

THORPE MORIEUX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2019

AT 8PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Keith Lee (Chairman) who welcomed Cllrs Anne Nicholls, Ashley Simpson, Garry Russell, John Gagen, Louisa Pepper and Mark Ward, together with the Clerk – Nicola Smith, County Cllr – Robert Lindsay, District Cllr – Clive Arthey, and three members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence:
 - i. No apologies, all Cllrs present;
 - ii. To consent/non consent to accept the apologies for absence – not applicable.
2. Members' Declaration of Interest
 - i. To receive disclosure of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for the agenda under discussion – none;
 - 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: Cllrs considered the draft Minutes of 24 January 2019. Cllr Nicholls proposed and Cllr Gagen seconded that they were a true and accurate record. All Cllrs agreed.
4. Matters arising: (some matters are dealt with this agenda)
 Phone Box – Clerk had been in contact with SALC and other Parish Clerk. The advice is to get confirmation from BT that the colour of the phone box can be changed from red, if the Parish Council decided that was what they wanted to do. Cllr Russell is liaising with the BT person the PC dealt with when the phone boxes were purchased, and will update the PC in due course.

Defibrillator – Unfortunately the application to the BHF had been unsuccessful. BHF provide a Call Push Rescue Training Kit with the defibrillator (they cannot be provided separately), and had concluded that their application did not show a commitment to training a significant number of people within the wider community. Cllrs discussed. Cllr will contact Cockfield PC as they have recently installed a defib to ascertain who they purchased it from. Clerk will also look to see if there are other charities.

Grit bins – Clerk had been unwell on the dates arranged to go around the village with the Chairman to determine locations of grit bins. They will aim to do this in April.

Clerk has been in contact with Sgt Calver (Rural Policing Team) and invited him along to the Annual Parish Meeting on 25 April 2019. Sgt Calver has accepted the invitation.

Signed.....

Dated.....

5. Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay

Budget cuts approved by cabinet

Council Tax is due to rise by a total of 3.99% - 2.99% increase in general council tax and 1% for the Social Care Precept;

The budget includes a savings requirement of £10.1m, divided across all departments.

This financial year's forecast deficit has reduced from over £8m to £5.9m but a lot of this is due to not replacing staff, particularly social workers, who have left, so is not sustainable.

However a big part of the cost over runs is to do with sending SEN children out of county which the planned £45m investment in Special Educational Needs places in Suffolk over the next five years should tackle.

Citizens Advice reprieve

The NHS in the form of Clinical Commissioning Groups in Suffolk has come forward to match fund the county's cut grant of £184,000 for 2019/20 but the full cut is still going ahead next year and it is not clear whether the CCGs will renew their funding. I voted against the council's budget at the last full council meeting in February mainly because of this cut to CAB.

New opt in policy for school travel

For pupils eligible for free school travel from September 2019, parents must now opt in to confirm their child has a seat on the bus from March 1st to the end of May. Under the former school travel policy, the seat was reserved automatically, even if pupils did not show up.

Suffolk fails its Special Needs inspection again

Two years after failing its inspection, Suffolk County Council special needs service is still not meeting children's needs, according to Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. The inspectors said they had made progress on improving governance but not on three other areas.

- Parents are having to go to multiple authorities and are waiting too long to get the new version of "Statements" – (EHCs) "Education, Health and Social Care plans" for their children, particularly for autism where there is a backlog of referrals.
- Lack of understanding among parents of support available including access to child and adolescent mental health services.
- A lack of joint working to monitor outcomes for children.

Discussion from Parish Cllrs with County Cllr followed on from the report and particularly the issue of Suffolk failing its Special Needs Inspection again. Cllr Pepper enquired of County Cllr Robert Lindsay whether it would be possible for SCC special needs service to "budding up" with an authority in another county that was performing at an outstanding level in relation to its Special Needs inspection. Cllr Pepper also asked whether County Cllr would email that question ahead of the next SCC meeting that will discuss this issue and consider a way forward. If it was raised at the meeting for the first time by the County Cllr it would result in

a delay, possibly of several months, for an answer at the next meeting, but if it was asked at prior to the meeting, advising that it would be a question that was raised it would enable enough time for an answer to be considered, and avoid unnecessary delay. County Cllr Robert Lindsay agreed to do this.

6. Report from District Cllr Clive Arthey

2019-20 Council Tax

Band D Council Tax for the coming year is Suffolk County Council £1292.13 (+4), Suffolk Police £212.76 (+13%), Babergh District Council £163.86 (+3.15%) and Thorpe Morieux Parish Council £18.07 (-1.8%). Band D total is £1686.82 with 76.6% of that going to SCC, 12.6% to Suffolk Police, 9.7% to BDC and 1.1% to Thorpe Morieux PC.

BDC 2019-20 Budget

Included in the budget is another £25 million of borrowing to fund commercial property through CIFCO Capital Ltd. This will bring the total investment in CIFCO to £100 million split equally between Babergh and Mid Suffolk DCs.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

In bid round 2 applications have been approved for electric vehicle charging points in Lavenham's car park, funding for the Lavenham 'Community Hub' (former TIC) where Post Office facilities will be provided, and Preston St Mary Village Hall extension. Unspent bid round 2 funds will be carried forward to the next bid round in May.

7. Public Forum:

- i. Parishioner enquired of District Cllr Clive Arthey as to whether the village would for the first time have a "defined settlement boundary" as he had seen it on the new Babergh draft Local Plan, and if so how would this impact on any planning applications? District Cllr Arthey confirmed that the draft Local Plan did have a "defined settlement boundary". These boundaries are tightly drawn up and around the most built up part of the village. In effect it defines where any development is in a village" but as the lines are tightly drawn up it often means that you will see a boundary line going through a back garden on the map, and this means that it stops applications for people wanting to sell off part of their garden land to a developer, or developing it themselves. With regards to planning, if an application comes in within the defined settlement boundary then there is a presumption to consent to the application, unless there are other matters under the Planning Policy which would make that application unsuccessful. It may give an opportunity for a very small number of 'infill applications' but they would be limited in number because of the boundary line. Parishioner thanked Cllr Arthey for the explanation.
- ii. Parishioner advised that the landowner of footpath 11 has put rubble down and it is now easier to get through on the footpath.
- iii. Parishioner gave a "Police Report" as follows:
In the period Oct 2018 – Dec 2018 there had been 3 crimes investigated – all had fallen into the category of "violence and sexual offences" which are offences against

Signed.....

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the person. In relation to 2 of those crimes a suspect had been charged, and with regards to the 3rd crime, action has been taken by another organisation. In 2018 there had been a total of 10 crimes reported in the village.

- iv. Parishioners spoke with regards to “verge management” and their contact with a SCC Ecologist. This has followed of from the number of verge cuts that SCC do each year being reduced from 2 to 1. They had been discussing a different type of cutting strategy, and the use of different plants that suppress quicker growing grasses and plants that result in a high verge. The Ecologist has indicated that they are happy to look into this for the village if the village was supportive. *PC to discuss under item 8i of the Agenda.*

- v. Parishioner noted that Chapel Farm Barn update was on the agenda. He was disappointed with BDC Enforcement Team. The terms of any agreement that they had come to with the owner of Chapel Farm Barn were not known and he was concerned that the owner would simply do nothing. What happens if he does not submit an application. If he does nothing for another for another two years would any application he then made after January 2021 sail through by default. Following discussion District Cllr Clive Arthey confirmed that he would speak with Simon Bailey at the BDC Enforcement Team to advise that the PC continued to be disappointed in relation to this matter.

Parishioner advised that he did not think that the owner was living at the property at the current time. An upstairs window had been blown open in the wind since 20 January 2019 and had not been closed even in the rain and almost gail force winds that we had experienced in the last week.

8. Correspondence

- i. Email from parishioner dated 28 February 2019 regarding “verge management” in the village. Following discussion, it was agreed that further information was required before the Parish Council could give its support to this initiative. Indeed, parishioner confirmed that they also agreed that the next steps would be for a set of guidelines to be produced by SCC which would give more information. Clerk suggested that once that guideline was available then the matter be placed back on the Agenda for consideration and the PC might like to consider having a public consultation event in the village – in order to gauge villagers concerns or support. PC did agree that ultimately safety of parishioners and those travelling in and through the village would be their ultimate concern.

9. Clerk’s Report

Items awaiting approval:

N Smith (salary)	£120.04	LGA 1972
HMRC (tax and NI)	£30.20	Incorp&Taxes Act

Cllrs all approved expenditure.

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Clerk had also provided information for income and expenditure from 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019:

Income

Precept	£1800.00
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Expenditure

May 2018

SALC subscriptions	£136.29
Thorpe Times	£100.00
St Mary's Church	£200.00
Village Hall (meeting costs)	£120.00
PC Insurance	£334.81

Aug 2018

N Smith (salary)	£270.44
HMRC (tax and NI)	£67.60
Village Hall (firepit)	£200.00

Oct 2018

Firepit Co	£295.66
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Nov 2018

N Smith (salary)	£187.80
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Jan 2019

N Smith (salary)	£166.02
HMRC (tax and NI)	£3.00
Web hosting costs	£80.19
Grass cutting	£150.00

Mar 2019

N Smith (salary)	£120.04
HMRC (tax and NI)	£30.20

	£2462.05

10. **To approve dates for July and September 2019 meeting dates**

This was following on from the previous meeting. Cllrs approved the following dates:

4th July 2019

5th September 2019

11. **Chapel Farm Barn update**

This matter had been discussed under the public forum part of the meeting and it was noted that District Cllr Clive Arthey would endeavor to obtain further information from Simon

Signed.....

Dated.....

Bailey at the BDC Enforcement Team with regards to the query that had been raised by parishioner.

12. Cllrs Reports (if any)

Chairman confirmed with Clerk that there was no further update with regards to Whitethorn Ley. Building works should commence soon on the three new properties.

Chairman advised that Strutt & Parker have been sold.

Cllr Gagen reported that the recent litter pick had been very successful. 12 people had come along and 24 big bin liners full of rubbish had been collected. The PC expressed its thanks to those that organised the litter pick, and those that attended.

13. Planning Matters: no new planning matters at the time of serving the Agenda.

14. Date of next meeting: **Annual Parish Meeting on 25 April 2019, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

Meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....