

THORNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING

Monday 7th November 2016 at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllr Andy Spurr (Chair), Cllr Melanie Staff, Cllr Charlotte Moore, Cllr Deborah Hosein, Cllr Ray Goodger, Maggie Beach (Clerk),

Public: None

Item	Minute	Action
1.	Apologies: Cllr Stuart Mitchell, Cllr Mary Taylor, AVDC Cllr Sir Billy Stanier, BCC Cllr Warren Whyte.	
2	Public Participation Session –None	
3	Presentation by Buckinghamshire County Council Representative on the Business Case for Modernising Local Government in Buckinghamshire Representatives from Buckinghamshire County Council Clive Parker, Head of Civic & Ceremonial Services and Simon Garwood, Area Manager, Community Engagement & Development, came to give a presentation and answer questions. (Their summary attached as Appendix 1)	
4	Declaration of interest in items on the agenda: None	
5	Minutes of the meeting of 3rd October 2016 –Agreed unanimously	
6	<p>Review of Action Points</p> <p>September meeting:</p> <p>Item 13 WI bench– the bench has now been removed and delivered to a WI member as agreed with the Thornborough and Thornton WI secretary.</p> <p>October meeting</p> <p>Item 6 Planning –a) response made</p> <p>Item 7 Sports field and Pavilion –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 6 a side Goal at Sports Field – Cllr AS has now got the goal and will liaise with Thornborough Cricket Club about the best place on the field to set it up. ii. The plumbing work in Pavilion -the cold water taps in the basins have now been labelled as not being drinking water. iv. Pre-school concerns – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The price of electricity at the Pavilion. The Clerk has explained to Thornborough Pre-school that TPC is currently locked into the current Electricity Plan from E-on until April 2017 but the plan is competitive and it is unlikely that a better rate with the same standing charge (that TPC pays) could be found. -The Clerk has responded to the concerns about the work top over the heater as a fire hazard explaining that the Fire Prevention people have confirmed that it is not a fire risk. With regards to the possibility of the work tops, if MDF, giving off toxic fumes from this section over the heater, the Clerk has informed Thornborough Pre-school that the work tops are compressed wood, not MDF, and she can find no evidence that there is a toxic discharge caused by the proximity of the wall heater. <p>Item 8 Thornborough News – on agenda</p> <p>Item 9 Road and Transport issues – on agenda</p> <p>Item 10 Street lighting –on agenda</p> <p>Item 16 Finances,</p> <p>c) Thornborough Cricket Club request re. mowing – on agenda</p> <p>d) Payments: Cheques all sent</p>	
7	<p>Planning:</p> <p>a) <u>Ref.16/03771/APP and Ref 16/03772/ALB</u> - Lower End Farm, Lower End, Thornborough, MK18 2DD - Single storey rear extension to form link to</p>	Clerk to make response

