

## **THORNHAM PARVA PARISH MEETING**

Minutes of a meeting of **Thornham Parva Parish Meeting** held in the Village Hall, Thornham Magna on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.30pm.

### **PRESENT**

Mrs J Marshall – Chair

Mr A Bodger, Mrs G Goulding, Mr P Gudde, Lord Henniker, and Martin Kay  
District Councillor Diana Kearsley

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Mrs C Moore and County Councillor Jessica Fleming

#### **2. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR DIANA KEARSLEY**

Diana Kearsley gave her (spoken) report.  
She started by saying not much has happened locally.

MSDC and Babergh DC have now completed the move to Endeavour House in Ipswich. Leaflets giving new contact details should have been delivered by the Post Office but no one present had received one. Diana to drop 25 copies off to be distributed to all homes in Thornham Parva with the parish magazine in December.

Consultation on the Local Plan ended on 10 November. This will dictate the growth of the area for the next 20 years. Doesn't really affect Thornham Parva as we are not one of the Core Villages therefore not an area for development.

The Boundary Commission Review which is looking to regularise the number of constituents in each ward, is still open for the public to make comments until December. Proposed that MSDC will lose 6 councillors if the suggested amendments are carried forward. This does affect Thornham Parva as we would no longer be part of the Gislingham Ward and therefore Diana would no longer be our District Councillor. The agreed changes will be effective by the 2019 District Council elections.

Peter asked Diana about the community fund available from the wind turbines. He had been advised by Simon Hooton that the parish may be entitled to some money. Diana confirmed that villages close to the turbines (which includes TP) are entitled to make a bid for some money from the fund if we have a particular project. The bid would need the support of our District Councillor. Diana said she would be happy to give her support if we have a project. Two possible projects were mooted - maybe restoring the snow plough, or repairing the church drive.

#### **3. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR JESSICA FLEMING**

By County Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk  
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**A140 Upgrades** – Suffolk County Council learned on 19<sup>th</sup> Oct that it has been successful in bidding for National Productivity Infrastructure Funds to improve the A140 at Eye. Both Castleton Way and the B1077 junctions in Brome were included in the bid therefore it appears likely that these schemes will go ahead. Refer to the Press Notice–  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-invests-350-million-improving-local-roads>  
including interactive map - <http://maps.dft.gov.uk/large-local-road-schemes-2017/index.html>

**Progress Power/ Drax** –Drax may begin some hedgerow removals adjacent to the A140 in Yaxley in around January or February 2018 so that this work can be completed before the March nesting season restrictions. This is in anticipation that Drax' bid is successful for supplying peak power to the grid (when renewables are low) in the near future.

**Council Tax** – The Council's 2018/19 budget proposals include a 1.99 per cent council tax increase following a seven-year freeze, the 3% Social Care Precept will continue for that year also. This implies band D will pay £1.14 per week additional cost and Band B (majority of properties in Suffolk) 88p per week due to the tax increase. The budget will be agreed next February.

**School Transport** – Plans to consult on proposed changes to school transport eligibility have been delayed and will be re-considered by Cabinet in November. The consultation is about limiting support for home to school transport to statutory levels (nearest school), it is still likely to run later this year.

**Suffolk & Essex Rail Conference** – Last Friday Suffolk County Council hosted this conference in Ipswich. Speakers representing Network Rail, Greater Anglia Franchise and Port of Felixstowe gave their commitment to railway improvements and discussed some key projects needed to add passenger and freight capacity to the region

**Highways Reporting.** Reminder to use the website for reporting defects and drainage problems; please contact me if you have difficulties:– <http://highwaysreporting.suffok.gov.uk>

*Copies of Jessica Fleming's report were handed out for members present to read.*

4. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were circulated and were agreed as a true and accurate record.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

The new arm has been fitted to the signpost which gives details for St Mary's Church location. Agreed, no real need for words spelling out the village name on the post.

The bridge in Church Lane still awaiting repair – SCC Highways have agreed to take the unsafe plank away but not to replace it.

Andrew Bodger said that the speed of the traffic along Mellis Road, particularly at the start and end of the primary school day, was still just as bad. An accident waiting to happen. Jean to ask Jessica whether she raised this issue with the Head of Mellis Primary School. If she did maybe she could report that the situation hasn't improved.

Discussion took place as to whether it was a good idea to restore the snow plough as a village feature. Pros and cons were discussed (do villagers value it as an interesting historical feature, who actually owns it, insurance costs if we restore it, could we then be taking on liability, future costs to maintain it etc). Before any decision can be made it is necessary to get some idea of the cost to repair it. Mark Henniker said he would ask a family member to give a quote to repair and restore it. This would be the starting point for further discussion at the next meeting.

