THORNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL **MINUTES of MEETING**

Monday 9th December 2013 at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllr Mark Cole (Chair), Cllr Andy Spurr, Cllr Ray Goodger, Cllr Mary Taylor, Cllr Melanie Staff, Cllr Stuart Mitchell, Maggie Beach (Clerk)

Pu	blic: No members of the public were present.	
1	Apologies: Cllr Charlotte Moore,	
2	Public Participation session: None	
	Councillors expressed their great regret at the recent death of parishioner	
	Evelyn Hanna. Evelyn was the widow of Arthur Hanna, who served as Clerk to	
	Thornborough Parish Council for many years.	
3	Declaration of interest in items on the agenda – Cllr RG declared an	
	interest in Item 16c	
4	Minutes of the meeting of 11th November 2013- Agreed with minor	
	amendments included in the minutes.	
5	Review of Action Points	
	Item 2 Public Participation session:	
	Sue Kenyon shared a concern about the Village Hall. The Clerk has reported	
	this to Bernard Garbe	CIIr AS to
	Action Point from TPC meeting 14.10.13 Item 10. Benches – The Clerk now	get a quote.
	has the information about the waste bins. TPC are responsible for the bins on	
	the Greens, Aylesbury Vale District Council collect from the bins as part of the	
	waste collection. TPC will organise the movement of their bins. Cllr AS will get	
	a quote for the work.	
	Item 6 Thornborough Community Woodland – Lease - on agenda	
	Item 7 Road issues - on agenda Item 8 Street Lighting - on agenda	
	Play Around the Parishes 2014	
	The Clerk has booked 2 morning sessions for the summer holidays on Friday	
	1st August and Friday 22nd August.	
	Item 10 Memorial for Airmen on agenda	
	Allotments - update	
	The work on the allotments has still not been done. There are now 3	CIIr AS to
	allotments empty but two people who would like to take on an allotment. The	continue to
	Clerk is sorting out contracts with the new tenants.	action
	Item 16 Clerk's Contract - on agenda	
	Item 19 NALC request for information on the impact of localised council	
	tax support arrangements on councils - Clerk has responded.	
	Item22 Finances:	
	b) Risk assessment –. Circulated.	
	e) Buckinghamshire County Council Budget Consultation	
	The Clerk received responses from Councillors when she sent out an	
	electronic copy of the form which she has collated and sent to BCC.	
	g) Cheques all sent	
	i) E-on for Sports field – new bill paid	
	Item 23 A.O.B. other correspondence and any other Councillors' Issues	
	iii) BMKALC AGM 7.30 re-scheduled for 15 th November. – Clerk is still	
6	checking the notice required.	
6	Christmas Tree	
	There were some concerns about the Christmas tree decorations averaged by a periodic part.	
	expressed by a parishioner.	
	Cllr MC gave the background to the Thornborough Christmas tree and lights. It is prested by veluntages for the village and TDC gives permission.	
	lights. It is erected by volunteers for the village and TPC gives permission	
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	 for it to be erected on the Green. This year the tree came from Thornborough Community Woodland. In previous years TPC has guaranteed to make up any shortfall in the cost up to £50. Proposed by Cllr AS, seconded by Cllr MT that once again TPC will cover any shortfall in the cost up to £50, agreed unanimously. TPC thanked Rod and Jean James for organising the Christmas Tree again this year, Mark Neenan and Tracy Sapwell for supplying the electricity, and Cllr Spurr, Mr King and Mr Morris for erecting the tree. 	Clerk to write a letter of thanks to all as listed.
7	 Thornborough Community Woodland - Lease Cllrs MC, MT and SM attended a meeting to finalise the lease at BCC. All points raised were minor (details in last month's minutes) and were sorted out either at the meeting or by e-mail prior to the meeting by the Clerk. The lease will be signed by the Chairman, Cllr MC, and the Vice-Chairman, Cllr AS, probably in February 2014. The Clerk has checked legal expenses insurance status. TPC are insured for legal expenses to protect, but not to assist an action we start with £100,000 cover. We also have cover for the legal aspect of traveller eviction which is considered by the insurance company as a separate issue, but not for any clean up afterwards. Cllr AS assured TPC that Aylesbury Vale District Council would assist with any necessary clean up of dumped or left rubbish. Proposed by Cllr AS, seconded by Cllr MS to produce an information leaflet to circulate to every household in the parish. Agreed unanimously. Cllrs SM and MT will produce the leaflet, get it printed and distributed. 	Clirs SM and MT to action.
8	 Current Road Closures: no new closure notices received. Report on walk round: A walk round the village with David Smith, our Local Area Technician, to look at pot holes and other issues recently agreed and fixed for 5th December was cancelled with less than 3 hours' notice. TPC asked that the Clerk complain about this to the LAT, copying Simon Dudley in to the e-mail. The issues listed at previous meetings still remain. Salt bins: The Clerk reminded TPC that the salt bin at the Lone Tree still needs to be moved onto the road into the village from the Lone Tree as decided in previous meetings a year ago. Cllr AS to action. Agreed that TPC does not need to order any salt. AVTUG meeting: Minutes of the last meeting on 10th September and agenda for the meeting on 3rd December were noted. Buckingham Surface Water Management Plan: The Plan is now out for consultation. There is little relevant to Thornborough in the plan. Noted. TPC agreed no response was necessary. Cllr AS will be reminding people living in houses adjacent to the watercourse of their riparian responsibilities. Cllr AS does this annually to help reduce the risk of flooding in the winter 	Clerk to send an e-mail complaining at the cancelling of the walk round at such short notice to the LAT. Cllr AS to action the moving of the salt bin
9	months. - Spring Lane: The Clerk has checked with Land Registry. We will have to pay £37 to find out who owns this lane but she has also checked with a previous resident whose father had an interest in this lane. The previous resident reported that the lane was known as a 'green lane' and that although there were once several cottages on the lane for the workers of the Brewery at the Maltings, these had all gone by the time authorities were tarmacing roads so the lane was never tarmaced or adopted by the council. It is therefore in private ownership and although there are rights of access to the two fields that lead off the lane, there is no public right of way. TPC felt it was important to know who owned the road on case of a possible attempt to develop one of the fields not in local ownership at a future date. Street Lighting - update	Clerk to pay for the necessary documents from Land Registry.
	The Clerk has met with Graham Penfold, a manager at the E-on department responsible for work and maintenance. He agreed that the service we have been getting is not acceptable. He will make sure that the work on the timer	Clerk to continue to follow up