	<p>existing curtilage outbuildings and to conversion of the outbuildings into habitable accommodation. - SUPPORTED</p> <p>b) Public Consultation: MK Site Allocations Plan Proposed Submission Draft Noted. Agreed no TPC response</p> <p>c) Other current planning issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The VALP. The Clerk reported that there were 35,000 responses to the VALP Consultation, many people sent in responses by letter or e-mail as the consultation web site was very difficult to navigate. AVDC are now employing a team of people to enter these responses by hand but responses are being entered under the main or first topic question in the response which seems far from satisfactory at representing responses accurately. - Weston Road decision – the Secretary of State has found in favour of Great Horwood and over-turned the AVDC planning decision to allow the development at Weston Road, Great Horwood despite it not being in the Great Horwood made Neighbourhood Plan. - The results of the auction of land in 6 plots at Brookfield, High Street, Thornborough were noted. 	
8	<p>Thornborough News November/December issue</p> <p>The copy date for this issue is 11th November and the publication date is intended to be 18th November.</p> <p>Sue Percival has offered to co-ordinate future deliveries throughout the parish using volunteers and the post for some outlying houses.</p>	<p>Clerk to continue to action</p>
9	<p>Storage of Archive</p> <p>The Clerk has had a quote from a local storage facility. However, Trustees for Thornborough and Coombs Woodlands Enterprise Trust offered free storage at the depot in the woodland. The Clerk will organise the transfer of the boxes there.</p>	<p>Clerk to action</p>
10	<p>Road and Drainage issues</p> <p>i. Current Issues –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recent accident on A421. Councillors expressed their sadness at this fatal accident and their deep concern about the safety of the accident site at the junction of A421 with Padbury Road at the Lone Tree. An on-line ePetition has been set up on the Buckinghamshire County Council web site and Councillors encourage all to sign it. - Bridge Street (Spring Lane) The Clerk and Cllr MT met with Keith Burns, Deputy Team Leader, Area Schemes Delivery <p>Various things with regards to drainage issues on Bridge Street were discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The drainage at the bridge is good and the capacity for the amount of water that can be accommodated there in the stream is sufficient most of the time. 2. The run off down of surface water down Bridge Street is creating a problem, but this can be alleviated by the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Clearing out the short ditches just before the 30mph limit signs on Bridge Street and inserting/digging out grips to allow water to drain from the road into the ditches. ACTION: The Clerk will continue to work with the local landowners responsible to get this done. b) Clearing out the culvert under the road and along to the main culvert which runs alongside the road if necessary. ACTION: Keith Burns will contact Dave Smith to action the clearing out of the culverts. c). Clearing out the stream, see next point. 3. The stream runs alongside Spring Lane. Land registry has no recorded owner for the track, stream or long thin triangular shaped piece of land bordering the stream. ACTION: Keith Burns has said this is the responsibility of the Buckinghamshire County Council Flood Management Team and he will contact Alexander Back and Karen Fisher to get this sorted out. <p>The continuing issue of the drains in Chapel Lane was also discussed and the fact that there is still after 18 months a large hole in the road to the drain at the end of the Rectory driveway, Chapel Lane, that needs finishing. Keith Burns said he will bring this up with Dave Smith.</p>	<p>Clerk to action and continue to monitor</p>

	<p>ii A413 sustainable travel – update noted</p> <p>iii Relevant Closures – Nash Road to Great Horwood – 14th December 2016 for one day.</p>	
11	<p>Street lighting – High Street. The Clerk is waiting for an updated quote. She has reported the broken street light at Thornhill again.</p>	
12	<p>Playground update Cllr Taylor sent in a report: Members of the working Party assisted by parishioners have made a great job of tidying up the existing Playground. However this is a temporary measure and most of the equipment is well past it sell-by-date. Some members of the Working Group have met on site with a rep from Kompan – a leading playground company. Currently we are waiting a presentation from Kompan of their plan for our playground – hopefully early December. It is our intention that a grant be sought from Wren. [We will of course be seeking 3 quotes.] When we have that information we will be in a position to make recommendations to the PC.</p>	
13	<p>Parking on the Green The head-teacher has raise the issue of attendees to the Baby Sensory class parking on the Green. The head feels that this is undermining the work she has done with parents of children attending the school to encourage them to park along the High Street. Councillors agreed. The Clerk will continue to monitor the situation.</p>	Clerk to action
14	<p>LAF- Tuesday 18 October. – report Cllr DH Cllr DH attended, her report is attached as Appendix 2. Noted. Cllr MS is able to attend the next LAF meeting on 15th February 2017.</p>	
15	<p>NBPPC – report Clerk The Clerk attended the meeting, her report is attached as Appendix 3. Noted.</p>	
16	<p>Luton Airport Public Consultation Local Government - noted</p>	
17	<p>Finances: a) Bank Reconciliations – October 2016. Current Account £24,030.19 Reserve Account £14,174.14 Current liabilities: £477.50 Unbanked cash: £00.00 Total £37,726.83 b) (Internal) Audit report 2016 Actions The Internal Audit Recommendations were discussed and actions agreed and noted: Maintenance of Accounting Records and Bank Reconciliations R1 Year end-bank reconciliations should be completed as at 31st March based on bank statement values as at that date. ACTION: The Clerk has altered the Bank Reconciliation. (Originally dated with the date of the meeting it was prepared for.) Review of Corporate Governance “Overall we are satisfied that the Council has a strong corporate governance framework, although it should ensure that the value for formal tender action in the Standing Orders is brought into line with the Financial Regulations and EU legislation at £25,000.” R2. The Council should revise of its extant Standing Orders in order to bring the recorded value for formal tender action into line with the Financial Regulations and EU legislative requirements. The Auditor commented, “I note that the Financial Regulations refer to a tender limit of £25,000, as per the NALC model, which, in my opinion is too high for a council with an annual turnover of around that amount: we generally suggest a value of between £5k and £10k for smaller councils. ACTION: This can be done at the next May meeting or sooner but it is not legally required.</p>	

	(PAYE Ref. 475/SA75351 Accounts office Ref. 475PE00369213) Total £1,627.01 f) Receipts Donation from Lark Energy £5,000.00 Thornborough Cricket Club Rents- 2016 Quarters 3 & 4 £270.00 Total £5,270.00	
18	A.O.B., other correspondence and any other Councillors' Issues. Councillors' Issues i. Invitation to South Central Ambulance NHS FT-Bucks and MK Patient Forum - 9 Nov i. Credit Unions - how they can help people to save and borrow at affordable rates ii. Active Bucks - jogging session iii. Music in Quiet Places 2017 iv. Winter Driving workshops v. Age UK services <p style="text-align: right;">All Noted</p> Cllr AS reported that the Tesco Bags for Life community appeal in store for Thornborough and Coombs Woodlands Enterprise Trust is currently receiving the most votes.	
19	Date of next meeting; 5th December 2016 The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.	

Appendix 1

Proposal summary for Town and Parish Councils

What Does This Mean for People in my Town or Parish Council?
(Pages 55-65 of Business Case)

Timescale	
January 2017	Decision expected by DCLG
May 2017	Usual BCC local elections (for a two year term only)
May 2017 – 31 March 2019	Prepare for transition to new unitary council
1 April 2019	Vesting Day - Date for new council to commence operating. This date would be written into the Bill allowing reorganisation.

Equalisation of Council Tax rates (over 2 years)	
	AVDC saving £1.88 pa CDC saving £32.78 pa SBDC saving £11.18 pa WDC no saving; continues with 2% increase

Planning	
1	Central Strategic Committee
5	Local Planning Committees (2 for AVDC)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will look at devolving straightforward applications to Parishes. • Composition of committees to be agreed (unitary councillors only)

19 Community Boards (see draft agenda)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition to be agreed • Expect All unitary councillors to attend (Avg 5 per Board) • Agreed representation from Parishes • Authority to spend Allocated money (£2m across Council) • Authority to decide priorities for spend • Recommend issues for consideration to Council • Hold new Council to account for local services

Devolution offer to parish and town councils	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish and Town councils would decide whether to take up the offer • The package of services available for devolution would evolve over time but will respond to Parish ambition • Associated budgets for devolved services would transfer with the responsibility • Unitary Council would provide support for building capacity

19 Community Hubs	
	These will evolve over time but may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries • Police • Ambulance • Health • Fire • Drop-in services • Job Centre service points

The new Buckinghamshire Council



More local
A physical presence for public services in 19 locations across Bucks.
Putting decision-making in the hands of local communities.



Better Value
More than £18m saved per year - that's over £84 for every household.
£48m from selling property that is no longer required, which can be invested in services.



Simpler
An end to confusion over which council is responsible for which service.
Joining up services which complement each other, eg bin collection and waste disposal.

Appendix 2

Notes from LAF meeting held 18 October 2016 at Akeley Village Hall

All papers for the meeting can be found on the BCC website in the committee's section.

Chairman's update:

Warren Whyte chaired the meeting.

BCC Village updates:

- In the second half of November there will be structural testing of lights in Buckingham and some lights may be taken down.
- There are a good amount of roadworks going ahead. Updates are listed in the schedule.
- Speed cameras are set to be on camera, not video, and are available for parishes to use with a charitable donation.
- BCC reports that rural transport is only sustainable when there are enough passengers paying and there will be difficult decisions in the next 3 years to reduce services. Subsidised bus services will not be certain, are discretionary and are under scrutiny and are at risk.
- Services to villages and estates off main roads may be discontinued. There will be no further expansion on the X5 service from north to south via Silverstone. There is however a new bus route from Buckingham to Northants.
- BCC will be tapping into developmental funding, community funding and holding fundraising events. They will also tender out to run a bus service with local control regarding timetable and route.
- If any village is interested they are willing to sit round the table to discuss this. Bucks CC said parishes should be encouraged to take more responsibility.
- Simon Garwood, community links officer, suggested reforming a transport committee with local communities and asked if any of the local parishes would be interested.
- Dial A Ride has finished and it was suggested that Bucks Care and School buses could be made more efficient to cater for local villages.
- AVDC taxi scheme is only for villages without transport and the disabled.
- BCC said all off peak services are not to be combined with school buses which are reviewed regularly.
- The winter hours for the recycling centre are 9am til 4pm.
- BCC said they will be more proactive when advertising for local parishes.

