

THORNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING

Monday 9th March 2015 at 7.00p.m.

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

Public: 3 members of the public

1.	Apologies: Cllr Ray Goodger, BCC Cllr Warren Whyte;	
2	Public Participation Session Residents from Coombs attended to hear information about the Speed Limit Review and Thornborough and Coombs Community Woodlands.	
3	Declaration of interest in items on the agenda —Cllr CM declared an interest in Item 16bii	
4	Minutes of the meeting of 9th February 2015 -Agreed	
5	<p>Review of Action Points 10th November meeting Item 13 - The Parish Plan - on agenda 9th March meeting Item 10 Village Hall re screen and projector – no update at present Item 11 Local Area Forum report (Nash Road Playground safety surface) - on agenda Item 14 viii Dogs off leads on the playing field and Playground. Clerk presented various options for consideration. Cllrs felt there should be a bigger sign. Clerk will continue to research. Item 6 Speed Limit Review request from Coombs resident- - on agenda Item 7 Cricket Club request - on agenda Item 8 Thornborough Community Woodland - on agenda Item 10 Street Lighting - on agenda. Item 11 Roald Dahl Festival event for villages - on agenda Item 12 NBPPC Mtg. –on agenda. Minutes circulated. Item 13 Planning: responses made Item 14d) Finances: Payments: sent Item 15 A.O.B., other correspondence and any other Councillors' Issues. i. Grant Support for Lunch Clubs for Older People – Cllr AS talking to Friendship Club iv. Buckingham LAF - Healthcare Review-Public Meeting - 11th March at Buckingham Community Centre - 6pm to 8pm sent to Thornborough News.</p>	<p>Cllr AS to discuss with Bernard Garbe</p> <p>Clerk to continue to research dogs-on-leads signs</p>
14	<p>LAF meeting This item taken early to facilitate public participation i. Cllr MC Report -Cllr MC drew the council's attention to various pertinent points in his report attached as Appendix 1. <u>Speed Limit Review</u> The Clerk had asked for the Speed Limit Review costs to be put on the LAF agenda to be considered under LAF local Priorities for 2015-16. The LAF agreed that they would include it and pay the cost of £1,300. Should a change in the speed limit be suggested by the review there would be up to £7,500 implementation charges but there could be grants made towards this cost. Proposed Cllr SM, seconded Cllr AS agreed unanimously that TPC ask that the speed limit review at Coombs go ahead as one of the LAF local priorities. Cllr CM suggested that a putting 'gateways' at entry points to the hamlet would help slow down traffic. <u>MK Hospital Review</u> There is finally a local meeting for North Bucks to discuss the review of MK hospital on 11th March at the Community Centre.</p>	<p>Clerk to inform Paul Hodson of this decision.</p> <p>Clerk to find out about gateways.</p> <p>Clerk to find out</p>

	<p><u>Buckingham Ring Road.</u> The roundabout at the junction of the A413 and the ring road is still causing problems. Work should be finished in the next 4 – 6 weeks. The contract did not include any penalty clauses for the problems caused along the way or the extra time the work has taken.</p> <p><u>Unitary Authority.</u> AVDC has voted to investigate the business case for going ahead with this.</p> <p><u>New Homes Bonus</u> – all requests for grants using this money to be in by 30th Sept 2015</p> <p>Clive Parker has requested that Thornborough host the next LAF on Tuesday 9th June. The Clerk will find out whether the village hall is available.</p> <p>iii. Neighbourhood planning - Information issued by BCC about how they can help in writing the document to include infra-structure. - noted</p>	<p>availability of the village hall for the next LAF meeting on 9th June.</p>
15	<p>Thornborough Community Woodland update This item taken early to facilitate public participation</p> <p>i. Council Tax and other bills. The Clerk has received a bill for £251.24 for March 2015 and £1584 for Rates for the year 2015/16. She has contacted AVDC and as a result they have re-categorised the depot as a small business and as the rates are below the cap for payment there will be no charge. All bills will come through TPC until the transfer of the lease. Here will be no sewerage charge and currently water and electricity bills should be minimal.</p> <p>ii. Transfer of lease The Clerk has now received assurance that the lease can be transferred to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Proposed Cllr MS, seconded Cllr MT agreed unanimously- That a Charitable Incorporated Organisation as recommended by the Thornborough and Coombs Community Woodlands Committee be set up to manage the Thornborough Community Woodland and that that the lease of Thornborough Community Woodland should be transferred to this organisation with the permission of Buckinghamshire County Council. The Clerk will inform Samantha Perkins and ask that the process of transfer be agreed by BCC</p> <p>iii. Charitable status – covered in previous item.</p> <p>iv. Report from Thornborough and Coombs Community Woodlands Committee – there have been two meetings of the committee. Cllr MT reported on both to TPC. She noted the enormous amount of time that Tanya Pepin has put into this project. TPC would like to thank her for all her hard work.</p> <p>v. The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with BCC's Environmental Health concerning litter across the farm land and woodland from the farm. The farm has been visited several times by Environmental Health because of previous complaints but they have never found a problem Cllr MC has various examples of litter that he had collected in a small area. Cllr AS took the litter to show Environmental Health when he has a scheduled meeting with them.</p>	<p>The Clerk to inform Samantha Perkins and ask that the process of transfer be agreed by BCC</p> <p>Cllr AS to discuss litter problem with Environmental Health</p>
6	<p>Playground Surface The Clerk has received one quote of £15,800 for preparation and £18,469 for surfacing, a total of £34,269 and is waiting for a further quote. Agreed that the Clerk will ask for more estimates and look into possible funding streams through the LAF for the work.</p>	<p>Clerk to action</p>
7	<p>Cricket Club request Thornborough Cricket Club's committee has met and have decided not to go forward with this at present.</p>	
8	<p>Thornborough Waterways Cllr AS reported that John Sharman, Huntingate, had requested access to the stream through the Sports Field to clear the stream down to the bridge at Lower End. He will pay for and clear the part of the stream that TPC is</p>	<p>Cllr AS to talk to John Sharman</p>

	responsible and his own bit of the stream. Proposed Cllr SM, seconded Cllr MS, agreed unanimously to allow John Sharman of Huntinggate access to the stream through the Sports field.	
9	<p>Road and Transport issues</p> <p>i. Reported issues update-.The Clerk has been chasing up outstanding repairs, in particular the water on the High Street between Swandon and the pond and the kerb stones in Lower End. Transport for Bucks has assured her that they will be repaired in the next few weeks. There are also pot holes on the Leckhampstead Road, particularly a large one near Thornborough bridge. The Clerk will report them. Cllr MT noted that a local resident had done a great deal of work clearing ditches and improving drainage in Bridge Street. The Clerk will write a letter to thank him for his work.</p> <p>ii. Closures –Noted</p> <p>iii. Newsletter–Noted</p> <p>iv. Nash Road issue The Clerk has received an e-mail about parking in Nash Road from a local resident. TPC has no jurisdiction in this matter but it could be a topic for discussion at the 2015 Open Meeting of the Parish.</p>	<p>Clerk to report pot holes</p> <p>Clerk to action letter</p>
10	<p>Street Lighting - update</p> <p>After discussion it was decided that further work needs to be done on the Street lighting policy. Cllr SM and the Clerk will continue to work on the policy for Thornborough and will present it again at the next meeting.</p>	Street lighting policy on next agenda
11	<p>Parish Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Clerk has updated all the comments that Cllr MS gave her as agreed by TPC in the sections of the Parish Plan that she has already updated. - The Clerk presented several further sections that need decisions made by Councillors about content for consideration. She continues to work on the Planning section. 	Cllrs to consider presented sections and continue at the next mtg.
12	<p>Roald Dahl Festival event for villages- This is another event arranged by the PATP team who have run successful events for children here before. Proposed Cllr MC, seconded Cllr MS Agreed by majority that if Thornborough Infant School is interested we could book a work shop and share the cost with the school.</p>	Clerk to action.
13	<p>NBPPC Mtg.</p> <p>The Minutes have been circulated. Noted.</p>	
16	<p>Planning:</p> <p>a) <u>Ref.15/00459/APP</u> Windmill Cottage, Mill Lane Thornborough Buckinghamshire MK18 2ED Demolition of existing dwelling, pool house and garage/stable. Erection of new dwelling, pool house and car port and ancillary external works. SUPPORTED on the following grounds: The current building has no historical or architectural merit, moving the house further uphill on the site will deal with the flooding problem, the presented plan is an improvement on the current building and a sympathetic design of good quality.</p> <p>b) Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Letter from Tracey Aldworth, AVDC Planning – All parishes have been sent a letter concerning the position of NBPPC as seen by AVDC planning. The letter is a surprise and there seems to be no initiating reason for it. It also contains several inaccurate statements. Cllr Lew Monger has responded to this effect and circulated his response. Cllrs considered it would be appropriate for TPC to respond to Tracey Aldworth to express their dismay at her letter. ii. Proposed solar farm at Thornborough Grounds – the plans for this have been amended and circulated to Cllrs as requested. - Noted 	<p>Clerk to make response</p> <p>Clerk to draft a response to Tracey Aldworth</p>
17	<p>Finances:</p> <p>a) Bank Reconciliation – February 2015</p> <p>Current Account £16,425.31</p>	

	Reserve Account £11,661.95 Current liabilities:£357.13 Total £27,730.13 b) Payments: E-on (unmetered supplies) £1.61 Cheque No. 605 Cllr Mark Cole expenses £8.10 Cheque No. 606 Anglian Water for sports pavilion £41.79 Cheque No. 607 Clerk's Salary cheques – March £357.13 Cheque No. 608 (PAYE Ref. 475/SA75351 Accounts office Ref. 475PE00369213) HMRC - Clerk's Income Tax £89.20 Cheque No. 609 (PAYE Ref. 475/SA75351 Accounts office Ref. 475PE00369213) Total £497.83 c) Receipts - none d) The Local Government Finance Settlement – Govt. Consultation outcome about sharing Council tax across all authorities noted	Clerk to raise cheques
18	A.O.B., other correspondence and any other Councillors' Issues. i. The Best Kept Village Competition – TPC agreed not to enter this. ii. Buckinghamshire Replacement Minerals and Waste Local Plan- noted iii. Thornborough Infant School Royal Oak Tree – The school are to change the playground in the next few weeks and need a place to re-plant the oak tree they were given in celebration of the Royal Jubilee. TPC suggested that the tree could be re-planted at Thornborough and Coombs Community Woodlands by the school children. This could be publicised as a special event and MP John Bercow could be invited. Cllr MT will liaise with Mrs Howard, head teacher, to arrange this. iv. Parking along Nash Rd – e-mail from local resident – covered in Item 9 v. Letter from John Bercow to Thornborough Infant School – noted. vi. National Plant Monitoring Scheme – noted. Of possible interest for Thornborough and Coombs Community Woodlands. vii. Allotment hedge- agreed now too late to cut. Defer for another 6 months.	Cllr MT to action
19	Date of next meeting; 13th April 2015 The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.	

Appendix 1

BUCKINGHAM LOCAL AREA FORUM REPORT

3rd March 2015 Buckingham University

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

Healthcare Review: Wayne Rabin (communications & engagement lead) and Donna Derby (director of transformation & delivery) for MK Clinical Commissioning Group will chair a public meeting in Buckingham Community Centre this **Wednesday March 11 at 6pm** to ensure that North Bucks residents are involved in the consultation about the future of Milton Keynes Hospital and its services.

They had undertaken to set up a public meeting last November after acknowledging that the 26,000 North Bucks residents were not included in the original consultation, and were stakeholders just as much as MK residents, but in their own words this was 'overlooked.'

Buckingham Ring Road: Although the engineering works to the Buckingham Ring Road were completed last week, albeit six months late, the contentious roundabout markings have yet to be corrected. A petition signed by more than 2000 residents was presented to Transport for Bucks in

February complaining about the narrow and misleading white lining carried out by the contractors, which TfB's Simon Dudley acknowledged as long ago as the December LAF and said would be corrected as soon as possible.

But three months later, still nothing has been done. County Cllr Robin Stutchbury said that a meeting was being held next week between TfB and the Lace Hill developers – whose responsibility the road works have been - to resolve all the outstanding issues, including the question of penalty payments for the overrun. "We're not sitting still doing nothing," he said, "and we will be looking more closely at this type of work in the future."

Bucks CC Transport Coordinator Graham Smith said that in 21 years he had never known a works programme go so dramatically wrong.

Neighbourhood Police Update: Buckingham Police Inspector James Davies reported that crime in North Bucks is down 19% overall since December, with less burglaries (house-breaking) and less thefts from vehicles. Shoplifting is also down, but drugs offences are up by 133%, much of it allied to the use of 14-16 year olds of mephedrone recreational drugs – also known as m-cat or meow-meow – in the Candleford Court development behind The White Hart, as reported to the December LAF.

But, added Insp Davies, the situation is now improving with help from AVDC Housing Trust, and ten teenagers and their families have attended Buckingham Police Station and signed good behaviour contracts. There had, however, been an increase in solvent abuse in the river car parks area. Police have already given a talk at Buckingham School about drug abuse, and will be talking at other secondary schools this month. Asked if he would extend this to primary schools, he said that that could be considered.

Library Opening House Reductions: BCC Library Service is proposing to reduce opening hours in the eleven County Libraries to meet further savings of £270,000 over the next two years. These reductions will be made at times when they are least used, and linked to nearby libraries so that an alternative is available. It was noted that Buckingham Library, for instance, is virtually unused after 2pm on Saturdays. A public on-line consultation is currently running at www.bucksccc.gov.uk/haveyoursay until mid-April.

Local Area Priorities: The LAF approved £1300 from the 2015/16 Local Priorities budget for the Coombs speed review, subject to Bucks County Council approving the total £33,297 budget for the seven priority schemes which were voted through.

The review itself would involve TPC in no cost, although TPC has yet to vote on whether or not it wants the review. If it does agree to it, and the review recommends reducing the limit from 50 to 40mph, the implementation cost would normally be around £7000, although Gawcott has applied for a similar review of a 50mph limit, and the cost of the order (the biggest part) might be shared. The LAF would normally fund 50% from the next round of local priorities if voted through, while TPC would have to raise the other half.

A Community Speedwatch camera has now been purchased through LAF funding, and training given to several parishes including Padbury, which has use it on the A413 during peak times. PC Martin Sideman is the police contact, but enquiries should be made in the first instance through AVDC Localities Manager Paul Hodson.

AVDC UPDATE

The delayed **Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan** – which was thrown out last year by the minister's inspector as not fit for purpose – could be brought forward from its envisaged mid-2017 publication date to 2016 due to “the continuing pressure for development arising from the lack of a five-year housing land supply.” Council officers have been considering how this might be possible so that sites proposed in the new Local Plan could be counted towards the five-year land supply, mindful that public consultation will still be required.

In the meantime, without a Local Plan in place, speculators are continuing to target North Bucks, particularly now that three major schemes around Aylesbury have been thrown out by the minister. Tingewick lost its battle against 78 new homes, and Catesby Homes have put in an application for 400 houses between Page Hill, Buckingham and MaidsMoreton.

*On February 25 the full AVDC considered its cabinet recommendation that a business case for a **unitary council** option for Aylesbury Vale be commissioned. If approved, a referendum of residents would be taken in Spring 2016 to decide whether to split from Bucks CC and form a North Bucks unitary authority to replace BCC and AVDC. Milton Keynes split from BCC in 1997 to become a unitary authority.

BCC leader Martin Tett is opposed to the split, and recently announced plans to share services with Oxfordshire and Northants to make BCC stronger; AVDC leader Neil Blake says that a large number of North Bucks residents feel that they are not getting the service they should from a County Council which also covers Aylesbury and High Wycombe.

* Any parish/town that has a community project that it would like to be considered for AVDC **New Homes Bonus** (Section 107) funding in 2015/16 must first complete an Expression of Interest form available from the Council. Initial discussions with the grant officer will identify whether the application meets grant criteria; if yes, the applicant will be invited to make a business case for the project.

Last year eleven parish and town councils submitted requests totalling £752,483, of which £592,082 (75% of the available budget) has been committed. Closing date for this year's applications is September 30, but officers urge submission as early as possible in the project planning.

* Construction work has started on a new **crematorium** north of Aylesbury, at Bierton. It is expected to open in Summer 2016. Currently the nearest crematoria are at Milton Keynes and Amersham.

* A reminder that parliamentary, district and town/parish **elections** will be held on Thursday May 7, with polling stations open from 7am-10pm. Candidates must have been nominated by Thursday 9 April. There are no county council elections; they are every four years, the next in 2017.

SAFER BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PLAN

There is a statutory duty in two-tier areas such as Buckinghamshire to produce a **Community Safety Agreement**. This should identify what the crime & disorder priorities are and how the SaferCommunities team in Buckinghamshire County Council will work (with its partners) to address them.

In Buckinghamshire, it also includes reference to local district priorities as many will complement each other. This document is called the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan.

This document must be evidence based, and looks at a minimum of one year of crime and disorder data and information, and looks at trends, emerging areas, changing nature of crime etc.

Total crime in 2013/14 decreased in Buckinghamshire by 5%

- 11% of all reported crime took place in our town centres: Aylesbury and High Wycombe
- Violence was down in Buckinghamshire (-2%) except in Aylesbury Vale (+8%)
- Shoplifting increased (+11%) despite a drop in total acquisitive crime (stealing) by 6%
- 50% of town centre crime was stealing (esp. shoplifting)
- Police recorded anti-social behaviour dropped by 20%

Proposed Countywide Priorities are (not in priority order):

1 Acquisitive crime & re-offending: Responding to the change in 'stealing' type crimes from burglary to shoplifting, vehicle crime, non-dwelling and other theft, particularly in our repeat and known offenders

2 Substance misuse: Dealing with the increase in dangerous substance misuse and alcohol habits / behaviour such as mixing substances (alcohol & drugs, sharing needles), and the rapidly-changing nature of legal highs

3 Protecting children and young adults: Better understanding those things that increase the risk of young people being victims and offenders (e.g. Child Sexual Exploitation, Looked After Children, Gangs, Domestic Abuse, Violence, Cyber-crime and others)

4 Protecting adults who are vulnerable due to who they are or where they live: Identifying mechanisms to protect older people (e.g. from doorstep crime, online/face-to-face/telephone fraud). Protecting those who are targeted or exploited (e.g. race, disability etc); and dealing with vulnerabilities connected with rural isolation and other demographic factors.

5 Dealing with hidden crime: Better understanding the victims, offenders and information that would help earlier identification, intervention and prevention (e.g. Child Sexual Exploitation, Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime, Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery, Cyber-Crime)

6 Targeting resources effectively: Better understanding crimes against our residents (e.g. burglary, violence) vs. crimes against our community locations (e.g. shop-lifting, bilking, business crime) so we can target prevention and re-assurance messages better, more relevantly and direct resources effectively.

7 Being evidence led and nimble: Staying ahead of emerging concerns, changes in crime and other factors that impact the safety and security of Buckinghamshire residents. Ensuring enough time is spent understanding the issues so that time and resource is proportional.

The LAF was asked to approve that the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan will be the document that contains the County level crime & disorder priorities for 2015-16. The Safer Communities team at Buckinghamshire CC would like to consult on the above 7 proposed priority areas. The feedback received from the LAF will be brought together with the rest of the stakeholder (including resident) consultation, set to be completed by the end of March.

SOCIAL ISOLATION

The LAF had a presentation from the Simon Garwood, Bucks CC Community Links Officer, about social isolation and loneliness, which are key issues affecting quality of life and future demand on services in North Bucks. The parishes are being asked to consider ways in which members or the LAF together can help to support people facing loneliness and isolation.

The LAF heard that approximately 26,500 residents live in the Buckingham Local Area, of which more than 2000 are over 65 and nearly 500 are over 85. The number of people in the over-65 age range

in Aylesbury Vale is expected to increase by around 60% over the next 5-10 years. This is higher than the Buckinghamshire average.

Across the 36 parishes in the Buckingham Local Area, there are around 200 known community assets which provide valuable support for older people and other vulnerable adults. These include social activities, physical health & fitness, help at home, carers' support, befriending services, faith organisations, healthcare, help and advice.

Social Isolation and Loneliness can be caused by a number of factors. Often among older people they can be caused by bereavement, the responsibility of caring for someone, loss of mobility due to ageing or illness, memory issues, lack of confidence, poor mental health and recovery from illness or injury to name a few.

In rural areas, social isolation can be exacerbated by distinctive factors, particularly in difficult economic times. These might include reduced services in rural areas such as the closure of shops and post offices, difficulties with transportation highlighted by distance from vital services and other economic pressures such as potentially larger, older houses that are more expensive to run or keep warm. On the other hand older people may experience a better quality of life due to higher levels of community spirit, lower crime rates and quieter / less busy lifestyles.

Social Isolation and Loneliness can often lead to a deterioration in health & wellbeing, both physical health and mental health.

Amongst problems faced are those whose partner may be in hospital or a residential home and they cannot get to them because of the high cost of transport; hospital car services will take only patients with appointments, not those visiting, buses. Carers now cost up to £90 per day which the infirm cannot afford. Parishes could help with good neighbourhood schemes, befriending, community car schemes and volunteering to allow lonely residents to remain independent, cope with changes, keep active and well, and getting out and about.

A call to Prevention Matters at 0300 666 0159 puts them in touch with a free advice service linking adults over 18 in Bucks to local resources, volunteers and community services.

ACTIVE BUCKS PROJECT

A quarter of those 26,500 residents in the Buckingham Local Area have no physical activity, and many more not enough, the LAF was told by Tom Burton of the County Council's Active Bucks Project. Inactivity is a significant contributor to diabetes and 1 in 6 deaths, and the project seeks to encourage more residents to increase their activity, whether by providing tennis courts, cycle racks, walking groups, exercise programmes in community centres and village halls and the like, led by local people.

MARK COLE