

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Thornham Parish Council held on Wednesday 22 May 2015, at the Village Hall, Thornham after the Annual Parish Meeting.

Present: Cllr S Mocatta Cllr A Brown Cllr A Needham
Cllr B Gulliver Cllr I Barrett Cllr C Venes

Also present: The Clerk, Borough Councillor Elizabeth Watson and 18 Members of the Public.

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone

1/15 Election of Chairman. Cllr Venes nominated Cllr Mocatta as Chair. This was seconded by Cllr Barrett. With everyone in favour. **It was resolved to appoint Cllr Mocatta to the post of Chairperson. The Cllr Mocatta duly signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**

2/15 Election of Vice-Chairman.
Cllr Mocatta nominated Cllr Venes as Vice Chair. This was seconded by Cllr Needham. With everyone in favour. **It was resolved to appoint Cllr Venes to the post of Vice Chair. Cllr Venes duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**

3/15 Co-Option of Councillors
Cllr Mocatta explained that unfortunately due to paperwork not getting in on time and Cllr Warham standing down the Council had three vacancies, which the Council should fill by co-option. Mrs Brooks and Mr Brown wish to continue and Mr B Gulliver also wishes to be co-opted. Cllr Mocatta proposed the three for co-option. Everyone in favour. **It was resolved for Mrs Brooks, Mr Brown and Mr Gulliver to be Parish Councillors and they duly signed their declaration of Acceptance of Office.**

4/15 Consider apologies for absence.
It was resolved to accept apologies from Cllr W Brooks.

5/15 To receive Declarations of Interest:
Cllrs Venes, Barrett, and Mocatta, gave a personal interest in anything concerning Thornham Village Hall and Playing Field Ltd.

6/15 Appointment of Parish Council representatives to serve on the following Committees/Organisations: (Current Rep in italics)

Church Committee – *Mrs J Needham/Mrs S Hardy*
Village Hall Committee – *Cllr C Venes*
Playing Fields Committee – *Cllr A Needham*
RSPB – *Cllr W Brooks*

Signed:..... Chair Date:

Cattlegate Holders – Mr J Warham
Village Hall & Playing Field Ltd – Mr J Warham.

07/15 To receive reports from:

CHURCH REPORT

All Saints' Church, Thornham.

We have continued to alternate our services with Holme, but still remain hopeful that we shall eventually be able to return to regular weekly services.

Our usual fundraising efforts, Refreshments at Easter and the church fete, go a long way towards meeting our running costs but, with the devastating Quinquennial Inspection report received in 2013, we obviously needed to think of other ways of raising money. Thornham Village Cinema's Charity evening raised £1,550 for us and the response to our Appeal letter raised £4,675. Members of the P.C.C. organised an interesting Bat Evening with a talk by Phil Parker and, later in the year, a very successful Bridge afternoon was held. Together these events raised a further £1200.

In January we applied for a grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. This fund was specifically set up to address issues with roofs and rainwater. We are delighted to report that our bid was successful and we have been awarded £97,000.

Following a request to the Parish Council for allotments, it was suggested that the piece of land in the churchyard known as The Orchard, would be suitable. With the help of Sam Steveley, the legalities of this have been agreed and 7 plots were measured out together with a further plot to be used as a community garden. The allotment holders are now hard at work and this piece of land has been totally transformed with a good variety of crops now growing. The allotments were blessed after a six-parish communion service on Rogation Sunday. This was followed by an enjoyable lunch attended by the congregation and most of the allotment holders and their guests.

The Parish Council has continued too support the church with a grant towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard.

BOWLS CLUB

IN 2014 Thornham Bowls Club celebrated its centenary, with a presentation of the trophies, which had been played for during the summer, followed by a buffet, which was attended by both past and present member and our President Joyce Ward.

We were also sponsored for our Open Day by Mike McDonnell, with guests from other clubs taking part we raised £237.00 for club funds.

Signed:..... Chair Date:

Fortunately for us the Countryside League Committee had agreed to reduce the number of rinks to three. 9 players as other clubs were short of players as well as us.