	notified when this work is to be done. He will also make sure that TPC receive the quote for three new lights that was requested several months ago. TPC have received a bill for the work done so far on the upgrading of the street	
	lighting. The Clerk has explained that it is unlikely that TPC would agree to pay	
	the bill until all the work on the upgrading of the lights was completed. TPC	
	confirmed this. Mr Penfold understood this issue and said the bill could be ignored at present.	
10	Broadband.	CIIr SM to
	Cllr SM reported that he has been looking into the ownership of the fibre-optic	continue to
	cable into the school. The cable cannot be used at the moment as it doesn't go through the cabinet. Cllr SM will continue to look into TPC obtaining the fibre-	progress.
	optic cable for village use, maybe by linking it to Village Networks. The cable	
	the school is currently using needs repairing as it is not working properly. This	
	will probably mean that the road up to the Lone Tree will need to be dug up at	
11	some point.	
' '	LAF Meeting - 25 th November 2013 Cllr MC report has been circulated. Attached as Appendix 1.	
	Cllr MC drew attention to the information about the drastically revised figures	
	for collisions the A422 between the Leckhampstead and Thornton junctions	
	given initially at the September LAF. Simon Dudley originally told the LAF that	
	there had been 15 recorded collisions between June 2008 and April 2012, three of them serious, which did not meet Government criteria to trigger capital	
	expenditure. Those figures have now been revised to 39 recorded collisions in	
	the same period, nine of them serious and one fatal (plus the recent motorcycle	
	fatality). Cllr MC suggested that if TfB had got these figures so wrong, the	
	figures for accidents at The Lone Tree crossroads could also be wrong. Proposed Cllr MT, seconded Cllr AS, that TPC raise this issue by sending a	
	letter to TfB, copying in Simon Dudley, Cllr Warren Whyte (BCC) who has an	
	interest in the A421, and Janet Blake, Buckinghamshire County Council's	Clerk to
10	Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport. Agreed unanimously. Waste Management – new contract for dog waste collections - Noted	send letter
12 13	Memorial Service Report	
13		
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period will have to start again.

- d) Ref. 13/03063/ATC Home Farm, Chapel Lane, Thornborough, MK18 2DJ-Fell No.1 Conifer and Cherry Tree Crown reduction, No 1 Leylandii and Conifer and No 2 Rows of Leylandii NO OBJECTIONS
- e) Bulletins and other updates noted
 - i. Delegated Powers review TPC have been sent a letter detailing statistics for Thornborough since the Delegated Powers were changed recently, together with a response form to collect the views of parish councils. Between 1st May and 25th October 2013 the Development Control Committee determined 10 applications in Thornborough TPC area. In 9 cases the officers' recommendations were in agreement with the TPC's. A TPC representative has attended and spoken at the meeting when the parish council's comment was contrary to the Development Officer's. TPC discussed the accompanying questions and formulated a response.

Clerk to complete and send the Delegated Powers Review response form to Aylesbury Vale District Council Dev. Control.

Cllr AS left at 8.20 p.m.

Cllr RG left at 8.40 p.m.

17 | Finances:

a) Bank Reconciliation - November 2013.

Current Account £7,043.08
Reserve Account £20,153.74
Current liabilities: £42.15
Current Unbanked cash: £0

Total £27.154.67

- **b)** Budget for 2014-15 -The Clerk has circulated papers explaining our current spending against the Budget for 2013-14. Various Councillors asked questions about the circulated documents that were satisfactorily answered. Proposed Cllr MS, seconded Cllr SM that TPC approve the Budget, agreed unanimously. The Clerk will now prepare a budget for 2013-14 using these figures.
- c) Precept request—Proposed Cllr MS, seconded Cllr SM that as the budget is adequate at present for TPC's current commitments and operating spend not to ask for an increased Precept from Aylesbury Vale District Council but for the Precept amount to remain the same as last year. Agreed unanimously. It was noted that this doesn't mean that the amount that each individual property has to pay will stay the same, what AVDC do is to divide the total amount requested among the number of properties and according to the various bands.

c1) Retrospective Minute

Audit 2014 Report and recommendations 2014

• Review of Corporate Governance

'Recommendation1 Council should retrospectively approve the value of the 2014-15 precept recording the adopted value accordingly in the minutes at the next meeting.'

Proposed Cllr MC, seconded Cllr MS: Thornborough Parish Council's Precept request for 2014-15 is £17,345.60 which will result in the Precept being the same as that received for the year 2013-14 once the grant from Aylesbury Vale District Council is added. This request was forwarded to Aylesbury Vale District Council on Monday on 7th January 2014. Minute to be added retrospectively to Minute 17c 9th December 2013. Agreed unanimously 11th August 2014.

d) Section 137 information for 2014-15

The Department for Communities and Local Government has confirmed that the appropriate sum for parish councils for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 ("1972 Act") for 2014-2015 is £7.20. This is the amount that results from increasing the amount for 2013-2014 (£6.98) by the percentage increase in the Retail Prices Index between September 2012 and September 2013 (of 3.2%), in accordance with Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act. - Noted

e) Request for financial support for St. Mary's church yard

Clerk to finalise budget for 2013

Clerk to send Precept request to Aylesbury Vale District Council

Clerk to send in section 106 request.

with any project. There is £13,200 available. The current amount TPC will be claiming is £6,956.00. h) Payments Cheques Clerk to raise cheques
E-on (unmetered supplies) £22.61 Cheque No. 505
(Local Govt. Act 1972 s.214) Anglia Sign Casting Co. (Memorial) £527.34 Cheque No. 506 (Parish Councils and Burial Authorities
Act 1970 s1) Wicksteed Playscapes £8,347.20 Cheque No. 507 Gratuity for Solicitor £41.05 Cheque No. 508 for help with Thornborough Community Woodland Lease – (Section 137) Clerk to action on the bank accounts
St Mary's for Churchyard £500.00 Cheque No. 509 Clerk's Salary cheques - December £357.13 Cheque No. 510 HMRC - Clerk's Income Tax £89.20 Cheque No. 511 (PAYE Ref. 475/SA75351 Accounts office Ref. 475PE00369213)
Direct Debits Anglian Water still in credit Now assessed at £150.48 for the next 12 months with current credit standing at £40.01 and then a Monthly Direct Debit of £9 per month. Total £9,884.53
Proposed Cllr MS, seconded Cllr MT that £8,500 be moved from the Reserve Account into the Current Account to cover the cost of playground equipment until the funding from Aylesbury Vale District Council (Section 106) is received to pay into the Reserve Account, agreed unanimously. i) Receipts - None
A.O.B. other correspondence and any other Councillors' Issues i. WW1 centenary With reference to the e-mail offering to help with any WW1 event from Bernard Garbe discussed at the October meeting, it was decided to ask Bernard Garbe to come to the January meeting. ii. Make the right call this winter pamphlet iii. Christmas Lunch offer iv. AVDC Meetings during December and January weeting. All noted
19 Date of next meetings; 13th January 2014 at 7.00 The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Appendix 1

The main points affecting Thornborough arising from the quarterly LAF meeting:

Parish Precepts: Reductions in Government grants to district councils – which historically have paid for more than half of AVDC's cost of services – are predicted to continue to decrease until disappearing altogether at the end of the decade. These grants helped offset the changes to Council Tax Benefit last year, which reduced each council's taxbase, resulting in less Council Tax being collectable.

To compensate for the resulting shortfall on parishes, the Government gave AVDC a grant to share amongst parishes in the current financial year, and AVDC used this as a top-up grant so parishes received the same Precept;.

But the grant for the next financial year will be at a reduced rate, then we lose it entirely come 2015/16. TPC now needs to decide how much we will need to raise the Precept if we wish to maintain the same level as the past three years, or are we happy to take the reduced payment bearing in mind our healthy finances?

New Homes Bonus Funding: Nonetheless, there is still £117,837 available in the AVDC New Homes Bonus Funding Scheme for applications from parish and town councils at the next funding round. The last round, in November, awarded £200,000 to Winslow Town Council for land for a town park and community centre; £30,555 to Buckingham Town Council for a multi-use games area at Bourton Park; £90,000 to Waddesdon Parish Council for a pedestrian crossing on the A41; and £50,000 to Aylesbury Town Council for a new festival celebrating the Paralympic legacy. A cycle-path application from Wingrave-with-Rowsham Parish Council was refused as the plan was not well-enough developed. Thornborough PC might consider making an application for any community project funding; the deadline is September 2014.

Speeding: Parishes were asked what measures they might wish to take to enforce speeding and traffic calming in villages. It was pointed out that since TfB has extended 30mph limits in most communities, the opportunity for speeding is now greater. Villages which have main roads running through them – such as Akeley – have a particular problem. Buckingham Police told the Forum that because they do not have the staffing to monitor everywhere, Community Speedwatch was a programme which could be introduced locally, in which parishes share the cost of enforcement campaigns. There is, however it was added, a speeding blitz currently running in Buckingham to deter trucks from speeding in Stratford Road.

Policing: Buckingham Inspector James Davies reported that burglaries were still a priority for local police – particularly with the holiday period approaching - along with rural crime, violence and sexual assaults. "If you see a police officer in your village, then it is probably because there is something to worry about; we no longer send officers to patrol areas where there is no trouble. We have limited capabilities." There have been heating oil and diesel thefts, but no more than usual, and it was suggested that farmers, builders and householders take measures to secure tanks. The LAF is to ask TV Police & Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfield, who has said that he is particularly interested in rural crime, to address the LAF at a 2014 meeting.

Planning: The Vale of Aylesbury Plan, the blueprint for future building in the district, will go through its first hearing sessions on 10-13th December, looking at whether AVDC has complied with the Duty to Cooperate and the overall provision for housing and jobs. The Inspector will make known his findings before the second hearings scheduled for February 2014.

AVDC Planning is currently reviewing its Delegated Powers, which it undertook to do six months after the new regime – under which objectors must make an appearance before the

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Development & Control Committee – came into effect. The results will consider whether any changes need to be made.

Skewed accidents statistics: Further to Transport for Bucks' response to concern about collisions on the A422 between the Leckhampstead and Thornton junctions at the September LAF, TfB has drastically revised its figures. Simon Dudley originally told the LAF that there had been 15 recorded collisions between June 2008 and April 2012, three of them serious, which did not meet Government criteria to trigger capital expenditure. Those figures have now been revised to 39 recorded collisions in the same period, nine of them serious and one fatal (plus the recent motorcycle fatality). I suggested that if TfB had got these figures so wrong, they should look again at The Lone Tree crossroads accident statistics.

Grass cutting: I challenged Simon Dudley's assertion, made at the last LAF, that all rural roads had two cuts in 2014, saying that Thornborough had only one, and that not until early August. Road technician Dave Smith confirmed that there <u>had</u> been only one because of contractor issues, and that TfB was investigating incorrect claims made by contractors. I also pointed out that Bridge Street had been missed out entirely, but as rural mowing ended in early September, there was no chance to correct that. He said that up to six rural cuts were scheduled for 2014.

Ageing Well: The LAF had a presentation from Ageing Well, a Buckingham Local Area initiative to assist the elderly, to ensure they have plenty of interaction with other people, have physical and mental stimulation, and do not suffer social isolation. Day centres, community contacts and resident-led activities all play their part, and parish councils are being encouraged to become involved; grants are available through Ageing Well, which is a joint AVDC and Bucks CC programme.

Health & Wellbeing: This has now become the responsibility of Bucks CC, which has taken over promoting wellbeing from the NHS. The LAF was told that the 27,000 population of North Bucks was the fastest-growing in the county, is less deprived, less ethnically-diverse, has fewer unemployed and fewer lone pensioners than the rest of the country. It also has the lowest proportion of limiting long-term illness, the lowest prevalence of Chronic Heart Disease and of stroke in Bucks.

Of the 27,000, 5.4% are aged under 5 (compared to 6.3% countywide) and 6.2% aged 75 plus (7.8% countywide). The bad news was that among adults, 1455 had depression, 1585 were obese, 6000 were physically inactive, 5246 drank at risky levels and 3173 were smokers

MARK COLE