

## THORNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES of MEETING

**Monday 9th July 2012 at 7.30p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr. Mark Cole (Chair), Cllr Mary Taylor Cllr. Andy Spurr, Cllr. Charlotte Moore, , Cllr Ray Goodger, Cllr Rupert Bursell, Maggie Beach (Clerk)

**Public:** None

Item	Minute	ACTION
1	<b>Apologies:</b> Cllr. Melanie Staff	
2	<b>Declaration of interest in items on the agenda</b> - None.	
3	<b>Public Participation session:</b> - None	
4	<b>Minutes of the meeting of 11th June 2012-</b> Agreed as accurate	
5	<p><b>8 Thornborough Infant School's Royal Oak Tree</b> - on agenda.</p> <p><b>9 Village Hall and e-mail from Bernard Garbe</b> - Clerk has communicated response to the Village Hall Trustees.</p> <p><b>12 Play around the Parishes</b> – on agenda</p> <p><b>13 Paths for Communities</b> - Clerk has passed on to interested parishioner for any further action</p> <p><b>14 Planning:</b> all July actions completed</p> <p><b>15 Finances:</b> all July actions completed</p> <p><b>16 Other Correspondence:</b> e-mails forwarded to councillors as agreed.</p> <p><b>17 A.O.B. and Other Councillor Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Riparian Rights pamphlets now received, Clerk will pass on to Cllr AS, also Thornborough Parish Footpaths pamphlets for distribution from the pub.</li> <li>- Sports field dustbin replacement and litter bin on field emptied by the Community Spaces at AVDC – still waiting for answers from AVDC</li> <li>- Litter bin inners throughout the village community spaces – we will need to buy these and get them fitted, then give the new keys to Community Spaces team for emptying.</li> </ul>	
6	<p><b>New Code of Conduct for Parish Councils and Register of Interests forms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All town and parish councils must adopt a new Code of Conduct that takes into account changes required by the new Localism Act and includes the Seven Nolan Principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Selflessness</li> <li>- Integrity.</li> <li>- Objectivity.</li> <li>- Accountability</li> <li>- Openness</li> <li>- Honesty.</li> <li>- Leadership</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Proposed amendment that 'respectful' in bullet point 1 under Member Obligations be changed to 'courteous' agreed unanimously.</li> <li>• Adopting the new Code of Conduct (appendix 1) proposed by Cllr RB, seconded Cllr MC agreed unanimously.</li> <li>• The Clerk drew Councillors attention to the need for all councillors to complete a new Register of Interests form in line with our new Code of Conduct,</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clerk to circulate the new Code of Conduct</b></p> <p><b>All to action</b></p>
7	<p><b>North Bucks Local Area Forum – report by Cllr MC</b></p> <p>Report attached as Appendix 1</p> <p>Key points</p> <p>Main item - local priorities. £45,000 is available in the current financial year. There are various requests from surrounding local councils.</p> <p>Other items- Bucks County Council's Minerals Strategy, The New Homes Bonus Scheme Local crime (on the decrease),and Fire &amp; Rescue -</p>	

	Buckingham has the best-performing retained unit in Thames Valley,	
8	<p><b>Street Lighting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still waiting for a hard copy estimate and order form for three new lights from E-on. Clerk is chasing this.</li> <li>• Nothing else currently to report.</li> </ul>	<b>Clerk to continue actioning</b>
9	<p><b>Thornborough Community Woodland</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk has received an e-mail from Mike Walker at BCC explaining that BCC Localities cannot help with funding but can advise about funding sources. He currently suggests approaching Community Impact Bucks.</li> <li>• Cllr RB pointed out that under the Localities Act BCC has a duty to help us with funding.</li> <li>• Clerk reports that there has still been no contact from Hampshire County Council colleagues to help progress any agreement as indicated by Mike Walker. TPC agreed that they should work with Cllrs. RB and AS on this issue when they contact us.</li> </ul>	<b>Clerk to contact Mike Walker and remind BCC of the duty under the Localities Act Clerk to action as appropriate</b>
10	<p><b>Thornborough Infant School's Royal Oak Tree</b></p> <p>Head of Thornborough Infants School had talked to Cllr MC about this tree which the school has been given and where they can have it planted. After discussion it was decided that in the curve on the banks of the stream at the side of the sports field opposite Sunnybrook would be a good place to plant this tree. However it needs to be initially potted up and grown on. . Cllr MT offered to look after the tree until it is big enough to plant on. Cllr RG offered to make a tree guard. The tree would also need a plaque.</p>	<b>Clerk to inform school of decision</b>
11	<p><b>BCC Mineral Strategy to 2026 - consultation and implications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr MC reported that this had come up at the LAF. There is a purple patch indicating 'Area of Search' over our area. He reminded TPC of previous history with gravel extraction proposals in this area that were successful objected to in 1992.</li> <li>• Clerk reported that this is in the Core Strategy because all local authorities have to designate areas of search to support. The building industry. The area of search for Bucks was initially the whole county, now just this area. The right to object to any application to extract gravel remains.</li> <li>• Cllr RB suggested we add a statement relevant to this issue to our Parish Plan</li> </ul>	.
12	<p><b>Improvements to Flood Warning Service</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TPC has received an updated leaflet. There are now four Flood Warning Areas. The River Great Ouse at Thornborough, Thornton, Beachampton and Passenheim is now one of these four areas. The Floodline is 0845 988 1188. You can then dial Quick Dial 0324121 for recorded information. All noted</li> <li>• Cllr MC has received a response from Lee Stevens, BCC to his submission re. the Consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of Buckinghamshire's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy</li> <li>• Cllr AS noted that the weed in the pond is now extensive and needs to be removed, also the sedge (commonly known as bulrushes). He will see if Graham Smith can help clear these two items.</li> </ul>	<b>Cllr AS to action</b>
13	<p><b>Play around the Parishes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk has booked 23<sup>rd</sup> July 12.00 till 2.00 and 27<sup>th</sup> July 10.00 till 12.00 for two play sessions.</li> <li>• PATP will need the village hall and the sports field, also access to the Sports Pavilion. .</li> <li>• Fiona Coppins is publicising the event.</li> </ul>	
14	<p><b>Playground</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr AS has offered to order a new seat compliant to regulations at a cost of £300. As agreed at the last meeting.</li> <li>• Clerk has received the current ROSPA report on the Playground and</li> </ul>	

	<p>Play area on the Sports Field. Tasks identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Warning notices as detailed fitted to all equipment on Sports Field</li> <li>- Remove the protruding bar on the cricket nets but this is actually part of the lifting mechanism)</li> <li>- Adjust gate on Playground – ALREADY COMPLETED by Cllr AS</li> <li>- Adjust self closing mechanism on gate– ALREADY COMPLETED by Cllr AS</li> <li>- Replace damaged swing seat – IN PROCESS.</li> </ul>	
15	<p><b>Waste collections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Week starting 9<sup>th</sup> July – collections postponed for one day because of disruption to services caused by Torch Relay this week</li> <li>ii. New bins and schedule starting September 2012 - noted.</li> </ul>	
16	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Ref. 12/01141/ADP</u> Lone Tree PH, Bletchley Road, Thornborough, Bucks. MK18 2DZ - Approval of reserved matters approval of landscaping of 09/01609/AOP – Refurbishment and alteration of pub to form 12 hotel bedrooms, NO COMMENT</li> <li>2. <u>Ref 12/1358/APP</u> Home Close, Nash Rd., Thornborough, MK18 2DX Removal of existing double garage and erection of single storey side and rear extension. NO OBJECTIONS</li> <li>3. <b>Report on ‘Vale of Aylesbury Plan to Neighbourhood Plans’</b> with Andy Barton, Clerk had attended and reported back. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Key Points</b></li> <li>• Statutory once written and adopted. When adopted it becomes part of AVDC planning, must conform to DC policy and agree to Gov. Policy</li> <li>• NOT a parish plan</li> <li>• <b>There to enable development to happen</b></li> <li>• <b>Not a way to challenge the planning system</b></li> <li>• Cost to pull on together between £17K and £63K, very complex, not quick wins or fast progress</li> <li>• To get approval there needs to be a final referendum in the parish/area with a 50% share of the vote in favour of adoption, not just a majority</li> <li>• Subject to EU legislation, therefore must include sustainability (community/social, economic, environmental)</li> <li>• Plan lasts as long as it lasts but things will change over time, so will need to be reviewed as it becomes out of date.</li> <li>• Not for every parish, our choice</li> <li>• The District Plan, more high level, takes precedence, more generic so if we want detail we will need a NP</li> <li>• Neighbourhood can mean all of parish, part of parish, parish plus bits of neighbouring parishes (with consent)</li> <li>• Identify areas for non-development but there must be a good planning reason</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation noted. Clerk will forward link to Councillors.</li> <li>5. Bulletins and updates - noted</li> </ol>	<p><b>Clerk to send response to AVDC Planning</b></p> <p><b>Clerk to action</b></p> <p><b>Clerk to forward link to Cllrs.</b></p>
17	<p><b>Finances:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Bank Reconciliation</b> 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012, noted by TPC</li> <li>b) <b>Jubilee accounts</b> – Clerk advises that the Raffle does not need to be entered into Thornborough Parish Council accounts as it was licensed under the name of Thornborough Diamond Jubilee Society. TPC needs to have a complete set of accounts for the Jubilee celebrations including the £700 from TPC but excluding the Raffle accounts.</li> <li>c) <b>Clerk’s Pay</b> – Clerk explained that this has now been set up along with HMRC payments.</li> <li>d) <b>Local Government Finance Bill</b> The Local Government Finance Bill includes provisions for local council</li> </ol>	<p><b>Clerk to request accounts from Rod James</b></p>



## **Appendix 1**

### **BUCKINGHAM AREA LOCAL FORUM**

#### **June 28<sup>th</sup> 2012, The Buckingham School**

I attended the quarterly meeting of the Buckingham Local Area Forum, at which our local authorities (County Council, AVDC, Town and Parish Councils), and Police, Fire, Transport and other services have representation.

The main item on the agenda was on local priorities, for which a sum of £45,000 is available in the current financial year. Thornborough has not made any claim on this, but claims by other areas may have an indirect effect on parishioners.

For instance, Buckingham requested funding for a new lay-by outside Bourton Meadow School to reduce drop-off and pick-up problems at a cost of £40,000, and also for a new pedestrian crossing in London Road by the bus-stop 100m north of the A421 roundabout, at a cost of £90,000. Both were considered to be outside the remit of the LAF, which prefers to concentrate on smaller, less expensive projects, and should be dealt with from county road safety budgets.

Padbury and Dadford applied for funds to extend footpaths alongside their main roads at £18,500 and £23,000 respectively, and Adstock to demolish the decrepit bus shelter on the northbound A413, and replace it with a new one at a cost of £11,220. Whaddon asked for £10,000 towards traffic calming, citing the increasing Milton Keynes through traffic, while Water Stratford asked for £14,500 to improve the A422 crossroads between the village and Stowe. All these requests were deemed suitable for consideration, and will be voted on at the September LAF.

Akeley Parish Cllr Terry Cavender drew the Forum's attention to Bucks County Council's Minerals Strategy, which identifies possible sites for mineral extraction until 2026. The map on its website shows a large purple patch over our and neighbouring parishes, as a potential Area of Search for minerals, including gravel. This should be of great concern to us, as in the early 1990s we fought - and won - a public enquiry into a gravel extraction application by Redland Aggregates. This is on tonight's TPC agenda.

The New Homes Bonus Scheme consultation on which I reported after the last LAF has now closed, but a series of parish meetings will be called in the near future to discuss options. Bucks Home Choice, which is responsible for selecting tenants for social housing, is revising its selection procedures under the Localism Act, and from this autumn will be operating "choice-based letting" based on prospective tenants (1) with a local connection, (2) having locally registered, and (3) having a priority application in terms of need and dependants. There will be a wider consultation once these options have been approved.

Local crime is on the decrease, we were assured by Buckingham police chief Inspector Emma Garside, who reported a drop in serious acquisitive crime (violence and burglary or theft) of 33% in both the Buckingham and North Bucks villages. There has also been a significant reduction in rural crime, and this area has seen a marked drop in the theft of agricultural machinery and from farms, construction sites apparently now the target of choice. But she warned villagers to be vigilant during the summer, and not to leave windows open in unoccupied properties. There had been seven serious thefts in villages since April, six of them thefts from motor vehicles, one of them a catalytic exhaust from a parked car; it is not the exhausts, but the precious metals which thieves are after, Insp Garside added. Registration plates are also being targeted.

Buckingham has the best-performing retained Fire & Rescue unit in Thames Valley, Fire Officer Tim Parkins reported, with 100% availability of volunteers. He said that there had been 73 call-outs since April, several of them for road-traffic accidents on the A413. There was also a rescue from flood-waters at Padbury, and he reminded drivers and pedestrians of the dangers of flash floods in local rivers, streams and fords.

**Mark Cole**