We still ended in the bottom half of the league, even though we won against some very good teams, but we enjoyed ourselves.

Ann Whiting
Chairman

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Thornham Village Hall & Sports Pavilion Committee Chair's report to Thornham Annual Parish Council Meeting Friday 22nd May 2015

The Hall Committee exists primarily to manage the effective operation of the hall and sports pavilion. It works with and for the Trustees who have overarching legal, financial/fiscal and Health and Safety responsibilities. The Hall Committee works with a significant number of participating groups and users of the hall. The Hall Committee report monthly at Parish Council meetings as this is an effective way for the committee to update the local community on work, progress and events. Additionally, the committee make use of 'Link', the parish magazine, to report on previous and forthcoming activities at the hall and field. The Hall Committee also reports formally to every meeting of the Trustees of Thornham Village Hall and Playing Field. Inevitably in a community as small as ours there are sometimes overlaps between committees / trustees / parish council / user groups / volunteers and supporters. Thus there is also a constant informal liaison which helps all these groups to function effectively.

The Hall Committee has a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer plus 5 committee members. The Marketing Officer, a part-time paid post currently held by Alison Chesterman, sits on the committee. The names of the members of the committee, along with their contact details, are published on the main notice-board in the entrance lobby. The committee meets formally once a month, usually on the third Monday at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room. There is an Annual General Meeting held in February. The busy and detailed management of the hall means there is also a need for constant exchange of information via e-mail, telephone and one to one meetings. Occasionally a working party is set up to develop a plan of some kind which then goes to the committee and possibly Trustees for confirmation.

The difference in scale of the operation of the new hall and the old Drill Hall is considerable. We now have an average of 42 events/activities per month. These vary in scale from a Pilates class with six students to an exhibition which saw 800 visitors. Thus we have had to develop new ways of working and some of these are still evolving. I believe this is an excellent sign as it indicates that the

Signed:..... Chair Date:

committee is still seeking to meet the not inconsiderable challenges that running the hall presents with imagination and a desire to improve and progress. Three examples should help to illustrate the point. Hall Committee and Trustees recognised early on that professional help was required to manage the bookings and diary for the hall. This is the post that Alison now fills. It requires liaison with a large number of people and by its very nature is constantly changing and evolving.

The growing reputation of the hall in our hub area as an excellent venue for exhibitions, meetings, sports and leisure activity has meant a substantial increase in bookings. It was no longer possible for the hall to be cleaned by volunteers alone – although they still make a major contribution to this work. We now have a contract with the Wash House, local cleaning company, to undertake a clean every Monday morning. We also now have a contract with Prem Check, again a local company, to undertake security and Health and Safety checks on a regular basis at the hall and on the playing field’s facilities.

To give a proper sense of scale: in the last three months of 2013, 90 events and 1,610 visitors; in 2014 there were 457 events/activities in the hall with a total footfall of 14,068 people - an average of 38 events per month. From January 2015 to end of April 2015 there were 168 events ie an average of 42 per month and footfall was 3,765. As a result of this level of use the income that the hall generates exceeds the expenditure. However as the Finance Director would no doubt wish to point out our longer term needs for repair, maintenance and replacement of equipment means we cannot afford to be cavalier re our income stream.

We have met the targets and objectives that we set for ourselves when writing the grant application to Big Lottery Fund and BLF have effectively signed off our project. We can be pleased with our key commitments like the Soup and Sandwich Lunches, thanks again to the efforts of our team of volunteers co-ordinated by Carolyn and Sue W who make this happen. Our Village Cinema and Live by Satellite teams led by Sam and Chris have also made a significant contribution to the level of community interaction. The development of children’s activities last summer was a real bonus, with the exciting art, craft and play activities for younger children inside the hall and the outdoor play and games for older children, thanks to Wendelien and Ali. I know that the planning for a repeat this year is already underway. We cannot rest on our laurels however and must continue to look for and develop new ideas and activities that meet community needs, recognising that no one activity will satisfy everyone and thus a mixed bag is essential. We know that these ideas are out there and some are currently being researched and costed eg an outdoor fitness facility. We know also that the physical structure of the hall must develop to meet our growing needs, eg additional storage space, and again planning for this is underway.

