

THORPE MORIEUX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2019

AT 8PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Ashley Simpson (Chairman) who welcomed Cllrs John Gagen, Louisa Pepper, John Squirrel and Jules O'Brien, together with the Clerk – Nicola Smith, County and District Cllr – Robert Lindsay, District Cllr. No members of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence:
 - i. Cllr Keith Lee (holiday) and Cllr Garry Russell (prior commitments) sent their apologies to the meeting;
 - ii. Cllrs consented to the apologies.

2. Members' Declaration of Interest
 - i. To receive disclosure of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for the agenda under discussion – Cllr Russell had confirmed his interest in the planning matter to the Clerk but in any event was not at this meeting;
 - ii. To receive declarations of gifts of hospitality received - none;
 - iii. To consider requests for dispensation for pecuniary interests for the agenda under discussion – not applicable.

3. Minutes: Clerk apologised that due to ill health she was behind with finalizing the Minutes to be considered at the meeting but will arrange for the Minutes to be available at the September meeting .

4. Matters arising: (some matters are dealt with this agenda)
 Grit bins – Clerk and Chairman had just prior to the meeting been around the village to consider various locations. Clerk understood that the forms that needed to be submitted for each location where due to change (less overall paperwork will need to be submitted) and once she has that form from SCC Highways she will submit details of each location identified for a grit bin for the Highways department to consider.

 Parishioner has kindly refurbished/repared the seat on the village green known as the "Coronation Bench". Cllr Squirrel will thank the parishioner on behalf of the Parish Council.

 Parishioner has kindly made 2 x Notice Boards to replace the one at the Church, and the one at the Village Hall. Parishioner is also arranging for the new Notice Board at the Church to be installed. Further update at the next meeting. In the meantime the Parish Council would like it noted in these Minutes their thanks to the parishioner.

5. Report from District and County Cllr Robert Lindsay
 I am delighted to be elected as your District Councillor, as well as your County Councillor and I look forward to working with you as a "one stop shop".

Signed.....

Dated.....

The Conservatives now have 15 Councillors and other political groups have 17, which means the Conservatives no longer have a majority.

The second largest group is the Independents with 8 Councillors, the Greens including myself with four Councillors, Libdems with 3 and Labour with 2. I have been elected group leader of the new Green group on Babergh. I have been appointed to the Audit and Standards Committee, my Green colleague Leigh Jamieson will serve on planning committee and Jane Gould will be on the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

The council has in place a cabinet system. Under a deal agreed between the Conservatives, Independents and Lib Dems, the cabinet has eight members, with a conservative leader John Ward, three other Conservatives, three independents and a Lib Dem. I voted against Cllr Ward as the leader because I objected to the Greens being excluded.

However, I am included in informal "Political Leaders Group" meetings.

Draft Local Plan

The latest version of this was approved by the council for a ten week consultation starting shortly and ending in September. So far as I can see there are no changes to the situation for Thorpe Morieux from the 2017 draft. The central part of the village is still a hamlet, (the rest countryside) with no allocations and the residential boundary looks the same.

Suffolk County Council announces funding cuts to subsidised bus routes

Suffolk County Council has announced that 23 subsidised bus routes will no longer receive funding from the council, in a bid to save £340,000. This means that over a third of subsidised bus routes in the county will lose their funding.

The decision to cut £340,000 from the subsidised buses budget was made in February, when the Council agreed on the budget for the current financial year. I spoke against this cut at the time, as well as other cuts that will affect bus users such as the decision to no longer print bus timetables. The 112 from Bildeston to Sudbury which in May had its contract renewed, is one of the ones that is to lose its subsidy.

More details of which routes will be affected can be found at:

<http://www.suffolkonboard.com/>

The council say that they will be engaging with bus operators to determine whether the routes can continue to run without council funding. I will keep you updated if there are any further developments.

Cross-party call for Independent inquiry into SEND services

On 14 June I signed a cross-party letter to the Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council, asking her to establish an independent inquiry into the provision of SEND services in Suffolk.

This follows the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission reinspection earlier this year, when Suffolk County Council's SEND services were deemed to have made insufficient improvement.

She has replied to say that this would take time away from delivering their recovery plan agreed with the Dept for Education and that the DfE would make progress reports this

Signed.....

Dated.....

September and then six months later. She is also arranging for a “peer challenge” review of progress by independent experts next year.

Final Council overspend on 2018-19 budget

The final outturn figures for the 2018-19 budget have been published, showing that Suffolk County Council overspent by £4.5m (0.88% of the budget). Key areas of overspend included:

- Home to School Transport (£1.7m), due to the increasing demand for out of county SEND transport arrangements;
- Adult Care Purchasing Budget (£4m);
- Early Help and Specialist Services (£4.8m), due to the increasing number of children in care, especially those requiring specialist placements.

These areas of overspend were mitigated by underspends in other directorates.

6. Public Forum: no members of the public present.

7. Correspondence

- i. Email from Babergh District Council regarding change of bin collection day for some households, commencing 15th July 2019. All households affected by a change of bin collection day will receive a leaflet from Babergh advising of their new collection day, if applicable.

8. Clerk's Report

No items awaiting approval for expenditure.

9. To consider and approve Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19

Clerk reported that the Annual Return was not yet finalised and she would arrange a short additional meeting in order to deal with approval of the Certificate of Exemption, Audit, Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement. Date of meeting to be confirmed.

10. Cllrs Reports (if any)

Cllr Squirrell advised that he had been asked by a parishioner about possible flower beds on the two small triangular greens (Church corner and Home Farm). Following discussion, it was agreed that due to the poor condition of the soil and maintaining good visibility at the junctions that the PC would not want to plant flower beds up under the village sign. Cllr Squirrell will report the decision back to the parishioner.

Cllr Squirrell had been asked by a parishioner to report to the PC that the regular flooding of the road outside of Moat Farm has exposed a rough piece of concrete on the eastern verge which is damaging car tyres particularly when it is submerged under water (photograph had been provided). Responsibility of either the land owner or SCC highways to remove.

Cllr Squirrell reported that the wildflower meadow at Whitethorn Ley was looking better this year than the previous year.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Cllr Lee enquired whether more road signage was needed by the main road near his property as there had been 2 accident in an 8 week period recently. Would like Highways to consider whether signage in both directions would improve the situation. Cllr Lee to liaise with County Cllr Lindsay in order get a Highways Officer to look at the matter.

Cllr Gagen reported that a young person has been volunteering at the Old Forge wildlife area on Blacksmiths Lane, this is part of his Gold Duke of Edinburgh award for Community Volunteering. He has been tidying up the area. The Parish Council asked for their thanks to the young person to be minuted. Cllr Gagen reported that there were possibly some works that needed to be carried out to one of the trees but it would need a tree surgeon to do these works, and that he was getting a quotation for this.

Cllr Squirrell reported that the online police report for reported crime showed that Thorpe Morieux had the following crimes reported since the last meeting:-

March – 1 crime

April – 0 crime.

This meant that in the last 12 months period that had been a total of 11 crimes in the village. Some of these incidents were related to each other. It should be noted that crime rates in the village remained very low.

11. Planning Matter:

Application DC/19/02689 Caravan at Tye Barn, Almshouse Green, Thorpe Morieux.

Application for reserved matters relating to approved Outline Planning Application DC/18/01568 – Appearance, Scale and Landscaping for erection of stable block with residential accommodation.

Noted and agree with other consultees comments, but no objection to the application.

12. Date of next meeting: Additional Meeting – date to be confirmed and thereafter scheduled meeting on 5th September 2019 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....