

MINUTES OF THE THORNHAM MAGNA VILLAGE MEETING HELD ON 14th JANUARY 2014 HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: 17 Members including Joan Maughan (Chair), Tina Schwarz (Clerk and RFO) and Julia Henniker (Minutes), Ben Hall and Stephen Schwarz arrived later.

Attending: Cllr Diana Kearsley (MSDC), Cllr Jessica Fleming (SCC), Hilary Butler and Philip Butler (Common Concern), Martin Kay (Thornham Parva Parish Meeting)

- 1 **Welcome and apologies for absence** were received from Dame Anne Warburton, Jude Farrell, Mark Hatton, Joe Vaudrey and Samantha Cribbens. JM welcomed everyone especially the visitors who had come at very short notice. She explained that as there would be controversial matters to discuss, ie the power station, and asked for and received permission from the meeting to record that discussion.
- 2 **Minutes of the meeting of 24th September 2013** were agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 3 There were no **matters arising** that were not covered in the agenda.
- 4 **Financial report and budget for 2014-2015.** The Clerk and RFO presented a summary of receipts and payments for the current year. After the transfer of the balance from the now closed deposit account, and payments made during the period, there would be approx £600 in the current account. The proposed budget of £831 was approved unanimously. It was proposed and approved unanimously that the precept for the year 2014-2015 should remain the same at £569.
- 5 **Telephone box.** Dave Cowdell said he would be putting shelving in the box so it could be used as a book exchange and information point. He would paint it when the weather was better
- 6 **Playground at the Village Hall.** There had been a very careful inspection of the equipment and a few small areas of rot had been discovered and would be dealt with. The seesaw will be installed in March.
- 7 **Proposed power station on Eye Airfield.** Agreed to delay this item until the rest of the agenda had been dealt with.
- 8 Eileen Chandler proposed that the village should try to organise a **neighbourhood support group** offering lifts, advice and company for those needing a bit of help. There was a discussion about how it could be organised. EC will think about how such a scheme could be run and report back.
- 9 **Litter pick for 2014** will be on March 23rd meeting at 10.30 at the village hall. Please tell Ben Hall if you want to take part as he will then order the safety gear.
- 10 **AOB.** Diana Kearsley gave a report on Thornham Walks: MSDC were working out the notice of termination of the lease agreement at April 2014. It was expected that Josephine Henniker Major would take over from Helen Sibley on a part time basis. MSDC would continue to support the maintenance of the Walks and the playground, promote the Walks and run events. It was noted that the footfall this winter was greater than ever before at this time of year. DK also asked if the village had any nominations for the community awards. JH asked if DC could look at the war memorial to see if there were any repairs needed. There were grants available to help with renovations. Jennifer Vaudrey said that she regularly cleaned the memorial.

Events: Jan 18th Jumble sale, Jan 24th film Blue Jasmine, Feb 7th Quiz night, March 8th 40th anniversary of Eye Bach Choir concert in Eye church.

- 7 **Proposed power station on Eye airfield.** JM welcomed Jessica Fleming and Hilary and Philip Butler who had come at short notice to help with the discussion.

There was a long and detailed discussion: the main point being that the villages of Thornham Magna and Thornham Parva had not received any information about the proposed development until very recently. The Meeting accepted that Thornham Magna was outside the arbitrary 3 km consultation area for the proposed power station but it is within 3 km of the proposed sub-station on land at Yaxley on the west side of the A140. Progress Power had produced brochures and 17,000 leaflets to explain their case, but no one had received any of this information. This was a serious lapse as though the proposed power station was part of national infrastructure planning and therefore may have to be accepted ultimately, the siting was very important to this area of sensitive beauty and historical value, and apart from

affecting the tourist business, the degrading of the Yaxley site could be the beginning of more commercial development. The members of the Meeting expressed grave concern at the failure of the consultation process to involve all interested parties, especially in relation to the proposed siting of the sub station. The Meeting was advised of an 'outreach' meeting involving the Planning Inspectorate, MSDC, SCC and PP on Wednesday 22nd January. Tina and Joan would attend on behalf of the Village Meeting.

It was agreed that JM should write to MSDC and SCC, with copies to MPs about the disquiet felt by the village at being ignored by the authorities as well as Progress Power, that as many people who wished to could also write as individuals.

HB explained that all the information about the proposals as well as the addresses of people to write to were on Common Concern's website: <http://commonconcern.onesuffolk.net>, email common-concern@yahoo.co.uk

11 Date of next Meeting. Thursday 15th May 2014 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

JM thanked the visitors for coming and closed the meeting at 9.20pm.