

## THORNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES of MEETING

**Wednesday 29th May 2013 at 7.30p.m.**

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

**Public:** Cllr Warren Whyte, (BCC), Bill Lewis, Rev. Gussie Walsh, Stuart Mitchell.

1	<p><b>Apologies:</b> None</p> <p>Thornborough Parish Council noted Cllr Rupert Bursell's resignation. The council were very grateful to Cllr. RB for all he had done while a Councillor and offered him a unanimous vote of thanks.</p> <p>A Councillor vacancy has been advertised on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and the AVDC Monitoring Officer has been notified.</p> <p>The Chairman, Cllr MC, welcomed our new Buckinghamshire County Council Councillor for Buckingham East, Warren Whyte. Mr Whyte is also a Buckingham Town Councillor.</p>	<p><b>Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Cllr RB</b></p>
2	<p><b>Public Participation session:</b></p> <p>Gussie Walsh gave us information about a training seminar she had recently been to called 'How to market your Church'. The training had identified the concept of a USP – a Unique Selling Point. One of St. Mary's unique selling points is that it is a Church in the middle of our thriving community. To build on this idea St. Mary's is holding a 'Marks of Creation' weekend with art workshops, a shared evening meal, and a Songs of Praise service. This will be a major fund-raising event for our Church and donations will also be made to other parish groups from the proceeds.</p>	
3	<p><b>Declaration of interest in items on the agenda – None</b></p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting of 8th April 2013- Agreed</b></p>	
5	<p><b>Review of Action Points</b></p> <p><b>Item 8 Tree management</b>  <b>Item 9 Greens</b>  <b>Item 11 Street Lighting</b>  <b>Item 12 Cricket Club</b>  <b>Item 13 Allotments</b>  <b>Item 16 Church clock</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>All on agenda</b></p> <p><b>Item 17 Planning:</b> - Letter by e-mail from Henry Lewis – Clerk has replied and actioned points raised as directed</p> <p><b>Item 18e Finance -</b>  b) Cheques all sent  e) Local Democracy APPG Local Government Finance Meeting In Parliament –24/4/2013 Letter sent to our MP, the Rt. Hon. John Bercow asking him to attend this All Party Local Democracy Group to discuss the impact of the Government's policy to localise the funding of Council Tax Benefits in a way that will mean that funding to cover parish councils' precepts paid by Council Tax Benefit will be paid to principal authorities only, without any statutory duty for them to pass funding down to town and parish councils. He responded that he is unable to attend but will send his researcher. He then sent his researcher's briefing note for our information. The Minister has pledged to re-examine this issue in the summer. Mr Bercow has also raised this matter with Eric Pickles and will send us any response he receives.  He also included a reply to our concerns about the Delegated Powers issue. He will raise the matter with the Chief Executive of AVDC.</p>	

6	<p><b>Thornborough Community Woodland</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cllr MT gave a brief report. While we are still not the legally responsible for managing the woodland, we cannot open a separate bank account for Thornborough Community Woodland and therefore cannot apply for grants. We are missing out on several applications, although there seems to be a continual stream of grants available.</li> <li>- The Clerk reported that she has contacted Buckinghamshire Community Foundation and the grant they have awarded us is still ring fenced for us. There are several other parishes in the same position as us waiting to sign a lease with Buckinghamshire County Council and unable to access their grants until they have done so.</li> <li>- The Clerk has also contacted Mike Walker at BCC who informed her that the BCC Solicitor dealing with this issue is currently on holiday but he expects the paperwork to be completed and the lease available for signing next week.</li> <li>- Cllr MT suggested there was increasing local interest in Thornborough Community Woodland and to capitalise on this interest TPC could organise guided walks. This was thought to be a good idea.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clerk to circulate the lease when she receives it from BCC</b></p>
7	<p><b>Tree management</b></p> <p>Cllr AS has talked to Julia Carey about the trees. Cllr As is in the process of sorting tree inspections.</p>	<p><b>Cllr AS to continue to progress.</b></p>
8	<p><b>Bill Day Memorial Bench</b></p> <p>Chairman Cllr MC expressed everyone's regret on the sudden death of Bill Day, a much loved and respected member of Thornborough and extended the Council's condolences to his wife, Janet Day. Janet Day has sent in a request for support from TPC for a memorial bench for Bill Day. His three sons would like to commemorate their father with the provision of a bench. After discussion it was agreed that a bench under the Dole Tree where Janet and Bill liked to sit on summer evenings with a glass of wine would be appropriate. It was agreed that the Dole Tree bench could be re-vamped or replaced as appropriate with a plaque to commemorate Bill Day. Janet will talk to his sons and get back to the Clerk with the details.</p>	<p><b>Janet Day to contact the Clerk with further details.</b></p>
9	<p><b>Greens– Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>Fences round pumps</b> Cllr AS to get a quote from Matthew McStraw to replace both pump fences, like for like.</li> <li>ii. <b>Bye-laws Update.</b> Nothing to report at present.</li> <li>iii. <b>Grass-creting quotes</b> – This is progressing. The application to drop the kerb has been approved and paid for.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr. AS still to action. Cllr. AS to continue to action.</b></p>
10	<p><b>Road issues – updates and road closures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairman Cllr MC asked Cllr Warren Whyte to explain his position and tell us about current issues concerning the A421 road. With the expansion of Buckingham the A421 will be increasingly under pressure, especially where it becomes the Buckingham Ring Road. It is also the main East-West link between Milton Keynes, the M1 and the M40. Cllr. Whyte is trying to get the classification of the A421 changed to that of Primary Route. There are no roads in the north of Aylesbury Vale currently classified as Primary Routes but he believes that the increasing traffic on this route should be acknowledged by a re- classification. Cllr MC explained previous work done on this route by parishioner John Williams.</li> <li>• The issue of the junction at the Lone Tree was again briefly discussed and a suggestion that the traffic flow could be monitored was made. County Cllr WW said that this should be taken to the LAF for them to action.</li> <li>• Winter Gritting through Thornborough was raised. The High Street was gritted twice last year in extreme weather by request, but it is not on the current Gritting Schedule so is not routinely gritted. Bill Lewis informed TPC that the Thornborough – Padbury road is on the schedule and is therefore routinely gritted. He expressed continued concerns about traffic</li> </ul>	<p>.</p>

	<p>through Coombs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notices of road closures; 1) A422 Brackley Rd. Closed from Biddlesden Road to Southback at Westbury – overnight 17<sup>th</sup> June till 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013.</li> <li>2) Little Horwood – the road from A421 to village, part of Shucklow Hill and Church St. – overnight 17<sup>th</sup> June till 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013</li> </ul>	
11	<p><b>Street Lighting - update</b>                  Clerk has now managed to contact a manager, Graham Penfold, in the Northampton office of E-on about problems with our lighting maintenance and also the upgrades to the street lights requested 18 months ago but still not started. As a result he has put the last two maintenance bills on hold and is sending Dave Mooney to do a walk round the village to look at the lighting with the Clerk. This is arranged for this coming Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 11.00. Any Councillor who wishes to come on the walk round is welcome.</p>	<b>Clerk to continue to follow up.</b>
12	<p><b>Allotments</b>                  a) We have now received a bill from Mr Madkins. TPC agreed that we should ask Ms Gavigan at The Willows to pay for half as she had offered.                  b) The Clerk has received an e-mail from BCC who lease the allotments to TPC asking that we clear the triangle of uncultivated land to the east of the allotments included in the lease and remove the fence between the allotments and this land. After discussion TPC agreed that it was not possible to cultivate this patch of land and it was liable to flooding so we didn't want it.</p>	<b>Clerk to discuss payment with Mary Gavigan                  Clerk to relay this information to BCC</b>
13	<p><b>Thornborough Weir - update</b>                  The Clerk has received notification of a further extension from BCC to the closure of this footpath for work on the bridge to be completed by the Environment Agency. TPC questions the EA's current practice of sending men out every day to complete the work, who then discover that the weather is not hot enough for the repairs to be completed (they need a consistent temperature of plus 18 degrees centigrade for a period of time after the work is done to effect completion). Agreed to write to the Environment Agency about the obvious waste of money to ask why this work was commissioned to be done through the winter months.</p>	<b>Clerk to write expressing our concerns and to ask the cost of the work as a FOI request.</b>
14	<p><b>Church clock</b>                  This is in progress.</p>	<b>Cllr RG to action</b>
15	<p><b>Annual inspection of Play Area notification</b>                  Clerk received notification (8<sup>th</sup> April 2013) that this will be carried out during May. Cllr MT is very concerned about the current state of the Play Area, a clean-up is needed. Agreed to await the recommendations of the report and put on the next agenda after the report has been received.</p>	<b>Report on next agenda</b>
16	<p><b>Dog Waste Collections Service Level Agreement</b>                  Clerk explained the implications of the new draft contract. It is very thorough and covers many issues! She is concerned about the one method of payment allowed by the contract.</p>	<b>Clerk will contact AVDC to discuss this</b>
17	<p><b>LAF Funding - Broadband</b>                  There is still LAF funding available under the following headings:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth needs</li> <li>• Speeding and road safety</li> <li>• Support for village activity centres (including rural community services).</li> </ul>                 There has been a suggestion that LAF funding could be used to purchase external WiFi access points for interested parishes. TPC agreed to confirm to the LAF that we are an interested parish.                  Cllr WW reminded TPC that Broadband provision contracts are being signed next week.</p>	<b>Clerk to respond expressing TPC's interest</b>
18	<p><b>AVALC event 2013 Re-invigorating Communities:</b> Actions &amp; ideas to boost community spirit, well-being and enterprise in the villages and towns of North Bucks. 29 June 2013 in Quinton Village Hall from 10.30am to 1pm – noted.</p>	
19	<p><b>AVALC – Request for Donation</b>                  Proposed Cllr AS, seconded Cllr RG, agreed unanimously that we send a</p>	<b>Clerk to action (see</b>