The Hall Committee, and Trustees, can be pleased with what has been achieved since the hall opened for business in September 2013, and particularly with progress and developments in the last year. But the Hall and Sports Pavilion is not a job completed, it is a process that is well underway and heading in the right direction. The help and support of so many members of the community is much

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appreciated. If you have any ideas for the future or wish to assist in any way please talk to one of the hall team.

Colin Venes – Hall & Sports Pavilion Chairman
2015.

18th May

PLAYING FIELD REPORT

Events on the Playing Field have been very successful during the year. The Cricket Team was successful and now has established a second team to play on Sundays. The Football Club finished top of the league, won the league knockout cup and the Charlie Day Cup.

A Sport England Small Grant was awarded for the purchase of windbreaks around the MUGA. This has now been professionally cleaned and newly sanded.

Grants were awarded for nets, a roller and covers for the Cricket Club and floodlights for general use.

David Thompson has continued to cut the playing field, and John Warham and others have helped with strimming on the field. The Pavilion has been cleaned and lots of other maintenance jobs have been carried out.

The Committee have met infrequently throughout the last few months and as there has been no AGM, despite numerous attempts to hold one, the committee ceases to function. It is hoped that the Playing Field Committee will be restructured in the near future.

Cllr A Needham

RSPB REPORT

Titchwell Marsh
2014/15

Storm Surge

The work caused by the storm surge was finally completed in late December 2014. New erosion measures have been put in place along the new seawall to stop it being damaged along the base. The eastern seawall had to be rebuilt and the Autumn Trail will be in operation again this year.

Access to the beach will continue to be through the dunes for the time being.

Staffing

We have recently recruited a new Senior Sites Manager for Titchwell and Snettisham; Liz Appleton will be starting here in July and I'm sure she will be in touch once she has started. We also have a recent addition of a Visitor

Signed:..... Chair Date:

Experience Manager; Carrie Carey is now responsible to managing events at Titchwell and Snettisham

Wildlife

Marsh harrier – an excellent year so far. 5 confirmed nests on the reserve with 2 very close to Fen Hide offering excellent views. Eggs should hatch in late May

Bittern - a male has been booming since late March although we don't know if we have a nest yet. The bird sounds different to recent year and could be new to the area.

Bearded tit – seems to be a late year but good numbers are present

Avocet – 8-10 pairs present on the fresh marsh although they are late this year too

Otter – although elusive there is still at least one individual present. It has been seen on the fresh marsh in recent weeks

Paul Eele

Warden

29th April 2015

SAMS

1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

Between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 we have carried out 23 hand held camera speed checks. The average number of drivers reported for travelling at more than 27 mph was 10 and those travelling between 35 and 37 mph was 12, thus total reported was 230 and 276 respectively. Although the SAM2 signs definitely have a beneficial affect when speeding motorists “see” this speed the number that we are catching using the hand held speed gun does not seem to be reducing. However, we still qualify with the Norfolk Constabulary as an area where speeding is too high and we are getting more police presence carrying out their own checks. They have caught and reported an unquantified number of motorists, all of whom were prosecuted. I now have six locations for our SAMS2 cameras and so I can rotate round these sites through the whole year.

I am still awaiting the results of the analysis of the disc from the SAMS2 from the Norfolk Safety Concern Partnership and will send this on as soon as it is received. I do not think that there is anything more that we can as a civilian organisation do to improve things.

I am very grateful for the excellent support my team give, particularly in poor weather conditions and I would be grateful if this could be recorded.

VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELD LTD

Signed:..... Chair Date:

My report last year referred to laying of the Hall foundations and the completion of the build process. At that time, we had built the Hall but were looking into the unknown – would the Hall be a success or not?

