

THORNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING

Monday 9th December 2013 at 7.00p.m.

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

Public: No members of the public were present.

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| 1 | Apologies: Cllr Charlotte Moore, | |
| 2 | Public Participation session: None Councillors expressed their great regret at the recent death of parishioner Evelyn Hanna. Evelyn was the widow of Arthur Hanna, who served as Clerk to Thornborough Parish Council for many years. | |
| 3 | Declaration of interest in items on the agenda – Cllr RG declared an interest in Item 16c | |
| 4 | Minutes of the meeting of 11th November 2013- Agreed with minor amendments included in the minutes. | |
| 5 | <p>Review of Action Points</p> <p>Item 2 Public Participation session: Sue Kenyon shared a concern about the Village Hall. The Clerk has reported this to Bernard Garbe</p> <p>Action Point from TPC meeting 14.10.13 Item 10. Benches – The Clerk now has the information about the waste bins. TPC are responsible for the bins on the Greens, Aylesbury Vale District Council collect from the bins as part of the waste collection. TPC will organise the movement of their bins. Cllr AS will get a quote for the work.</p> <p>Item 6 Thornborough Community Woodland – Lease - on agenda</p> <p>Item 7 Road issues - on agenda</p> <p>Item 8 Street Lighting - on agenda</p> <p>Play Around the Parishes 2014 The Clerk has booked 2 morning sessions for the summer holidays on Friday 1st August and Friday 22nd August.</p> <p>Item 10 Memorial for Airmen. - on agenda</p> <p>Allotments - update The work on the allotments has still not been done. There are now 3 allotments empty but two people who would like to take on an allotment. The Clerk is sorting out contracts with the new tenants.</p> <p>Item 16 Clerk’s Contract - on agenda</p> <p>Item 19 NALC request for information on the impact of localised council tax support arrangements on councils - Clerk has responded.</p> <p>Item 22 Finances:</p> <p>b) Risk assessment –. Circulated.</p> <p>e) Buckinghamshire County Council Budget Consultation The Clerk received responses from Councillors when she sent out an electronic copy of the form which she has collated and sent to BCC.</p> <p>g) Cheques all sent</p> <p>i) E-on for Sports field – new bill paid</p> <p>Item 23 A.O.B. other correspondence and any other Councillors’ Issues iii) BMKALC AGM 7.30 re-scheduled for 15th November. – Clerk is still checking the notice required.</p> | <p>Cllr AS to get a quote.</p> <p>Cllr AS to continue to action</p> |
| 6 | <p>Christmas Tree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were some concerns about the Christmas tree decorations expressed by a parishioner. • Cllr MC gave the background to the Thornborough Christmas tree and lights. It is erected by volunteers for the village and TPC gives permission | |

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| | <p>for it to be erected on the Green.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year the tree came from Thornborough Community Woodland. • In previous years TPC has guaranteed to make up any shortfall in the cost up to £50. Proposed by Cllr AS, seconded by Cllr MT that once again TPC will cover any shortfall in the cost up to £50, agreed unanimously. • TPC thanked Rod and Jean James for organising the Christmas Tree again this year, Mark Neenan and Tracy Sapwell for supplying the electricity, and Cllr Spurr, Mr King and Mr Morris for erecting the tree. | <p>Clerk to write a letter of thanks to all as listed.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Thornborough Community Woodland - Lease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllrs MC, MT and SM attended a meeting to finalise the lease at BCC. All points raised were minor (details in last month's minutes) and were sorted out either at the meeting or by e-mail prior to the meeting by the Clerk. The lease will be signed by the Chairman, Cllr MC, and the Vice-Chairman, Cllr AS, probably in February 2014. • The Clerk has checked legal expenses insurance status. TPC are insured for legal expenses to protect, but not to assist an action we start with £100,000 cover. We also have cover for the legal aspect of traveller eviction which is considered by the insurance company as a separate issue, but not for any clean up afterwards. Cllr AS assured TPC that Aylesbury Vale District Council would assist with any necessary clean up of dumped or left rubbish. • Proposed by Cllr AS, seconded by Cllr MS to produce an information leaflet to circulate to every household in the parish. Agreed unanimously. Cllrs SM and MT will produce the leaflet, get it printed and distributed. | <p>Cllrs SM and MT to action.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Road issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current Road Closures: no new closure notices received. - Report on walk round: A walk round the village with David Smith, our Local Area Technician, to look at pot holes and other issues recently agreed and fixed for 5th December was cancelled with less than 3 hours' notice. TPC asked that the Clerk complain about this to the LAT, copying Simon Dudley in to the e-mail. The issues listed at previous meetings still remain. - Salt bins: The Clerk reminded TPC that the salt bin at the Lone Tree still needs to be moved onto the road into the village from the Lone Tree as decided in previous meetings a year ago. Cllr AS to action. Agreed that TPC does not need to order any salt. - AVTUG meeting: Minutes of the last meeting on 10th September and agenda for the meeting on 3rd December were noted. - Buckingham Surface Water Management Plan: The Plan is now out for consultation. There is little relevant to Thornborough in the plan. Noted. TPC agreed no response was necessary. Cllr AS will be reminding people living in houses adjacent to the watercourse of their riparian responsibilities. Cllr AS does this annually to help reduce the risk of flooding in the winter months. - Spring Lane: The Clerk has checked with Land Registry. We will have to pay £37 to find out who owns this lane but she has also checked with a previous resident whose father had an interest in this lane. The previous resident reported that the lane was known as a 'green lane' and that although there were once several cottages on the lane for the workers of the Brewery at the Maltings, these had all gone by the time authorities were tarmacing roads so the lane was never tarmaced or adopted by the council. It is therefore in private ownership and although there are rights of access to the two fields that lead off the lane, there is no public right of way. TPC felt it was important to know who owned the road on case of a possible attempt to develop one of the fields not in local ownership at a future date. | <p>Clerk to send an e-mail complaining at the cancelling of the walk round at such short notice to the LAT.</p> <p>Cllr AS to action the moving of the salt bin</p> <p>Clerk to pay for the necessary documents from Land Registry.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Street Lighting - update</p> <p>The Clerk has met with Graham Penfold, a manager at the E-on department responsible for work and maintenance. He agreed that the service we have been getting is not acceptable. He will make sure that the work on the timer</p> | <p>Clerk to continue to follow up</p> |

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| | switches of the upgraded lighting is completed next week and that the Clerk is notified when this work is to be done. He will also make sure that TPC receive the quote for three new lights that was requested several months ago. TPC have received a bill for the work done so far on the upgrading of the street lighting. The Clerk has explained that it is unlikely that TPC would agree to pay the bill until all the work on the upgrading of the lights was completed. TPC confirmed this. Mr Penfold understood this issue and said the bill could be ignored at present. | |
| 10 | Broadband. Cllr SM reported that he has been looking into the ownership of the fibre-optic cable into the school. The cable cannot be used at the moment as it doesn't go through the cabinet. Cllr SM will continue to look into TPC obtaining the fibre-optic cable for village use, maybe by linking it to Village Networks. The cable the school is currently using needs repairing as it is not working properly. This will probably mean that the road up to the Lone Tree will need to be dug up at some point. | Cllr SM to continue to progress. |
| 11 | LAF Meeting - 25th November 2013 Cllr MC report has been circulated. Attached as Appendix 1. Cllr MC drew attention to the information about the drastically revised figures for collisions the A422 between the Leckhampstead and Thornton junctions given initially at the September LAF. Simon Dudley originally told the LAF that there had been 15 recorded collisions between June 2008 and April 2012, three of them serious, which did not meet Government criteria to trigger capital expenditure. Those figures have now been revised to 39 recorded collisions in the same period, nine of them serious and one fatal (plus the recent motorcycle fatality). Cllr MC suggested that if TfB had got these figures so wrong, the figures for accidents at The Lone Tree crossroads could also be wrong. Proposed Cllr MT, seconded Cllr AS, that TPC raise this issue by sending a letter to TfB, copying in Simon Dudley, Cllr Warren Whyte (BCC) who has an interest in the A421, and Janet Blake, Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport. Agreed unanimously. | Clerk to send letter |
| 12 | Waste Management – new contract for dog waste collections - Noted | |
| 13 | Memorial Service Report Katy Morris has sent TPC an e-mail thanking the council for their support and for the funding of the plaque, together with a letter of thanks from a relative of one of the airmen killed. Cllr RG who laid the wreath for TPC gave a brief report. The event was a great success and very well attended, attendees included Air Marshall Sir Colin Terry, (RAF) representing the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, representatives of the Australian and New Zealand Air Forces and Mayor Ruth Newell of Buckingham. | |
| 14 | Response to BCC's Questionnaire about local youth involvement Responses were discussed. TPC have no formal process for involving young people but have always listened to young people and accommodated them in any project that local young people have wanted to be involved with. | Clerk to send back TPC's response |
| 15 | Clerk's Contract Both the Clerk and Cllr MS have been looking into this but feel that there is more research needed. Deferred till next meeting. | Clerk to continue to research. |
| 16 | Planning: a) <u>Ref. 13/02765/ATC</u> Old Bridge House, Lower End, Thornborough, MK18 2DB -Removal of overhanging limbs of willow – NO OBJECTIONS b) <u>Ref.13/03235/AGN</u> Willow Farm, Nash Road, Thornborough, MK18 2DY. Erection of agricultural barn - NO OBJECTIONS c) <u>Ref.13/02965/APP</u> Old Kilns, Back Street, Thornborough, Change of use of agricultural land to residential garden land and retention of shed – The Clerk has heard from the Development Control Officer that this planning is currently on hold as the payment has not been made. Once the payment has been made the Planning Application can progress but the consultation | Clerk to send responses |

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

Parish Precepts: Reductions in Government grants to district councils – which historically have paid for more than half of AVDC’s cost of services – are predicted to continue to decrease until disappearing altogether at the end of the decade. These grants helped offset the changes to Council Tax Benefit last year, which reduced each council’s taxbase, resulting in less Council Tax being collectable.

To compensate for the resulting shortfall on parishes, the Government gave AVDC a grant to share amongst parishes in the current financial year, and AVDC used this as a top-up grant so parishes received the same Precept;

But the grant for the next financial year will be at a reduced rate, then we lose it entirely come 2015/16. TPC now needs to decide how much we will need to raise the Precept if we wish to maintain the same level as the past three years, or are we happy to take the reduced payment bearing in mind our healthy finances?

New Homes Bonus Funding: Nonetheless, there is still £117,837 available in the AVDC New Homes Bonus Funding Scheme for applications from parish and town councils at the next funding round. The last round, in November, awarded £200,000 to Winslow Town Council for land for a town park and community centre; £30,555 to Buckingham Town Council for a multi-use games area at Bourton Park; £90,000 to Waddesdon Parish Council for a pedestrian crossing on the A41; and £50,000 to Aylesbury Town Council for a new festival celebrating the Paralympic legacy. A cycle-path application from Wingrave-with-Rowsham Parish Council was refused as the plan was not well-enough developed. Thornborough PC might consider making an application for any community project funding; the deadline is September 2014.

Speeding: Parishes were asked what measures they might wish to take to enforce speeding and traffic calming in villages. It was pointed out that since TfB has extended 30mph limits in most communities, the opportunity for speeding is now greater. Villages which have main roads running through them – such as Akeley – have a particular problem. Buckingham Police told the Forum that because they do not have the staffing to monitor everywhere, Community Speedwatch was a programme which could be introduced locally, in which parishes share the cost of enforcement campaigns. There is, however it was added, a speeding blitz currently running in Buckingham to deter trucks from speeding in Stratford Road.

Policing: Buckingham Inspector James Davies reported that burglaries were still a priority for local police – particularly with the holiday period approaching - along with rural crime, violence and sexual assaults. “If you see a police officer in your village, then it is probably because there is something to worry about; we no longer send officers to patrol areas where there is no trouble. We have limited capabilities.” There have been heating oil and diesel thefts, but no more than usual, and it was suggested that farmers, builders and householders take measures to secure tanks. The LAF is to ask TV Police & Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfield, who has said that he is particularly interested in rural crime, to address the LAF at a 2014 meeting.

Planning: The Vale of Aylesbury Plan, the blueprint for future building in the district, will go through its first hearing sessions on 10-13th December, looking at whether AVDC has complied with the Duty to Cooperate and the overall provision for housing and jobs. The Inspector will make known his findings before the second hearings scheduled for February 2014.

AVDC Planning is currently reviewing its Delegated Powers, which it undertook to do six months after the new regime – under which objectors must make an appearance before the

Development & Control Committee – came into effect. The results will consider whether any changes need to be made.

Skewed accidents statistics: Further to Transport for Bucks' response to concern about collisions on the A422 between the Leckhampstead and Thornton junctions at the September LAF, TfB has drastically revised its figures. Simon Dudley originally told the LAF that there had been 15 recorded collisions between June 2008 and April 2012, three of them serious, which did not meet Government criteria to trigger capital expenditure. Those figures have now been revised to 39 recorded collisions in the same period, nine of them serious and one fatal (plus the recent motorcycle fatality). I suggested that if TfB had got these figures so wrong, they should look again at The Lone Tree crossroads accident statistics.

Grass cutting: I challenged Simon Dudley's assertion, made at the last LAF, that all rural roads had two cuts in 2014, saying that Thornborough had only one, and that not until early August. Road technician Dave Smith confirmed that there had been only one because of contractor issues, and that TfB was investigating incorrect claims made by contractors. I also pointed out that Bridge Street had been missed out entirely, but as rural mowing ended in early September, there was no chance to correct that. He said that up to six rural cuts were scheduled for 2014.

Ageing Well: The LAF had a presentation from Ageing Well, a Buckingham Local Area initiative to assist the elderly, to ensure they have plenty of interaction with other people, have physical and mental stimulation, and do not suffer social isolation. Day centres, community contacts and resident-led activities all play their part, and parish councils are being encouraged to become involved; grants are available through Ageing Well, which is a joint AVDC and Bucks CC programme.

Health & Wellbeing: This has now become the responsibility of Bucks CC, which has taken over promoting wellbeing from the NHS. The LAF was told that the 27,000 population of North Bucks was the fastest-growing in the county, is less deprived, less ethnically-diverse, has fewer unemployed and fewer lone pensioners than the rest of the country. It also has the lowest proportion of limiting long-term illness, the lowest prevalence of Chronic Heart Disease and of stroke in Bucks.

Of the 27,000, 5.4% are aged under 5 (compared to 6.3% countywide) and 6.2% aged 75 plus (7.8% countywide). The bad news was that among adults, 1455 had depression, 1585 were obese, 6000 were physically inactive, 5246 drank at risky levels and 3173 were smokers

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