

Thornborough Parish Council (TPC)

Minutes of the Parish Council Remote Meeting on Monday 18 January 2021

Present: Cllrs Steve Tribe (Chair); Emily Cooke; Ray Goodger; Carol Laurence; Charlotte Moore; Mary Taylor; Allen Williamson.
Buckinghamshire Council Cllr Sir Beville Stanier (items 1- 5 and 10).

In Attendance: Alison Robinson (Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

1 Apologies

1.1 Buckinghamshire Council Cllr Warren Whyte.

2 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

2.1 No declarations of interest were made.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

3.1 The minutes of the meeting on 17 December 2020 were **approved** as an accurate record.

4 Public Participation Session

4.1 A member of the public raised the following issues:

- (a) Parked vehicles blocking pavements.
- (b) The missing road sign at Lower End.

4.2 The Chair explained TPC had no formal jurisdiction over parking. In response to the suggestion that the resident could have a friendly word with the vehicle owner, s/he clarified that, because of the widespread nature of the problem, he would pursue the matter with Buckinghamshire Council. TPC undertook to prepare a general parking statement for publication on Thornborough eNews.

Action: Cllr Cooke to circulate draft parking statement for TPC approval.

4.3 The Chair thanked the resident for raising the missing sign at Lower End, undertook to report the matter and said TPC was keen to encourage residents to report issues directly to Transport for Bucks: <https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/>.

Action: Cllr Tribe to report the missing sign at Lower End.

5 Thornborough New (TNews)

5.1 The Chair welcomed the Editor of TNews, thanked him and praised his work.

5.2 The Editor of TNews summarised the report he had prepared and asked TPC for guidance on the matters raised in it.

5.3 TPC **noted** the printers was currently closed and was unlikely to open again for some time.

5.4 TPC discussed the report and **resolved** to approve:

- (a) The request for a donation of £800 for 2021/22 less the unspent 2020/21 funding - the unspent amount would be determined by whether another edition could be published before 31.3.21.
- (b) To continue with hardcopy distribution to all residents.
- (c) To develop proposals to charges for commercial business and external adverts.

Action: Clerk to liaise with the Editor to develop advert charging proposals for discussion at the next TPC meeting.

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6 Planning

20/03849/APP - Faccenda Chicken Thornhill Poultry Farm Pilch Lane MK17 0NX. Demolition of 11 no. existing poultry houses and erection of 2 no. replacement poultry houses and associated infrastructure. Consultation deadline extended until 20.1.21.

- 6.1 The Chair summarised the history of the previous withdrawn applications and the objection submitted by the Pilch Lane residents to the latest planning application consultation. He said in the main the objections previously raised by TPC had not been addressed and confirmed Cllr Chilver had again undertaken to call in the planning application.
- 6.2 TPC discussed the planning application and **resolved** to oppose it because of the concerns about increased pollution, and the adverse impact the proposed development would have on the environment and the local community.

Action: Clerk to respond to the consultation.

Appeal: 20/00088/REF (Application: 19/03284/APP) - Land Adj. New Inn, High Street Thornborough. Erection of dwelling with Parking and associated amenities. Consultation deadline extended until 22.1.21.

- 6.3 Cllr Williamson presented the draft consultation response had he prepared on behalf of TPC.
- 6.4 TPC discussed the draft response and **resolved** to approve it subject to the inclusion of text about the depth of the flooding experienced on 23.12.20.
- 6.5 The Chair closed the meeting to allow the resident from the neighbouring property to contribute to the discussion. The resident said the consultation response was well drafted and covered the issues. S/he thanked TPC.

Action: Clerk to respond to the consultation.

Ongoing planning matters

- 6.6 TPC **noted** the report about ongoing planning matters.

21/00020/APP Brookdale, High Street, Thornborough, MK18 2DF Installation of new limestone brick cladding, erection of front porch and chimney to side elevation.

- 6.7 The Clerk explained the consultation had been received too late for the agenda with a deadline before the next meeting. It had therefore been considered electronically where the consensus was no objection.

- 6.8 TPC **resolved** not to object to the planning application.

Action: Clerk to respond to the consultation.

7 Financial Year 2021/22 Budget and Precept Setting

- 7.1 TPC considered and **approved** the Finance Group recommendations, in summary:

- (a) The 2021/22 budget should be set at £22,632 to cover TPC's known financial commitments after account was taken of the anticipated income.
- (b) The 2021/22 precept should be increased by 16.4% to £22,632 – an increase of 88p a month for Band D properties.
- (c) The transfer of any 2020/1 and 2021/22 underspends to the reserve help recoup the cost of the new website and build the reserve.

Action: Clerk to take forward.

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8 Finance

8.1 TPC resolved to approve the following payments:

Date Paid	Payee	Description	Amount
1.11.20	Liz Julier	Storage	£15.00
1.11.20	Bulb for Business	Pavilion electricity	£101.00
6.11.20	Alison Robinson	Building regulations fee reimbursement	£650.00
6.11.20	Alison Robinson	Zoom reimbursement - October	£14.39
6.11.20	Alison Robinson	Stationery reimbursement	£4.79
6.11.20	Alison Robinson	Printer paper reimbursement	£4.50
6.11.20	Alison Robinson	Zoom reimbursement - November	£14.39
6.11.20	Alison Robinson	Expenses - mileage	£50.94
6.11.20	eon	Streetlight lighting October	£32.89
6.11.20	HMRC	PAYE October	£122.20
6.11.20	Alison Robinson	Salary October	£489.32
22.11.20	Cartwright Landscapes	Grounds maintenance 2020	£3,873.60
1.12.20	Liz Julier	Storage	£15.00
1.12.20	Bulb for Business	Pavilion electricity	£101.00
3.12.20	Richard Staff	S106 project printing reimbursement	£63.58
3.12.20	Richard Staff	S106 project printing reimbursement	£20.00
3.12.20	HMRC	PAYE November	£122.40
3.12.20	Alison Robinson	Salary November	£489.12
9.12.20	Chris Phillips	S106 Project Plans	£445.24
10.12.20	WAVE Anglia Water Business	Pavilion water	£45.33
10.12.20	WAVE Anglia Water Business	Allotment water	£74.61
10.12.20	eon	Streetlight lighting November	£31.83
28.12.20	HMRC	PAYE December	£122.40
28.12.20	Alison Robinson	Salary December	£489.32
30.12.20	eon	Streetlight lighting November	£36.50
30.12.20	Buckinghamshire Council	Dog Waste Bins	£327.17
Total			£7,756.52

8.2 TPC noted the financial position as of 31 December 2020:

Bank Statement Balance as at 31.12.20		
Current Account	85516813	£4,930.34
Reserve Account	85516821	£9,207.73
Total Bank Accounts		£14,138.07
Less Unpresented Payments		£0.00
Total Liabilities		£0.00
Plus Unbanked Cash		£0.00
Net Bank Balances		£14,138.07
Cash Book Receipts		
Opening Balance as at 1.12.20		£16,521.49
Add Receipts		£0.08
Less Payments		£2,383.50
Closing Balance as at 31.12.20		£14,138.07

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9 Environment and Facilities

Allotments

9.1 There was nothing to report.

Sports Field and Pavilion

S106 funded pavilion project

9.2 Cllr Taylor reported the tender process was now in progress. A concern was raised because only three building companies had been invited to tender. The Clerk explained how those invited to tender had been asked to arrange site meetings with the Project Manager in the February half term and said she planned to monitor the situation carefully and would take appropriate action if any of those invited to tender dropped out.

Playground

9.3 The Clerk apologised because she had not yet sent the rota and inspection reminder for January to the parent support group.

Action: Clerk to remedy.

The Pond Vegetation

9.4 TPC discussed whether the pond should be dredged and concluded there was a need for a site visit to assess the depth of the silt and whether any vegetation needed to be removed.

Action: Chair and Clerk to take forward.

Flooding¹

9.5 TPC received presentations from the owner of one of the properties flooded on 23.12.20 and a former resident who had worked for MK Development Corporation and had helped to solve the village flooding problem in Calverton. TPC **noted** there were four places in the village where water 'ponds':

- the bridge on Bridge Street;
- beside the pond;
- near the ford in Back Street, and
- at the Back Street/Lower End junction.

9.6 TPC discussed in some detail how best to take the matter forward and **resolved** to appoint a group to accept Cllr Whyte offer to submit documentation to the next Buckingham and Villages Community Board meeting which the Environment Agency and the Council's strategic flood team would be attending.

9.7 The Chair thanked the presenters for their input and for volunteering to join the group. He also thanked the resident who also volunteered to be part of the group.

Action: Cllrs Tribe and Goodger to take the matter forward with the volunteers.

Fibre Broadband for Thornborough

9.8 TPC received a brief report about what was understood at the time to be the current situation and **resolved** to write to the Managing Director of Ecom Ltd to clarify TPC's position.

Post meeting note:

This is a fast moving situation. In response to some inaccurate perceptions and adverse comments, TPC reconvened to approve the inclusion in the minutes of the statement below.

Background and context

The Government and Local Authorities are providing funding for the roll out of Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) in rural areas. Certain planning requirements have been relaxed to make it easier for fibre providers to install their apparatus on public land. If they meet certain criteria planning permission is not required for locating their cabinets. This also means that parish councils have no powers to influence these fibre providers.

A number of villagers expressed an interest on the Ecom Ltd website for FTTP. Following receipt of comments from various parties TPC arranged an additional meeting on

¹ Item 9 (e) was taken after item 6.

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17 December 2020 to discuss fibre broadband. At this meeting concerns were raised by both members of the public and TPC. Some of these concerns were responded to by the Managing Director of Ecom Ltd, who was present at the meeting. Please refer to the minutes of that meeting for details.

At that meeting it was agreed a group comprising members of the public / community and TPC Councillors should be formed to consider what would be the best approach for Thornborough and the surrounding areas. This group would have considered whether there might be other suitable providers as well as potentially engaging with Ecom Ltd. Whilst names were proposed, due to circumstances outside of TPC's control the group was not established. Whilst not being able to do so through the group TPC will try to look out for the interests of the Parish albeit with limited powers to influence any role out project.

Subsequent to the meeting Ecom Ltd advised it had received first stage voucher approval and would be sending emails to the residents who had previously expressed an interest enable them to sign contracts so the project could be progressed.

In a post on the Ecom Facebook page Ecom Ltd has stated that TPC does not want to engage with them. This is not the case as was demonstrated when TPC invited Ecom Ltd to the additional meeting held in December. Because Ecom will be contracting directly with individual residents, TPC has no direct involvement with the Ecom Ltd project. That said TPC would very much welcome engagement with Ecom Ltd.

Current position

As TPC has no direct involvement with the Ecom Ltd project it is not aware how many villagers have formally signed contracts with Ecom Ltd. TPC does not therefore know whether Ecom Ltd has sufficient people signed up to move the project forward. TPC would like to be consulted by Ecom Ltd about the proposed cabinet location and cable routes in the hope that these will be installed and located in a way which is sympathetic with the village and conservation areas. TPC will contact Ecom Ltd to request that they do consult with TPC before finalising their plans.

10 Buckinghamshire Council (BC)²

- 10.1 Cllr Sir Stanier said the Buckinghamshire Council officers were doing an excellent job in challenging circumstances and talked about the recent budget setting. He commended the Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care and Children's Services.

11 Buckingham and Villages Community Board (B&VCB)

- 11.1 The Chair confirmed he would attend the next B&VCB meeting and hoped other members of the flood group would also be able to attend - minute 9.5 refers.

Post meeting note: the date of the next B&VCB meeting has not yet been announced.

12 Current and Ongoing Activities

- 12.1 TPC **noted** the fibre broadband group would be deleted from the document which would be updated again for the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to update the current and ongoing activities document.

13 Urgent Matters for Reporting and/or the Next Agenda

- 13.1 The Chair explained he had been approached by a member of the Fund Raising Group about possible improvements to the village hall for discussion item at the next meeting.

² Item 10 was taken before Cllr Sir Stanier had to leave the meeting.

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14 Date of Next Meeting

14.1 The next meeting would take place on Monday 15 February 2021 at 7pm.

Meeting closed at: 8.53 pm.

Chair's signature

Date:

DRAFT