After our first full year of trading, I am delighted to report that we have had a successful year. Income has exceeded expenditure by a comfortable margin, and we have put funds aside to cover most of the depreciation costs on our assets. With additional funds accrued during the build process, we can cover any future “rainy days” which may be out there waiting for us. I would like to thank Ian Barrett and Sue Hardy for the outstanding work they have done throughout the year keeping the books in order and preparing an excellent set of accounts.

Fund raising efforts continue as we have a high level of expenditure and depreciation costs to cover.

During the year, we welcomed two new Trustees, Wendelien Bellinger and Alison Wakes-Miller. Wendelien has taken on the role of organising children’s events, and Alison has taken on the mantle of H&S, a vital role. By coincidence, we now have the politically correct 50/50 split between men and women as Trustees!

Colin Venes has details on footfall and the number of activities carried out. Suffice to say, we have covered just about every interest and age group during the year, and have attracted people from neighbouring villages thus establishing Thornham as a “hub” for community activities. I am grateful to Colin Venes and his Hall Committee for the unstinting work they have put in over the year to make this happen.

The number of volunteers continues to grow and we are grateful to everybody for their participation – no volunteers, no activities! My grateful thanks to all of you. We would love to have more!

On the Playing Field, though strictly just outside the reporting period, it is worth mentioning that through grant awards (thanks Stephanie Mocatta and Ron Williamson) we now have a new roller, new cricket covers and a splendid two lane net facility. Meanwhile, Thornham FC completed a notable treble of the League and two Cups in their second season.

We continue to work with the new management at the Deli and have negotiated a one year licence with them, which has given us an extended car park, covers our maintenance costs as well as providing a small income.

I would also like to thank Alison Chesterman, our Bookings Secretary who works hard keeping our calendar of ever increasing events up to date.

We have three priorities for the coming year:

1. To continue our fund raising activities to ensure the long term sustainability of the Hall
2. To integrate TVH with all other village activities – business, Church, bowls etc.
3. To instigate a 5 year plan for the maintenance of the Playing Field to make it the best in the area.

Finally, my grateful thanks to all the Trustees and their partners. The amount of time and effort they have put into making the Hall a success is nothing short of remarkable – Thornham is very lucky to have them.

Signed:..... Chair Date:

Thornham Parish Council
John Warham
Chairman
May 2015.

BAGLADIES OF THORNHAM report to Thornham Annual Parish Council meeting .

Friday May 22nd 2015

Bagladies are now in their 9th year of fundraising for the Thornham Village fund and this year (2015) we should exceed a total £40,000 raised by stitching , recycling , knitting and jam making!

In 2014 we had a stall at eight events including Burnham Market craft fair , Maker ' s Mark and the church fete .

A new event for 2014 was our successful Winter Gift Fair which added more than £1000 to our fund and is set to become an annual event .

The following donations have been made

Thornham Village Hall	£3,000 (crochery ,cutlery ,glasses etc)
Thornham cricket club	£1,500
All Saints church	£313
Thornham football club	£450
Thornham History society	£200
Thornham Cinema	£900

We have also bought a Flymo lawn mower for use around the village .£390
And indoor and outdoor equipment for the childrens activity days .(Kid' s club) £500

Our total donations this year are approximately £7,500 .

CHAIRS REPORT

It has been another busy year in Thornham, which, while it occasionally seems exhausting, I hope continues for the coming year as we continue to make Thornham a good village for all the community, the visitors, the businesses and those simply passing through.

There have been many good news items, and some less good, however starting with the positive, some highlights from last year starting on the sporting front:

- Thornham Cricket Club goes from strength to strength, joining a Sunday league team, now with a superb practice net facility and actively recruiting new members.
- Thornham Football Club, also having a brilliant season, two great cup runs and winning the league.
- The Bowls club continues to thrive, as it goes into its 100th year and the Parish Council are looking to support it to ensure its continued success

Signed:..... Chair Date:

- The table tennis club now has four tables and an active membership, while the tennis club re-formed last year with over 50 members, many of them juniors.
- The church had superb success with a grant application for £100K to help with the urgent repairs to the roof and the fabric of the church, we look forward to continuing to help support the church next year.
- The allotment society has had a great first year, culminating in the recent blessing of the allotments and has proved to be a great community facility.
- On the coal barn the council fought long and hard to ensure that the planning permission to convert it to residential use was turned down, and we continue with our efforts to get the Coal Barn listed.
- Around the village the Parish Council continues to support initiatives to improve our surroundings – taking over the cutting and maintenance of the greens, for instance, to ensure they are properly managed.

