

TM draft minutes 19th May 2022

Present nine members of the public, Joan Maughan, chair and Tina Schwarz, clerk and RFO, plus MSDC and SCC councillors, Jessica Fleming and Rowland Warboys.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence from Eileen Chandler, Sylvie and James Fawcett, Jennifer and Joe Vaudrey, Jude Farrell, Ian and Priscilla Macrae, Frances Jannaway.
2. Annual General Meeting. Nomination and election of officers for 2022/2023. Rodger Davis and David Fredrickssen-Jones conducted the election. Joan Maughan is not standing. There were no nominations for the RFO. TS agreed to restand for one year only. Proposed by Thelma Thorogood, seconded by Sue Davis, unanimous vote. Parish clerk, TS agreed to restand for one year only. Proposed by Sue Davis, seconded by Rosemary Tyler. Unanimous vote. JM agreed to take the Meeting tonight so we can hold the Meeting. Jennifer Vaudrey has agreed previously, in the absence of another, to Chair for September and January 2023 only. MSDC Monitoring Officer may have to become involved if no-one is prepared to stand. TT: Perhaps a maximum three year term is a possible route? This was agreed to be a good idea, ie a maximum term. RD suggests we write a job description for Chair and Clerk and RFO. TT suggests we try to find a Vice-chair. Unanimous vote was taken. Stephen Schwarz reminds us that the Standing Orders will need amending in this case. Peter Tyler asked if we could encourage more people to join the email list as it has fallen behind during Covid. Joan Maughan and Tina Schwarz continued the Meeting.
3. Draft minutes of 13 January 2022. Approved unanimously.
4. No matters arising.
5. Financial report, precept of £1000.00. Opening balance of £2174.75. Closing balance of £2168.40. Sarah Dobson has audited and signed our accounts. Thanks were made to Sarah. The accounts form was circulated to the Meeting. The Meeting approved and the form was, therefore, signed by the Chair and RFO. (TS has subsequently submitted our signed accounts to the external auditor.)
6. Proposed new pylon line. National Grid is conducting a first consultation until the deadline for feedback of 16 June 2022 from all interested individuals and organisations including County, District, Parish Councils and Meetings. Jessica Fleming and Rowland Warboys gave the Meeting background information. This is a single route proposal running from Norwich to Tilbury overland through our countryside. Laying cables under the sea from the sources of electricity offshore direct to the Thames is not National Grid's preferred route, perhaps because it is more expensive and more difficult to engineer. And would take longer. What is the real cost? Not simply in financial terms. It was felt that there is a lack of long term strategy on power. The Meeting had many questions on this complicated subject. The route proposed runs through Thornham, east of and parallel to the railway line and so very directly affects us. The Meeting and individuals were urged to write to National Grid, copying in BMSDC, RW, JF, Ofgem, Jo Churchill MP and the Minister for Energy.
7. Bridges repairs made with thanks to volunteers. Financial details of the contractors payments covered under finance.
8. Events. Music at Thornham, Films at Thornham on 27th. Party at Starhouse. Street closure on 5th from 9am to 11pm.
9. AOB. An email reminder from Eileen Chandler that the Parish Meeting is not the same as Village hall trustees, they welcome all offers of help. Frances Jannaway has trees and hedges with guards and stakes, please contact Frances or via TS.
10. Next meeting 22 September 2022, 7.30. Thanks from all at the Meeting were given to Joan Maughan for all the service she has given the village over the years.
11. Meeting closed at 9.03pm.