

THORNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL (TPC)

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 18 November 2019

Present: Cllrs Steve Tribe (Chair); Ray Goodger; Carol Laurence; Charlotte Moore.

In Attendance: Alison Robinson (Clerk); 1 member of the public was present.

1 Apologies

1.1 Cllrs Cooke and Taylor; AVDC Cllr Billy Stanier; BCC Cllr Warren Whyte.

2 Chair's Report

2.1 The Chair formally reported Estelle Graham's resignation from TPC. The casual vacancy notice had been posted. Three expressions of interest had been received so far. If an election was not requested by the 20.11.19 deadline, co-option to the casual vacancy would be dealt with at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to write to Estelle Graham to thank her for her work for TPC.

3 Public Participation Session

3.1 No members of the public were present at this point.

4 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

4.1 No declarations of interest were made.

5 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5.1 The minutes of the meeting on 21 October 2019 were **approved** and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

5.2 TPC **resolved** that in future the draft minutes should be published.

Action: Clerk to in future publish the minutes as soon as available with a draft watermark and then replace with the approved version after the next meeting of TPC.

6 Planning

19/03874/APP – Fieldview Farm, Bletchley Road, Thornborough, MK18 2DZ.

Creation of new vehicular entrance (on to A421)

6.1 TPC **resolved** to support the application.

Action: Clerk to respond on behalf of TPC.

VALP main modifications consultation

6.2 The Chair explained under VALP Thornborough was defined as a small village without designated development. He had concerns about:

- (a) The removal of help for the development of local plans (MM017).
- (b) The removal also of the requirement for infrastructure to support new developments (MM020).

6.3 Cllr Laurence raised the issue of the potential impact of the proposed large development near Whaddon on the surrounding village schools. She undertook to see if she could attend the North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium (NBPPC) meeting to discuss the VALP consultation on 27.11.19.

Action: Clerk to provide Cllr Laurence with the NBPPC meeting information. The points raised in minutes 5.2 and 5.3 to be sent to the Secretary of NBPPC if Cllr Laurence was unable to attend the meeting.

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North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium (NBPPC)

- 6.4 The Chair reported on the NBPPC meeting he attended on 23.10.19. NBPPC had discussed whether its role should be reviewed. He had suggested to NBPPC parish councils could be asked to prioritise local planning applications to help inform the AVDC Planning Department's decisions about priorities rather than risk important application going to appeal and being approved for non-determination.

19/03284/APP - Land adjacent to New Inn, High Street, Thornborough. Erection of a dwelling with parking and associated amenities

- 6.5 The Chair said the correct routing of the footpath near the New Inn meant the claims made by the applicant about the adequate width of the proposed dwelling path were now incorrect.

Action: Clerk to write to AVDC Planning Department.

Plot to the left of the New Inn drive

- 6.6 The Chair explained the plot, although designated as agricultural land, was being cultivated as a garden. After 10 years the owners could be entitled to apply for retrospective planning permission.

Action: Clerk to write to AVDC Planning Department.

7 Thornborough Infant School

- 7.1 There was no report. Cllr Laurence said the response to the Nash Park appeal submitted by Great Horwood Parish Council, and circulated to TPC, had provided useful information about the impact on the Great Horwood School. She asked if a relationship could be developed between the two parish councils.

Action: Clerk to write to the Chair of Great Horwood Parish Council.

8 Environment

Sports Field and Pavilion

- 8.1 The work to address the fire assessment report recommendations had been completed.
- 8.2 The replacement entrance gate post had been installed.
- 8.3 TPC **resolved** to approve the purchase of treatment to help restore the bacterial health of the septic tank.

Action: Clerk to purchase the septic tank treatment and ask the Pre School in future to use septic tank friendly cleaning products.

- 8.4 Cllr Goodger had started rebuilding the Pavilion doorstep. TPC **resolved** to approve the purchase of brush draught excluders once the step was rebuilt.

Action: Cllr Goodger and the Clerk to take forward.

- 8.5 TPC **resolved** to approve the expenditure required to mend the Pavilion shed.

Action: Cllrs Goodger and Tribe to repair the shed roof.¹

Allotments

- 8.6 The Chair reported on his recent meeting with the Allotment Coordinator and the plot holders nominated to consider the new licence. He explained the one-month notice period, which had been the main sticking point, had now been agreed.

- 8.7 TPC **resolved** to approve the revised licence.

Action: Clerk to issue the new licence to the plot holders.

¹ Post meeting note: Clerk to investigate whether the shed is owned by the Cricket Club rather than TPC.

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Thornborough and Coombs Woodlands

- 8.8 The title transfer continued to be ongoing.

9 Playground

- 9.1 The Clerk confirmed the quote was still valid and explained she had asked the company to consider sponsoring the fence in exchange for advertising.
- 9.2 TPC **resolved** to approve the expenditure for the new bin. Cllr Goodger undertook to remove the old bin.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Goodger to take forward.

10 Road and Drainage Issues

Increased Traffic

- 10.1 The SpeedWatch training had been postponed until the spring.

Streetlighting

- 10.2 The Chair and the Clerk reported on the E.on site visit which took place on 12.11.19. The quote for the new streetlight was £1.155. The other information requested from E.on had not as yet been received.
- 10.3 The Clerk read out the objection she had received from a resident who lived near the pond and was opposed to the installation of another streetlight. In view of this and the possibility of match funding in the 2020/21 financial year, it was decided to defer a decision and instead invite wider feedback from residents.

Dead Cherry Tree in High Street

- 10.4 Cllr Goodger was thanked for arranging the removal of the dead cherry tree. There was no consensus about replacing the tree. Instead, Cllr Goodger undertook to talk to the resident who had been upset by its removal because it had been planted as a memorial for a relative.

Action: Cllr Goodger to take forward.

The Village Streams and Rivers

- 10.5 Cllr Goodger reported on the areas which required clearing. TPC **resolved** to write to the riparian owners responsible for those areas.

Action: Cllr Goodger to provide the Clerk with the relevant names and addresses. Clerk to write to the riparian owners.

Thornhill

- 10.6 The recent repair of the potholes was discussed. The apparent failure of 'Fix MY Street' reports was also discussed.

Action: Clerk to follow up with the Technician.

Village Gardening Event

- 10.7 This item was deferred to the next meeting in Cllr Cooke's absence.

11 Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC); Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) and the New Unitary Authority - Buckinghamshire Council

Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils (AVALC)

- 11.1 The Clerk reported on the AVALC meeting she attended on 2.11.19.

Action: Clerk to include in the minutes the link to the Friends of the Earth 20 Actions for Parish and Town Councils.

<https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/reports/20-actions-parish-and-town-councils-can-take-climate-and-nature-emergency>

Parish Liaison

- 11.2 The Clerk reported on the Parish Liaison meeting with BCC she attended on 6.11.19.

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Buckinghamshire Council Priorities and Budget Consultation

- 11.3 Cllr Laurence lead the discussion. In view of the approach adopted for the consultation, TPC **resolved** not to respond.

12 TPC Website

- 12.1 Little progress had been made with the updating since the last meeting.
- 12.2 TPC noted BucksVoice.net, which currently hosted the TPC website, was closing on 31.3.20. The future hosting of the website would be discussed at the next meeting.

13 Neighbourhood Watch

- 13.1 The Chair reported additional coordinators had been recruited.
Action: Chair and the Clerk to arrange a Neighbourhood Watch meeting for 2.12.19.

14 Financial Matters

Bank reconciliation

- 14.1 Bank statements as at 1.11.19:

Current Account	£6,313.08
Reserve Account	£12,261.39
Net bank balance:	£18,574.47.

Payments and monies received

- 14.2 Payments for authorisation:

E.on	Street-lighting	£32.83
Fire Guard Services	Pavilion fire extinguisher work	£301.14
MK Electrical Breakdown	Pavilion electrical work	£1,657.00
Alison Robinson	October salary	£464.00
HMRC	October PAYE	£116.80
Alison Robinson	Expenses	£83.10
Cllr Moore	Wreath	£15.00
Denis King	Sports Field gatepost	£130.00
Total		£2,799.87

- 14.3 TPC **resolved** to authorise the payments detailed above.

Monies received

- 14.4 The Clerk reported the following receipts:

Pre School electricity reimbursement on 4.11.19	£409.32
Pre School water reimbursement on 11.11.19	£192.79
Total	£602.11

Budget setting and precept for financial year 2020/21

- 14.5 The Clerk reported the tax base (aka rateable properties) on which the precept was set was small, which meant small monetary increases resulted in significant % increases. She said the stance of not increasing the precept could not be sustained when costs were increasing. She stressed the need to maintain and build the reserve to a level nearer the annual precept in the coming years. The current 2019/20 income and expenditure forecasts suggested a surplus of £1,588. Any surplus should be used to build the reserve. The 2020/21 income (based on a 3% increased precept of £19,158) and expenditure estimates gave a surplus of £852. The budget building did not include provision for major projects for which grant funding could be sort. Setting the precept lower than £19,158 would mean TPC would be unable cover its required expenditure or maintain and build the reserve.

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14.6 TPC **resolved** to increase the 2020/21 precept by 3% to £19,158.

Action: Clerk to take forward.

15 Current and Ongoing Activities

15.1 TPC **resolved** not to allocate responsibility for the initial appraisal of planning applications. Instead all members of TPC should look in detail at future planning applications.

15.2 TPC **resolved** current and ongoing activities should become a standing item on the agenda to better facilitate the keeping track of things.

16 Any Other Business

16.1 Cllr Goodger talked about the need to put a plan in place in the event of bad weather. Cllr Laurence suggested Neighbourhood Watch broadening its remit to include checking on the vulnerable. She also talked about the pupils she worked with arranging events to combat loneliness.

Action: Cllr Laurence to attend the Neighbourhood Watch meeting on 2.12.19

17 Date of Next Meeting

17.1 Monday 16 December 2019 at 7 pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at: 9.00 pm

Chair's signature:

Date: