

MINUTES OF THORNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

09th February 2009 at 7.30pm

Present: Tim Nichols, Andy Spurr, Alex Keeling, Mark Cole

Public: 4 members of the public

1.1 Apologies for absence

Anthony Lawrinson, Charlotte Moore, Neil Walton

1.2 Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda

Alex Keeling has an interest in considering granting the local scouts and cubs money to purchase a new tent.

1.3 Public Participation:

John Williams and architect showed the council plans of the amendments, 09/00063/APP, to the planning application 08/00048/APP.

Ray Goodger, who maintains the church clock, spoke to the council and explained that parts of the mechanism are worn and the clock face needs attention. To do everything needed to the mechanism and to have a professional attend to the clock face would cost in the region of £6,000. If the council had a written contract with the church to maintain the clock then we could get funding of up to 90% of the cost. If the council invokes its power to maintain the clock we need to know the long term costs. Mr Goodger was asked to find out details of costing including long term and funding.

The church has a tower and bell fund, the PPC could be asked if some money from the fund could go towards maintenance of the clock. It is thought that there is a connection with Brunel and if that is the case the Brunel Trust could be contacted and asked to help.

Sarah Vinson spoke of concerns herself and other villagers have of the condition of the roads and verges in Thornborough. The council explained that we have discussed and minuted the matter for several months and informed Highways and that we have no power to carry out the repairs ourselves but that it is Bucks County Council's responsibility.

Sarah Vinson also spoke of the lack of activities in Thornborough for children and young people and looked at the possibility of the parish council contributing towards the cost of activities.

1.4 To agree minutes of the meeting dated 12th January 2009

Agreed and signed

1.5 1.5.1 Ownership of the Greens

Diana Davis is still to be contacted and asked whether there is any progress.

We are also contacting Chandler Ray to advise them of an incident where part of Thornborough's Common Land has been annexed to a property. The council commented at this meeting that the property owner had no right to do this. A letter from a resident about the matter is to be sent to Chandler Ray.

Action: Tim Nichols

1.5.2 We have many pot holes in the village's roads; Highways is to be chased regarding their repair.

Action: Anthony Lawrinson

1.6 Planning

09/00064/ACD Thornborough Manor High Street - Demolition of front stone wall for construction of new cottage (amendment 08/00047/ACD) - No comment
09/00063/APP Thornborough Manor High Street - Erection of new cottage to replace dwelling and conversion of barn to ancillary accommodation (amendment 08/00048/APP - No comment
08/02946/APP Lower Shelspit Farm Nash Road - Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling with annexe, stables, garage, store and ménage - No objection but to draw attention to footpath

1.7 Finances

- 1.7.1 Monthly income/outgoing report approved by councillors
- 1.7.2 Current bank statement not yet received; therefore February's bank reconciliation will be shown for approval at next month's meeting
- 1.7.3 The following cheques were approved and signed with the appropriate powers considered

217	E.on	Street Lights	24.34	PCA 1957 s3
218	Mrs S Reeder	Salary and Expenses	151.65	LGA 1972 s112
219	Bucks Playing Fields Assoc.	Subscription	20.00	

02.02.09 DD Anglian Water 7.00
02.02.09 DD E.on 30.00

1.8 Councillors Issues

- 1.8.1 Quotation to be obtained for grasscreting the area outside the village hall which is of primary concern, the areas outside The Two Brewers and at Back Street being secondary.

Action: Anthony Lawrinson

- 1.8.2 **Affordable Housing:** We have been contacted by Jean Fox who has told us that the owner of the preferred site, four, may be willing to negotiate to sell a part of his land off Nash Road. The covenant on the land will need to be checked. Nothing has been agreed at this stage, and Jean Fox will tell us when there is further progress.

- 1.8.3 **Culvert at bridge in Bridge Street:** We are still waiting to hear from Highways who have said that they will have a look when they are in the area.

Action: Andy Spurr/Sue Reeder

- 1.8.4 **Village Magazine:** Mark Cole showed the council a sample village magazine, 250 copies would cost £200.00 each time. A computer is to be purchased along with publishing software. It was resolved that we would proceed with the project and buy the equipment.

