

THORNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING

Monday 8th December 2014 at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllr Stuart Mitchell, (Chair), Cllr Andy Spurr, Cllr Charlotte Moore, Cllr Melanie Staff, Cllr Mark Cole, Cllr Mary Taylor, Maggie Beach (Clerk) AVDC Cllr Sir Beville Stanier

Public: None

1.	Apologies: Cllr Ray Goodger, BCC Cllr Warren Whyte.	
2	Public Participation session – None.	
3	Declaration of interest in items on the agenda – None	
4	Minutes of the meeting of 10th November 2014 - Agreed	
5	<p>Review of Action Points</p> <p>Item 6 Sports Field Hiring – Clerk has organised paperwork</p> <p>Item 7 Thornborough Community Woodland Lease update - on agenda - Cllr AS has laminated two copies of the map for display at the woodland.</p> <p>Item 8 Road and Transport issues - on agenda</p> <p>Item 9 Street Lighting - update. - on agenda</p> <p>Item 11 AVDC Hackney Carriage Service consultation with Town and Parish Councils Clerk delegated to complete. Clerk has made a nil response as no Councillors had any issues to raise.</p> <p>Item 13 The Parish Plan The Clerk is responding to Cllr MS's comments No further comments have been received from Councillors. Agreed that everyone was happy with the draft that the Clerk had presented taking Cllr MS's comments into consideration. The Clerk will write the final section on planning and circulate before the next meeting.</p> <p>Item 14 Planning: responses sent</p> <p>Finances:</p> <p>b) TPC Budget and Precept request - on agenda</p> <p>e) Payments: - Cheques sent</p> <p>Item 17 A.O.B. other correspondence and any other Councillors' Issues Cllr AS raised the Thornborough Cricket Club rent and costs for discussion at the next meeting.– on agenda</p>	Clerk will write the final section on planning and circulate
6	<p>Sports Field Hiring review of Cricket Club rent. Cllr AS is no longer a member of the Thornborough Cricket Club management committee but was able to explain the financial problems that the club faces. The club now pays for the whole year's mowing since Thornborough Athletic Football Club disbanded. The mowing and trimming costs the club has to pay now are approximately £1,700 a year. Proposed Cllr MS seconded Cllr MC that Thornborough Parish Council pays £190 to cover the cost of 3 winter cuts. Agreed unanimously. The Clerk will communicate this decision to the Cricket Club secretary and add the donation to the invoice for the next two quarters rent due in the spring.</p>	Clerk to write to cricket club and invoice accordingly next spring.
7	<p>Thornborough Community Woodland Lease update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Clerk has heard from Samantha Perkins. The current problem with the lease is the quarry. The boundary of the quarry has been extended and the new land incorporated from the farm has to be formally transferred to BCC before they can sign the lease. The matter would have been dealt with in house but due to the various cuts and re-organisations to save money in BCC, BCC have to contract an agent to do the legal transfer. The matter is in hand and Samantha Perkins will keep TPC updated. - The Clerk has had several e-mails and a brief telephone conversation with a resident of Winslow who regularly uses the woodlands and is concerned 	

	<p>about the damage the sheep have done to the trees. The Clerk has confirmed that TPC are not yet responsible for the management of the woodlands and that BCC are still managing them until they sign the lease.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The sheep have now been removed from the woodland. It was noted that they have damaged a large percentage of the trees. 	
8	<p>Road and Transport issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Closures– Noted ii. Newsletters – none this month iii. Devolved Services – The Clerk has received a letter from AVDC with the prices they would charge for providing services devolved from BCC with regards to hedge trimming etc for roads in the parish. The amounts would not be covered by any devolved budget from BCC. Agreed that TPC will stay with the original decision not to accept devolvement of these services but let the responsibility for delivery stay with BCC. iv. Simon Dudley has not yet contacted Cllr AS to arrange a date for installation of the Salt bin on the road up to the Lone Tree. The Clerk will chase this up, 	<p>Clerk to contact Simon Dudley again</p>
9	<p>Street Lighting - update</p> <p>The issue of the Bridge Street light on the bend just after entering the 30mph limit being switched on was discussed again. E-on will have to come out to look at the light before they can give an estimate for upgrading the light to low energy white and adding a timer in line with all the other lights in the village. The Clerk has received various other requests for lights in the village. The current areas of concern are by the pond and in front of the school, especially the two steps out of the playground. TPC accepted that these areas could be made safer with lights but considered that the lighting of the playground steps was actually the responsibility of the school. The Clerk will find the cost of two new lights for these positions.</p> <p>Cllr SM suggested that it would be helpful if TPC had a street lighting policy to offer guidance to both the council and the electorate in these matters. The Clerk will research possible policies.</p>	<p>Clerk to find cost of upgrading Bridge Street light and the cost of two new lights</p> <p>The Clerk to research street lighting policies</p>
10	<p>Village Hall re screen and projector</p> <p>Bernard Garbe's e-mail response concerning this issue was noted. Councillors were concerned that there might have been a misunderstanding about the size of the projector. Cllr AS will discuss this further with him.</p>	<p>Cllr AS to discuss with Bernard Garbe</p>
11	<p>LAF report – Cllr MC</p> <p>Cllr MC attended the LAF (Local Area Forum) and talked the council through his report-noted. He pointed out that there was money available on application from the Aylesbury Community Chest. TPC could apply for a grant for a new safety surface in the Children's Playground. The Clerk will research the cost. (attached as Appendix 1)</p>	<p>Clerk to research cost of safety surface for Playground.</p>
12	<p>Pre-school update.</p> <p>The Pre-school are confident that they will be able to resolve their issues concerning their current lease with the school and BCC and will be staying at the school for this academic year. They thanked TPC for their support and help.</p>	
13	<p>PATP (Play Around the Parishes)</p> <p>Councillors noted the steep increase in the cost for this scheme over the last two years and for next year. However the programme was considered to be of great benefit. Agreed that next year we ask for a donation from those attending. The Clerk to book two dates at the beginning and end of the summer holidays.</p>	<p>Clerk to book PATP</p>
14	<p>Solar energy – offer from a resident</p> <p>The Clerk has received an offer from a well-qualified resident to give a presentation about solar energy. Councillors felt that they had enough information at present as no planning application for a solar farm at Thornborough Grounds has been made. However when an application is made it may be appropriate to have a presentation on this issue at the next open</p>	

	<p>meeting of the parish in May/June 2015. The clerk will communicate this to the resident and thank him for his offer.</p>	<p>Clerk to action</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>Planning:</p> <p>a) <u>Ref.14/03461/APP</u> Home Farm Nash Road Thornborough Buckinghamshire MK17 0HL Temporary siting of a mobile home. NO COMMENT</p> <p>b) <u>Ref: 14/03089/APP</u> Thornborough Mill, Mill Lane Thornborough Buckinghamshire MK18 2ED - Erection of fencing to Holiday Annexe and driveway and installation of 4 No CCTV cameras to outbuildings and Thornborough Mill, Thornborough Parish Council has no objections to this application but requests that AVDC planning ensures that the sweep of the CCTV cameras remains within the boundary of the property to ensure the privacy of neighbours.</p> <p>c) <u>Ref: 14/03090/ALB-</u> Thornborough Mill, Mill Lane Thornborough Buckinghamshire MK18 2ED - Installation of 5-bar traditional metal estate fencing to Holiday Annexe and driveway. Installation of 4 No CCTV cameras to outbuildings & Thornborough Mill. Thornborough Parish Council has no objections to this application but requests that AVDC planning ensures that the sweep of the CCTV cameras remains within the boundary of the property to ensure the privacy of neighbours.</p> <p>d) Brookfield, Letter from Resident to Local Govt. Ombudsman. Cllr MS updated the meeting on the complaints made by residents to AVDC concerning the site. Both have received replies from AVDC. One complainant is not satisfied with the answer and is taking the complaint to the Ombudsman. Cllr MS will keep TPC informed.</p> <p>e) NBPPC response to VALP (Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan)– noted</p> <p>f) Affordable Housing</p> <p>i. Vacancy- A vacancy has arisen at Orchard Close from 15th January. AVDC housing is interested to know of any local residents who are registered that should have priority.</p> <p>ii. Rule changes- the Clerk informed the meeting of rule changes that will remove the obligation from developers to provide affordable houses as part of the development in small developments under 10 houses. – noted.</p> <p>g) Bulletins and other updates – The Bulletins will no longer be compiled and circulated by AVDC from 22nd December. They have been circulated by e-mail since the changes in the way AVDC communicates with parishes about planning issues. The Parish web site portal is active from today and does provide information of planning applications specific to the parish and a means of commenting on them. To access the parish portal people have to be nominated by the council, then register and provide a password. Councillors decided that they will not ask to be nominated and all information concerning planning issues will come through the clerk who will circulate the information regularly. This will allow Councillors to find the planning applications through public access and look at them prior to the meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk to make responses</p> <p>Clerk to circulate relevant papers</p> <p>Clerk to check 2006 survey for names</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>Finances:</p> <p>a) Bank Reconciliation – November 2014 Current Account £14,306.83 Reserve Account £11,660.47 Current liabilities:£616.00 Total £25,351.30</p> <p>b) TPC Budget and Precept request The Clerk has circulated an updated document showing Thornborough Budget - Year 2013-2014, Estimate and Current Position (October 2014) 2014-15 and estimate of known outgoings for year 2015-16. The Thornborough parish tax-base figure for 2015/16 is 291.31 Band D equivalents. The Clerk has now received a calculation tool from AVDC that allows a calculation based on the</p>	

	<p>tax base rather than just asking for the same amount of money in total as last year's precept. The current Precept is £17,345.60. However if we asked for this amount next year people's precept contribution would go down. Using the current tax base of £61.01 per annum for Band D would give us a Precept of £17,770. If we raised the tax base to £62 per annum for Band D it would give us a Precept of £18,061.22. This would be an increase of 99p per annum for Band D. Proposed Cllr MC, seconded Cllr MT that Thornborough Parish Council raise the tax base to £62 per annum for Band D to give us a Precept of £18,061.22, Agreed unanimously. The Clerk will make this request to Aylesbury Vale District Council.</p> <p>c) Payments:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>E-on (unmetered supplies)</td> <td>£22.91</td> <td>Cheque No. 587</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anglian Water for sports field</td> <td>£89.08</td> <td>Cheque No. 588</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizens Advice Bureau</td> <td>£150.00</td> <td>Cheque No. 589</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk's Salary cheques – December</td> <td>£357.13</td> <td>Cheque No. 590</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC - Clerk's Income Tax</td> <td>£89.20</td> <td>Cheque No. 591</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(PAYE Ref. 475/SA75351 Accounts office Ref. 475PE00369213)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk's Expenses</td> <td>£260.22</td> <td>Cheque No 592</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td>£968.54</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Direct Debits None</p> <p>d) Receipts. None</p>	E-on (unmetered supplies)	£22.91	Cheque No. 587	Anglian Water for sports field	£89.08	Cheque No. 588	Citizens Advice Bureau	£150.00	Cheque No. 589	Clerk's Salary cheques – December	£357.13	Cheque No. 590	HMRC - Clerk's Income Tax	£89.20	Cheque No. 591	(PAYE Ref. 475/SA75351 Accounts office Ref. 475PE00369213)			Clerk's Expenses	£260.22	Cheque No 592	Total	£968.54		<p>Clerk to send precept request to AVDC</p> <p>Clerk to raise cheques</p>
E-on (unmetered supplies)	£22.91	Cheque No. 587																								
Anglian Water for sports field	£89.08	Cheque No. 588																								
Citizens Advice Bureau	£150.00	Cheque No. 589																								
Clerk's Salary cheques – December	£357.13	Cheque No. 590																								
HMRC - Clerk's Income Tax	£89.20	Cheque No. 591																								
(PAYE Ref. 475/SA75351 Accounts office Ref. 475PE00369213)																										
Clerk's Expenses	£260.22	Cheque No 592																								
Total	£968.54																									
17	<p>A.O.B. other correspondence and any other Councillors' Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Aylesbury Vale Community Chest –this had been covered under the LAF report. ii. Thornborough Circular Walk bridge at Thornborough Mill- Cllr MC reported that they handrail on this bridge on the footpath across the weir at Thornborough Mill is unsafe. A tree is leaning on it and may have to be removed. The Clerk will report this to TfB. iii. TPC thanked Cllr AS for providing the Christmas tree, with agreement from Thornborough and Coombs Community Woodlands. The tree is now up and has been decorated with lights thanks to Mark Neenan. iv. The Clerk has received a letter about 'Music in Quiet Places' from AVDC. This was passed to Cllr CM to take to the PCC. v. Cllr MC will be standing down in May and there will therefore be a vacancy for a Councillor on Thornborough Parish Council. 	<p>Clerk to report Handrail to TfB.</p>																								
18	<p>Date of next meeting; 8th December 2014 The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.</p>																									

Appendix 1

BUCKINGHAM LOCAL AREA FORUM REPORT 2nd December 2014, Calvert Green

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

Healthcare Review: The LAF was given a presentation by Wayne Rabin (communications & engagement lead) and Donna Derby (director of transformation & delivery) for MK Clinical Commissioning Group. They outlined new consultation plans for the future of MK Hospital, following the decision not to merge A+E and Critical Care services with Bedford Hospital after last summer's consultation.

The presentation was Milton Keynes-centric, and following it I asked them why 23,000 North Bucks residents, many of whom are referred to MK rather than Stoke Mandeville hospital, were not

included in the original consultation. I also drew their attention to a public meeting announced for November at Buckingham Community Centre as part of the Healthcare Review, which has not happened, and about which neither appeared to know anything.

Other LAF delegates backed up my concern, and Mrs Derby promised that there would be a public meeting in the New Year in Buckingham so that the concerns of residents could be heard, as the current review is still underway. One difficulty, she said, was that Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group and Aylesbury CGG were in different NHS areas, MK in South Midlands, and Aylesbury in Oxford, although she acknowledged that North Bucks residents were just as much stakeholders in MK Hospital as MK residents.

Buckingham Ring Road: The latest 'guesstimate' for completion of the Buckingham Ring Road is now March 2015, the Forum was told by County Cllr Robin Stutchbury. The contractors – working for the developers, rather than Bucks CC, as part of the Lace Hill planning consent – have struck further problems (including a gas main!) since the September update. Although tree planting and street lighting have been installed on the eastern side of the Tesco roundabout, there is still major work involved in the widening of the western side where it crosses a ravine.

TfB's Simon Dudley told the LAF that the road markings which the contractors have put in place are not acceptable, and will have to be repainted as lanes are too tight and too narrow. There have already been resultant incidents of road rage.

I reminded Mr Dudley that I had asked at the September meeting for more details of penalties against the contractors for the overrun – originally scheduled for 30 weeks, it was extended to 50 weeks, and is now looking likely to be more like 70 weeks. He said that he had overlooked it, and would report to the next meeting in March.

Regarding **winter on the roads**, he said that salt bins are being filled across North Bucks this week, and drew attention to a winter driving leaflet issued by TfB which is available from all council offices or from the www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport website. He told the meeting that it was incorrect that residents should not clear snow from outside their property, from pathways or from public spaces.

"The Department of Transport is clear that there is no law stopping you from doing this, and it is unlikely that you will be held legally responsible for any injuries, provided you have cleared it carefully. People using areas affected by snow and ice have responsibility to be careful themselves. But don't use hot water, as this will melt the snow, which can then freeze creating black ice."

Re the **Lone Tree A421 junction**, Mr Dudley reported that it now ranked second (to A413 Lenborough Road junction) in the Buckingham area collision rankings, with two serious and three slight injury collisions recorded over the past five years, although it did not take into account two serious injury accidents in recent months, as data is available only to May 31 2014 (due to the time it takes for injury accident details to be received from TV Police and mapped).

I attach his information sheet, which was issued in response to demands for improvement at the A412 Water Stratford crossroads, but which do not reach TfB's criteria with only three slight injury accidents. The Lone Tree crossroads ranks 80th of 166 identified sites countywide, but with a budget to improve only five sites per year, there is little hope of anything being done without a dramatic increase in serious or even fatal accidents.

Neighbourhood Police Update: Aylesbury Police Sgt Emily Dover (standing in for Buckingham Insp James Davies) reported that burglaries were down, but that could change with Christmas approaching. Thefts of oil from domestic tanks, and of tools from vans (two from Tingewick last month netted thieves £4000) were on the increase. She warned householders to securely lock tanks.

She said that there was growing concern in Buckingham about the use by 14-16 year olds of mephedrone recreational drugs – also known as M-Cat or Meow-Meow – which police were monitoring, particularly in the town centre and in the Candleford Court development behind The White Hart.

The LAF heard that Thames Valley Chief Constable Sara Thornton has been appointed chairman of the new National Police Chiefs Council (which replaces ACPO) from April 2015, and forwarded its congratulations. She will step down as Chief Constable to take up the full-time position, and said she was “leaving Thames Valley with a heavy heart” after 14 years with TVP.

HGV Enforcement: TfB is unable to enforce heavy goods vehicle access enforcement without the police, so is talking to Trading Standards about the possibility of prosecuting through them. Meantime, TfB is asking for any photographic evidence of HGVs using restricted routes, such as Maids Moreton PC has already provided.

Buckingham Opportunities Centre: This is the second of six new facilities to open (on October 13) as part of Bucks CC’s £13.5 million investment in modernising day services for adults with learning disabilities and older people, some with dementia. There are currently 30 clients at the Well Street centre, which means there is still capacity for more on Mondays to Fridays. The Centre is also available for hire by local groups with meeting, dining and refreshment facilities, and free parking. More information from BOC at 815400.

AVDC Update: Rural broadband will be further rolled out if December’s AVDC full council meeting approves a £1.5 million budget, as part of the Connected Counties project. Pressing needs have been identified in North Marston, Granborough and Oving, which will have a pilot scheme, and also in Charndon.

Buckingham’s **Swan Pool and Leisure Centre** upgrade has now been agreed at a £2.3m cost, which is being funded by a £500,000 Sport England grant and AVDC’s capital programme, with work expected to start this January by Balfour Beatty plc. During the nine-months of work as many facilities as possible will be kept open. The approved plans will be on display in the Centre from this week.

I asked AVDC’s Tracey Aldworth if consideration was being given to the banning of high-sugar content drinks and crisps from vending machines – which not only Centre users but pupils from the neighbouring Buckingham School have access to - but she said that the management was in a seven-year contract and had declined to replace them with them with healthier options.

More than £86,000 Aylesbury Vale **Community Chest** grants were awarded in Sept/Oct 2014, the biggest £25,000 to Westbury Parish Council to rebuild the village hall with a community shop and café (total project cost £782,000) and £20,000 to Oakley Bowling Club for an outdoor bowling green (total project cost £83,750).

The next round of project grants (up to £25,000) closes on December 5, but new application packs for 2015/16 will be available in January. There will be one round of project grants before the May 2015

elections. Microgrants of up to £1000 are considered monthly, limited to three to any one organisation; councillors may recall that we won a Community Chest microgrant of £1000 towards the relaunched *Thornborough News* in 2009. Full details from aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/communitychest.

Local Area Priorities

The Buckingham LAF has a £40,000-plus budget for 2015/16, which can go towards the funding of parish or town proposals. Priorities included community transport, parking, rights of way, road safety, supporting young people, with secondary priorities of community cluster development, flood mitigation and image improvement of Buckingham.

Localities manager Paul Hodson said that other priorities can be considered if councils have pressing needs, but that any transport-related proposals must be received by December 31 2014. He said LAF members could consider community car schemes or bookable taxi schemes run by volunteers or community groups, or HGV misuse where restrictions are being broken, or where there are not yet any restrictions.

People Power: Bucks CC has launched a money-saving energy initiative targeted at all Buckinghamshire residents, by offering collective switching to one energy provider who has won a four-monthly auction to provide the best rate for gas and electricity.

Residents can save up to £200 per year on their energy bills, whether affluent, hard-pressed or vulnerable. Bucks CC says that the more who sign up, the better the savings, in a similar way to the Village Oil Clubs which operate in our area. Registration is free at www.buckscc.gov.uk/switchedon.

MARK COLE