

THORPE MORIEUX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 22 JUNE 2020 AT 8PM

This meeting was held remotely by way of video conferencing as a result of the new Coronavirus Act 2020, and in accordance with advice from Suffolk Association of Local Councils.

Present: Cllrs Louisa Pepper, Jules O'Brien, John Squirrell, Garry Russell, Ashley Simpson, John Gagen and Keith Lee together with the Clerk, Nicola Smith and District and County Cllr Robert Lindsay. No members of the public requested to join the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence:

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

2. Members' Declarations of Interest:

- i. Declarations of interest; Cllr Keith Lee declared a pecuniary interest in item 6(i) planning application in relation to Folly Farm Barn; Cllr Ashley also declared a pecuniary interest in item 6(i) planning application in relation to Folly Farm Barn. Both Cllrs felt that the proximity of their own homes, meant that they should declare a pecuniary interest. Cllr Squirrell declared a pecuniary interest in item 6(ii) planning application regarding land opposite wheelwrights, again because of the proximity of his own home to this application.
- ii. No declarations of gifts of hospitality received;
- iii. To consider requests for dispensation –none requested.

3. Minutes:

Cllrs had been provided with a copy of the draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 28 May 2020. Chair Cllr Pepper proposed and Cllr O'Brien seconded that these were a true and accurate record of the meeting. All Cllrs present at that meeting agreed.

4. Public Forum:

No members of the public had requested to join the meeting.

District and County Cllr Robert Lindsay had provided a report for this additional meeting as follows:

Virtual meetings, attendance of public

I recently had cause to intervene when Suffolk County Council had an online Development and Regulation meeting and told a member of the public who wanted to speak on a quarry application that they could not because of the online technology. However, after I raised

Signed.....

Dated.....

objections, and pointed out Babergh was managing it, a way was found to allow members of the public to speak.

Premier Inn plan collapses

Babergh's plan to borrow money to build a hotel and restaurant for Premier Inn in Sudbury on the site of the old swimming pool in Belle Vue Park has been abandoned after Premier's parent Whitbread pulled out. This is a relief and will give the council time to reconsider its regeneration plans for Sudbury hopefully involving more community space.

Cifco in trouble

The Council's property investment vehicle Cifco has unveiled a slightly modified business plan but is still intending to buy more properties with the £40m it has remaining, having already spent £60m. The council insists it can borrow money elsewhere if the Government prevents it borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board, as is threatened. Cifco's income will be substantially down for the June quarter as many tenants have deferred payment due to the Covid crisis. It is unclear when they will be able to pay. The new business plan was approved by scrutiny committee today without any modifications, although there were some strong objections. The board have said they will invest up to 10% in food and beverage retail including drive throughs which I find is counter to our goal of reaching zero carbon emissions by 2030. The Cifco plan will need approval from full council in July.

Traffic calming measures to protect walker/cyclists

You may have heard Lavenham have had some traffic measures installed, including a temporary 20mph limit on the High Street and Lower Road to try to prevent it becoming a short cut and provide safety for pedestrians. Although initially the wrong kind of barriers were put in the wrong place, these have now been moved and there will be further talks between the parish council and Highways to improve these further. A similar plan for Bildeston has been put on hold after problems were found with unloading the delivery lorry to the shop. Unfortunately, these measures are only funded if they relate to social distancing for shopping, not for general safety or encouraging cycling. However there is some separate funding now available for cycle lanes.

Cycling

Last week, 16 June, the county council cabinet approved a new costed, prioritised list of cycle routes around the county. The funding has not been secured but some at the top of the list will go ahead using the emergency Covid funding from Government for cycling. The cabinet asked officers from Highways to engage with district councils, including Babergh, to develop the rolling five year plan for cycling. If the parish council has known routes in the area it would like to see improved or created please let me know and I can feed this in to the process.

Cllr Russell also conveyed the thanks of some residents regarding the follow up work from the Parish Council at the Potholes at Old Bury Road. It is noted that Highways have inspected and marked around the worst of the potholes along there.

Signed.....

Dated.....

5. Correspondence (all correspondence has been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting)

- (i) Email from parishioner regarding bonfire on land at end of Church Lane. Parish Council have subsequently referred the matter to Strutt and Parker as the landowner and they are looking in to this matter.

Cllr Pepper asked District and County Councillor Robert Lindsay if there was any indication for when the waste recycling centres would permit trailers to take along waste. *Following on from the meeting County Cllr Lindsay reported back to the Parish Council with the follow up from a response he received: "Work is ongoing to resolve the challenges of reopening the service to larger vehicles and businesses whilst maintaining social distancing and not disadvantaging the general public given that capacity is already reduced"*

Cllr Squirrell enquired about how the PC should go about getting a fly tipped van bumper end removed from the double bend in Green Lane. Report on highways reporting tool.

6. Planning Matters:

Cllrs enquired generally from District Councillor Robert Lindsay as to when the new JLP will be completed? The longer the current Local Plan and Core Strategy was the measure by which planning applications were considered against the more out of date it became and was arguably less robust than a new JLP. District Cllr Lindsay would make enquiries and revert to the Parish Council.

- (i) Application DC/20/02051 – Folly Farm Barn, Bury Road, Thorpe Morieux, IP30 0NS. An application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Class Q3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q – To create 5 No dwellings.

Cllr Lee and Cllr Simpson both declared an interest and therefore took no part in the discussion at the Parish Council meeting and did not vote on this matter.

Parish Councillors considered a draft response prepared by the Clerk taking into account each element of Class Q Permitted Development legislation. Cllr O'Brien suggested that the comments regarding noise should also include the two properties opposite. Clerk will amend. Chair proposed that subject to the amendments the draft response should be submitted, and Cllr Russell seconded, all Cllrs able to vote agreed. Motion carried.

- (ii) Application DC/20/02248 – land opposite Wheelwrights, Bury Road, Thorpe Morieux, IP30 0NR. Full planning application – erection of a detached dwelling (in lieu of the dwelling approved under DC/19/05766).

Cllr Squirrell declared an interest in this matter and therefore took no part in the discussions at the Parish Council meeting and no part in voting in this matter.

Comments:

This application looks considerably larger than the original application;
The changes made the dwelling look out of character;
The entrance remains exactly opposite other home and light interference from cars entrancing remains an issue;
The original application was to preserve the original property and this application is out of character now that the size of it has been extended;
It is disproportionate to the original property and the original planning application;
It was agreed that Clerk will draft a response to circulate for approval.

- (iii) Application DC/20/02103 – Plum Tree Barn, Bury Road, Thorpe Morieux, IP30 0NW. Application under section 75 of the Town and Country Planning Act – Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) on planning permission B/14/01197/FUL/BEL; to allow the insertion of solar panels.

Comments:

Solar panels on Suffolk barns look out of character;

Cannot see from the road, its renewable energy, rather embrace renewable energy sources now as it will be something that we will rely on more so in the future;

Could be freestanding on the ground as opposed to on the roof;

Making a good job of the conversion but feel disfiguring with solar panels;

Following discussion there was a vote: 3 Cllrs were in support of the application, whilst 4 Cllrs objected to the application. Motion carried – PC object to the application.

7. Date of next Meeting: - it was agreed that the next scheduled meeting on 2 July was too soon after this meeting. Next meeting 3 September 2020 with an additional meeting before then if required.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm