

MINUTES OF THORNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

09th November 2009 at 7.00pm

Present: Tim Nichols, Andy Spurr, Charlotte Moore, Alex Keeling, Neil Walton, Mark Cole

Public: five members of the public, Paula Kingsley- Post Office

1.1 Apologies for absence

Anthony Lawrinson

1.2 Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda

None

1.3 Public Participation:

The new owner of Sunnybrook Cottage and her father came to the meeting to show the parish council plans of a new stone built property to replace the old bungalow (Sunnybrook Cottage) which they aim to demolish. The new property would be situated further from the boundary of the footpath than the original building. After tidying up a few details, nothing major, the plans will be submitted to AVDC for approval. AVDC will then send us a copy of the plans for our comment.

The above two members of the public then left the meeting.

Two members of the public spoke of their support for a hosted post office in Thornborough saying that it is a critical village amenity. The council has also received two letters from residents in support of a post office being re-opened in the village.

The parish council said that a hosted post office in Thornborough was discussed at its last meeting but funding could not be agreed; the matter was deferred for discussion at this meeting.

Paula Kingsley from the Post Office, who will be operating the service if it goes ahead, told the council that the service would benefit pensioners who find it difficult to travel very far. All normal post office services would be provided except passports. Other services could include a drop-in centre for coffee/tea, stationery and cards, sweets; the post office is also an agent for dry cleaning.

Paula Kingsley then left the meeting.

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

Agreed and signed

1.5 Conduct in Addressing the Chairman at Meetings

Section 22 of the council's Standing Orders - Conduct of Members - was read out to all members of the council.

1.6 1.6.1 Ownership of the Greens

We are waiting for the statutory declaration, when completed the application can be submitted to Land Registry.

Registration is expected to take about five weeks once Land Registry has the papers; costs are currently £1,100.00 + VAT with another £200.00 approximately to be added.

Despite several emails and telephone calls we are still awaiting an update of the

above. It was resolved that Andy will speak with Chris Chandler. (Action: Andy Spurr)

It was resolved that we will ask Chandler Ray whether we need to insure the Greens, once registered, against Public Liability. (Action: Tim Nichols)

Action: As Above

1.6.2. An audit of repairs is still to be put together to give to Highways.

Action: Anthony Lawrinson

1.7 Planning

09/01882/APP Lower Shelspit farm, Nash Road - Demolition of existing dwelling, erection of new dwelling with annexe, stables, garage, store and ménage - amendment 08/02964/APP - No comment

1.8 Finances

1.8.1 Monthly income/outgoing report approved by councillors

1.8.2 This month's bank statement has not yet been received and so November's bank reconciliation will be presented to the council for approval at its next meeting

1.8.3 A detailed budget for 2010/11 of £18,351 was presented to the council for approval and adoption. The budget consists of £14,351 operating expenditure, £2,000 general capital expenditure and £2,000 for village improvements reserves. **It was resolved that** the budget will be adopted.

It was resolved that the precept for 2010/11 will stay the same as 2009 at £17,026. This will make a deficit between budget and precept but this will be covered by rental income and the expected VAT refund.

1.8.4 The following cheques were approved and signed with the appropriate powers considered

260	S Reeder	Salary and expenses	164.70	LGA 1972 s112
261	S Reeder	Remembrance Day Wreath	12.00	LGA 1972 s137
262	e.on	Street Lights	24.34	PCA 1957 s3
263	Alex Keeling	Travel Expenses to Aylesbury Vale Transport Symposium	15.90	

02.11.09 DD Anglian Water 44.00

02.11.09 DD E.on 28.00

1.9 Councillors Issues

1.9.1 Grasscreting: We have spoken to one of the contractors who had submitted a quotation for the grasscreting. He has told us that prices will rise in the new year by 7%. If we purchased the materials before then we would not have to pay the increase. It was resolved that Andy will speak to the contractor.

Action: Andy Spurr

1.9.2 Affordable Housing: Buckinghamshire Community Action has met with AVDC Planning; the affordable housing scheme proposals, drawings and

elevations provided by the architect are acceptable in principle. A meeting has been arranged with a member or representative of the parish council, The Guinness Trust and the architect to discuss the plans, layout and preferences, publicity and about arranging a consultation day.

- 1.9.3 **Culvert at bridge in Bridge Street:** Beryl Kemplen of AVDC has been in touch with us and we will contact her again.

Action: Andy Spurr

- 1.9.4 **Village Post Office:** The subject was discussed in minute reference 1.9.10

- 1.9.5 **Footpath from post box to pond:** The cricket club are meeting this week and will discuss the possibility of community payback workers using the toilets and coffee/tea making facilities at the sports pavilion whilst doing community work in the village and also storing tools there.

Action: Andy Spurr

- 1.9.6 **Tourist sign for The Two Brewers:** This is still in the process of application. The parish council has agreed to part fund the cost of the sign. We think it would be possible to buy and install our own sign, it was resolved that we will make enquiries. Neil Walton believed that the Parish Council may be able to undertake this through its delegated powers.

Action: Neil Walton

- 1.9.7 **Light at Lower End:** We have asked E.on if the light at Lower End could have a lower wattage bulb and have been told that it is not normally possible to just change the bulb and that a complete change of fitting would be needed. There is a version of the lantern which is half as bright and they will let us know how much this will be when they have the costing.

Action: Sue Reeder

- 1.9.8 **Micro Grant Application for Cricket Nets:** The Community Chest Micro Grant for the purchase of cricket nets has been applied for and we are awaiting approval.

Action: Sue Reeder

- 1.9.9 **Memorial Bench and Tree:** Mr and Mrs Allen have chosen a Scarlet Ash tree to go onto the green outside the village hall in memory of Merryn. Once planted it would take six months before the ground recovered sufficiently enough to install a seat around the tree.

The Mulberry Tree kindly donated by a former resident will be planted on the green. (Action: Alex Keeling) We are to look through former emails to see if the resident has suggested erecting a plaque. (Action: Sue Reeder)

Action: As Above

- 1.9.10 **Grant Request from Village Hall Committee:** After discussion it was resolved that a £500 grant will be given to the Village Hall Trust, this money will cover the rent for the proposed post office in the village hall.

- 1.9.11 **Street Lights:** It was resolved at a past meeting that when funds allow and electricity undergrounding works are completed that footpath lighting would be purchased. In the meantime we will look at various street lighting brochures.

- 1.9.12 **Reserves:** It was resolved that the discussion on what to spend the council's reserves be deferred to a future meeting.

- 1.9.13 **Sports Pavilion:** The sports pavilion was broken into leaving the entry door insecure; we are awaiting an estimate for the work required.

Action: Andy Spurr

- 1.9.14 **Donation towards Maintenance of Churchyard:** After discussion it was resolved that the parish council will donate £300 towards the maintenance of the churchyard this year, this is to be reviewed next year.

- 1.9.15 **Protocol on Email Circulation:** It was resolved that emails circulated among members are not to be sent to outside contacts. If the content subject becomes an agenda item it can then be circulated to others.

- 1.9.16 **Christmas Tree Insurance:** Because the parish council does not own the greens or the tree and lights we are unable to contribute towards their insurance. It was resolved that we will grant £50 to the Sports and Social Club to help with costs.

- 1.9.17 **Future of Thornborough Parish Council:** There have been concerns among some councillors regarding the future of the parish council. There was concern that there has been a lack of attendance by some councillors and talk of resignations. There was a worry that with lack of attendance, future meetings would be inquorate and that the parish council may not be able to continue. Councillors spoke of apathy from villagers and their lack of involvement in council matters. A suggestion that committees could be formed with villagers as members was put forward. The meeting was told that because people do not come to council meetings does not mean that they don't care about things. One councillor said that ours is an outstandingly active village with a large public attendance at events such as the Manor Garden Party and the Firework display, and that villagers were involved in village activities. It was agreed that the council should continue and should formulate a plan to go forward. The chairman thanked the councillors for the debate and said that the council should go forward and apply for quality status and requested that this should be the end of the discussion on the future of the parish council.

At this point of the meeting Alex Keeling tendered his resignation saying that he would leave after the December meeting.

The chairman thanked Alex for all of his hard work for the parish whilst councillor.

- 1.9.18 **LTP3 Have your Say Feedback:** The third Local Transport Plan is a transport planning document covering the years up to 2026. At the present stage of the consultation process stakeholders are being asked to help by posting their comments on local issues and problems on the Have Your Say pages of the website. It was resolved that Tim would respond.

Action: Tim Nichols

1.10 Correspondence

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm