

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE THORNHAM MAGNA VILLAGE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST MAY 2013 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: 4 members of the Meeting plus Joan Maughan (Chair), Tina Schwarz (Clerk and RFO) and Julia Henniker (Minutes) and, by invitation, Diana Kearsley (MSDC) and John Cousins (Trustee of the the Thornham Settled Estate).

Apologies from Ian and Priscilla Macrae, Jennie Groenveld, Jennifer and Jo Vaudrey, Dave Cowdell, Sylvie and James Fawcett, Eileen Chandler, Brian Haynes, Sarah Dobson and Anne Warburton

1 Welcome from the Chair, the Chair and the Clerk stood down.

2 Election conducted by Jude Farrell

Joan Maughan, standing for Chair, nominated by Janine Eves, seconded by Mik Farrell and voted for unanimously
Tina Schwarz, standing for clerk and RFO, nominated by Jude Farrell, seconded by Mik Farrell and voted for unanimously with additional thanks to Julia Henniker for acting as Minutes Secretary.

3 Minutes of the meeting of 8 January 2013 were agreed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairwoman.

4 Matters arising: Speeding, no progress had been made with a 30mph limit. The Meeting decided to continue pursuing this.

5 Report from the Chair: in which she gave congratulations to the successful events held throughout the year by village organisations.

6 Financial report: the RFO reported on the Budget and the Financial Report with the full year's figures which was submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Thornham Magna Parish Meeting and approved unanimously by the Members present for submission to the auditors.

7 Update from village organisations:

John Cousins reported on the situation on **Thornham Walks**. Mid Suffolk had officially served notice on 1 May 2013 to the Trustees of the termination of their agreement with the Thornham Settled Estate and of their intention of withdrawing from the formal arrangements that had been in place for many years and which had been part of the initiative of the late Lord Henniker to open up the Estate for local communities. The rundown will be over the next two years. The Estate appreciated MSDC involvement over the years and the goodwill generated. It is hoped that if the Estate keep the Walks open that MSDC will help with health and safety, the maintenance of the playground and publicity.

The Estate trustees and Lord Henniker's grandchildren are keen to keep the Walks open. They need help from the local community in policing. The public appear to think the Estate is publicly owned and that therefore they can walk dogs where they like. Apart from the farming and the woodland management, the Estate is run on conservation principles, which means among other things, ground nesting birds and flowers on the setaside land, as well as woodland wildlife should be disturbed as little as possible and walkers must stick to the waymarked paths.

The income from the Walks car park is received by MSDC. In the future, there will be no spare income so the project has to break even. In discussion John Cousins agreed to write a piece giving the background and future plans for a thriving initiative which they hope will continue make a contribution to local and wider communities.

Thornham Magna Church: Julia Henniker said that Friends of St Mary Magdalene had been very active during the year in aid of the fabric of the church. They have raised approx £3,000 which will help with current repairs to the porch. The next major event is the weekend of 19 July.

Village Hall: Janine Eves said the Hall has had a successful year. This year there will be a summer picnic but no **barbecue**. **The next development will be new chairs and blackout blinds.**

Beyond the Wall: Joan Maughan reported that they had weathered a difficult year last year when a major funder had withdrawn. But the managers had pulled things round and there are now 6 months reserves with available funding for some repairs and development. The weather had been so cold and wet that the gardeners have only just been able to get down to work.

8 Messenger: Ben Hall asked for feedback. A positive response was received from the Meeting. The Messenger is now financially self supporting and advertisers were being turned away.

9 Possible IT support: suggested by Street Forge to assist people who would welcome help with computers. The Chair will suggest they publicise their scheme, eg the Messenger.

10 Events: The Amici Choir at Thornham Parva church on 9 June, Argo is the next film on 31 May at the Village Hall.

11 AOB: DK report on the continuing **Babergh/MSDC amalgamation** with the subsequent difficulties for staff reapplying for their jobs, etc. All redundancies will be voluntary. Plus a reminder to use the Brome recycling site as it is now privately owned and needs our support.

Progress Power have held preliminary meetings before applying for planning permission for a new power station on Eye Airfield. Information is available on their website.

12 Next meeting 24 September, 2013 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm