

THORPE MORIEUX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH JANUARY 2020

AT 8PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Ashley Simpson (Chairman) who welcomed Cllrs Louisa Pepper, Keith Lee, Jules O'Brien, John Squirrell, Garry Russell and John Gagen, together with the Clerk, Nicola Smith. No members of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence:

- i. All Parish Cllrs present at meeting.
- ii. Consent to absence - not applicable.

2. Members' Declarations of Interest:

- i. Cllr Squirrell declared an interest in planning matter 10(i) DC/19/05766 in relation to Wheelwright due to proximity of his home address;
- ii. No declarations of gifts of hospitality received;
- iii. To consider requests for dispensation – none.

3. Minutes:

Cllrs considered the draft Minutes of 7th November 2019. Cllr Pepper proposed and Cllr O'Brien seconded that the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting. All Cllrs present agreed.

4. Matters Arising:

Matter Arising	Update
Chevrons on the corner of Bury Road (following on from two accidents in eight weeks as reported under section 10 of the meeting on 4 July 2019).	SCC Highways had carried out an assessment. They will only approve two chevrons on the verge. District and County Cllr Robert Lindsay obtained an estimate of costs for these works from the Highways Dept. Estimate of professional services and construction/implementation costs are in the region of £900 - £1300. Cllr Robert Lindsay confirmed he would pay for half out of his highways budget. Clerk had liaised with the infrastructure team who had confirmed that the Neighbourhood CIL monies can be used to pay towards this highways safety implementation. <i>Cllr Gagen proposed and Cllr O'Brien seconded that the PC should</i>

Signed.....

Dated.....

	<p><i>go ahead with the installation of the chevrons and pay for the balance of the costs of the works out of the Neighbourhood CIL monies. Cllr Lindsay confirmed he would still contribute half the costs. Clerk to instruct highways to proceed with the scheme.</i></p> <p>Highways has subsequently provided drawing/map of where chevrons were to be placed. Cllrs considered this at the meeting on 09/01/2020 and agreed the same. Clerk to confirm to Highways and County Cllr so that work can commence.</p>
Defibrillator	Clerk to confirm to VH the information required to obtain the grant from County Cllr Robert Lindsay.
Chapel Farm Barn update	<i>The PC agreed to send a formal complaint about Baberghs handling of this matter to the Local Government Ombudsmen. Clerk will look into the complaint procedure and progress.</i>
Planning Decisions	DC/19/04935 – Newsons Farm, Bury Road – application for Listed Building Consent – replacement of lime plaster on gable end with weatherboarding. Listed building consent has been granted.
Whitethorn Ley	See item 10 (ii) of the Agenda. In addition, Orwell Housing enquiring whether their contractors can lay services through the open space area in front of the existing units, stating that this will prevent pulling all of the road up and causing too much disruption. The contractor will make good the areas that they disturb. Cllrs considered this and all present agreed that the contractors could go ahead as suggested.

5. Report from District and County Cllr Robert Lindsay

Suffolk County Council

Budget 2020-21

Council precept to rise by 4% (2% general and 2% social care)

This leaves slight surplus for “investment” of £3.5m – available this year only.

Signed.....

Dated.....

£3m – Suffolk 2020 Fund – Investment available for projects related to carbon reduction, carbon offset, road safety, natural environment, built environment, innovation and use of technology. Must have a cabinet member sponsor.

£0.5m – Highways Investment Fund – improving road sign and marking visibility, refreshing road markings along main routes through villages and those supporting sustainable transport options such as cycling in urban areas. Minor repairs and resettling of twisted signs.

Citizens Advice – another stay of grace

Rather than remove the Citizen's Advice grant (currently £0.184m) entirely in 2020-21, as last planned, the Council has committed to provide £0.12m each year for the next three years. Citizen's Advice will also receive a second year of funding from the CCGs, which equates to an additional £0.184m for 2020-21.

Future bus project

At a Scrutiny meeting in December, the deputy cabinet member for transport announced that the council was planning to bid for around £20 million from the Department for Transport for an electric bus pilot scheme. If the bid is successful, the council has said that it plans to launch the pilot scheme within 12-18 months in the Bury St Edmunds area.

First new SEND units announced

In January 2019, Suffolk County Council agreed to provide an additional £45.1m to fund additional school and specialist units for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The first 10 specialist units, providing 168 spaces, are due to open in September 2020.

Babergh District Council

Babergh is also working on its budget proposals for next financial year.

Council tax is proposed to rise by £5 (equivalent to just over 3%) next year, the maximum allowed.

New Homes Bonus phased out

The Government has said that New Homes Bonus payments (money paid for each house built in Babergh) will be phased out from the year after next (2021/22) dropping to zero by 2023/24. This will leave Babergh solely dependent on council tax and business rates for income. The Government has said it is looking to replacing NHB with another fund linked to housing growth, but it has given no details.

Planning enforcement

The planning enforcement team are currently reviewing their procedures to try to provide quicker responses and a more effective service. However, they warn that during the review, expected to last to end of March, they will take longer than usual to respond. They urge that people use the "report it" online form for complaints of planning breaches, which will allow them to create a case without delay.

Signed.....

Dated.....

6. Public Forum no members of the public present.
7. Correspondence (all correspondence has been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting)
8. Clerk/RFOs Report:
 - (i) Clerk/RFO is stepping down from the role in May 2020. Clerk/RFO agreed that if a suitable replacement had not been found by May 2020 that she would continue until a person for the role was found. Cllrs agreed to advertise the role at 3 hours per week and between NALC payscale range 18-22 (£10.16 - £11.22 per hour) . Any enquiries to be direct to the clerk at thorpemorieuxpc@gmail.com

Clerk discussed with Cllrs the previously proposed Precept at the meeting on 7 November 2019 and Cllrs agreed to increase this to reflect the need to bring the number of Clerk hours up from 2 to 3 (the National Association of Local Councils recommend 4 for the smallest of parishes but 3 was probably more appropriate at this village). Precept would now be £3455 for 2020/21 instead of the previously agreed £2654.

Precept request form completed in the sum of £3455 and duly signed and completed. Clerk to submit to Babergh.

- (ii) Schedule of payments awaiting approval were approved as follows:-

J Allen	grass cutting	240.00	LGA 1972
D Barrett	webhosting	80.19	LGA 1972
N Smith	clerks salary	333.20	LGA 1972
HMRC	tax and NI	25.60	Tax&Incorp Taxes Act

- (iii) Consider and approve grass cutting and strimming at grass opposite Thorpe Morieux Village Hall to be carried out by Jessie Allen for 2020 at £30 per cut. Cllrs all agreed that Jessie had carried out a good job in 2019 and they would like her to continue in 2020.

9. Cllrs Reports:

Cllr Squirrell reported the latest figures available on the Suffolk Police website as follows: October 2019 there were no reported crime in the village, and in November 2019 there was 1 under the category of miscellaneous crime. This means that in the 12 months to the end of November 2019 there had been a total of 7 reported crimes in the village.

Cllr Squirrell reported on the footpath signage as follows:-

Sunnyside – sign has fallen over

Chapel – again the sign has fallen over

Chapel Hill – sign has disappeared.

Cllr Squirrell will report on the Highways Reporting Tool.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Discussion concerning the lower level footpath signage but agreed not to request new lower level signage as it gets destroyed when fields are being ploughed etc, but all agreed that any higher level footpaths signs from roadways denoting a footpath should be replaced as it is important that people can see where the footpaths are located.

Cllr Squirrell further reported that the footpath at Sunnyside by Almshouse Green is very muddy at the moment but this follows a great deal of rain fall over extended periods of time but there is nothing that the PC can do about this at the given time, but perhaps next year in September/October the PC could ask if the shoot could access that footpath from the other direction as this may alleviate some of the issues.

Cllr Squirrell confirmed that County Council has now published its Right of Way plan and this can be seen on the Suffolk County Council website.

Discussion at meeting with regards to flooding in the village following on from a lot of rainfall over an extended period of time, so far, this Winter. Cllr Squirrell provided photographs of flooded areas in the village. It was agreed that the PC would seek to engage, in due course, with the new owners of Strutt and Parker and ask if they could be of better assistance with maintaining/digging ditches, land management and footpaths.

10. Planning Matter:

- (i) Application DC/19/05766 – Wheelwright, Bury Road, Thorpe Morieux – full planning application – change of use of storage building to 1 No dwelling and creation of access.

The Parish Council commented as follows:-

- in principal it is a good use of an existing historic building, however, there is concern that this application will lead to a further application to extend the size/footprint of the building and this may then detract for the character of the original historic building. It was noted that one of the consultees had concerns of the status of the building and it was agreed that the PC would also like this clarified so that it could be referred to not only in this application but any future applications;
- If planning approved then would like a condition that as many hedges and trees remain to keep it in character with the rural nature of the site;
- It is between 2 listed thatched cottages and as such permitted development rights should not apply, and any further development should return to planning;
- access as proposed could cause issues with nearby residents, particularly Wheelwrights cottage – vehicle headlights will shine into their property, and perhaps this could be avoided by changing the access through the other set of existing gates.

Clerk to prepare a response and submit.

- (ii) Application DC/19/05903 – Land at Whitethorn Ley, Thorpe Morieux – application for removal or variation of a condition following grant of planning permission

Signed.....

Dated.....

DC/18/03804 dated 09.11.2018 (Erection of 3 No dwellings) – To remove Condition 3 (Affordable Housing).

Clerk had made enquires of Orwell Housing ahead of the meeting to clarify – Orwell are still building affordable housing on the site, but the wording of the terms of the planning application previously agreed need to be changed to satisfy the terms of their lender. Orwell will still go ahead with 3 no. dwellings that are for affordable housing as is the case with the rest of Whitethorn Ley.

Cllrs had no objections.

Planning Decision:

Application DC/19/04935 – Newsoms Farm, Bury Road – application for Listed Building Consent – replacement of lime plaster on gable end with weather boarding.

Listed Building Consent has been granted.

11. Date of next Meeting: - 5th March 2020 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Dated.....