	donation of £10 to AVALC.	<b>Item 23)</b>
20	<b>Thornborough Friendship Club – request for funding.</b> TPC have received a request from Thornborough Friendship Club for a donation of £95. Proposed Cllr AS, seconded Cllr CM, agreed unanimously that we send a donation of £100 to Thornborough Friendship Club.	<b>Clerk to action (see Item 23)</b>
21	<b>Parish Community Response Team Emergency Contacts</b> Agreed that it was impossible to provide 24/7 available number but that the Clerk should give her landline number for the daytime, and the Two Brewers number should be the evening contact.	<b>Clerk to action</b>
22	<b>Planning:</b> a) <u>Ref.13/00630/APP</u> – Radford House, Nash Road, Thornborough, MK18 2DP – Demolition of existing barn and erection of agricultural barn – the date for this has passed and the application has been permitted - noted b) Householder Extensions Local Development Order – letter from AVDC explaining the process for AVDC’s proposals for processing Householder extension plan – noted. c) Training session at AVDC 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2013 – Clerk reported that she had attended and a brief summary of planning application processes and guidance had been provided. She has a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. d) NBPPC – Delegated Powers - NBPPC letter concerning this issue to Cllr. John Cartwright, AVDC Leader and his reply were circulated and noted. Chairman Cllr MC has responded to NBPPC with Thornborough’s experience to support the statements made in the NBPPC letter. e) Vale of Aylesbury Plan – Consultation response by 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2013. There is nothing in the plan directly impacting on the parish of Thornborough. f) Bulletins and other updates - Bulletins noted - Cloverick Moor, Padbury Road, Thornborough, MK18 2EB -Letter received about changes to the appeal. Noted. - <u>Ref 13/00523/ACD</u> – The Green Thornborough Manor, High Street, Thornborough, MK18 2DQ – Demolition of Listed stone wall and construction of replacement stone wall and railings PERMITTED. - <u>Ref.13/00524/APP</u> - The Green, Thornborough Manor, High Street, Thornborough MK18 2DQ - Erection of dwelling and ancillary building. Conversion of barn to ancillary dwelling. PERMITTED. - <u>Ref. 13/00250/APP</u> Home Farm House, Chapel Lane, Thornborough MK18 2DJ Erection of Limestone wall - PERMITTED .	
23	<b>Finances:</b> <b>a) Bank Reconciliation – April 2013.</b> Current Account £26,445.21 Reserve Account £15,149.08 Current liabilities:£237.10 Total £41,357.19 <b>b) Payments and Receipts - 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013</b> <b>Cheques</b> E-on (unmetered supplies) £22.91 Cheque No. 457 AVDC Dog waste Collections Oct 2012 – March 2013 £186.26 Cheque No. 458 Mr Madkins for hedge trimming £120.00 Cheque No 459 Mr Vernon, Jubilee Bench £100.00 Cheque No 460 Cartwright Landscapes £2682.60 Cheque No 461 Clerk’s Salary cheques – April £350.07 Cheque No 462 HMRC - Clerk’s Income Tax £87.60 Cheque No 463 (PAYE Ref. 475/SA75351 Accounts office Ref. 475PE00369213) Donation to AVALC £10.00 Cheque No 464	<b>Clerk to raise cheques</b>

	<p>Donation to Thornborough Friendship Club                      £100.00                      Cheque No 465</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total                      £3,659.44</b></p> <p><b>Direct Debits</b> E-on (Sports Pavilion supplies)                      £105.00 Anglian Water                      still in credit <b>Total                      £3,764.44</b></p> <p><b>c) Receipts -</b> AVDC – Local Council Support Grant                      £1,696.66 AVDC- Precept                      £8,081.47 VAT Claim 2011/12                      £1,034.83 Allotment Rents x 2                      £14.00 <b>Total                      £10,826.96</b></p> <p><b>d) Precept and Localised Council Tax Support</b> TPC has received the first part of the 2013/14 Precept together with a Local Council Tax Support Grant (LTSG) from AVDC as detailed above. The LTSG is to make up money that would have previously come to TPC before Welfare Benefits reforms which now mean that money for our Band D houses receiving Housing Benefit now comes to the principal authority who can decide how much to devolve to towns and parishes.</p> <p><b>e) VAT refund 2011-12</b> Received as detailed above. The claim for 2012-13 to be sent in.</p> <p><b>f) Sports Field Rents - update</b> – Clerk gave information about Sports Field electricity use. Use for the previous financial year cost £833.15. TPC were advised by Cllr AS that this seemed a lot more than current usage would warrant. - Still no rent from Thornborough Athletic Football Club. Currently they owe £135 for 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012, £270 for 1<sup>st</sup> July- 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012, A total cost of £405; and are about to be issued with a further invoice of £270 for 1<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013, TPC have received a letter from Thornborough Cricket Club thanking TPC for allowing them rent free use of the Sports Field and Pavilion for two years backdated from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 till 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, letter circulated at meeting to Councillors.</p> <p><b>g) Grounds Maintenance 2013</b> – quote received: - <u>Sports field</u> verges 3 mows cost £77, <u>Village</u>, to mow verges fortnightly cost per visit £91, To cut and rake daffodils June and August cost pper occasion £116, To strim round pump and obstacle £77 per occasion, to cut and rake wildflower banks of stream and pump- Sept. £116, <u>Children’s Play Area</u> fortnightly cut of grass and overhanging brambles £12.25 per visit. Proposed that we accept the quote and re-engage Cartwright Landscapes for the current year’s ground maintenance work, proposed Cllr. MS seconded Cllr. CM, agreed unanimously.</p> <p><b>h) New Homes Bonus – update</b> - letter from the CEO of BCC, Chris Williams, explaining that it is planned to invest the portion that BCC are keeping in increasing Broadband provision in Buckinghamshire. – noted.</p>	<p><b>Clerk to ask E-on to check Sports Pavilion meters.</b></p> <p><b>Clerk to accept Cartwright Landscapes’ quote for work for the current year.</b></p>
<p>24</p>	<p><b>A.O.B. other correspondence and any other Councillors’ Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Electoral review of Aylesbury Vale - noted</li> <li>ii. Changes to welfare benefits - noted</li> <li>iii. Bucks Home Choice – changes in allocation procedures - noted</li> <li>iv. Letter re Proposal for a Memorial to airmen killed in a plane crash on the Hodges’ farm in 1943 in a plane taking off from RAF Little Horwood Airfield from Katy Morris, Lay Pastoral Care Worker at Thornborough Chapel. After discussion TPC agreed this was an excellent idea and agreed in principal to pay for a memorial plaque. Clerk to ascertain how much this would cost. Cllr MT agreed to talk with Katy Morris to take this further</li> <li>v. Visit to Grendon Underwood - noted</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clerk to put this on June agenda for approval. Cllr MT to talk with Katy Morris</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vi. Our Big Gig event –noted</li> <li>vii. Armed Forces Fly a Flag day – TPC do not have a flag to fly but will put posters about the event up in the Notice board.</li> <li>viii. Establishing the X444 and AVTUG Mtg 4<sup>th</sup> June - noted</li> <li>ix. Have your say social care surgery – Padbury 6<sup>th</sup> June noted</li> <li>x. Tour de Vale bike ride – 9<sup>th</sup> June – noted</li> <li>xi. Cllr MS raised the issue of dirty road signs. Clerk will talk to the local window cleaner about this.</li> <li>xii. Cllr AS raised the issue of the marquee that was given to the Thornborough Sports and Leisure Committee that they now want to sell. Agreed that Cllr AS will tell the TSLC that we are interested in buying it to prevent it leaving the parish.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clerk to put this on June agenda for approval</b></p>
<p>25</p>	<p><b>Date of next meeting;</b>  <b>10<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30 followed by The Annual Open Meeting of the Parish at 7.30.</b></p> <p>The agenda for the open meeting was discussed. Agreed to ask Robert Smart if he would like to present his ideas about a group to look at reducing domestic fuel costs for parishioners.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.</p>	<p><b>All To Note Earlier Time</b></p> <p><b>Clerk to contact Robert Smart</b></p>