All of this has been achieved by Parish Council members, along with co-opted individuals and a large number of volunteers from across the village. Where possible the Parish Council has helped with funding, but on a total income of £18,000, much of which is committed in advance to the running of the village, we can only help financially in the most modest way. Thanks and credit must go to all those many individuals who have raised grants, contributed at fund-raising events, donated items and given their time for free – of this we are truly grateful.

There are some negatives to report, and without going into detail here I would say:

We are a small parish council who work on a purely voluntary basis. Sarah, our Parish Clerk, does sterling work with all the background paperwork and regulatory work that is increasingly required of us, on only five hours per week.

We dearly want to continue with our efforts to make Thornham an even better environment and community but we have had significant amounts of our time taken up by aggressive challenges and combative positions taken by parishioners when they want to put their points across. We have spent a disproportionate amount of our limited time and resource on responding to individuals, to repeated queries, requests for meetings and even Freedom of Information Act requests. Whilst we are fully supportive for openness at the Council level and the need for accurate and complete information to be available to all our parishioners, this comes at a very high price when, because of the time and effort required, we cannot give other matters which are to the benefit of the entire community our full attention.

But into the coming year. We have a number of new ideas we would like to pursue, during the year and the term of this Parish Council. These include:

- Supporting village-wide fund-raising – perhaps Open Gardens, a Thornham Recipe Book and maybe even a Thornham Regatta.

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Thornham Parish Council

- We would like to pull together all the community – the businesses, the individuals and the visitors – into a co-hesive group and are looking to form a Business and Community Group
- We want to help the Church continue in its efforts to maintain the fabric of the building
- And finally we want to continue to make Thornham the very special place to live that it is for all of us.

Finally, it would not be appropriate to finish without welcoming Bob Gulliver to the Parish Council. Bob is a great member of the community, participates at many levels and is most welcome to the council.

And it is with great sadness, but also pride in his achievements, that we say Good-Bye to John Warham. If I was to list all of John's contributions to the village and the Parish Council we would be here for some time; but John has been a stalwart of the Council, a voice of reason, a thoughtful colleague and most of all he has become a very good friend. We will all miss him.

Cllr Mocatta thanked everyone for their reports.

08/15 Thornham Parish Council Annual Accounts 2014/15

The following was handed out:

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR 2014/15

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END 31 MARCH 2015

INCOME FOR THE YEAR	18145.22
EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR	12010.31
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SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	<u>6134.91</u>
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RESERVES @ 31 MARCH 2015	<u>14500.00</u>
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STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT	1500.00
VILLAGE HALL	5000.00
STREETLIGHTS	2000.00
GENERAL	6000.00

Signed:..... Chair Date:

These minutes are unconfirmed until approved by full Council and signed by the Chairman

TOTAL	<u>14500.00</u>
BANK BALANCE @ 1 APRIL 2014	9412.77
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	6134.91
BALANCE @ 31 MARCH 2015	<u>15547.68</u>

Cllr Barrett talked through the accounts. Cllr Barrett explained that Cllr Brown and himself go through and check the accounts on a quarterly basis and reports to Full Council at the same time. **It was resolved for the Council to accept the accounts as a true and accurate record.**

Internal Auditors Report

Cllr Barrett advised that Mrs S Hardy had completed an Internal Audit of the accounts and found everything to be in order.

Signing of the Audit Form

Cllr Mocatta explained about the external audit report and when through the questions of the Annual Governance Statement and completed the form and signed off the accounts for 2014/15.

09/15 Date, Time, Place of next Annual Parish Council Meeting.

This to be set at a later date.

With no further business the meeting closed at 5.50pm.

Signed:..... Chair Date: