

Draft Minutes for Thornham Magna Village Meeting held on Zoom on Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 7.30pm

The meeting was attended by 10 members and was chaired by Joan Maughan, with Tina Schwarz (clerk and RFO) and Jennifer Vaudrey taking the minutes.

Rowland Warboys (MSDC district councillor) also joined the meeting.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence Despite some technical difficulties, Joan joined the meeting with apologies from Jude and Mick Farrell and Joe Vaudrey.

2. Approval of Minutes of 14 August 2020 These were approved unanimously.

3. Matters arising Tina read out the brief draft minutes from the August meeting with points raised about potholes and blocked drains still being problematic.

4. Planning Update The application for 2 x large houses on the Bungalow site are still undecided, once again proving to be controversial with issues about access across the carser and siting of the development. The Old Post office application has been adjusted again and resubmitted (garage block now single storey and reduced to 4 car sized bays, separate store building now removed and resiting of main house) but is still undecided. Rodger Davis asked if we had a collective response to planning applications, as he had found this to be helpful before. Rowland explained the MSDC process (as published on the MSDC website) of case officer negotiations with applicant, public notices and close neighbour letters. He also acknowledged the Bungalow site/bridge were difficult applications of which the planners were well aware. Joan commented that the recent applications were for large houses and did MSDC have any influence for more affordable homes. Rowland responded that unfortunately planners were officers and not trained architects. Tina asked Rodger if he was able to help the meeting on Planning applications in future to which he agreed.

5. Playground Repairs Joan said that the latest inspection had highlighted minor repairs and she will ask Mick Farrell if he could specify exactly what could be done by a work party and what needed to be done by a tradesman.

6. Finance Report and Precept The RFO said our balance at 1 April 2020 was £1220.20 plus precept of £1680 and expenditure of £292.86 giving us a 1 January 2021 balance of £2607.34 with expenditure to come of approx £411 to 31 March 2021, we will then have an approximate balance of £2190. We still have £500 set aside for the possible SID signs, which will be reviewed next meeting. Tina asked if we approved a donation of £50 each to the Citizens Advice and Suffolk Preservation Society, this was agreed, plus new pads for the defibrillator, approx £50. The accounts will be on thornhams.org in due course.

James Fawcett asked if the village meeting could help with the upkeep costs of the churchyard as the church had had no income last year due to Covid and Ian added that the Village Hall was also looking for funds including for the resurfacing of the hall car park. It is unclear what new recipients we can spend the Precept on as a village meeting has limited powers, but it was felt that the area around the War Memorial and verge (not church land) could possibly be contributed to, Joan will report back. Rowland added that he might be able help with the village hall funding.

Much discussion followed about the Precept and it was agreed unanimously to set it at £1000 for this year.

7. AOB Flooding and potholes were a problem this winter, despite many potholes being repaired last year the bad weather has worsened the condition of our roads. The recent flooding of the Street/Water Lane on Christmas Eve with many cars stranded (the water was running over the footbridges from Village Hall to Pub) is a recurring problem. Rowland asked for any photos of problem areas to be sent to him to help highways/SCC. It was discussed that the ditches and drains were blocked with debris/tree roots in key places which was causing build-up of water on our lanes. (post Meeting note: a good deal of debris has been removed from the river by villagers for which thanks are due.)

Joan will once again write to Jessica Fleming SCC re the lack of a 30mph limit on the Gislingham Road. Priscilla Macrae commented that the Village Hall car park and street was being used by walkers possibly to avoid parking fees? Joan replied that the new car park by the Tennis court should now cope with overflow parking and that the walks had been very popular during lockdown.

SID speed awareness devices were still an option, but can only be used within 30mph areas. These are costly (£1500-£3500) and can only be installed with the correct permission from highways/SCC at an appropriate site and have to be maintained at regular intervals with ongoing costs to the village.

Eileen Chandler asked if was possible to reinstate a Village /Hall/Church Fete as an event to look forward to after restrictions, possibly in Thornham Hall grounds which in the past was always a very popular event?

Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 12th May 2021

Meeting closed at 8.51pm

Accounts 1 April 2020 to 1 January 2021

1.4.2020	balance b/f	£1220.20	30.6.20	MSDC dog bin clearance	£50.68
15.4.	precept	£840.00	11.11.20	Playground check	£60.82
21.9.	precept	£840.00	21.12.20	CAS village insurance	£176.36
			29.12.20	Thornham Settled Estate	£5.00

Balance 1 January 2021 £2607.34

Estimated further expenditure at 31 March 2021 £411.00

Estimated balance at 31 March 2021 £2190

I confirm that these Summary Receipts and Payments were approved by the Meeting on Wednesday 20 January 2021