

THORPE MORIEUX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 25 MAY 2021 AT 8PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs Louisa Pepper, John Squirrell, Jules O'Brien, Ashley Simpson, Keith Lee, and Garry Russell, together with the Clerk, Nicola Smith. No members of the public present.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair, and signing of Declarations of Office forms:

Cllr Pepper confirmed that she would be happy to undertake a second year as Chair. Cllr Gagen proposed and Cllr Russell seconded. Cllr Pepper was duly re-elected as Chair of the PC.

Cllr Squirrell confirmed that he would be happy to undertake a second year as Vice Chair. Cllr Lee proposed and Cllr Gagen seconded. Cllr Squirrell was duly re-elected as Vice Chair of the PC.

Cllr Pepper and Cllr Squirrell signed their Declarations of Office forms which were also signed by the Proper Officer, Nicola Smith

2. Apologies for absence:

- i. No apologies;
- ii. Not applicable.

3. Members' Declaration of Interest:

- i. Disclosure of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest – Cllrs Squirrell and Gagen both declared an interest in relation to item 9(i) PCC grass cutting grant, and Cllr O'Brien declared an interest in the Thorpe Times grant.
- ii. No declarations of gifts of hospitality;
- iii. No requests for dispensation.

4. Minutes of Meeting:

Minutes of meeting on 4 March 2021 and 1 April 2021 were considered and approved as a true record of the meetings.

5. Matters arising:

Postbox

Royal Mail have lodged a planning application to install a new pedestal post box in Bury Road, on land south of Sunnyside.

Cllrs advised that the telephone box at the end of Perrydown Lane (which they had been told had been removed as it had been knocked over by a Royal Mail vehicle), had still not been replaced. Clerk to refer the matter to MP and County Cllr Robert Lindsay.

Planning matters:

DC/20/04686 - Folly Farm Barn

The planning application has been withdrawn.

DC/20/04096 – Wheelwrights

Awaiting decision. Case Officer is Mark Russell who advised by email on 25 May 2021 that there is currently no update. He had met with the Applicant a few weeks ago and have not heard back from them since. There is currently no time frame in place for the Applicant to respond and once any amendment is received by the Applicant then the Parish Council will be re-notified.

DC/21/01143 – Apple Mount Farm

Planning granted.

DC/21/01216 – Manor Farm

Planning granted.

Green Lane and Bury Road:

Ref CR310889 – road classification review/changing or road classification.

7 March 2021 email from SCC advising County Cllr Robert Lindsay that these roads needed a classification review regardless of any enquiry made by the Parish Council.

Clerk has requested an update.

Whitethorn Ley update:

Cllr Squirrell advised Parish Cllrs that he had another go at the Ragwort on the wildflower area in mid May and removed approximately 300 plants but there remained a similar number to be removed. He had serviced the trees, stakes and ties on the site. 17 of the 20 trees had established well but the 3 Rowans in one corner are not happy and may need replacing at some point.

6 traffic cones have been left on site and if they are still there at the time of the meeting perhaps the Parish Council could consider asking Orwell Housing to arrange to have them removed.

Unfortunately, the newly installed fence, has been damaged in part. Cllr Squirrell will provide Clerk with a photograph and she will refer the matter to Orwell Housing.

Cllr Squirrell indicated that some parishioners are not aware that the wildflower meadow at Whitethorn Ley is deliberately maintained as a wildflower meadow, and

instead think it is not maintained, he will do an article for the TT giving correct information out for parishioners.

Broadband

Cllr Garry Russell provided an update on this matter. After lots of emails and telephone calls he confirmed that phase 1 of fttp to Blacksmiths Lane is well underway and this project now includes Wash Cottage and Elliston Farm, and in the next few weeks it will be live and ready to take orders but will still only benefit as far as Blacksmiths Lane. He is in talks with Openreach and the Community Fibre Partnership to set up another scheme for the rest of the village from Underwood's Cottages/Manor Farm and Perrydown Lane and would hope to have a further update on that for the next meeting.

Speed Indicator Device

The PC previously agreed for an article to go into the TT to gauge villagers opinion on whether or not they would like to see a SID in the village.

Cllr O'Brien updated the PC – there had been one response to the TT article, at the present time, and that response was in favour of a SID. This was of course in addition to the original request from a parishioner.

Cllrs asked Clerk to send a letter to Old Buckenham School regarding the speed of vehicles on the "school run" passing through the village.

Cllrs discussed further and asked the Clerk to gain more information about any limitations about where the posts for the SID could be placed etc for them to considered later in the year and before any decision about whether to go forward with the matter or not.

6. Public Forum: No members of the public present.
7. County and District Councillor, Mr Robert Lindsay's report
Cllr Robert Lindsay was not able to attend this meeting due to prior commit/meeting

Babergh Council to hold annual meeting at Wherstead Park

Due to the need for social distancing, Babergh has decided to hold its annual meeting at Wherstead Park after some councillors, including the Green group, objected to the original suggestion of holding a meeting at Endeavour House with political leaders having to nominate only a proportion of individual councillors in their group to attend. Planning, and other committee meetings will take place in person with members of the public having to book their attendance. Cabinet meetings will continue online after legal opinion was found that these do not count as a "committee" of the council.

COVID-19 Home testing kits available from libraries and pharmacies

The public can now obtain free Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) from any library in the county, along with 130 NHS pharmacies, subject to stock availability and opening times. Regular testing is seen as key in controlling the spread of the virus as the UK's vaccination programme continues.

For more information see the link below:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/home-testing-now-available-from-libraries-and-pharmacies>

Suffolk Waste Partnership composting campaign launches

On average, more than a third of the contents of Suffolk's rubbish bins could easily be composted at home. Theoretically each household in Suffolk could compost 150kg of organic material a year, turning waste into free soil improver.

To celebrate International Compost Awareness Week in the first week of May, Suffolk Waste Partnership are launching several initiatives to support residents to begin composting. Free bagged compost will be handed out at several events (see link below for details), and cheap composting equipment can be ordered through the Partnership.

See link below for more details:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/free-compost-a-hot-competition-and-cheap-bins-to-help-green-fingered-residents>

Babergh agrees preferred bidder for part of Belle Vue Park

Babergh's cabinet agreed in April to go for a commercial bid for a four story apartment block of retirement homes on the site of the disused swimming pool at Belle Vue Park, Sudbury. The cabinet argued that the cash for this would pay for a new entrance to the park from the roundabout direction. This has proved controversial as a further erosion of public space.

8. Correspondence (general correspondence has been circulated to Cllrs ahead of the meeting)
 - (i) Email from BDC regarding tree, hedge and wildflower planting for parishes. Cllrs noted the contents and agreed not to submit any application.

9. Clerk's report
 - (i) To consider and approve the following annual grants:
PCC grass cutting - £200 – Cllr Pepper proposed and Cllr Russell seconded.
Approved.
Thorpe Times - £100 – Cllr Simpson proposed and Cllr Lee seconded.
Approved.

(ii) Schedule of items awaiting approval:

Income:

Precept 1 of 2 payments	£1654.00
Parish Grant payment 2021/22	£110.00

Items awaiting approval:

N Smith	salary	chq406 221.40 + 70.60 = 292.00
HMRC	tax and NI	chq407 4.00 + 17.60 = 21.60
SALC	annual subs	chq408 145.27
BHIB	annual insurance	chq409 354.26
SCC	*	chq410 489.69

*contribution towards the installation of 2 new chevron signs – sum of 489.69 paid from Neighbourhood CIL monies held by the PC in the sum of 1617.32.

Therefore Neighbourhood CIL monies now:

1617.32 – 489.69 = £1127.63. Clerk will report the spending of CIL monies on highways safety to BDC on the appropriate form.

Cllrs approved all payments.

10. To agree a date for the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting (re-arranged from 1 April 2021 in order that it could be held face to face in the Village Hall)

Cllrs agreed to host the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm on 1 July 2021 in the Village Hall (just before the Parish Council Meeting at 8pm).

11. To review and approve Standing Orders and Financial Orders

Clerk confirmed that there were no Smaller Authority updates. Cllrs re-approved the current Standing Order and Financial Orders, and agreed further annual review in 2022.

12. Planning:

- (i) Application DC/21/02078 – Moat Farm, Bury Road, Thorpe Morieux, IP30 ONR. Application for prior approval of a proposed: Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to 3no.dwellinghouses (Class C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. The Town and County Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) – Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q(a).

Cllrs considered this matter at some length.

Divided Cllrs opinion, but ultimately it was agreed that the PC response would ask the Planning Officer to make enquiry and ensure that the buildings were agricultural buildings, as there were some concern that this may not be the case and therefore it was not a PD planning application but instead a full planning application that should be submitted.

13. Parish Councillors Reports

Cllr Squirrell provided information from the Suffolk Police website. In February 2021 there was 1 reported crime and in March 2021 there were 2 reported crimes. This was the up to date information on the website at that time. Therefore, in the last 12 months there had been 11 reported crimes in the village.

Cllr Squirrell reported that the footpath signs have still not been erected but he would continue to pursue the matter.

Cllr Squirrell reported in relation to the Roadside Nature Reserve. Unfortunately, it had been cut, but he appreciates that currently there is no signage there to indicate that it is a Roadside Nature Reserve. Hope the posts and the signage will be installed soon.

Cllr Russell reported that he felt that incidents of dog poo on the footpaths had increased. It was agreed that an article would go into the TT about this, but it was also felt that it was not just residents and their dogs but also people and their dogs walking the footpaths from outside of the village had increased. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk will seek to try to get some information about the cost of a dog poo bin and emptying the bin by Babergh.

14. Date of next meeting: 1 July 2021 in the Village Hall – 7.30pm Annual Parish Meeting followed by Parish Council meeting at 8pm.

Meeting closed: 9.25pm