

## THORPE MORIEUX PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

#### HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 8PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chair Cllr Jules O'Brien, Vice Chair John Squirrell, Cllrs Louisa Pepper, Ashley Simpson, Keith Lee, John Gagen and Garry Russell. Parish Clerk, Nicola Sturgeon was present at the meeting. No members of the public attended.

1. Apologies for absence:

- i. No Parish Councillors were absent;
- ii. No consent to apologies required.

2. Members' Declaration of Interest:

- i. To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for the agenda under discussion:  
Cllr Squirrell declared an interest in relation to item 11 (i) of the Agenda – planning matter DC/22/05136 due to the proximity of his own home.
- ii. To receive declarations of gifts of hospitality received – none;
- iii. To consider requests for dispensation for pecuniary interests for the agenda under discussion – none.

3. Minutes:

Meeting on 1 September 2022 – Cllr Pepper proposed that the draft Minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting. Cllr Russell seconded. All Cllrs present at the meeting agreed.

4. Matters arising:

Planning applications

DC/22/03483 – The Nook, Almshouse Green, Thorpe Morieux. Full Planning Application – Change of Use of land to residential garden land and conversion of outbuildings to 1no.holiday let/ancillary annex. **Permission granted.**

Green Lane – road reclassification

Clerk has spoken with Ben Cook at SCC Highways. Mr Cook assures the Parish Council that the matter will be considered but at present Highways have had a lot of work generally. He apologises for the matter not being progressed but will update the Clerk as soon as he is able.

Footpath signs

County Cllr Robert Lindsay has obtained an update in this matter. The footpath sign was ordered to be replaced earlier in the year and the working team on these jobs have been asked to now prioritise this matter.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Village Triangle

See comments in District/County Cllrs report.

PC agreed that given the cost implications they will review this matter as and when the PC receives funding for example from CIL monies.

It was agreed that Cllr Lee would speak to a resident about cutting back hedge as this may improve perception of space for vehicles and reduce some of the damage to the triangle of land.

5. District and County Cllr report:

Cllr Robert Lindsay was not able to attend the meeting but had provided a report as follows:-

**Protecting the triangular green**

I have only asked about this today and so have not yet had a response, however, I'm pretty sure the work – whether kerbing or setts - is likely to require a Highways approved contractor to do and therefore the expense will be significant and Highways will not pay. I will let you know when I hear more.

**Road re-classification and footpath sign**

I asked about both these issues about a week ago while I was away on holiday but as yet have received no reply.

**Budget Survey**

Suffolk County Council is asking residents for their thoughts on the upcoming 2023/24 budget. It will consider a summary of responses when deciding how to spend your money. With inflationary pressures, it is unlikely the government will leave out local authorities from spending cuts – meaning council reserves may have to be used.

I recommend you share your thoughts on how the Council should spend their money, as well as highlight vulnerabilities you see in your communities that need further addressing.

For a link to the online survey, click here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/7BQY0J/>

**Suffolk Cabinet approves more spending for special needs education**

The Cabinet met on October 11 for the first time since the summer political recess. The Cabinet agreed to spend £2m on a special school for Children and Young People in Felixstowe. In addition, SEND services received £10m to provide more specialist units in Suffolk. This is good news as it should help remove the number of families travel cross-county for support.

Signed.....

Dated.....

The Suffolk Local Access Forum submitted their annual report, which included their concerns about Sizewell C and its effect on green networks and Rights of Way. My political group have strongly campaigned in support of the Forum's position, and we will continue to voice concerns over the damning effects of nuclear power on our coastal landscape and biodiversity.

### **Suffolk in talks to become investment zone**

Under the Liz Truss government, Suffolk County Council let it be known that it has agreed to start discussions with Government to become an investment zone as part of the PM's new growth and investment strategy. Investment Zones were supposed to be areas where tax was removed and environmental and planning controls reduced. However the Sunak government is now thinking hard about its budget deficit and Michael Gove is reviewing the whole idea because it will cost the government large sums in foregone tax revenue. Talks about devolved Suffolk Government are still ongoing.

### **County Council unveils first of its electric car fleet**

The first delivery of 16 electric vehicles (EVs) will be in November, as the council begins its program to upgrade all existing pool cars.

This is part of the council's work to deliver on its climate emergency declaration, and ambition to protect and enhance the environment.

The Renault Zoe has been chosen as the first of the new vehicles, with 10 MG ZS to arrive in April 2023. The aim is to completely electrify the fleet by 2024.

#### 6. Public Forum:

No members of the public attended the meeting.

#### 7. Correspondence:

All correspondence was circulated to Cllrs ahead of the meeting.

#### 8. Clerk's Report

(i) Schedule of items awaiting approval:

#### Income since last meeting:

Precept (2 <sup>nd</sup> of 2 payments)	1796.50
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Signed.....

Dated.....

Items awaiting approval:

David Barrett	website	chq429	92.00	LGA1972
Jessie Allen	grass cutting	chq430	600.00	LGA1972
TM Village Hall	defib pads*	chq431	107.58	LGA1972
N Sturgeon	salary	chq432	293.22	LGA1972

\* Reimbursing the Village Hall as they have purchased the paediatric defibrillator pads at short notice as they were going out of date. The PC raise funds to replace the pads and battery through the annual Precept.