Police update:

The theft of lead has gone up considerably but the burglary rate has gone down. However vehicle theft is on the rise and the contents of vans is increasing.

Vale Lottery = this has been very successful in meeting targets for local causes.

Grants are available in the voluntary and commercial sectors.

Stowe Gates – this project is not going ahead. Stowe PCC are working with Silverstone on another project.

LAF

The LAF is considering giving surplus funds to Gawcott street lighting. An electronic decision is to be made.

There is no pressure to review LAF priorities but these are as follows:

- Activities for young people.
- Supporting older people and vulnerable adults in Buckingham.
- Community facilities (take off list until next year).
- Flooding – Environment to look into Leckhampstead who were completely cut off when last flooded.

Date of meetings: Next meeting – 15.2.17 - Westbury

Appendix 3

NBPPC meeting 19th October 2016

1. Challenge to AVDC's position re Neighbourhood Plans in light of Inspector/Secretary of State recent decision

Great Horwood's response to Aylesbury Vale District Council after the High Court decision in favour of Great Horwood and against AVDC with regards to the Weston Road development was discussed. It was decided that all NBPPC parishes would read the response and consider whether they could support the motion.

2. Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan – review of NBPPC's response re draft plan consultation

- VALP –there were 3,500 responses, many through letters and e-mails rather than the online response set of questions which had major problems of access, and was also difficult to use. Aylesbury Vale District Council are now having to employ an outside firm to collate and enter the responses online BUT there is a problem here too because apparently the first or main point made in the written response is the deciding topic as to where to enter the information online which means other topics in the response are not being put in the correct place.
- There will be statutory consultation starting in January, the last consultation was non-statutory.
- AVDC meeting the unmet housing need of neighbouring local authorities was discussed briefly. It is considered that this will be pushed through at the next AVDC cabinet meeting despite it being contentious (why are we trying to meet theirs when they don't appear to be trying to meet ours?) the Government apparently considers Aylesbury Vale as a good place for development.
- There is a meeting for Parishes and Town Councils for an update on VALP and the options for modernising local government which Chairs and Clerks are invited to attend. The meeting is on Monday 14th November at 18.00 in the Diamond Room at AVDC.

3. Major Development Issues

- South West Milton Keynes Development there was a well-attended public meeting at Newton Longville
- Winslow New Settlement – it has still not decided whether it will be Haddenham, Winslow or somewhere else
- Verney Junction Garden Village – there is no infra-structure in place to support this at present and AVDC are not considering it an option.

4. Town/Parish updates where appropriate

- **Winslow:** second Appeal re Glebe Farm heard in early July 2016 and Planning Inspectorate still completing their deliberations –Secretary of State's decision expected mid-January 2017. Network Rail have submitted an application for the new station despite the fact that construction is not expected to start until 2022 at the earliest and any approval will probably have expired by then. No allowance for a taxi rank had been made in the application. Llew Monger reported that East West Rail are currently in discussion with Network Rail.
- **Great Horwood:** Weston Road Inquiry - notes above under Item 1
- **Buckingham:** Proposal received for a care home behind a pub in the High Street but the TC are not supporting as it is not included in their Neighbourhood Plan and there are also potential flooding issues.

5. Milton Keynes issues

- Plan MK due to be adopted by MK Council by the end of 2018.
- Although Whaddon sits just outside the MK district boundary, MK's planning policies may well impact on residents. Whaddon PC commented on the Topics consultation document in December 2014 and attended one of the 'Vision Workshops' in April 2016.
- MKC's 'Preferred Option Plan' will be published in Spring 2017 and public will be invited to comment before it is examined by a Government Inspector in Spring 2018. Adoption and Publication of the final Plan will be at the end of 2018 or early 2019.
- MKC hope to build at least 1750 homes every year until 2036 which seems very optimistic as they are currently only building around 1200 per year.
- On 25 October Graham received notification from MKC has chosen the 21 sites for their Sites Allocation Plan. The Shenley Ridge site into the Whaddon Valley that was originally proposed and would have affected Whaddon, is excluded. None of the other 20 chosen sites will impact on NBPPC members.

Maggie Beach
20th October 2016