

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
Held on 11th January 2024 at 8pm in the Village Hall

Present: Chair Jules O'Brien, Vice Chair John Squirrell,
Cllrs Keith Lee, John Gagen, Garry Russell, Ashley Simpson, Louisa Pepper
District Cllr Deborah Saw
Sarah Headland – New Parish Clerk, proposed by Cllr Russell, seconded by Cllr Pepper (contract pending)

1. Apologies for absence

Robert Lindsay County Counsellor

2. Members Declaration of Interest

Cllr Gagen and Cllr Russell are on the Village Hall Committee.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 9th November 2023

Agreed and signed off by the Chair.

4. Matters arising

- Bus link interest – limited feedback received from any Parishioners. However, there was a general discussion at the café that, rather than adding any extra days' service, perhaps timings could be adjusted so that longer could be spent in Bury on a Wednesday. It is also noted that increasing/altering the bus service would have an impact on surrounding villages. Also see point 5 – DC report*

- Café Grant for 'Living Well in Winter' has been approved. PC needs to provide evidence of policies such as safeguarding, DBS, H&S which are not formally in place, so JO'B and LP will seek out existing policies of similar sized villages (or some examples will be sent by DS) and see if we can adopt something similar for TM. It is noted that these policies are not essential to a PC of this size but is good practice to have them in place.

- Blacksmiths Lane, the track between Birds Farm and Bullswood Lane is not on the definitive footpath map because it is classed as a maintainable road. Information provided by JS. This means that the CC should have to maintain it if requested. The Horse Society have applied for it to be reclassified as a byway open to all traffic, rather than a restricted byway but that would take away the CC responsibility for maintaining it. It was agreed that no further action would be taken.

5. District and County Cllrs Report

- Deborah Shaw gave a comprehensive report. Mainly focused on government cuts to funding, the DC are planning to make up the shortfall by implementing car parking charges in Sudbury, Lavenham and surrounding areas plus also dipping into some of the DC Covid reserve fund.

DS also mentioned that Bus Funding may disappear altogether within 2 years*. LP raised the question of the DC's plans for EV points and whether they would be charged parking spaces (no) and JS asked if Thorpe Morieux should have a Neighbourhood Plan. DS to email JS with further information on this.

- Cllr Robert Lindsey's report sent to Cllrs prior to the meeting main concern is financial shortfall.

6. Public Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

7. Correspondence (circulated ahead of this meeting). JS confirmed that Martin Bowers has cut the

trees through the wood near Valley Farm and it was agreed that a thank you letter would be sent from the PC.

 14/3/24

8. Draft precept 24/25 has been agreed by all and will be signed and sent off within the next few days.

LP proposed increased salary for Parish Clerk, seconded by GR.

9. Cllr Reports

- Potholes – JS reported there are 15 potholes in the village that have been assessed or are soon to be assessed. Starting with one on Bury Road near to JG, this will be done within 20 days. Applebarn and Manor Farm pothole will be fixed within 8 weeks. There was an accident on 11/1/24 along Wash Lane (near the Grain Store on the road leading to Preston) where a car has been damaged due to a pothole, this has been reported.

- KL reported from Anglian Water regarding the new Strategic Water Pipeline, more flags have appeared. This is ongoing with no start date yet.

- JS reported the council historical records office is closing and moving to Ipswich Holdings.

- JS police report - in October there were no crimes reported. In November there was one crime reported (violence). 8 crimes have been reported in the last 12 months.

10. Training for Parish Clerk – this will be investigated by JO'B contacting SALC.

11. Potholes have already been covered in point 9. With regards to flooding it was noted that although there have been some bad days, it is manageable compared to other parts of the region.

12. Road safety in the village

In December there was an accident on the corner near Folly Farm, it was a head on collision but luckily no-one was seriously injured. JO'B proposed that another chevron might be needed but it was noted the time and cost of this might not be worth it - to be discussed further. JO'B will arrange for something to be put in the Thorpe Times reminding parishioners to be mindful of not going too fast around that corner.

13. Village Hall Structure and Policy

JG has consulted re issues with VH floor and plan is in place to rectify. All agreed to proceed with the plan.

Policy – see matters arising point 4.

14. Planning Matters

DC/24/00061 - 6 Blacksmiths Lane - Erection of ground floor rear extension and new front porch, application date 8th Jan 2024. This extension appears identical to the one granted and completed by number 4 in 2023 so no objections by the PC. Cllr Squirrel agreed to send an email to confirm that the PC do not object.

15. Date of next meeting

14th March 8pm in the Village Hall

16. AOB

It was brought up that the meeting minutes (of this meeting and several previous) need to be added to the Thorpe Morieux Village Website. All agreed to contact Adrian/Dave to move this forward.

Meeting closed 9.45pm.

Jon

14/3/24