Payments approved by all Cllrs

(ii) Schedule of income and expenditure to date for 2022-2023 to date:

Income

Precept – 1 <sup>st</sup> of 2 payments	1796.50
Precept – 2 <sup>nd</sup> of 2 payments	1796.50
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	<b>3593.00</b>

Expenditure

SALC Membership	146.17
BHIB Insurance	391.19
Clerk salary	1107.72
TMVH – screening and lighting upgrade	1657.71
Thorpe Times	400.00
PCC – grass cutting	200.00
David Barrett – website	92.00
Jessie Allen – grass cutting	600.00
TMVH – reimburse defib pads	107.58
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	<b>4702.37</b>

Signed.....

Dated.....

9. To consider draft Precept for 2023-2024**Income**

Precept 4122.00

**Expenditure**

Clerks Salary	1693.00
Admin (printer ink, paper, stamps etc)	40.00
SALC Subscription	154.00*
PC Insurance	390.00
Thorpe Times Grant	400.00**
Hall Hire	120.00
PCC annual grant for grass cutting	200.00
Website hosting	100.00
Whitethorn Ley grass cutting	600.00***
Defibrillator (ongoing maintenance)	75.00
Contingency	300.00
Election Costs (four yearly charge)	50.00
	<b>4122.00</b>

The Precept Demand for 2023-2024 on the calculations above would be **£4122.00**.

To Compare: **Precept for 2020/2021 - £3455.00; Precept for 2021/2022 - £3308.00**

**Precept for 2022/2023 - £3593.00**

Increases in 2023-2024:

\* SALC Membership subscription has increased from £128.72 per annum to £153.42.

\*\* Thorpe Times Grant increased from £200 to £400 as agreed by the Parish Council at meeting earlier in the year.

\*\*\* Whitethorn Ley grass cutting has increased from £400 to £600 per year if the grass cutting remains at the quantity etc that has been maintained for 2022-2023.

Signed.....

Dated.....

10. Cllrs reports:

Cllr Squirrell reported the following:-

Whitethorn Ley – Would like to thank Cllr Lee for cutting back the wildflower area and also the hedging. The residents are generally happy with how it is being managed. PC thanked Cllr Lee for his help.

Police Report – since September meeting there have been three crimes reported: vehicle crime, violent crime and a public order offence. This brings the total number of reported crimes in the village to 10 within the last 12 months.

Postbox at Perrydown Lane – this is being replaced in due course, but will not be located in its original location. Instead, it will be installed up near Underwood Cottage.

Chair Cllr O’Brien along with Cllr Gagen reported the Village Hall will be opening up as a Warm Space starting in December. Babergh grant for £800 had been applied for by the VH Committee. Coffee/teas will be served. It is hoped that people will use this for an opportunity to get warm but also to meet other people and it is hoped that will help those living on their own, new mums, carers etc in the village so they can get out and meet people in the village. Currently funding will help with the costs from December through to April 2023 but it is hoped that further funding could be found and this scheme can be extended beyond April.

Cllr John Gagen (also the Chair of the VH Committee) confirmed that the VH were very pleased with this arrangement and welcomed people along.

Cllr Russell confirmed that there had been no substantial development on the issue of broadband for some of the homes in the village but he was in discussion with S & P about this and the voucher scheme.

11. Planning:

- (i) DC/22/05136 – Land to the West of Bury Road, Thorpe Morieux. Full Planning Application – Erection of 1 No detached dwelling (amended scheme to that approved under DC/20/04096).

Cllr Squirrell declared an interest due to proximity of his own home, and therefore did not take part in any vote.

Following discussion the remaining Cllrs felt that whilst they preferred the position on the site and access than the previous application they still considered it overdevelopment of the site (to a 4 bedroomed home). They would prefer it remain as a 3 bedroomed dwelling as under the previous application given that the original property on the

site had been a 1 bedroomed dwelling. The Pc therefore objected to this application.

(ii) DC/22/05199 – Newsoms Farm, Bury Road, Thorpe Morieux. Full Planning Application – Erection of 20No ground mounted solar panels. Following discussion the PC had no objection to this application.

(iii) DC/22/05366 – 4 Blacksmiths Lane, Thorpe Morieux. Householder Application – Erection of two storey front and rear extension. Following discussion the PC agreed to object to this application for the following reasons:-

The front line of this row of cottages would not be maintained and therefore the character of the row of cottages would be lost; In some parts the proposed application brings the applicants property extremely close to the neighbouring property.

(iv) DC/22/05374 – Potash Farm, Cockfield Road, Thorpe Morieux. Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an existing Use, operation or Activity including those in breach of a planning condition. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended – Continued use of The Stables as a Dwellinghouse.

Following discussion the PC objected to this application. It was noted that the Applicant was heavily relying on the fact that Council Tax had been paid for four years. The building had not been registered as a habitable dwelling over those four years but had been lived in. The PC commented that this was very very similar to another building in the village that the owner had subsequently sought a Lawful Development Certificate for. Did the Council Tax Department at Babergh DC not cross check that any new applications to pay Council Tax were actually on properties that were registered as residential dwellings. It would seem that Babergh DC had made the same error in this matter and not checked. Who determined what band of Council Tax was to be paid, so who visited the building from BDC. Where has the due diligence from BDC been on this matter. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a response for Parish Cllrs to approve prior to the submission deadline and that both the current Distrist Cllr Robert Lindsay and the District Cllr at the time of the other building in the village (District Cllr Clive Arthey) would be included in that finalised response to BDC.

12. Date of next meeting: 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (to be agreed with Cllr Robert Lindsay and VH availability) at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed: 9.10pm

Signed.....

Dated.....