

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – THORNDON

Minutes of Meeting held at 7.30pm, Thorndon Village Hall on 03 May 2018

Present : Cllr Bartlett, Cllr Bridge, Cllr Cattermole, Cllr Farquhar, Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Ravenhill, Cllr Smith, Cllr Taylor, Mrs A Thompson, Mr A Stringer, Mr G Horn, Mr T Fox, Ms C Lane, Mr S Middleton, Mr M Sillett, Mrs C Aldous, Ms J Wilson and Mr C Brand

Meeting Opened at 19.30

1. Election of Chairman and apologies for absence:

Election: Cllr Ravenhill was elected to chair the meeting.

Apologies: Cllr Hayward, Mr T Rowe and Ms V Gascoigne-Cecil

2. Approval of minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 May 2017

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

3. Actions & matters arising from minutes of 11 May 2017

None

4. Reports

4.1 Parish Council Chairman's Report

Cllr Ravenhill started her report highlighting the positive issues for the Parish Council over the past year as follows:

- **VAS:**

The VAS has bedded in and an application for a 4th pole to be installed in High Street has recently been approved. The readings from the VAS has produced some interesting data and has been referred to the Police who have set a number of speed traps in the village over the past 12 months. Cllr Ravenhill extended her thanks to Cllr Hayward for his persistence in securing the VAS for the village and to both Cllrs Hayward and Jenkins for charging the batteries and moving the unit around the village

- **Broadband:**

Both boxes providing faster broadband speed to the village are now up and running.

- **Donations:**

The Parish Council has made donations totalling £2,050.00 to various charities during the past financial year.

Cllr Ravenhill then turned to the negative issues for the Parish Council over the past year as follows:

- **Planning:**

It seems that the views of the Parish Council are of no consequence. Each time objections are raised in response to a planning application, Mid Suffolk District Council find a reason to grant consent and vice versa. It is felt that if Mid Suffolk District Council had taken note of the comments made by the Parish Council some of the issues which have arisen could have been avoided.

- **Post Office Van:**

The withdrawal of the mobile Post Office van is an unresolved issue with only a glimmer of hope that it will come to pass in time.

- **Drainage:**

There are ongoing problems with drainage at the far end of the village which require work.

Cllr Ravenhill ended by thanking the public for their attendance, County Councillor Stringer, District Councillor Horn and Parish Councillors for their support of issues arising in the Parish

throughout the year. She offered her personal thanks to Graham Botwright who resigned from the Parish Council earlier in the year and welcomed Cllr Ian Smith who has been co-opted to fill the vacancy.

4.2 Police

No representative from the Police was able to be present at the meeting but they provided their report as follows:

'Reported Crimes

Between 1 April 2017 and 1 April 2018 there have been 21 recorded investigations in the locality. The investigations are classified as follows;

- 2 x Assaults (including domestic related offences)
- 3 x Criminal Damage (including Arson)
- 3 x Thefts (including attempted offences)
- 1 x Public Order Offences
- 6 x Non-Dwelling Burglaries (including attempted offences)
- 0 x Dwelling Burglaries (including attempted offences)
- 0 x Drugs Offences
- 4 x Other Crimes
- 2 x Non-Crime & Historic Investigations (including safeguarding & ASB)

Over the same period in the 12 months prior there were 14 recorded crimes. This shows an increase of 50%. Some of this increase can be explained by changes in the recording of Non-Crime investigations and Vulnerable Person referrals. We have also seen instances where several Theft/Burglary offences happen over one night.

- **Local Interest Crime:** The most significant crimes to have taken place over the year involves a number of break in's to outbuildings and unattended vehicles overnight. Offenders have targeted sheds and commercial vehicles, often stealing power tools.

- **Staff:** During September 2017 a new Constable was appointed into the Safer Neighbourhood Team. PC 1856 Peck replaced PC Andrews-Pearce as the Eye PC. In November 2017 PCSO Steve Long left Suffolk police to join our colleague in Norfolk as a Police Constable. As a direct replacement for Steve, in December 2017 PCSO Kane Martin returned to Eye SNT. Kane has previously worked in Eye alongside Steve but has had a period of time working from Halesworth.

- **County Wide Crime Trends:** There has been a force wide increase in acquisitive crime. Published figures show a total of 689 burglary & vehicle related theft offences for February 2018 and increase of 165 incidents on the same period in 2017.

- **General:** In response to the increase in theft from motor vehicle and residential non-dwelling burglaries Suffolk Police would like to promote our TOOL SMART Campaign; S-secure, M-Mark And R-Register T-Tools.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team have held a number of community engagements to promote the advice and more engagements are planned for the summer.

Photograph and record valuable items on nationally recognised website, such as www.Immobilise.com Consider the use of tracking devices and marking property with

"traceable solutions" like SmartWater®.

101 Waiting times - When calling 101 you will be charged a one off fee of 15p regardless of the length of the call, you are not charged by the minute. The waiting times regarding 101 is heavily influenced by calls made to police to report matters that other agencies may be better placed to deal with. There is a significant amount of information available on our website including [Crime Prevention Advice](#), [when to call 101](#), [when to call 999](#) and [Reporting Crime and ASB](#).

Please note that the Safer Neighbourhood Team **cannot** take crime reports via email. We strongly urge people to use the online reporting tool for incidents that have previously occurred and there is no immediate threat or danger to any person or property.

- **Police Connect:** Police Connect is a messaging service connecting you to the very latest policing news for your area via e-mail, text or phone. There is no charge for this service - all messages you receive are free.

You can register to receive information about the issues that most matter to you and be among the first to be alerted by police in the case of an emergency affecting your area.

There is the option to receive information about a range of specific interest areas – such as 'rural' or 'rivers and coastal' – as well as updates for business owners and news from your Police and Crime Commissioner.

IF YOU THINK A CRIME IS IN PROGRESS ALWAYS DIAL 999'

4.3 Thorndon Town Trust

John le Gros provided the following report on behalf of Thorndon Town Trust:

'The trustee's of Thorndon Town estate met on wed 11th April 2018. The main points of the meeting include:

- all land owned by the estate is now registered with the land registry;
- land rents are currently being reviewed by Our Agent; and
- Geoffrey Ryder has now taken over the vacant position on the trustees'.

4.4 Community Council

Cllr Cattermole confirmed that this year the Community Council has made 2 large donations to the Village Hall and is seeking to secure grants for new lighting and flooring for the Village Hall. The Community Council held the usual 4 events this year hosting a race evening as a 5th event. The evening was reasonably well supported albeit largely from non-residents. The funds raised from these events largely fund the Over 60's Christmas Lunch.

4.5 VH Management Committee & Social Cub

Cllr Cattermole said that the Village Hall continues to have hirings but that currently these are rather slack. The Friday night meetings of the Social Club, and the revenue from the bars that are booked by hirers of the hall, assist with the finances of the Village Hall but any major problems are referred to the Community Council for assistance. Items of major expenditure in the past year have been the acquisition of a new cooker and reparation works to the car park and manhole cover.

4.6 Community Shop

Cllr Taylor delivered his report on the Community Shop which is doing well with many villagers patronising the facility. In August the shop will celebrate its 7th year of trading

surpassing the expectations of many of its detractors with turnover continuing to increase year on year. Cllr Taylor attributed the success of the shop to the volunteers who staff it whilst reminding everyone that volunteer helpers are always needed. The shop has built up a reasonable reserve to cover most eventualities and he is confident that it can survive on the current model. He ended his report by thanking all patrons and volunteers for their continued support observing that a heavy snowfall does wonders for turnover, at the same time underlining the value of the facility to the village. Cllr Taylor was asked whether the Management Committee had considered adding a Post Office facility to the shop. He responded to advise that the matter had been considered and has not necessarily been ruled out.

4.7 Thorndon CEVC Primary School

Headmistress Ms V Gascoigne-Cecil was not present at the meeting but provided her report as follows:

'Welcome to Thorndon CEVCP School, a small and friendly rural school in the heart of the Suffolk countryside.

At Thorndon CEVC Primary School we value the benefits of working together in a small, caring school whose values are rooted in the Christian faith.

We provide a stimulating, supportive and challenging learning environment in which all learners are valued for the contributions they make.

Our school is at the heart of our community, on the main street, next to the church. We have 83 pupils divided into 4 classes, Ark Class (Reception), Victory Class (Year 1 & 2), Discovery Class (Year 3 & 4) and Endeavour (Year 5 & 6).

It has been another busy and exciting year at Thorndon School! There is always so much going on in school, from sporting events, to book weeks, nativities and visitors. Here is a taster of our year!

- **Partnership**

The Governing Body from Thorndon CEVC Primary School continues to develop their partnership with Worlingworth CEVC Primary School. This year there have been opportunities for staff to share expertise and training as well as shared trips. We are now looking to extend and develop these opportunities.

- **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

As usual Year 5 and 6 hosted a marvellous coffee morning, which was well supported and raised a significant amount of money for Macmillan. Cake and drinks were enjoyed by all.

- **Children in Need**

We all wore spots to raise money for Pupils in Need. The pupils came to school in amazing spotty outfits and donated money to a great cause.

- **Nativity**

Ark and Victory Class performed a super Nativity Play in the Church. Their performance retold the Nativity Story and reminded us all of the meaning of Christmas. A super performance by all involved.

- **Curlew Day**

Dr Roger Draycott from the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust came into talk to the pupils and their families about why the Curlew is endangered and what we can do to prevent any further demise in the Curlew population. We took part in a number of Curlew themed activities and supported Mr Negus in his 26 mile run to raise money to support the Curlew.

- **Book Day**

The pupils brought in a book themed 'artefact' and shared why their artefact reminded them on a particular book. In the afternoon, the pupils changed into their pyjamas and enjoyed some story telling sessions. A great way to encourage reading.

- **Sports Relief**

We all wore Sports kits to school to raise money for Sports Relief. During the afternoon we all took part in sporting activities to improve our fitness and enjoyment of sports.

Our netball team played superbly a netball tournament against other primary schools, winning the gold medal! We're sure we could field a team at the next Olympics!

- **Silly Socks**

We all wore silly socks to raise awareness of Autism, and raised money for Autism Anglia. A great array of socks were on show!

- **Open the Book**

Rev Julia and her team lead regular Open the Book assemblies in the Church. The children thoroughly enjoy these sessions and learn more about the stories in the Bible.

- **Upcoming Events:**

Sports Day, Kentwell Hall trip, Summer Fayre, Bewilderwood, visit to Redgrave and Lopham Fen... and much much more!

- **Friends**

Our school is always grateful for the support given by the Friends of Thorndon School (a registered charity) and the wonderful fundraising they do every year. These funds go towards providing our pupils with those little extras, for example, matched funding via a parent volunteer meant we could purchase fantastic new sports kit for all our teams when they are out representing our school. The very successful annual Christmas and Summer Fayres raise valuable funds which go towards our Year 6 Leavers gifts and trip as well as helping to fund transport costs for all our classes on their visits.

- **Challenges**

Space is always an ongoing challenge at our school! With new developments going up in Thorndon we are going to need to be creative with space.

- **Website**

Please do check the school website: <https://thorndon.suffolk.sch.uk> to find out all about what we've been doing. Visits to the school are always welcome'.

4.8 All Saint's Church

Church Warden Tim Rowe was not present at the meeting but provided his report as follows:

'The Church continues to reach out to all residents of Thorndon to make the church welcoming and accessible to all. We continue to operate an open church policy, which provides everyone with the opportunity to visit for a time of peace and quiet reflection. There is now a memorial book by the altar for those who wish to remember the names of loved ones who have gone before us (please contact me for details). The Community pay-back team continue to regularly cut the grass and keep the grounds clean and tidy. A special mention should also go to those who regularly clean the church and provide refreshments and arrange the flowers, they a small and almost invisible army of volunteers yet who should be publicly thanked for their continued commitment. We are always looking for additional help, including that of a secretary for our Parochial Church Council meetings which meets 4 times a year plus the AGM, so please get in touch with myself or Rev Julia if you feel you can offer to help in anyway.

In June, we said farewell to our Curate Revd Eleanor Goodison, and in July 2017 Gini Williams began ordination training. In September Rev Julia was installed as Rector by the Suffragan Bishop of Dunwich the Rt Revd Dr Mike Harrison and the Archdeacon of Suffolk, the Venerable Ian Morgan at a Benefice service at All Saints Church, Thorndon. Later in the year Bishop Martin invited her to become an Honorary Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Both of these appointments are a testament to the mission and ministry that has been exercised together over the last five years, and an affirmation by the Bishops of our service to our communities.

The Church continues to work closely with the Parish Council and although delayed by over a year, plans are in place to extend the church carpark and install lighting to make it safer for users of the car park during the dark winter months and alleviate parking congestion on the road outside the school. New lighting was installed in the West End of the Church yard to assist those who use the church after dark. We are also looking into the feasibility of installing a new bell frame in the Church Tower (beneath the medieval frame) so that the bell can once again be rung, and I thank James for offering to work together on this. Thanks to the generosity of the Parish Council for a donation of £800 which, together with donations from the Friends, will be used to complete repairs to our only stained-glass window and replace the window guards. Other initiatives are also in the plan and more will be shared via Village life at the appropriate time.

Thorndon CEVCP School continues to use the church for their activities throughout the year and T plus on a Tuesday morning continues to offer a chance for all to meet over refreshments. The church continues to offer Pizza and Prayer events for young people and many of our wedding couples attended Thorndon church the first of our Wedding Pop-in sessions to meet the couples and give out information.

Much focus continues to be placed on the maintenance of the village church, including new internal lighting, repairs to the slate roof, gutters and drainage as well as the relaying of the pathways in the church yard. With the help of donations from the Friends scheme we have been able to complete major repairs to the stonework on the East Window including repairs to the glazing. Together we can ensure that the church can remain a visible presence for years to come'.

4.9 Village Life Magazine

Cllr Hayward was not present at the meeting but provided his report as follows:

'The magazine continues to be printed on a monthly basis with ten issues per year. January and August are the missing months. Over the past five years the number of copies produced has risen from three hundred and fifty to three hundred and eighty and is expected to continue to increase over the coming years due to the development of additional housing.

Over the past year it has become increasingly difficult to secure interesting articles and features with a number of the past regular contributors ceasing to be involved for unknown reasons. The recent addition of Soduko seems to be popular so other games are being considered.

The production of the magazine is funded by subscriptions for advertising, this has resulted in a small profit for the past few years. This profit has been reducing yearly as the number of advertisers has fallen and the costs have risen due to increased print numbers as noted above. It is likely that a loss will be made going forward which it is hoped will be minimal.

Finally, thanks to the advertisers, the contributors, Mrs. Breda Hunt and the band of volunteers who deliver the magazine, without their assistance it would prove very difficult to continue the production of what I am told is generally an interesting read'.

4.10 Thorndon Bowls Club

Mrs C Aldous provided a report for the meeting confirming that the Bowls Club has 26 members and 5 social members. On 25 April last it held an Open Day from 14.00 – 20.00 which was attended by 60 people resulting in 9 new members. New members are always welcome and club nights are held, weather permitting, on Wednesday evenings.

4.11 Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator's Report

Mr C Brand delivered his report as Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator as follows:

'Thorndon Neighbourhood Watch is now in its 22nd year. During that time there have been many changes especially the relationship between Neighbourhood Watch and the Police. The main problem being the lack of Communication between NW and the SNT team at Eye.

The main area covered is: Thorndon, Hestley Green and Braiseworth. There are some in Rishangles, Stoke Ash and Occold.

Each e-mail is sent out Blind Copy to 330 addresses. With a further link to a colleague in Eye, we can communicate with around 700 addresses.

During the year, 18 New Residents on my patch were greeted, with a Welcome to Thorndon Package.

Short notice Information has been sent out for Thorndon Parish Council regarding problems with Broadband and the Phones etc.

A sample of the items that were reported as Lost and Found during the Year.

- 2. Missing Cats. Both Found.
- 2. Dead Cats. Both Owners traced.
- 1. Found Dogs. Not claimed, but rehomed.
- 1. Found Dog. Owner traced.

1. Dog found in Braiseworth. Collected by the Dog Walden.
1. Dog found in Braiseworth. No trace of Owner. Dog Rehomed.
1. Lost Dog found in Wetheringsett near Mendlesham Mast.
1. Lost Wallet. Found next Day.
1. Sheep attack.
2. Sets of Keys found. Both recovered by Owners.

In October. A Car had its windscreen broken in The Street Thorndon.

Also, In October. There was a change in Police personnel in the Eye SNT.

PC Lee Andrews-Pearce returned to his role as Rural Crime Officer. Replaced by PC Dan Peck.

PCSO Steve Long Transferred to Norfolk as a PC. Replaced by PCSO Kane Martin.

During the year there were lots of problems with the Police 101 Service.

Recently this seems to have improved.

In January, there were 3 attempted Thefts/Break-ins in Thwaite Road. No communication from the police.

On the 12th March there were 3 more reports of Break-ins. Police did attend.

Occold School had another beak-in. I contacted the Police for information etc. But I was told that I was not the Victim, so they could not give me information because of Data Protection.

However I did receive information re the Debenham Co-Op Stolen Cash Machine?

On the 16th March the Police held a Tool Smart event in Eye. The idea/concept was good, but the execution/location was poor. I am still waiting for a reply from SGT Mark Beresford to my Correspondence dated 27th March.

The Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore and the Chief Constable Gareth Wilson will be holding their Public Meetings across Suffolk during 2018.

The meetings are an opportunity for the public to ask questions and to find out more about policing in the county.

The Mid Suffolk meeting is at the Cedars Hotel, Needham Road, Stowmarket IP14 2AJ on Wednesday 11 July 2018.

A Reminder will be sent out nearer the time.

Finally I would like to thank all the Villagers that have assisted me with information during the past Year.

Also James Hayward and the Community Council for providing space in the Village Life, for my NW and other items of information.

I hope you have found the information circulated useful, and as always my closing remarks are.

Remember! Crime cannot flourish in a community that cares.

Don't act dumb, Ring 101'.

There were no other comments from the public and the **MEETING CLOSED at 20.18**