

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE THORNHAM MAGNA VILLAGE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH MAY 2012 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present:

20 members including the officers: Joan Maughan (Chair), Tina Schwarz (Clerk), Julia Henniker (Minutes)
Cllr Diana Kearsley, Tom and Amanda Lund-Lack (ArtActiv)

1 Welcome from the Chairwoman

2 Nominations and voting for officers Jude Farrell took the Chair and asked for nominations:

Chair: Joan Maughan proposed by Janine Eves and seconded by Mik Farrell. Unanimously agreed.

Clerk and RFO: Tina Schwarz proposed by Jude Farrell and seconded by Jess Palmer. Unanimously agreed.

Minutes Secretary: Julia Henniker proposed by Jess Palmer and seconded by James Fawcett. Unanimously agreed.

Apologies for absence were received from Jenny Groeneveld, Ben and Clare Hall, Jan Eves, Sarah Dobson, Olive Howlett and Joyce Mayes

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th January 2012 were agreed to be a true record with one amendment from Brian Haynes, and signed by the Chairwoman.

4 Matters arising: Janine Eves had been in touch with the Gislingham Youth Group leader Jose Pitt, and had asked whether any help was needed from the Thornhams to support the Youth Club. The answer was not at this time but that the Gislingham facilities were open to all surrounding villages and that the young people would be welcome to come along. Janine therefore proposed that the tennis court at the Red House should be brought into service (which would cost very little). Someone was needed to energise tennis coaching and organise the running of the court. This could be seen as part of the provision for the young that the Thornhams are making – along with the new Village Hall playground.

5 Report from the Chairwoman: Joan Maughan apologised that she had not had time to prepare a report as she had not been well (attached below).

6 Financial report: The Clerk circulated the financial statement and budget update. She emphasised that the renovation of the playground will have cost less than £1,600. Sections 1 and 2 of the annual return were approved by the Meeting for submission to the auditors.

7 Playground adjacent to the Village Hall: The big day on 24th March had been great fun with a good supply of sandwiches cakes and drinks. Dave Cowdell said it had been a very enjoyable day and thanked David Mitchell, for his help and Barney Farrell and Tom Maughan for working all day, also the donors of money and resources. Bryan Haynes proposed a vote of thanks to everyone who had worked on the day and in preparing everything so well – particularly the Vaudrey family, Joe Vaudrey added his thanks to the officers for keeping a steady course through two years of turbulence. Ben Hall will make a monthly inspection.

8 Updates from some village organisations

Tom Lund-Lack explained the background to his leasing of the Cabins. He had originally wanted the Portacabin for his ArtActiv courses for disabled children, but the bonus of the log cabins and the good condition they were in had persuaded him to do them up (they have spent about £20,000, partly funded by grants) and make them available to educational users such as schools and voluntary organisations as they had been in the past. He explained that ArtActiv is not a charity and the cabins must at least pay their way. He has staff and maintenance costs to cover. His PA, Lindsay Richmond, will be at the cabins every morning. He hoped that villagers will go and look at and use the facilities.

Ben Hall had sent a report on the Walled Garden project: Beyond the Wall. There were 57 day placements, five students were taking City and Guilds courses and Beyond the Wall had recently signed a partnership agreement with West Suffolk College. The project will provide courses for NEETS students. He asked especially for volunteers to man the Garden at weekends. This only involved being there as the insurers were proposing to put up the premiums if the Garden was open and unattended. He can be reached on 788700.

Helen Sibley, MSDC Ranger, sent a report. The Friends of Thornham Walks was up and running. The Lottery-funded playground was very popular and the car park income had increased which helped with the maintenance bills.

Ian Macrae, trustee of the Village Hall, the hall was built in 1923 and given to the parishes of Thornham Magna and Parva by the 5th Lord Henniker. It was in good condition especially since it had had a new roof last year, helped by a

grant from MSDC, and had been redecorated. But lettings were down and the income over expenditure showed a small loss. All support from villagers is appreciated for this essential resource. The 16 trustees were busy with fundraising events. IM suggested that more trustees would help with the fund raising load.

Cllr Diana Kearsley talked about integration of Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils which should create significant savings but is a difficult process, and the potential effect on affordable housing, localism, waste collection and health and wellbeing.

9 Diamond Jubilee: Jennifer Vaudrey suggested that, as the playground would maybe on that day be re-opened, it would be sensible to hold a picnic at the Village Hall (inside if it rains!) and not Thornham Hall where Lesley Henniker-Major had generously offered to host. She suggested that the picnic should be held on Sunday 3rd June which coincides with the River Pageant. It might be possible to relay the Pageant to the Hall screen.

10 Future events: The Thornham Music Weekend will be on July 13th and 14th with three concerts given by the same musicians as last year and lunch in the Walled Garden, and books and teas in the Village Hall.

11 AOB: After a discussion about the seemingly arbitrary imposition of a **flood zone in Thornham Magna** which triggered high insurance premiums, it was decided to establish a working group to consider villagers' experience of the effect (eg on insurance premiums, planning etc) of the flood risk area and to explore the possibility of communal action to seek clarification and possible amendment. Diana Kearsley suggested contacting Jane Burch at SCC as they are now responsible for policy on flood risk. Dave Cowdell to chair, others to include Dame Anne, Eileen Chandler, Janine Eves, Martin Fairweather. To be called TWIG and to produce a report for the September meeting

Planning: There were no planning applications

Police: There had been 4 thefts, 2 burglaries, 1 case of criminal damage, 1 assault in the village during the past year. The police had noted several complaints about speeding along the Wickham Road past the Four Horseshoes.

There was a **vote of thanks** to Sue and Nigel Merriam as they left Thornham Magna for Wickham Skeith. Nigel in particular had held the chairmanship of the Meeting for many years and Sue rang the bells here.

James Fawcett drew attention to branches resting on **telephone lines** along the road north of the church. It was felt that electricity companies had the power to cut trees that could be a risk to their cables.

Bryan Haynes proposed an **informal barbecue** later in the summer which he would promote as a replacement for the usual Village Hall one.

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday September 11th 7.30 at the Village Hall.

Joan Maughan, Chair, 788468

Tina Schwarz, Clerk, 788207

Thornham Village Annual Meeting

Tues 8th May 2012

Chairperson's Report

The year 2011 – 2012 has been a productive year for the village particularly with the provision of the playground at the Village Hall. The additional powers obtained in 2010 enable us to develop the facility further on a gradual basis should that prove desirable.

The 'construction day' proved to be a really sociable, if hard working day, for everyone concerned. It could not have been achieved without the generous support of everyone who made donations of money, time and resources.

Over the year the village has been an active place to be, through all the events organised by the Village Hall, the Church friends and the other community projects and groups that meet regularly in the village. The year ahead looks just as promising!

Village Meeting funds remain in a healthy position and this year's budget has not required any increase in the precept. The position will, of course, be reviewed when we come to budget planning for 2012/13.

Some items that has been raised by members of the village over the year have not been able to be resolved despite many attempts, particularly by Tina. Most significantly, the achievement of speed restrictions through the village.

This item has been left with Thornham Walks for the time being as the expected increase in traffic there may be a lever to secure a better response from the Police Authorities.

It is hoped to have regular reports from other groups in the village at future meetings to help keep villagers informed about activity in the community.

Thanks are due to everyone for supporting the meetings and all the various events.

Joan Maughan