

Minutes of the Thornham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28 October 2020 at 7.00pm Via Zoom.

Present: Cllr C Venes (Chair) Cllr A Chesterman (Vice) Cllr A Needham
Cllr S Greef Cllr B Gulliver Cllr I Barrett

Also present: Clerk, Cllr Lawton, Mr Richard High & 2 Members of the Public.

The Chair went through the rules regarding running a virtual meeting and everyone to stay muted until asked to speak, if you wish to speak please raise your hand. Members of the public only allowed to speak during Parishioners time. The meeting would be more formal than usual so that the business can be achieved as effectively as possible. Cllr Venes also advised Parishioners that the meeting was being recorded to assist with the minutes if necessary.

- 1. To receive and consider apologies for absence;**
Everyone Present
- 2 To receive Declarations of Interest**
Cllr Greef gave a personal interest in anything concerning the Neighbourhood Plan
Cllr Gulliver concerning Neighbourhood Plan
- 3. Adjournment of Meeting to allow for public questions. (15 mins max 5 mins per Speaker.)**
No questions received

It was resolved for the meeting to return to closed session.

- 4. Neighbourhood Plan**
Councillors to respond to the Examiner's Report Re Neighbourhood Plan and to note comments of Richard High – Consultant

Cllr Venes welcomed Mr High to the meeting. Mr High went through the three policies that the External Independent Examiner wished to remove from the Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy H2: Housing development outside the development boundary

This policy provides for affordable housing on exception sites subject to a limit of 15 dwellings. This policy is a particularly important element of the Neighbourhood Plan as it aims to contribute to the social sustainability of the village.

This is an important policy that the Parish Council specifically asked for. The Examiner does not seem to take the principle of a Rural Exemption Site. **It was resolved to accept Richard's Report taking out any mention of 10 and including financial viability.**

Policy H4: Replacement Dwellings

The Examiner does not like putting in a percentage of 40% as it is arbitrary. Mr High explained regarding the extra justification and the extra clause when it can be more in exemptional circumstances e.g. someone needed live in carers for a large family etc. This was allowed within the Sedgford Plan why not Thornham's. **It was resolved to accept Mr High's Report.**

Policy L2: Local Green Spaces

The Examiner feels that Local Green Spaces e.g. the Playing Field are covered anyway and do not need the extra protection this policy gives. Mr High explained that when he is examining Neighbourhood Plans, he takes each green space individual and may remove the ones protected by other policies but takes each on its own merit. Mr High feels that this Examiner does not undertake individual and because of one has thrown total policy out. **It was resolved to accept Mr High's Report and ask that each area be taken individually.**

It was resolved for the Clerk to write a support letter to be sent to the Borough Council with Mr High's Report.

5. Items For Next Agenda

Shore Road excluding Press and Public

6. Date, and Place of next meeting.

Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 11 November 2020 Virtually via Zoom.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm