

THORNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING

Monday 14th October 2013 at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllr Mark Cole (Chair), Cllr Andy Spurr, Cllr Charlotte Moore, Cllr Ray Goodger, Cllr Mary Taylor, Cllr Stuart Mitchell, Maggie Beach (Clerk)

Public: 2 members of the public were present.

1	Apologies: , Cllr Melanie Staff,	
2	Public Participation session: Alex Keeling presented a proposal for a bus shelter on the Green for school children and their parents to use. There are up to 25 children catching buses to Great Horwood School, Buckingham School and the Royal Latin School. There was a discussion about the number and type (public or school) buses that pick up and drop off in the village, where the routes go and where the bus stops are. The possible problems with vandalism or illegal use were also discussed. Mr Keeling assured TPC that these could be dealt with. He had brought pictures of example of bus shelters for TPC to look at. This issue was an agenda item discussed by Councillors later in the meeting.	
3	Declaration of interest in items on the agenda - none	
4	Minutes of the meeting of 9th September 2013- Agreed.	
5	Review of Action Points Item 6. Thornborough Community Woodland Item 9. Fences round the Pumps Item 10. Benches Item 12. Street Lighting Item 15 Memorial for Airmen Item 16. Allotments Item 21. Village Hall Post Office Item 22. Clerk's Contract Item 23. Planning – Development Control Committee meeting - Enforcement issue on Mr Watts' (dec'd) land Item 24 b). Finances: Risk assessment Item 25. AOB and Councillor issues. Sports field Hedge – quotes All on agenda Item 23. Planning: responses sent Item 24 c). Finances, Payments and Receipts – cheques raised and sent	
6	Thornborough Community Woodland - Mowing Training The initial day's training took place on Friday 11 th October. There are a further two half days of training. - Lease There are a couple of issues raised by Chris Chandler, our solicitor. Cllr AS will send the information to the Clerk when he receives it. The Clerk will then arrange a date for an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss the issues. - Updates - The issue of the name has come up recently and whether it is Thornborough Community Woodland or Thornborough Community Woodlands. It was acknowledged that there are several woodlands in the area of land but the name will be Thornborough Community Woodland as stated in the lease until TPC signs the lease when it will be discussed again. - A resident has approached the clerk about the issue of dog waste bins at Thornborough Community Woodland. TPC will not be able to action this until after the lease has been signed.	Cllr AS to pass information from Chris Chandler about the lease to the Clerk. Clerk to inform resident of the decision about dog waste bins.
7	Tree management - Nothing to report at present.	

8	Greens– Update – On advice from Rupert Bursell, no further action needs to be taken. The situation exists as it was prior to the issue of the bye-laws.	
9	Fences around the pumps This has now been completed and the Clerk has the bill.	
10	Benches in the village - update <u>Jubilee Bench</u> . Cllr RG reported that the bench will be put into position on 22nd October. <u>Bill Day memorial bench</u> . The Clerk reported that the bench is now finished apart from the plaque which will be added once the wording has been decided by the family. It will be a small plaque on the top slat of the back. The Clerk is still in the process of sorting out moving the waste bins.	Clerk to continue to check re. waste bins
11	Road issues, Verges and A421 – i. Closures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Road Closure - Brackley Road, Water Stratford 14.10.13 – 25.10.13 • Proposed Road Closure - Gawcott Road, Buckingham 19.11.13 – 22.11.13 ii. The Clerk has had an e-mail from Bernard Garbe reminding TPC that in the past 'BCC agreed to double-width mow the grass from Hatchet Leys Lane to the Thornborough sign, following a spate of traffic collisions when it was only mowed single width because of the junction from Hatchet Leys Lane being blind both ways - due to the bridge wall on the right and from long grass on the left.' iii. The 30m.p.h. limit ended sign on the right hand side of the road leaving the village is obscured by trees. iv. The Thornborough village direction sign at the Leckhampstead road into Lower End on the A422 coming from Milton Keynes is missing. v. Dancer's Graves crossroads remains a dangerous junction. There has been another accident there recently. A stop sign would make it a safer junction.	Clerk to report and raise all the issues with the LAT.
12	Street Lighting - update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk has now sent an e-mail complaining about the level of service TPC are receiving, quoting the situation with the work of upgrading the street lighting and the request for a quote for 3 new lights. She has received a prompt reply that investigations will be carried out. She will continue to follow this up. • E-on promised that the work would be completed on upgrading the street lights throughout the village by the end of June and then again by the end of September. Although the lights are now all upgraded to white lights the timers are still not working. The Clerk has recently been round the village at 1.30 a.m.to check and the lights were all still on apart from two, which may not be working at all. • The Clerk still has not yet received a quote for 3 new lights for Nash Road and Thornhill. This was initially requested two months ago. She has again requested a quote. 	Clerk to continue to follow up
13	Playground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr AS reported that the work of upgrading the play equipment has now been done apart from the swing which needs new chains. The wrong chains had been supplied. Cllr AS will arrange for the gate to be re-hung. Cllr MT noted that TPC will need to organise a working party or commission someone for the final tidy up. The ground surface needs steam cleaning. The hedge needs to be trimmed. An overhanging tree in a neighbouring garden also needs to be cut back. The Clerk will inform the owner of the over-hanging tree. There is also a dangerous bench in the playground. Cllr AS will get a quote for the bench repair. 	Cllr AS to sort out gate and get a quote for work on the bench and hedge. Clerk to talk to neighbour.
14	Church clock The work is continuing.	Cllr RG to monitor
15	Memorial for Airmen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing further to report. 	The Clerk to

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr CM has bought the wreath for the Remembrance Day Memorial service at the Church (10.50at the Memorial). Cllr MC is unable to attend. Cllr AS will represent TPC and lay the wreath as the Vice Chairman of TPC. 	check for further updates.
16	<p>Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk has walked round the allotments with Rachel Howes (BCC). She is happy for the triangle of land to be returned to BCC once the following tasks have been completed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The triangle of land should be strimmed. She has received complaints from the tenant of the adjoining field about the seeding of weeds in his field from unstrimmed areas in the allotments. 2. The fence should be strengthened with an extra band of barbed wire to prevent stock escaping. 3. The rotting fence post in the corner should be replaced. • Rachel Howes also informed the Clerk that the parish council are responsible for keeping the allotments that are not being worked strimmed and tidy. There are two allotments that are no longer being used and a further one that has not been worked and the rent has not been paid for it. The Clerk has sent this allotment tenant a letter requesting the rent and also that he tidy the allotment. Agreed that Cllr AS will ask Denis King to repair the fence and Alistair Burton to strim the allotments. • The Clerk has had an e-mail from Ms Gavigan about trimming the top of the hedge. The Clerk will give Mr Madkins contact details to Ms Gavigan and tell her that as it is her hedge she should go ahead and make her own arrangements. • The Clerk has had complaints from a couple of allotment tenants that Mr Madkins drove over their allotments when cutting the hedge. The clerk will apologise to the tenants on TPC's behalf but it is inevitable because of the size of the equipment Mr Madkins uses. It is not practicable to cut the hedge by hand but once TPC has taken over management of Thornborough Community Woodland we will have more appropriate equipment for cutting the hedge. 	<p>Clerk to continue to action.</p> <p>Clerk to communicate this to Ms Gavigan</p> <p>Clerk to action.</p>
17	<p>LAF report – previously circulated. Cllr MC briefly went through the report which is attached as Appendix 1.</p>	
18	<p>Bus Shelter After discussion it was decided to re-assess this issue in 12 months time and once the young people involved had been consulted.</p>	Cllr MC to inform Alex Keeling
19	<p>Mobile Library The Clerk has received a letter giving details of the new service for the Mobile Library. It will continue to stop at Thornhill and at the Dole Tree but the number of stops is reduced to once every 4 weeks.</p>	Clerk to send for inclusion in TNews
20	<p>Broadband – update– There was discussion about the current situation with regards to Broadband upgrades and the various reports on BCC's plans for Broadband improvements in Buckinghamshire. It was felt that the suggestion through the LAF that TPC had expressed an interest in for improving broadband speeds by providing free Wi-Fi hotspots would not work for Thornborough as it would not provide a strong enough signal for a large enough area to benefit many residents. The project that Hillesden PC carried out was discussed briefly. The Clerk will now inform Paul Hodson through the LAF that we are no longer interested. TPC will continue to monitor the situation.</p>	Clerk to inform Paul Hodson through the LAF
21	<p>Village Hall Post Office The Clerk has received letter from the Village Hall Committee deploring TPC's possible intention to reduce the number of hours for the mobile post office. The letter points out that the true cost of the number of hours is over £1,000 so TPC is already being subsidised and that this is a village amenity. The letter also explains that any bookings to use the hall are important for the continued financial health of the Village Hall. The Clerk will ask to the Post Mistress if she would still run the Post Office for</p>	The Clerk to report back to Village

	only 1 hour a week. TPC will look at this issue again in 6 months.	Hall Committee																					
22	<p>Clerk's Contract The Clerk has heard from Sarah Powell at Reid and Co. who raised the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What date are we using as the commencement date? The Clerk has only been on the payroll for over a year but has been doing the job for longer. Is the council going to take that into account? Obviously length of service does have its benefits. 2. Working from home insurance – does the Clerk have this in place, and have the Council been given evidence of this? The Council should pay for any uplift in insurance premiums, but it needs to be in place contractually. 3. The Clerk should check that the job description is accurate. <p>The Clerk to take this forward and prepare a contract for TPC to sign.</p>	Clerk to action and prepare the contract.																					
23	<p>Planning:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Ref. 13/02660/APP</u> Change of use of land for the siting of a temporary mobile home for residential accommodation to supervise agricultural enterprises - Land at Lower Shelspit Farm, Nash Road, Thornborough, Buckinghamshire, MK18 2DY – NO OBJECTIONS b) <u>Ref. 13/02553</u> Extension of existing agricultural barn to provide additional storage space for hay and straw – Oakridge Farm, Pilch Lane, Great Horwood, MK17 0NX – NO OBJECTIONS c) <u>Ref.13/02264/APP</u> Old Kilns, Back Street, Thornborough, Buckinghamshire - Demolition of barn. Two storey, side extension, cladding of the existing house - minor amendments to plans - NOTED d) Vale of Aylesbury Delivery Plan Policy Consultation. - update. The Clerk reported that the Broadband issue was covered in the Vale of Aylesbury Plan and that it is Buckinghamshire County Council that is responsible at the moment for Broadband development in Buckinghamshire. e) Bulletins and other updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Report back from AVDC Planning and outcome for <u>Ref. 13/01579/APP</u> Retention of Kennel block, creation of drop-off area and erection of office unit - The Folly, Bletchley Road, Thornborough, MK18 2DZ. The Clerk had attended this meeting and spoken for Thornborough Parish Council using a statement that Cllr MC had written, - PERMITTED. ii. <u>Ref. 13/02273/ATC</u> Crown reduction, reduce lower limbs of various ash and poplar trees, fell one Ash Tree. Thornborough Manor, High Street, Thornborough Bucks. MK18 2DQ – PERMITTED – noted iii. Enforcement issue on Mr Watts' (Dec'd) land – nothing further to report. 	Clerk to send responses to AVDC planning																					
24	<p>Finances:</p> <p>a) Bank Reconciliation – September 2013. Current Account £10,144.31 Reserve Account £20,153.74 Current liabilities: £74.70 Current Unbanked cash; £0 Total £30,223.25</p> <p>b) Risk assessment - Deferred till next meeting.</p> <p>c) Payments and Receipts - 14th October 2013</p> <p>Cheques</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>E-on (unmetered supplies)</td> <td>£22.91</td> <td>Cheque No. 491</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PATP (Play Around the Parishes)</td> <td>£120.00</td> <td>Cheque No. 492</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grid 24</td> <td>£72.00</td> <td>Cheque No. 493</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mazar External Audit fees</td> <td>£120.00</td> <td>Cheque No. 494</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Mark Cole expenses</td> <td>£24.00</td> <td>Cheque No. 495</td> </tr> </table> <p>Clerk's extra hours – The Clerk requested payment of 6 extra hours incurred by attending the AVDC Development Control Committee to speak on behalf of TPC re. Planning Application Ref. 13/01579/APP, The Folly – agreed</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Clerk's Salary cheques - October</td> <td>£398.70</td> <td>Cheque No. 496</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC - Clerk's Income Tax</td> <td>£99.60</td> <td>Cheque No. 497</td> </tr> </table>	E-on (unmetered supplies)	£22.91	Cheque No. 491	PATP (Play Around the Parishes)	£120.00	Cheque No. 492	Grid 24	£72.00	Cheque No. 493	Mazar External Audit fees	£120.00	Cheque No. 494	Cllr Mark Cole expenses	£24.00	Cheque No. 495	Clerk's Salary cheques - October	£398.70	Cheque No. 496	HMRC - Clerk's Income Tax	£99.60	Cheque No. 497	<p>November agenda</p> <p>Clerk to raise</p>
E-on (unmetered supplies)	£22.91	Cheque No. 491																					
PATP (Play Around the Parishes)	£120.00	Cheque No. 492																					
Grid 24	£72.00	Cheque No. 493																					
Mazar External Audit fees	£120.00	Cheque No. 494																					
Cllr Mark Cole expenses	£24.00	Cheque No. 495																					
Clerk's Salary cheques - October	£398.70	Cheque No. 496																					
HMRC - Clerk's Income Tax	£99.60	Cheque No. 497																					

	Workshop – 21st October	All noted	
26	Date of next meetings; 11th November at 7.00 The meeting closed at 9.13 p.m.		

LOCAL AREA FORUM REPORT September 26th, Buckingham:

The main points affecting Thornborough arising from the quarterly LAF meeting were:

* Thornborough is to be added to the TfB priority gritting programme this winter because of the school bus routes. Some local farmers are on the TfB snowploughing list, but must be officially TfB-accredited. They are permitted to use red diesel for these call-outs, and police have been made aware.

* Saturday bus services: the decision was taken that LAF will no longer fund the village services to Buckingham, as take-up has been poor, an average of only 17 passengers per Saturday between Dec 2012 and July 2013. The service cost an average £245 per day to run, while it made an average £18.11 per day (taking into account free pass holders, who formed the majority of passengers).

* Bucks CC is to switch to LED lighting for all its A and B-road road lighting, using existing columns. 1100 lights will be replaced by December 2013, and a further 1550 by the end of March 2014. LED saves energy, has lower carbon emissions and reduced maintenance costs.

* Proposals are being invited for LAF funding for 2014/15 at the December meeting. Thornborough could apply for a bus shelter, for instance.

* In the wake of the recent motorcycle fatality at Cattleford Bends, a review of collisions on A422 between the Leckhampstead and Thornton junctions will be made by Transport for Bucks, and my suggestion that the two junctions have central bays for right-turning traffic as we already have at the Thornborough turning will be considered. Simon Dudley says that there is no road-realignment envisaged as the 15 police-recorded collisions between June 2008 and April 2012 (three of them serious) do not meet Government criteria to trigger capital expenditure. He did, however, say that A421 The Lone Tree junction safety was high on the list of future priorities.

* Grass cutting has finished for the season; Simon Dudley said that all rural roads have had two cuts of the planned six, although this was widely challenged (I believe that we have had only one cut this year, in early August), while towns have had six cuts rather than the planned eight. He said that contractor problems had been resolved, and that next year's performance would be better. He asked parishes to record the dates on which 2014 cuts are made so that TfB can monitor any being missed. He said that taking over the cutting had resulted in a £150,000 saving (hardly surprising as they saved on four or five parish cuts and two town cuts!)

* A massive increase in burglary (59%) and theft from vehicles (94%) was reported by Buckingham Police Inspector James Davies since 1st April, compared with the same period in 2012. He said that villages in particular were open to travelling criminals, who would blitz an area, and then not return for perhaps another month.

He added that we are now approaching peak time for burglaries with the nights drawing in, and Halloween, November 5, the Buckingham Charter Fairs and Christmas approaching, but that residents can do a lot to protect themselves by following police advice. Thefts from cars tend to take place in a particular street at the same time. The only good news is that violent crime fell by

23% and public order offences (drunkenness, fights and hooliganism) were down by 37%, although Buckingham on Saturday nights continued to be a problem.

* Connected Counties and BT made a presentation on superfast broadband, and it said its aim is to get it into Thornborough during 2014, with surveys next spring. But it said that it may not be able to guarantee more than 2 Megabytes, although some areas could see up to 24 Mgb. I was one of many who suggested that was hardly superfast, and its response was along the lines of it's better than nothing.

Thornborough currently gets 0.7 Mgb, so we should be grateful for any improvement, was BT's message. BT has a monopoly on fibre optic cabling for North Bucks, so we have to go with the flow. Several parishes said they are already getting 7-8 Mgb through wireless Village Networks broadband, so BT knew where it could put its superfast cables! It was not a happy presentation for BT, whose team looked increasingly flustered.

MARK COLE