

**MINUTES FOR THE THORNHAM MAGNA VILLAGE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th JANUARY 2019 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: 13 members including Joan Maughan (Chair), Tina Schwarz (Clerk and RFO) and Jennifer Vaudrey (Minutes)

Attending: Jessica Fleming (County councillor)

1 Welcome from the chair, declarations of interest and apologies for absence: The chair asked permission for the meeting to be recorded and this was agreed, there were no declarations of interest. Apologies for absence from Janine Eves, Jude Farrell, Sylvie Fawcett, Frances Jannaway and Joe Vaudrey.

2 Minutes of the meeting of 12 September: These were approved unanimously.

3 Matters arising: James Cook still had not had a response from the police about speed cables, but will follow this up, also monies were still being sought from highways for the Gislingham road speed limit.

4 Financial report: The RFO read through the accounts with the opening balance as of 1st April 2018 of £1027.26 and closing balance as of 1st January 2019 of £987.23. The budget for 2019/20 was discussed at length. It was felt our reserves are not sufficient and that we should up the precept by £300 to increase contingency allowances. A vote was taken to approve the accounts and budget and precept and passed unanimously (see note in item 7).

5 Village playground report: Copies of the recent playground inspection were passed around the Meeting for comment. Minor repairs are needed and Jessica offered money from her locality budget to help with the costs of materials. Mick Farrell offered to oversee the repairs.

6 Litter pick: Date of the litter pick to be confirmed, with probable date of 24th March. We are hoping Tom Tierney will again organise the litter pick.

7 CAB: Request from CAB for funding as all SCC grants will be phased out over two years, and new funding sought. It was noted that nearest CAB was Diss (which is in South Norfolk) with a drop in clinic in Eye in Suffolk.

A vote was passed unanimously to donate £100 as a one off.

(As a result of this decision the budget was reconsidered. It was voted unanimously to increase the budget by an extra £100 to cover this, bringing the total precept to £1200.)

8 Parish Hall improvements and events: Eileen Chandler reported from the Parish Hall trustees that exciting outline plans to update have been made, improvements to the toilets, kitchen, floor, etc and a much needed new access and porch on the west side. Advice from MSDC had highlighted that we need to plan for the next 30 years of use and not just for a cosmetic update. Roger Balmer has agreed to draw up outline plans with a public meeting to be held later in the year for consultation. Richard Jannaway had attended a course on funding village halls, and highlighted the need to make the hall more viable. Ian Macrae expressed concern that a new treasurer was needed for the Parish Hall by 19 March and asked for applicants to come forward.

Future events are: Jumble sale on 19th January, Fun Dog Show on 12th March, spring cleaning of the church in April, Music at Thornham concerts in the church on 12th and 13th June.

continued overleaf

Thornham Magna Village Meeting email list

If you're not on the new email list and would like to be added, please send an email showing your name and email address to:

magnaclerk@thornhams.org

Tina Schwarz, Clerk to Thornham Magna Village Meeting

Walks update: Work has started on the new visitor centre, which is being built from green oak from the estate and will be off grid with heat and light sourced from solar panels, etc. The centre will be fully wheelchair accessible and will host a permanent exhibition of the area. Funding of 80% for this project has come from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (which contributes the funds to the RDPE). Work should be completed by May.

9 Reports from District and County councillors: Diana Kearsley was unable to attend but has sent a report which was circulated.

Jessica Fleming highlighted that plans are going ahead for two roundabouts on the A140 by the old airfield industrial site at Eye. Sizewell C stage 3 was at the last public consultation stage. Progress Power Drax (a gas fired peaking plant to supply power when there is no wind, which may be about 5% of use) was holding a stakeholder meeting in Eye next week with new plans on access, landscaping and the substation. Unofficial traveller site by the A140 at the Eye and Yaxley junction had notice to leave as there had been trouble with dogs attacking walkers. The residue left on the site will be cleared up by the County Council.

Joan expressed total dismay that no progress had been made on the speed limit for the Gislingham road having been told no monies were available from highways (costs involved of £10-20,000) Jessica noted that the planning alone costs £5,000. Jessica asked Joan to write to Mary Last, Cabinet Member, with copies to Diana Kearsley,MSDC, Jo Churchill,MP and herself outlining the problem. Jessica will follow up with officers, as a matter of urgency.

The Walks have also petitioned to no avail for the speed limit as they have concerns for the visitors. Jessica said that as we had appealed for the limit to be 30 mph instead of the 40mph proposed this had stalled the advancement, and that the highways budget had been cut by 50%.

Much discussion followed about the unsatisfactory speed limits and potholes, with recent accidents at School House corner, and escalating traffic from Gislingham's expansion.

10 Any other business: Richard Jannaway reported that 100 saplings had been donated from the Woodland Trust and had been distributed by the tree warden locally.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8th May 2019

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm