**Minutes of the Meeting of Thrandeston Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th December 2022 at Thrandeston Village Hall.**

# Present:

Councillors Anthony Ronchetti, Andrew Colchester, Colin Swinbourne and Alison Murton.

Philip Freeman - Parish Clerk.

Three members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence.
* District Councillor David Burn, County Councillor Jessica Fleming, and Councillor David Rose.
1. Chairman’s Opening Remarks
* The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests from members on any agenda item. To consider any requests for dispensations.
* None.
1. Notification of any urgent business.
* The impact on the Thrandeston area of the increased runoff of water caused by Application for Outline Planning Permission - DC/22/00416
Proposal: Application for Outline Planning Permission. (All matters reserved) Erection of petrol and electric charging facility with associated shop, roadside restaurant with drive through facility, B1 and B8 starter units, HGV lorry parking facility for rest area and drivers' facilities as a phased development.
Location: Land Adjacent North Roundabout, A140 Ipswich Road, Brome, Part In The Parish of Thrandeston IP23 8AW

**Public Forum.**

Meeting closed at 7:35 p.m.

* A member of the public representing a local landowner, who had prior to the meeting contacted the Clerk about the impact on the Thrandeston area of the increased runoff of water caused by Application for Outline Planning Permission - DC/22/00416 highlighted the problems that will be caused.
* Following a discussion of the points made about this application the Parish Council agreed it wished to highlight the comments that it made in an email on 9 March 2022. The Parish Council understands that the Planning Committee of Mid Suffolk District Council has asked its officers to investigate the problems that are likely to result from this application and the building of the substation at Yaxley and the plans for a synchronous condenser next to it. As no consideration has been given to the increased runoff of water following heavy rain which will cause major difficulties to local farmers and the local drainage system. This will then have an impact on the River Waveney and there will need to be strict controls on the release of water from the three sites and the pollutants that will be produced at the petrol station. How can a planning application be submitted by Wilkinson Planning in which it states that there is no data from pluvial flood risk modelling therefore it cannot be taken into account? The Parish Council believes that the results of rainfall have not been factored into the calculations.
* It was agreed that Thrandeston Parish Council required the Planning Department to immediately undertake a survey of the local drainage system and identify what impact this massive increase in surfaces, which will boost the run off of water, will have on Thrandeston and the River Waveney.
1. Pond on Little Green and work on the willow trees
	1. Freedom of Information request to Mid Suffolk District Council.
* The Freedom of Information documents had been circulated to Councillors and the Clerk had prepared a statement which the Council agreed should be sent to Mid Suffolk District Council. This statement responds to the points that can be identified within the documents.
1. Planning:
	1. Applications:
		1. Application for Works to Tree(S) in a Conservation Area - DC/22/05685
		Proposal: Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce 2No. Willow (T1 and T2) by 2/3. Reduce Crown of 1No. Ash (T3) by 40%
		Location: Centre of Pond 37m From Ruskin House, Little Green 18m from Unnamed Road, Little Green, Thrandeston, Suffolk IP21 4BX
* A statement was agreed at the meeting which had been called to called to allow parishioners to comment on this application. Although objections had been made online to the application only two parishioners attended the meeting. Neither parishioner objected to this application.
* The statement gave details of the background to the application and commented on the objections to the application.
* It must be stressed that the Parish Council took professional, independent and objective advice on what needed to be done to the trees on Little Green. This advice was taken before the controversy which has arisen on the work on the 2 willow trees and the ash tree. The Parish Council is trying to ensure Little Green retains its attractive appearance and that the life of the willow trees is extended. However, the average life expectancy for a willow tree is between 50 and 70 years. The trees were planted in 1973 and therefore they are at the lower end of their life expectancy.
* The removal of the silt from the base of the pond was completed in September 2022 and approximately 500 tonnes were removed. It seems that the pond was last cleaned out approximately 20 years ago which means in the region of 25 tonnes of silt is added to the pond each year. A small quantity of this may be from soil washed in from the road and from dust, but the majority must be from the leaves of the willow trees. This effect could be seen by the leaves and other materials that have fallen from the trees when the pond was recently frozen, and a substantial quantity was deposited on the ice.
* The Arboricultural Officer from Mid Suffolk District Council and the contractor met to discuss the planned work following controversy over what has been planned, much of which was ill informed, and the comments subsequently made about the application are at times contradictory. The Parish Council was advised to give a cooling off period, which it did, to little effect. The advice that has been given is that the trees need work which will probably extend their lives. It will also help the lime trees which were planted close to the willow trees and hopefully reduce the water taken from the pond by the willows. There were never any plans to carry out work on the lime trees.
* In the Parish Council records there are discussions from as early as 2007 about the need to carry out work on the willow trees and work was undertaken in 2016. At that time work was needed on the weeping willow tree as some branches had broken and were dangerous and were removed in the interests of safety. When the branches that are near to the Mellis Road are examined, it is possible to see where branches were cut because they were causing problems to vehicles.
* The Parish Council agreed to support the application.
	1. Applications – no decisions to date:
		1. Application for Planning Permission - DC/22/04021
		Proposal: Full Planning Application - Construction and operation of Synchronous Condensers with ancillary infrastructure, and associated works including access and landscaping.
		Location: Land At The Leys And Ivy Farm, Mellis Road, Yaxley, Suffolk IP21 4BT
		2. Application for Outline Planning Permission - DC/22/00416
		Proposal: Application for Outline Planning Permission. (All matters reserved) Erection of petrol and electric charging facility with associated shop, roadside restaurant with drive through facility, B1 and B8 starter units, HGV lorry parking facility for rest area and drivers' facilities as a phased development.
		Location: Land Adjacent North Roundabout, A140 Ipswich Road, Brome, Part In The Parish of Thrandeston IP23 8AW
	2. Planning decisions:
		1. Approved: None.
		2. Refused: None.
1. AOB - Any items raised earlier but not for an extended discussion or decisions and items for inclusion at the meeting on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.
* None.

Meeting closed at 8:01 p.m.