

# ***THORNDON INTO THE FUTURE***

## **Minutes of meeting of the Thorndon Neighbourhood Plan Committee On Monday 4th September 2017**

### **Attendees:**

Stephen Page, Chairman  
Stuart Cattermole, Deputy Chairman  
James Hayward, Parish Councillor  
Gemma Burton  
Benn Horton  
Kevin Selwood  
Pauline Smith

### **1.Apologies for absence: None**

### **2.Matters Arising:**

New Committee members (Gemma Burton, Benn Horton and Kevin Selwood) were welcomed by SP. JH gave the new members the background of why the group was formed and referred back to the responses received from village residents to the survey circulated to them, which showed serious concerns regarding housing. JH explained that we need to figure out what we have to provide but there is no pro forma or template to work from. SP added that the committee has already identified concerns where potential building plots of land are in the village and the job of the committee is to make a plan in accordance with villagers wishes. The Plan itself will include infrastructure including the school, transportation, recreation as well as housing. SP also informed new members that a referendum will be held after the plan has been developed. SP asked new members if they had any concerns about being on the Committee and it was agreed that after they have seen what was required of them, they would let SP know if there were any issues going forward. PS requested new members put together a short bio (in format already given to them) to be collated by her and added to those of existing members, to be put on the TPC website.

Matters arising from last meeting: none

### **3.Review of Open Actions:**

(a) Feedback on Local Plans: JH had the Gislingham Plan which he felt gave food for thought and should be read by all committee members. The plan is broken down into similar paragraphs to those we are considering for Thorndon. Some of their ideas are really worthwhile and it seems transport, traffic, highways etc showed the same problems as for our village. Gislingham involved their local school by giving their thoughts as to what they thought the village should look like. PS had the Hepworth plan which she said did not focus strongly on housing (one short paragraph) but their survey did raise the need for more affordable/social housing. Their action plan to remedy this was to send a letter to the council requesting more social housing. SP had the Laxfield plan which he felt was not a good example for us to follow but was well laid out and showed Laxfield in a good light.

SC suggested we need to put statistics from the survey and villagers thoughts to be included at the early stages of the Village Plan Draft Summary, outlined previously for the Committee by Phil Tucker (on website). JH noted that we need to ensure the plan has validity and was informed by Councillor Stringer that there must be a land allocation, giving land that may be used for development in a way that it would not fundamentally change the village. BH stated that he thought that linear development works best, not having blocks of houses making little developments.

JH is continuing to try to get information from the MSDC planning portal on lapsed proposed developments but some of the proposals are so old, the relevant information appears to not be available. Full re-application is required after three years but except in extreme cases, will normally go through upon re-application. There are 39 approvals at present, 27 of which are at Kerrisons site. JH has been informed that work on the Kerrisons site should start late this year or early 2018. This development represents 10% of the village size. BH stated that there is a need for affordable housing and JH agreed but said there is an argument that people who need affordable housing also need decent transport links to get to work. GH said that it is difficult to find/purchase an affordable house in the village and JH responded that the land in the village is expensive so it is potentially not viable for developers to build small properties on the land.

JH explained to new members that there is a secure area of the Thorndon website for our use and said he would e-mail a link to this secure site which contains the Terms of Reference, the Parish Map and the Draft Summary document.

JH reiterated that the housing issue is the main impetus but if we do not become involved, decisions will be made for us by others. Most people accept that change will occur and if we accept that the village is growing by

10%, we will have problems with the school, transport, drainage, road network etc.

JH said a new joint local plan is being developed for Babergh and Mid Suffolk which is currently out for consultation and includes a section on this village. JH will circulate the link to members. SP said that all members need to look at the local plan in order to establish our plan.

JH said that we are in early stages of making the neighbourhood plan and there is strong feeling that estates should not be built at the back of houses. The committee needs to start looking at the potential plot areas that we are aware of. SP noted that we need to look at what developments should be allowed over what period, taking into account sustainability and infrastructure. JH said that he has ascertained from Anglia Water that the sewerage problem in the village has now been resolved, so they do not foresee any problems with future development. Committee members, however, agreed that the village does not have the infrastructure to support many more houses. JH said he hopes to have statistics on traffic movements within the village by the time of the next meeting.

SP suggested that we need to focus between now and the next meeting on the Draft Summary document and start to put thoughts around individual sections so we can begin to focus on them. SC agreed and said we can discuss areas of land for development a little later as the Draft Summary is most important. SC suggested we start filling in the sections of the Draft Summary and offered to look at the Draft Summary and provisionally allocate sections to members of the committee to deal with. Committee members may go on to secure area of website and download the document, work on it and when they want it uploaded back to secure site, e-mail the document to JH to do so. This will stop any duplications ending up on the site. BH offered to do the health section and GB the education section.

JH has put a request in the recent editorial of Village Life magazine for anyone with interest in becoming involved in the work of the committee to put their names forward. This is not as a committee member but more for additional help as and when committee members need it going forward. It was agreed that the Press Announcement will be put off until the New Year.

(b) Update from Amanda Thompson on registration: SC wrote to Amanda but has so far not received a response. JH to find out what the situation is on this.

**4.AOB:** None

**5.Next Meeting:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 at Black Horse

