

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - THORNDON
Minutes of Meeting held at 7.30pm, Thorndon Village Hall on 9 May 2013

Present : Mrs W Coulson (Chair of Governors, Thorndon CE VCP School), Cllr Bartlett, Cllr Cattermole, Cllr Hayward, Cllr Ravenhill (Chairman), Cllr Taylor, Cllr Theobald, Cllr Tucker, Mrs C Aldous, Mrs C Owen, Mrs A Thompson, Mr M Sillett, PCSO S Johnson, Mr J Hartwell and D Cllr Tilbury

Meeting Opened at 19.33

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Botwright, Cllr Le Gros, Cllr Stringer, Mrs C Horton and Mr C Brand

2. Approval of minutes of Annual Parish Meeting – 3 May 2012

The minutes were agreed as a true & accurate record of the meeting & signed by the Chairman.

3. Actions & matters arising from minutes of 3 May 2012

None

4. Reports

4.1 Parish Council Chairman's Report

The Chairman started by thanking members of the public for attending Parish Council meetings and for their input which is greatly valued. She went on to thank her fellow councillors for their continued support and attendance at meetings; she also thanked our County Councillor, noting his invaluable help on some issues which has assisted in moving the same forward. The Chairman thanked our District Councillor for his reports and attendance at meetings even if the same has been a little erratic at times due to his own work commitments as well as the Police noting that there had been a hiccup in reporting and attendance at meetings earlier in the year, an issue which would now appear to be resolved. The Chairman thanked our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for his reports & attendance at the meetings as well as all the additional tasks he undertakes including the distribution of emails which help to keep villagers abreast of village issues and organisation of 'litter picks' around the village.

The Chairman then moved on to the highlights from the last year & the key challenges facing TPC:

- **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations** – The Chairman praised the efforts of all involved in organising a weekend of activities to mark the Diamond Jubilee in June 2012. Whilst the weather could have been better, the weekend was a resounding success with good attendance at the various activities by villagers. The Parish Council contributed 50% of the cost expended by the Community Council towards the whole weekend including the provision of commemorative mugs for the children in the village.
- **Recycling Plant at Brome** – Following the decision of SCC to close this plant which it considered unviable, the same faced an uncertain future. However, having been taken over by Kevin Crispin and his family the plant is prospering and has recently won the best newcomer in the 'Creating the Greenest County Awards' which celebrate green achievements.
- **Highways** – Following a harsh winter the roads and lanes around Thorndon are in a poor state. Pot holes abound and insofar as the same have previously been filled, they are beginning to break up. The County Council elections have now taken place and a new contract signed by the County Council for the maintenance of highways and the Chairman expressed the hope that, this being so, matters will now improve.
- **Planning** – Planning applications remain much lower than in previous years when the Parish Council could expect to consider 2 applications per meeting whereas during the past 12 months applications come before the Parish Council at an approximate rate of 1 every other meeting.

The Chairman finished by saying that overall 2012-2013 was a quiet year for the Parish Council compared with others, but that the issues addressed have been large ones. The Parish Council will continue to pursue speeding through the village and await monitoring of traffic flow to provide the data necessary to establish whether the issue of speeding is an actual or perceived problem. The year ahead will be challenging with not much money available.

She opened the meeting to the floor for questions. None were presented.

4.2 Thorndon CE VCP School

Wendy Coulson, the Chair of Governors at Thorndon CE VCP School reported to the meeting as follows:

'The last year was filled with lots of positives but a number of challenges too.

During the Autumn Term the Head teacher, Mr Peter Arnold, handed in his resignation after two years in the post. This was followed by the news of the retirement of Mrs Gill Wood, Class 1 teacher for over 20 years, and the resignations of the office manager and a TA. The Governors were fortunate to have several applications for the post of Head teacher to Thorndon School and appointed Mrs Tamsin Little to start in January 2013. Mrs Ondrea Ward was appointed as Finance Officer and Mrs Lis Sherriff was appointed for 2 terms to teach Class 1 with Mrs Little. We have recently appointed a new member of staff to teach Key Stage 1 from September.

At present we have 59 pupils on roll with 12 leaving for Hartismere in September and 8 starting in Reception. As a small school we are keen and active in trying to promote the school and increase our pupil numbers. In April we commenced Forest Schools and are very thankful to John Le Gros for the use of a permanent site to carry out this exciting venture, being the first Primary School in the pyramid to do it – take a look at our school website to find out more. Mrs Little is very keen to be involved with the local community, and school trips have already included a trip to Brenda's fruit and veg shop which the children really enjoyed – and so did Brenda!

The children (and staff) are all growing leeks for the Leek Show in September and this year Occold School as well as Stoke Ash are joining in, and before that our Summer Fayre (22 June 12-3) will hopefully attract the community to come and see the school and the changes that have and are being made – plans are afoot for a new library area as well as expansion of the Key Stage 1 area with a mezzanine floor! As well as the usual tasty BBQ and entertainment some of the children will be maypole dancing! Do try to come along and see.

The school continues to develop its use of the Church, continuing with weekly Friday assemblies in the Church at 2.45 which parents and members of the community can attend and also continuing with regular services, Easter, Leavers, Harvest and Christmas – indeed at Christmas the Church was also used for the Christmas Fayre with great success. In fact since January the school are delighted to now be using the Church 4 times a week for collective worship. Also Discovery Class have visited T Plus to sell cakes in a joint science/DT project.

The village school is a happy caring environment for teaching and learning to take place – please support our events and see for yourself! Thanks for all the support thus far received.'

She opened the meeting to the floor for questions. None were presented.

4.3 Police

PCSO S Johnson confirmed various changes of personnel:

Following the departure of Sgt N Emerick Debenham and Eye now share Sgt John Eaves, a situation which is working well.

- A new Chief Constable is now in office, Douglas Paxton, who is very approachable and happy to attend village events
- Following elections held in November 2012 Tim Passmore was elected as Suffolk's first Police Crime Commissioner. The creation of this office is a new experience for everyone with a very steep learning curve, but to date is working well.
- PCSO C Bales has been seconded to a troubled families unit in Bury St Edmunds and the Police are hoping to replace him in either July/September.
- PC C Wayman was seriously ill at Christmas and whilst she is now back at work, she is on restricted duties. PC J Gardner was recruited to cover PC Wayman's absence and is very capable and friendly. PCSO Johnson indicated that they were hoping to keep PC Gardner once PC Wayman returns to work full time.

On the issue speeding, PCSO confirmed that they have managed to obtain some data for Thorndon, but that the matter is a 'work in progress'. He did indicate that MSDC do now have some new equipment (6 SIDs and 6 fixed units) which are available to borrow. District Councillor Tilbury confirmed that he would investigate this and report back to the Parish Council.

PCSO Johnson invited questions from those present at the meeting and Mr Hartwell raised the issue of cars parking outside the village school, in particular cars which park all day between the white zig-zag lines outside the school and Church. Whilst it is accepted that the start and end of the school day will result in parents parking outside the school, parking in this area does force traffic travelling from the centre of the village towards the B1077 into the centre of the road where they could meet oncoming traffic from the B1077 which is frequently travelling in excess of 30mph. The situation is of concern to many in the village because of the potential danger it creates. PCSO Johnson was able to advise that the presence of the white zig-zag lines gives no legal rights of enforcement as there is not a Traffic Order in place. The question was raised as to whether the white zig-zag lines could be extended from the school to the Church. Mr Hartwell has already spoken to the Highways Department about this and they have indicated that application to extend the lines could be made by the school and/or Parish Council which application could include a request that a Traffic Order be put in place, but that to effect this extension will cost in the region of £2,500.00. The Parish Council will raise this issue with County Councillor Stringer to see whether he could provide a grant from his Locality Budget. Alternatively, PCSO Johnson suggested an application to the Suffolk Foundation, a charity set up to utilise the proceeds of crime. Any application would need Police approval.

In the meantime Wendy Coulson confirmed that she would raise the issue at the school and they would do what they could to try and resolve the problem.

4.4 Community Council

Cllr Cattermole confirmed that the Community Council was operating well, with events well supported and 'Village Life' going well. The Community Council has had the roof to the Village Hall repaired and kitchen doors replaced.

4.5 VH Management Committee

Cllr Cattermole reported an increase in bookings throughout the year. The roof to the Village Hall has been repaired and kitchen doors replaced.

4.6 Social Club

This continues to run every Friday night & all profits made are ploughed back into the VH. Bookings for the Village Hall are increasing coupled with the events organised by the Community Council means that turnover is good.

4.7 Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator's Report

Claude Brande was absent from the meeting and Marion Ravenhill presented his report on his behalf. She reported as follows:

The main aims of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme include prevention and reduction of crime, helping to provide reassurance to communities, providing appropriate and up to date crime reduction advice and to act as a channel of communication between the Police and the community and vice versa.

Specifically:

- **Crimes in Thorndon** - In the past year there have been 4 reported thefts in the area where two properties had lawnmowers and garden tools stolen, a Quad Bike and tools were taken from another and solar lights removed from a garden. There were a couple of reports of late night activity from youngsters. A seat was removed from a picnic table in the play area – the bolts were removed. These were reattached and no damage was done. Finally a house nameplate was stolen and later recovered in Eye.
- **Crimes in Suffolk** – End of year figures show that crime in Suffolk has fallen for the seventh consecutive year and the number of solved crimes has increased, demonstrating that Suffolk remains a safe place to live, work and visit. From 01.04.2012 to 31.03.2013 there were 40,009 recorded crimes – 5,632 fewer than for the same period last year.
- **Animals/Keys Lost and Found** – 4 cats were lost with 3 returned to their owners. There is no trace of the fourth. 1 dog was returned to its owner. 4 sets of keys have been found with 1 set remaining unclaimed.
- **Emails** – Within the Neighbourhood Watch area there are 326 properties with the co-ordinator emailing 242 properties.
- **Fly Tipping** – There have been a few cases of Fly Tipping in the past year. Once reported MSDC are quick to collect the discarded items. A litter pick was undertaken at the end of March yielding 28 bin bags full of litter and the odd couple of wheels from 22 miles of hedgerows. It was disappointing to see 3 fly tips in Thwaite Road within a couple of days.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team at Debenham would like to hear your views on local crime and policing. To facilitate this, regular meetings are held where you can tell them of your concerns and set priorities. The next meeting will be at The Black Horse Public House, Thorndon from 7.00pm to 8.00pm on 01.07.2013.

Mr Brande concluded by thanking all villagers who have assisted with information throughout the year, and to James Hayward and the Community Council for accommodating his reports in the Village Life.

4.8 Friends of Thorndon School

No representative from the Friends of Thorndon School was present at the meeting but they did supply the following report:

'Following our AGM in September 2012, Sara Wilsher stepped down as Chairperson, Clare Horton and Trudi Wilding took on the position jointly.

We held a very successful Christmas Fayre in the Church, which we hope to repeat again this year. We have also held a family disco which was great fun and well attended and raised £234.88. The Friends committee are currently planning the Summer Fayre which will be held on the 22nd June at the school.

Our fundraising is assisting the School in its Forest Schools venture (the school are using a small area of the fen owned by Mr Le-Gros for this), gardening club, the development of the new library and various school trips.

We have been very grateful to receive generous donations from Thorndon Town estate and the Community Council.'

There were no other comments from the public and the **MEETING CLOSED at 20.26**