

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - THORNDON
Minutes of Meeting held at 7.30pm, Thorndon Village Hall on 1 May 2014

Present : Cllr Bartlett, Cllr Botwright, Cllr Cattermole, Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Hayward, Cllr Le Gros, Cllr Ravenhill (Chairman), Cllr Taylor, Cllr Theobald, Mrs C Aldous, Mrs C Owen, Mrs A Thompson, Mr M Sillett, Cllr Tilbury and Mr C Brand

Meeting Opened at 19.30

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Stringer, Mrs S Wilsher and Mr K Brinkley

2. Approval of minutes of Annual Parish Meeting – 9 May 2013

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

3. Actions & matters arising from minutes of 9 May 2013

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, attendance at meetings and conducting themselves in an acceptable manner. She specifically thanked Cllrs Cattermole and Hayward for their efforts in resolving issues with the Play Area and Cllr Hayward for his endeavours in seeking a solution to speed enforcement in the Village. She reflected that Cllr Hayward's success was evidence that if one perseveres for long enough, results will be achieved. The Chairman affirmed that the outstanding issue of the replacement post box is ongoing and that she intends to pursue the matter.

The Chairman then moved on to other matters from the last year & the challenges for the forthcoming year:

- **Recycling Plant at Brome** – This was under threat again during the past 12 months, but the situation now seems to have stabilised with MSDC retracting its onerous requirements for paperwork. The Chairman has urged the Operator to make immediate contact with the local Parishes in the event problems surface in the future assuring him that Thorndon Parish Council will support the Recycling Plant to the best of its ability.
- **Planning** – Whilst there has been a steady stream of planning applications throughout the year, these remain much lower than in previous years.
- **Vehicle Activated Signs** – Following receipt of traffic data identifying speeding traffic in the Village the Parish Council is proactively looking to acquire vehicle activated signs in an effort to slow traffic down.

The Chairman finished by saying that overall 2013-2014 was a quiet year for the Parish Council.

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

4.2 Thorndon CE VCP School

Sara Wilsher, the Acting Chair of Governors at Thorndon CE VCP School was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report to the meeting as follows:

I am pleased to say that our school roll has increased to 69 pupils, divided into three classes, which have been renamed as: Ark – Reception and Year 1, Discovery - Year 2, 3 and 4 and Endeavour – Year 5 and 6. We have 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 we have 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. We have positive links with our church, providing an ideal space for our daily assemblies, Friday afternoon sharing assembly and end of term services, which are open to families and the general public.

Since the appointment of our Head Mrs Tamsin Little in January 2013, there have been many changes within the school. Ark and Discovery classrooms, the lobby and corridors have now been redecorated, by the kind generosity of the Leek club, giving up their time to do this. The Library has now been completed with a range of new books, a new Mezzanine area and stain glass windows. A new sanctuary garden has been built and a chill out room (Apollo). Termly 'Come and Join in' sessions are now run for each class, giving the parents the opportunity to come and see what their child is learning about at school.

The main emphasis is on teaching and learning, but all of our pupils get to be involved in a variety of other experiences. Forest Schools is run on a weekly basis, alternating between the classes. We also have a wide variety of afterschool clubs and lunchtime clubs running, including Lego club, Gardening club, Spanish club, Rugby club, Cricket club, Drama club, Netball club and various Art and Craft clubs. The children have taken part in many trips and visits linked to their curriculum work as well as an annual residential trip to Aylmerton for the year six pupils. Our Friends of the School provide support to the children and teaching staff through various practical and fund-raising activities. As you know we have an annual Christmas and Summer Fayre and the recent St Georges Day Dance at the Village Hall'.

4.3 Community Council

Cllr Cattermole confirmed that the Community Council has had a good year with all 5 major functions well attended. 'Village Life' is self-funding and made a small profit last year. The Community Council has made three donations to the Village Hall, the School library and part paid for the Over 60's Christmas lunch. Cllr Cattermole thanked all non-committee members for their support and assistance throughout the year.

4.4 Community Shop

Cllr Ravenhill reported on the Community Shop as it nears the end of its third year. She advised that the last 6-9 months have seen an increase in takings and the shop has managed to repay the £3,000.00 it borrowed at the outset. The shop is now completely self-funding and is always grateful for any volunteers to assist in the shop, if only for 3 hours per week. Cllr Ravenhill closed by thanking all Villagers for their continued support.

4.5 VH Management Committee & Social Club

Cllr Botwright reported an increase in bookings throughout the year and it would seem to be benefitting from the closure of Kerrison, and a number of bookings are for training courses for people outside the Village. Village organisations, including the Under 5' and Carpet Bowls continue to use the Village Hall. The School has used the Village Hall for a number of activities including PE lessons as well as its Christmas lunch and party. This year, pursuing its policy of continued improvement the Management Committee has retiled the Gents toilets and are looking to retile the ladies toilets in the forthcoming 12 months. Cllr Taylor was thanked for his assistance with the tiling.

The Social Club continues to run every Friday night & all profits made are used for maintenance of the Village Hall.

4.7 Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator's Report

Mr C Brand delivered his report for Neighbourhood Watch. He confirmed that the main objectives of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme are to prevent and reduce crimes on our neighbourhood; provide reassurance to people in our community; provide up to date crime reduction advice; encourage members of the community to be vigilant in looking after themselves and others and to act a channel of communication between the community and the police for the passing of timely information in an effort to prevent and detect crimes. Mr

Brand confirmed that reported incidents of fly tipping were at their lowest for several years but that there had been 7 thefts from properties including removal of tools from a van on a driveway; theft of 2 cathalytic converters and one theft of oil from an oil tank. Mr Brand itemised his 'lost and found' section as follows:

- 6 dogs found and reunited with their owners
- 4 cats of which 2 were not found
- 3 horses from Braiseworth found at Kerrison
- 5 sets of keys of which 2 were reclaimed

Mr Brand concluded by thanking all volunteers involved in the Village litter pick; all those who have assisted him with information throughout the year and the Cllr Hayward as eiditor of the 'Village Life' for providing the space in the magazine for his Neighbourhood Watch contributions.

There were no other comments from the public and the **MEETING CLOSED at 19.55**