Action: Mark Cole

- 1.8.5 **Aylesbury ducks and duck house:** The purchase of Aylesbury ducks is in hand. (Action: Andy Spurr/Charlotte Moore) The duck house is to go on the far bank of the pond, after clearance of shrubbery. We will look into the purchase. (Action: Tim Nichols)

Action: As Above

1.8.6 **Sports Field Agreement:** A copy of the sports field agreement will be sent to the football club. The cricket club are meeting in February.

1.8.7 **Overhanging vegetation:** Highways has been contacted and will be contacted again regarding overgrown vegetation at the playground sign and Lower End.

Action: Anthony Lawrinson

1.8.8 **Maintenance of the church clock:** The matter was discussed in the public participation session.

1.8.9 **Village Post Office:** We have been told that the post office will not continue in its present form once sold. Using the vestry is now thought to be untenable because it would not be secure enough. Pam has thanked the parish council for asking her if she would be interested in running a new post office but said that she would not be able to do so.

Action: Mark Cole

1.8.10 **Ruined Verges:** Many of the verges have been ruined by construction vehicles associated with building works, or villagers and visitors parking on them or using them for passing. Highways have said we can use boulders as protection. It was resolved that we would get costing for them and once building works are completed arrange to fill the ruts in and then put boulders around the edge.

Action: Anthony Lawrinson

1.8.11 **Footpath from post box to pond:** Over time the footpath has narrowed due to overgrowing grass. It was resolved that we would see what work would be involved and how much it would cost to trim the grass back. We would then consider whether to spend the money.

1.8.12 **Road gritting:** We have previously found out that the village is not eligible for road gritting but it was resolved that we would ask to be re-evaluated later in the year.

1.8.13 **Water running down road from Lone Tree into Lower End:** This may be caused by overflowing drains or a spring or because the road was not gritted. Highways to be informed.

Action: Anthony Lawrinson

1.8.14 **Tourist sign for The Two Brewers:** Highways has asked us to write with the exact location for the brown tourist sign. It was resolved that we would ask that the sign be located on the A421 at the Lone Tree junction where present road signs are pointing down into Thornborough.

Action: Sue Reeder

1.8.15 **Working party for Thornborough Bridge:** The council resolved to go ahead with the idea of using workers from the community payback scheme to work at the churchyard and Thornborough Bridge and to contact Hannah Melisi, Placement Manager at Thames Valley Unpaid Work office and invite her to a council meeting to discuss the matter.

Mark Cole told the council that workers would be brought by mini-bus, wear high visibility jackets and be supervised. They would be low level offenders. The council was given a booklet on Community Sentencing.

Action: Mark Cole/Sue Reeder

1.8.16 **Dwarf Elder:** The plant is growing in Thornborough; the council resolved to keep an eye on it.

Action: Sue Reeder

- 1.8.17 **Repair to Parish Pump outside Forge Cottage:** It was resolved that the parish council will pay for the repair and that Andy will ask Martin Thomas to do the work.

Action: Andy Spurr

- 1.8.18 **Cubs and Scouts New Tent:** It was resolved that the parish council will contribute £100.00 towards a new tent for the local cubs and scouts; the legislation used will be the Local Government Act 1972 s137.

- 1.8.19 **Report after Bucks Flood Relief Meeting:** The meeting was attended by Councillor Mark Cole who told the council that Terry Cavender of Akeley parish council gave a presentation that looked at using the canal as a flood reservoir for Buckingham to alleviate flooding there.

The Environment Agency did not think that the proposal was a flood solution.

There is support for the restoration of the canal and a feasibility study was proposed which would cost in the region of £46,000.

The Environment Agency told the meeting that a grant of £5,000,000 was available to bid for which would enable the implementation of defence measures against future flooding. AVDC are preparing a bid for Buckingham.

- 1.8.20 **Diversions when A421 is closed:** When part of the A421 was closed recently traffic was diverted along Lower End and along Leckampstead Road instead of through Great Horwood. It is thought that the police do not always know of the correct diversion route. Alex Keeling will mention the subject at the next NAG meeting.

Action: Alex Keeling

1.9 Correspondence

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm