

THORPE MORIEUX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2019

AT 8PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Keith Lee (Chairman) who welcomed Cllrs Anne Nicholls, Ashley Simpson, Garry Russell, Mark Ward and John Gagen, together with the Clerk Nicola Smith and District Cllr Clive Arthey.

1. Apologies for absence:

- i. Cllr Pepper gave her apologies due a prior commitment;
- ii. Cllrs consent to accept the apology for absence.

2. Members' Declarations of Interest:

- i. No disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest for the Agenda under discussion;
- ii. No declarations of gifts of hospitality received;
- iii. Requests for dispensation – not applicable.

3. Minutes:

Cllr Russell proposed and Cllr Ward seconded that the Minutes of the 8 November 2018 were a true and accurate record. All Cllrs present agreed. Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings:

Phone box refurbishments – Cllr Russell has agreed to carry out refurbishment works when the weather improves later in the year. Discussion amongst Cllrs regarding the colour of the phone box as some parishioners had enquired whether one of the phone boxes could be painted blue instead of red, and whether that phone box could be used as a form of information hub. Clerk to place article in the Thorpe Times and for it to be something to be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting to gauge parishioners views.

Defibrillator – Clerk has submitted application to the British Heart Foundation and hopefully will have a decision by the next meeting on 7 March 2019.

WWI Memorial beacon – this was installed in good time for the Armistice 100 Remembrance event in November 2018. Cllrs reported that the event was well attended and a huge effort by various parishioners had enabled such a wonderful Remembrance event to take place. The Parish Council expressed their thanks to all of those involved.

New housing at Whitethorn Ley – Orwell Housing had confirmed the following: they are in communication with the contractor that built the original development, and are working their way through the various paperwork required in order to obtain the cost of building

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these new units. They anticipate an April/May start to developing the three properties, but will advise of any changes to this. Clerk will get information into the Thorpe Times and onto the village website advising people how to sign up their details to the register for Affordable Housing and the need to renew any existing application they have annually.

Grit bins – Clerk and Chairman will agree locations, photographs and description of each location needs to be on the application form together with any relevant consents.

Notice board and seat – Chairman had inspected seat and it needs a good clean and he will see to this in due course. Notice Board a parishioner had kindly offered to replace the Notice Board with an oak one and this will be carried out soon.

5. Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay

Consultation on cuts to Citizens Advice

In November, Suffolk County Council announced their intention to cut all funding for Suffolk's Citizen Advice Bureaus as part of their budget savings proposals. This was later amended to a phased cut over 2 years. The funding will be reduced by half (£184,000) in 2019/20, before being removed entirely in 2020/21. This is better but still runs the risk of undermining what is a vital service for vulnerable people. Suffolk County Council are legally obliged to run an "equalities" consultation on this to show they have consulted on how it might harm protected categories. It closes at 5pm on Wednesday 23 January, and can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/cabconsultation

Council pledges to lead fight against single-use plastics

On 6 December 2018, my group successfully put forward a motion calling on Suffolk County Council to do more to tackle single-use plastic waste in the county. The motion was agreed unanimously by all councilors. The measures the council has agreed to implement include a commitment to work towards only using sustainable or re-usable plastics in all council buildings, writing to the public on how to reduce plastic waste, and creating a "plastic free Suffolk network" of councils, businesses and other organisations.

Suffolk County Council refuses to tackle carbon emissions

At the Council meeting in December, I seconded a motion asking Suffolk County Council to set an annual "carbon budget" and create targets for reducing carbon emissions. Suffolk County Council already monitors its carbon emissions, but currently this work is not in the public domain and there are no clear targets for carbon reduction. A carbon budget would set out how much carbon the council could emit each year, much like a financial budget sets out how much money can be spent. Unfortunately, the administration voted against the motion and refused to commit to any carbon reduction targets.

New highways boss

After a long search, a new head of Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, Mark Ash has been hired and will start in February. He is currently Director of Waste and Environment at Essex County Council, where he does flood and water management, sustainable drainage services, management and promotion of the natural environment and renewable energy.

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Road closures and signage and diversions

Having changed the pothole policy, new cabinet member for highways is also looking to see if highways can improve the co-ordination of road closures to stop over runs and improve signage. They are looking seriously at the option of a permit scheme for road closures, similar to the one Essex already operates.

I have specifically asked that notices of closures (such as the recent one in Bildeston which was ten miles from the actual roadworks in Stowmarket), mention the location of the roadworks, so that people are not diverted needlessly. I am told this has been fed back to the traffic management company which the utility uses.

Abandoned and unremoved signs

I have raised this issue with Network Assurance. They are urging you to please report signs that are abandoned on networkassurance@suffolk.gov.uk and if at all possible with photos because utilities can be fined for these.

6. Report from District Cllr Clive Arthey

2019-20 Budget

Work on next years budget is at an advanced stage with a likely 3% increase in Babergh's element of Council Tax. Babergh's element is less than 10% of the total bill which is likely to include increases for Suffolk County Council (5%?) and Suffolk Police (over 12%?).

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

In the first bid round only £65,000 of District (123) funds was spent, with the remaining £316,000 carried forward to the October bid round (over £600,000 available). Bids include proposals for Electric Vehicle charger points in Lavenham. Unspent funds will be carried forward to the next bid round in May 2019.

Local Plan

I am sorry to tell you that the next Local Plan consultation will now be delayed until the Summer. The 'revision to the timetable' now anticipates presentation to Council in June, followed by public consultation. There are then periods for preparation of the 'submission version' and a 'technical consultation' before the Examination in Public. Adoption of the new plan will now not take place until next year.

Waste and Recycling

There has been a slight reduction in blue bin recyclables collected, and although we generate electricity from black bin waste, it is much more expensive than blue bin recycling. The Suffolk Waste Partnership, the County Council and BDC continue to look at ways to reduce waste, including the reduction in single use plastics, and increased recycling. We are aware there have also been collection problems on some rounds due to a shortage of freighter crews (particularly HGV drivers). Please don't be put off recycling, and continue to present your blue bins with recyclables clean, dry and loose (no bags please).

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2019 Elections

District and parish elections are on 2nd May. The district elections will be for the new wards, with Thorpe Morieux in the new 'North West Cosford' ward, grouped with Bildeston, Brettenham, Hitcham, Kettlebaston, Preston St Mary and Wattisham.

Chapel Farm Barn

Legal advice from a barrister appointed by the Council has resulted in the withdrawal of the enforcement action in respect of the change of use of the agricultural barn. However, Planning Enforcement are considering what options may be available in terms of future action and the Parish Council will be informed of progress.

7. Public Forum:
Parishioner advised of problems with footpath number 11. Chairman confirmed that he had spoken with Martin Bowers at Strutt & Parker that day and he was advised that Mr Bowers would look into the matter the next day.
8. Correspondence: (all general correspondence has been circulated to Cllrs and any matters for discussion are dealt with under other Agenda items).
9. Clerk Report:
Clerk reported that she had attended 2019 Parish Council Election training and she will prepare a note with keys dates and process within the new week and circulate to Cllrs.

Clerk advised of the schedule of payments awaiting authorization:

100374	N Smith (salary)	166.02	LGA 1972
100375	HMRC	3.00	Incorp&Taxes Act
100376	D Barrett (webhosting/domain)	80.19	LGA 1972
100377	J Gooderham (grass cutting)	150.00	Open Spaces Act

Cllr Ward proposed approval and Cllr Nicholls seconded. All Cllrs present agreed.

10. To approve Precept for 2019-20:
Cllrs considered a request from the Thorpe Times to increase the grant to them from £100 to £200 (an increase of £100 and back to the original £200 grant they used to receive). The increase was directly related to printing costs and a better print quality. Following discussion Cllrs all agreed that the £100 increase should be incorporated into the Precept.

Chairman proposed a Precept in the sum of £2096 for 2019-20, and Cllr Russell seconded. All Cllrs present agreed. Chairman duly signed the Precept demand form, Cllr Ward and Cllr Simpson also signed, and the Clerk countersigned the document. Clerk will submit to BDC before the deadline on the 31 January 2019.

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11. To consider and agree 2019-20 Meeting dates:

7 March 2019

25 April 2019 (Annual Parish Meeting)

9 May 2019 (Annual Parish Council Meeting)

4th July 2019 - to be agreed

5th September 2019 - to be agreed

7 November 2019

9 January 2020

5 March 2020

23 April 2020 (Annual Parish Meeting)

12. Update on Planning Appeal in relation to Chapel Farm Barn

Cllrs noted the update within the report of District Cllr Clive Arthey. Cllrs also considered correspondence from a parishioner.

Parish Cllrs discussed and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to BDC Chief Executive and Simon Bailey (Head of the Enforcement Team) advising that the PC were hugely disappointed in how the Enforcement Team had dealt with the matter and ask that the Chief Executive look into this matter.

13. Cllrs Reports

Chairman reported he had met Sgt Calver at an event. Sgt Calver is a Member of the Rural Policing Team. Chairman would like to invite him along to the Annual Parish Meeting on 25 April. Cllrs all agreed. Clerk will contact Sgt Calver.

14. Planning Matters:

No new planning matters.

Planning Decisions:

DC/18/03804 – Land at Whitethorn Ley, Thorpe Morieux. Permission has been granted for 3 no.dwellings for affordable rent tenancy

DC/18/04748 – Thorpe Hall Stables, Bury Road. Planning permission has been granted for conversion of east wing to annexe accommodation. Erection of extension and other alterations to dwellings.

DC/18/04758 – Jaggards Barn, Bury Road. Planning permission has been granted for full planning application – erection of 3 bay garage with accommodation above following removal of approved garage under B/14/01197

15. Date of next meeting: 7 March 2019

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