Peter, Jean and Christine had investigated the procedure for disbanding the Parish Meeting should the village decide it was no longer viable to continue. This would be a complicated process and on balance the meeting felt that we should try to continue. The prime function is to set the precept. Advice had been given confirming that we are only required to have one meeting per year. The option of joining with Magna was not popular. Glennis suggested changing the dates of the meetings as villagers are less likely to turn out in November. Agreed to change the meetings to April and September and the time of day to 7.00pm. Therefore it would be daylight and relatively warm weather to encourage more support. Jean and Peter to design a flyer using the various suggestions for wording made at the meeting and this will go out to all houses with the February or March edition of the parish magazine. Maybe offer refreshments (wine, nibbles, tea coffee) to make it more of a social event encouraging people to come and meet their neighbours.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter from Suffolk Preservation Society offering the Parish Meeting complimentary membership of the society.

Request for a donation from the Eye Volunteer Bureau, this was discussed and it was agreed to give as in previous years. **Donation to be made following the next meeting.**

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Finance:**

**(a) Closure of 2016/17 accounts**

The accounts for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 have been audited and approved by BDO with two issues raised:

- i. Issue relating to governance arrangements, that *"The Meeting has not answered box 11 in Section 2 of the annual return. We understand that the Meeting should have answered 'No' for both years"*. Box 11 asks for a declaration that the Meeting is the sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds and any assets. The meeting stated on the form "N/A" when the required answer was "No".

Recommendation from BDO – *"The Meeting should ensure in future years that it answers 'No' to box 11, to confirm whether the meeting does act as a sole trustee of and is responsible for managing trust funds and assets."*

The treasurer informed the meeting that an entry of "N/A" had been made in all previous years prior to the two years which the accountant had highlighted and the error appeared to have occurred since the form had been changed to remove the "N/A" option box.

- ii. Minor Issue – *"Section 2 of the annual return dos not add up by £1."*

Recommendation from BDO – *"The smaller authority should ensure in future years that the above minor errors or omissions are not included in the Accounting Statements."*

The treasurer reported that a difference of £1 had been recorded and advice requested from the auditor based on which it was accepted as a result of appropriately applied rounding.

**(b) Payments made since the last meeting in May 2017:**

Name of organisation	Amount	Details	Cheque No
Thornham Village Hall	£10.00	Hall hire for PM meeting May 2017	100202

Expenditure which was provisionally approved at the meeting in May 2017 was as follows:

Name of organisation	Amount	Details
Contribution to hedge cutting	£100.00	Hedge cutting
Diss & District CAB	£50.00	Donation
Thornham Parva Parochial Church Council	£100.00	Donation

It was agreed that hedge cutting would not be funded since it was not needed this financial year and that the donations would be arranged prior to the end of the financial year.

**(d) Invoices to be paid:**

The following invoices had been received which awaited payment for which the meeting approved payment:

Name of organisation	Amount	Details
Thornham Village Hall	£14.00	Hall hire for November 2017 meeting
Eye Volunteer Centre	£50.00	Donation

Action: Cheques to be issued against the above-listed accounts sections c and d excluding the

contribution for hedge cutting.

**(e) Accounts for 2017/18:**

The position of the account as at 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016 was reported as follows

<b>Brought forward from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017</b>	cr£145.72
Receipts	£300.00
Payments	£10.00
<b>As at 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017</b>	<b>cr£435.72</b>

The treasurer informed the meeting that it had been anticipated that the MSDC precept would be augmented, as in previous years, by a minor grant of around £2. This had not been the case this year hence the projected year-end budget was £2 less than had been predicted in May 2017.

The treasurer also reported that one cheque had been destroyed without being drawn since it had been removed and damaged in error.

Based on the decision not to proceed with hedge cutting, a projected year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 balance of £221.72 was reported.

**(f) Proposed Precept 2017/18:**

It was agreed to hold the Precept for 2018/19 at £300.00.

Action: Completed Precept 2017/18 forms to be submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council.

**(g) Budget for 2018/19**

The following proposals for donations were discussed for the proceeding year 2018/19:

- Eye Volunteer Centre - £50.00
- Diss and District CAB - £50.00
- Thornham Parva Parochial Church - £100.00

Planned expenditure for 2018/19 would, therefore, be as follows:

<b>Name of organisation</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Details</b>
Thornham Parva Parochial Church Council	£100.00	Donation
Thornham Village Hall	£24.00	Hall hire for PM meeting
Diss & District CAB	£50.00	Donation
Eye Volunteer Centre	£50.00	Donation
<b>Total</b>	<b>£224.00</b>	

With a £300 Precept from MSDC, this would leave a projected balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 of £221.72. Subject to confirmation of next year's precept, this expenditure was approved.

**8. PLANNING MATTERS**

There have been no planning applications or decisions from MSDC since the last meeting.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing to discuss

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.00pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

**DRAFT**