

**MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THORNHAM MAGNA VILLAGE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 14th MAY 2015 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: 16 Members including Joan Maughan (Chair) and Tina Schwarz (Clerk and RFO)

Attending: Cllr Jessica Fleming (SCC), Josephine Henniker-Major (Thornham Estate), Jonathan Seed (MSDC)

1 Welcome and apologies for absence JM welcomed everyone with apologies from Julia Henniker, Eileen Chandler, Mick Farrell, Jenny Groeneveld, Janine Eves, Sylvie and James Fawcett.

2 Nominations and election of officers for 2015/16 Joan Maughan and Tina Schwarz stood down. Jude Farrell took the Chair and asked for nominations. Both JM and TS had expressed their willingness to continue and there were no other nominations. Vote taken, both were elected unanimously with no abstentions. No amendments to minutes of Annual Meeting of 2014. No matters arising.

3 Chair's report for 2014/15 Another active year in Thornham Magna. Various activities at Village Hall: bun event, film shows, quiz, etc. There is one regular letting plus parties. Church concerts also working well. Phone box: undercoating almost finished, on hold until weather improves and blossom stops falling! The Ambulance Service has supplied us with an AED which they own and are responsible for. Dame Anne Warburton has kindly made a donation to cover the cost of the locked box into which the AED will fit. Date for training by the Ambulance Service in CPR and AED later. Thanks to James for his input and everyone else involved in renovation of 'box'. Outstanding points: power station, road condition and speeding. George Keeley died recently; he was an active and generous member of the community over many years, he is missed. Jennifer Vaudrey attended his funeral as a representative for the village.

4 Financial report and approval of accounts 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 from the RFO. Bank balance at end of March £624.06 – £360.50 from MSDC received in April. Balance at 30 April 2015 £984.56. Summary receipts and payments were circulated to the Meeting along with the Budget for 2015 to 2016. Accounts to be signed off tonight by the Chair and RFO. We record the acceptance of our internal audit report for the year ended 31 March 2015, examined and found correct by Christopher Dale, on 3 May 2015. Section 1 and Section 2 of the Annual Return were circulated to the Meeting and were approved at this meeting of members as a whole. The Risk Assessment was also circulated and approved unanimously by the Meeting.

5 Minutes of the Meeting of 15th January 2015 Agreed to formalise wording on item 4: the budget for 2015/16, carried unanimously. Agreed it was a true record, signed by the Chair.

6 Matters arising Any queries? None,

7 Update on changes at Thornham Walks Josephine Henniker Major and Jonathan Seed (healthy communities officer for MSDC) invited to give an update on Thornham Walks. In the past the district council has arranged access to walks, events and site managed. There is very little accessible green space in Mid Suffolk. He has been working with JHM for the last couple of years. MSDC involvement has now changed to an advisory and supporting role, they will help with marketing, health and well being.

JHM stated it was important to the Estate that the Walks remained open and continue to be widely accessible. She hopes to work with the community and the paths and spaces will continue to be maintained.

There are growing concerns about traffic. The village has been told it is too small for a speed limit. JS will be in touch with Highways to check out speed limits (20 is plenty) + speed testing. Volume of traffic is substantial and traffic calming measures are needed. There are car parks on both sides of the road at the Walks and concerns about accidents.

JHM said permissive footpaths have a time limit and there were problems with people accessing the walks out of hours and wandering from paths. It was a health and safety issue. SS queried the opening hours, JHM said she would check this.

Joan Calkin said that Gull Lane is a private drive with a permissive path, which closes for one day a year for legal reasons.

JHM left meeting – Jonathan stayed.

8 and 9 Update from various organisations within the village and the phone box renovation and defibrillator.

10 Update on applications for power station on Eye Airfield and electrical connection at Yaxley, and for 42

houses outside the Gislingham village boundary. Jessica Fleming said recommendations regarding the power station had been made to the Secretary of State, there should be a decision by the end of July, which is 6 months after planning permission was requested. There had been a rumour that it had been accepted. Jessica said this was not the case, but would have to wait. It is supposed to depend on need and it is one of six applications in the country.

11 Future events Village website has a diary page – there is a need to advertise this

12. AOB

Gislingham A developer has applied to build 42 houses on a greenfield site on the edge of Gislingham. (Land of the left-hand side of Gislingham Road before the church).

There is an independent group fighting this development that wrote to the village meeting asking for comments/support. The group has done a census of vehicles from Gislingham to Thornham adding to our rat run traffic. It was 108 in one hour, they think it will increase to 160 per hour on weekdays. It will also have implications for Gislingham School, which is nearly full.

The Council does not have a cohesive five year plan for housing but is being pushed to provide more. Jessica said a local councillor needs to be involved to help present all objections to planning officer. There are no small affordable houses being built or housing association homes.

Jonathan will contact a planning officer to come to talk at the village meeting about viability considerations, number of houses plus affordable housing. Also how it would affect further planning in Thornham.

Jessica stated there needs to be a timetable for working out a housing plan which will take 18 months to 2 years. The date has passed for planning strategy.

Comments: Traffic on Gislingham road will increase and access onto A140 is dangerous. Commercial vehicles are increasing. Need to include traffic calming with safety access to A140. Gislingham Road becoming a rat run because Diss is so busy. Empty school buses go through village rather than via A140. Will write to the Gislingham group with various comments.

Thorndon School: The school has a lack of space, (partly due to the closure of Stoke Ash School) and applied to the council for planning permission to put a temporary portacabin in the grounds. The council is not supporting this need. Children from Thornham attend the school and the VM will write to support the temporary cabin but it was thought that a new school is the long-term solution. The Kerrison site is being developed and would be a good site for a new school. Jessica will check out planning permission.

Cabins near tennis courts Joan stated she had a vested interest as one of the closest neighbours to the site. Various neighbours had raised concerns about the use of the cabins. Tom Lund Lack had started to rent the cabins to house Art Active which was a charity [Art Activ was in fact a business, see minutes of 17th September 2015] involved in arts activities with children with special needs. This folded. The site is now being advertised for what seems to be a party venue for large groups with a dance floor, marquee, catering, bar and wood fires. It is not supervised. Large signs advertising the cabins have been erected on the Gislingham Road. There has been damage to property and late night noisy walkers coming back from the pub. Also serious party noise during the day and until 3am. There are concerns about open fires on the site as various houses nearby are thatched. It was felt that these problems would be ongoing, as the cabins seem to have a lot of bookings. A volunteer is need to go to MSDC to check out planning permission for cabins and signs, and if it has an alcohol licence. No signs have gone up for change of use and it is understood that cabins have permission only for educational purposes. Need to inform Julia Henniker of problems. The affected neighbours will undertake this work.

Rubbish by Gislingham railway bridge has been cleaned up by Network Rail, though they deny it was their rubbish!

Broadband Jessica said that by 2016 all villages should have 2 megs. You would be entitled to a voucher for satellite if was any lower. Thornham has about 1 meg at the moment.

Gislingham She said there is general concern about random housing development in villages with insufficient infrastructure. We all need to speak up!

13 Date of next meeting and close of meeting The next meeting is on 17 September at 7.30pm. The meeting closed at 9.25pm