

## **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE THORNHAM MAGNA VILLAGE MEETING HELD ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2011 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Joan Maughan (Chair), Tina Schwarz (Clerk), Julia Henniker (Minutes), 14 members of the Meeting

**In attendance:** Diane Kearsley (Councillor, MSDC), Helen Sibley (Thornham Walks Ranger)

**1 Apologies for absence:** Jean and Bryan Haynes, Mik Farrell, Janine Eves, Dave Cowdell, Bente Henniker-Major, Mark Hatton, Olive Howlett, Joyce Mayes, Sarah Dobson

**2 The Minutes of the last meeting** held on 11th May 2011 were agreed as a true record by all present and there were no matters arising.

**4 Playground adjacent to the Village Hall:** Joan Maughan reported that the matter of planning permission had been resolved and work could proceed. The refurbishment would be done with volunteer labour and donated materials as far as possible and she asked for the Meeting to give permission for the officials to spend some of the £850 ring fenced for equipment. The playground task group were waiting for quotations for swings and wooden stepping stones and two benches. These figures would be circulated in due course.

In addition, £1,000 had been set aside from unspent precept. The Meeting agreed unanimously to allow the officers to begin to spend on the site

The Clerk reported that RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) had inspected the existing equipment and said that no upgrading was needed for health and safety.

Ben Hall a member of the Task force, reported that in the survey he had Dave Cowdell had carried out, 75% of the respondents were in favour of the refurbishment, and that 34% had offered their labour and /or a contribution to the costs. JM said she would be calling in those favours in the next few weeks.

**5 The future of the Thornhams website:** Mark Hatton was unable to come, but had emailed his comments. He had had 9 positive responses to an emailed question on how the site should be managed.

The domain registration had been renewed and paid for by Mark himself. The meeting had a bill for £30 for the new year.

He was very busy and couldn't spend time on the site for several months. Jennifer Vaudrey said that MH had contributed a great amount of valuable time to the site.

After some discussion it was agreed that a group should be set up - with Mik Farrell to organise it - .to liaise with MH about policies, such as keeping archive material, the editing of material, and the layout of the site.

**6 Future events:** JM thanked all the organisers of the events the village had put on during the summer all of which had been hard work but very successful:

30th Sept: Brighton Rock

1st October: Four Horseshoes local produce Fair

8th October: Apple Fair at the Walled Garden

28th Oct: Bridesmaids

2nd Dec: Jane Eyre

## **7 Any other business**

The Clerk presented the accounts. The auditors had scrutinised the accounts in detail as part of a random 5% exercise. The only issues they raised were that in future the Minutes should read: 'The Meeting approves the accounts to enable submission to audit', and in future a simple risk assessment for management should be submitted with the accounts. The Clerk will therefore prepare a draft for approval by the Meeting in January, this will be circulated before the meeting.

Diane Kearsley asked if she could present her information, as she had another meeting to go to.

Parliamentary boundaries: The review of these boundaries in Suffolk, meant that in order to level out population the wards of Walsham le Willows, Badwell Ash and Gislingham, would come under the West Suffolk MP, but remain in MSDC. David Ruffley MP would be at a meeting at Wortham Village Hall on 29th September 7.30 for a consultation meeting. DK would give any links to those who were interested.

Budget: The joint councils of Mid Suffolk and Babergh have to save £1.5 million next year, their first year of integration. The consultation will be in the form of a questionnaire which will be distributed on line or by post, asking people to comment on services and prioritise their needs and preferences. DK Left the meeting.

Tennis court: Julia Henniker explained that for many years she had made the court at Red House available to the local community via MSDC. That arrangement had come to an end and she was keen to find an enthusiastic player who would take on the organisation of a Tennis Club, mainly for the young with coaching and tournaments. She would put a piece in the Messenger as there must be children in Gislingham who would like to start tennis.

Dog bin: MSDC are to charge £15 pa for emptying the dog bin. The members agreed that this was a useful service and should continue.

Thornham Walks playground: Retrospective planning permission was being sought. Helen Sibley explained that it was an oversight on her part not to have applied for change of use to a 10 metre extension to the playground/parking area to provide only a quiet picnic area with no equipment.

There was some discussion about the new playground and the fact that the Meeting had not had an opportunity to comment officially on the change of use. JH, as a close neighbour to the project, explained that her comments to the planning department were not a criticism of the playground - which was not part of the retrospective application - but an opportunity for her to place on record her feelings about the site. Next to a grade 2 listed site, on parkland and therefore part of the curtilage of the Red House buildings, she was seeking reassurance that there would be no additional car parks or equipment planned for an already overcrowded site. Other comments on MSDC website also expressed anxiety about the archaeological and landscape elements. There was a meeting at MSDC offices on 28th Sept 9.30 when any objections to the planning application could be heard.

Anne Warburton raised the question of the tree planted for John Henniker in the area to the south of the site, which we are pleased to learn is not to be part of the car park, but the tree needs protecting. JH is going to have the original plaque repaired and replaced.

Dame Anne Warburton suggested that Thornham teenagers might be interested in and encouraged to join the Youth Club planned for Gislingham.

Ben Hall will organise another litter pick in the spring.

Thefts from the village: The Village Hall has had the oil stolen from its tank six times this year. There had also been an oil theft in Laundry Lane and equipment at Red House Farm, along with the donation box at the Walled Garden.

#### **8 Date of next Meetings:**

Wednesday, January 11th 2012 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm

AGM Wednesday, May 9th 2012 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Contacts: Joan Maughan 01379 788468, Tina Schwarz 01379 788207

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## **Films at the Village Hall**

£5, bookings to Priscilla 01379 672903

**Friday 28th October at 7.30pm**

### **Bridesmaids**

*'Witty, painful and gleefully crude, Bridesmaids is the funniest film of the year.'* Daily Telegraph

**Friday 2nd December at 7.30**

### **Jane Eyre**

*'Beautiful. A splendid example of how to turn a beloved work of classic literature into a movie.'* New York Times

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