

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - THORNDON
Minutes of Meeting held at 7.30pm, Thorndon Village Hall on 3 May 2012

Present : Mrs W Coulson (Chair of Governors, Thorndon CE VCP School), Cllr Bartlett, Cllr Cattermole, Cllr Faulkner, Cllr Horton, Cllr LeGros, Cllr Ravenhill (Chairman), Cllr Taylor Cllr Theobald, Mrs C Aldous, Mrs C Owen, Mrs A Thompson, Mr M Sillett, Mr C Brand

Meeting Opened at 19.33

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Botwright, Cllr Stringer

2. Approval of minutes of Annual Parish Meeting – 16 May 2011

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

3. Actions & matters arising from minutes of 16 May 2011

None

4. Reports

Thorndon CE VCP School

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

The school roll has increased to 61 pupils, divided into three classes and despite the ever increasing governmental pressures on education, the school has a committed and enthusiastic staff, governors and friends of the school, who endeavour to provide the best for the children. As a Church of England School there is a Christian ethos, which indeed resembles the ethos of any other school, as all schools want to provide the best for their pupils on an academic, spiritual and moral level. The school has the same religious input as any other school, as the curriculum is very directive as to how much time is spent at looking at Christianity as well as looking at all faiths. There are positive links with our church, providing an ideal space for our weekly Friday afternoon sharing assembly and end of term services, which are open to families and the general public.

Whilst the emphasis is on teaching and learning, there is a ukulele club, cricket club and choir and the children take part in many trips and visits linked to their curriculum work as well as an annual residential trip to Aylmerton for Year 6 pupils. Friends of the School provide support to the children and teaching staff through various practical and fund-raising activities. There is an annual Christmas and Summer Fayre (this year on June 30th) and there are plans for a family disco later this month and a camel racing evening later in the year. The school is keen to be involved in village activities and the children really enjoyed the maypole dancing and competitions held at the recent Marmalade Festival. It has also become a tradition that the children grow leeks and enter the village leek competition.

Since the appointment of the Head Mr Peter Arnold in September 2010 the school has been in a partnership with Stoke Ash School, of whom he is also Head. This has led to sharing of resources and joint staff planning, as well as the children coming together for certain activities, such as a joint Jubilee Celebration later this month. There are joint governing body meetings once a term and some joint committees to avoid duplication and to share best practice. The partnership review committee carried out a survey of the whole school community and overall at Thorndon everyone was positive about the partnership, although the school maintains its unique individuality as a small village school.

Parish Council Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked her fellow councillors commenced her report by thanking all of the councillors for their continued support which is greatly appreciated and thanking the members of the public for attending the meetings, noting that when there are issues about which there is interest or concern, villagers do come along to meetings. She also thanked the Local Authority representatives from Neighbourhood Watch, SCC, MSDC & the Police for their reports & attendance at the meetings. They help alert the Parish Council to issues beyond the Parish where the same are not picked up in the correspondence received.

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

- **Police Services** – The question of the monitoring of traffic flow through the village and gathering data in respect thereof remains an priority, and the appointment of Inspector Pepper has seen some movement on this issue.
- **Highways** – The year has seen the reporting of various potholes in the village to the highways department at Suffolk County Council; investigating possible solutions for securing the verge outside the Bowls Club to allow cars to park without causing undue damage; ensuring that various hedges are kept cut back to allow a sufficient visibility splay for vehicles at junctions in the village and efforts undertaken to have white lining repainted outside Kerrison.
- **Village Shop** – The Parish Council gave a grant to the Community Village Shop last Summer to allow trading to continue following the proposed closure of the enterprise by Darren, and setting up of this community project.
- **Planning** – Planning applications have been significantly lower during the past 12 months, a trend which looks set to continue. The Parish Council remains vigilant on planning consents and any violations thereof.

The Chairman finished by saying that overall 2011-2012 was a quiet year for the Parish Council and that the outlook for 2012-2013 was similar as there is no money with which to address projects.

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

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator's Report

Claude Brande reported to the meeting as the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator as follows:

- **Speeding** – At the Police priority meeting in January 2012 it was agreed that SID would be sighted in Thorndon over a period of time to allow for the collection of meaningful data. These checks remain to be undertaken.
- **Crime Figures** – End of year figures show a fall in crime across Suffolk for the 6th consecutive year notwithstanding the significant financial challenges facing the Police.
- **Email** – Within the neighbourhood watch area there are 308 properties with the co-ordinator emailing 230 properties.
- **Fly Tipping** – This has not proved too problematic in the past year. A litter pick was undertaken at the end of March yielding 30 bin bags full of litter and 3 tyres. All volunteers were thanked for their sterling efforts.
- **Animals Lost and Found** – This service has continued to prove most helpful to both pets and owners alike.
- **Thefts** – The village has seen a number of thefts throughout the year including the theft of a ride-on mower, heating oil, tractor weights as well as thefts from vehicles and garages. There was criminal damage to the Play Area fence.
- **Non-Emergency Number** – In October the Police launched a new telephone number for non emergency calls – 101.
- **Sgt N Emerick** – In April Sgt Nick Emerick retired after 30 years service in the Police force. Sgt Jon Eaves succeeds him as head of the Mid Suffolk Central Safer Neighbourhood Team at Debenham.

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

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

Community Council – Cllr Cattermole confirmed that the Community Council was operating well, with the 'Village Life' being self-funding through advertising.

Social Club – This continues to run every Friday night & all profits made are ploughed back into the VH.

VH Management Committee – Cllr Cattermole reported plenty bookings throughout the year albeit the same are not self-funding and there reliance on the Community Council and

Social Club for money. In the next couple of years the roof may need some attention, otherwise maintenance of the Village Hall is good.

Suffolk Marmalade Festival – Cllr Bartlett expressed congratulations to the Suffolk Marmalade Festival held in April which has been a resounding success.

Consumer Champion – Cllr Bartlett reminded the meeting of his role of Consumer Champion. This is an initiative by Suffolk Trading Standards to reach out to Suffolk residents and make it easier for everyone to access information about consumer protection. The aim of the network is to educate and empower people about their consumer rights, and to build resilience to rogue traders and scams. The volunteer 'Consumer Champions' act as a bridge between Trading Standards and the local community and help ensure that the service meets your particular concerns.

There were no other comments from the public and the **MEETING CLOSED at 20.02**