s 'green gym'. Would get more use.

IT perhaps an idea to talk to Village Hall Trustees.

Option 1 - If the bid is unsuccessful

a) Does the Meeting want to go ahead with a playground for 0-8 year olds as originally planned? ie as the village consultation in the summer of 2010.

For 18

Against 0

Abs 2

And to continue :If bid successful at Walks:

then No VH playground? wait and see? we go ahead whatever?

AW are we OK to decide this? Jude Farrell: two parents present, out of about 5 village parents. IT wants to poll parents, BH: some chosen not to be here. JM, you have to be present to vote on a Village Meeting matter and no-one can go around the village again. This is a community endeavour not just parents, it should be more broad based.

JM proposed that If grant is awarded, we do nothing immediately, but keep money as reserved funds and then consider future options. JH said this may need a whole separate meeting.

Vote: do nothing if lottery grant is granted, see what happens with Walks playground

For 18

Abstentions 1

IT proposed that we go ahead regardless with two playgrounds irrespective of what happens at Walks.

For 1

everyone else has already voted.

11. AOB

Events

Jan 29th Jumble sale

Feb 11th Film 'Made in Dagenham' 7.30

Feb 12th Book Fair

Feb 19th to 27th Exhibition of Church photographs at Beyond the Image Gallery, Red House Yards, Preview Sunday 20th 2 5pm

April 8th Film 'The Kings Speech'

May 27th Cheese and wine

Litterpick It was suggested that there should be regular litter picks. BH and DC and Rosemary Tyler volunteered to organise one in March.

Wedding party for 29th April, VH trustees favourable, Planning group LP, P Macrae, Viv Cowdell. Idea approved by the Meeting.

DC asked that the Chair should be thanked for the consideration and attention she had given to queries and comments from Irene Tibbenham. He thought it in marked contrast to the way he and others had been treated at the meeting called by TMCOS at very short notice in Dec . IT interrupted, if we discuss TMCOS she would leave. She left. DC continued, he had had to drive 200 miles to get back from a business appointment to find that the meeting was only open to members and that no one was allowed to discuss the terms of the constitution or to ask questions. Jennifer Vaudrey: In addition, a police constable had been summoned by the Chair of that meeting for fear of civil disturbance. This was considered to be offensive. DC: can we record under AOB, that the Meeting is an open forum, people may express their views and IT could have explained herself. AW: there had been no opportunity for DC and others to raise this as he is excluded from TMCOS. Appropriate to record as this affair started at the village meeting.

Precept, what is the opinion? Apply for £542 as last year, proposed JM. Jo Vaudrey proposed halving precept as we have sufficient funds and considering current economics. We can now spend precept on playground as we have additional powers. Ian Macrae, the village hall is very short of money and the hedge also needs cutting can we help more? We can go back to the village hall on this having investigated further.

Vote: Precept to be applied for at last year's level:

For 16

Against 0

abstain 4

12. Date of next Meeting and AGM Wednesday May 11th 2011 at 7.30

13. Close of meeting 9.07