



## THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 by Zoom Video Call at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Cllr S. Yerby (Chair), Cllrs V. Cushing, K. Drake, S. Eckworth, K. Plumbly, G. Pointer, C. Ross, NNDC Cllr R. Kershaw, NCC Cllr S. Aquerone, Parish Clerk – K. Harris.  
There were 8 residents present at all or part of the meeting.

**1. Welcome and to consider apologies and reasons for absence.**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained protocols for holding a meeting by video.

**2. Declarations of Interest, requests for dispensation by Councillors.**

There were none.

**3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to be approved.**

All councillors agreed that the minutes were a fair representation of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

**4. Matters arising on the Minutes (for information only), not included on the agenda.**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Financial and Governance Matters**

5.1 The Clerk reported that there was only one payment since the last report: DD to the Information Commissioner's Office annual subscription of £35.00. The Bank Balance in the Community Account was £1,359 and in the Investment Account: £6,281. The Cashbook was agreed on a Proposal by Cllr Eckworth and seconded by Cllr Pointer.

5.2 The appointment of Mrs. Di Dann as Internal Auditor for the 2020-21 Financial Year was agreed on a Proposal by Cllr Yerby and seconded by Cllr Ross.

5.3 The Clerk reported on the renewal of the Allotment contract. The Thursford Community Allotment and Gardens Society acts as the Parish Council's representative to look after the interests of the Landowner, the Parish Council and the plot holders. The contract is renewed every 5 years and a rental sum is agreed between the Society and the Landowner. The next 5-year period started on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and the Clerk understands that both parties are in agreement, that there are no changes to the terms and conditions of the contract and that it will be signed imminently (having been delayed due to covid)

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## 6. Correspondence

6.1 The Clerk summarised the correspondence received since the last meeting: the majority of the correspondence related to the Exception Housing Scheme. There were no questions.

6.2 No correspondence had been received since the close of the agenda.

## 7. Planning Matters – Exception Housing Scheme

The Chair had written a report summarising information to date on the Exception Housing Scheme and the letters received by the Parish Council on the subject from residents. His report is attached to these minutes. The Parish Councillors each then gave their views, which acknowledged a need for Affordable Housing, but were concerned about the location chosen from the perspective of infrastructure, amenities, safety and flooding.

A vote was taken to record the Parish Council views on the Exception Housing Scheme:

**In favour** of the current proposals for the Exception Housing Scheme: **1 vote**

**Against** the current proposals in the Exception Housing Scheme: **6 votes**

## 8. Open Forum for Public Participation

### 8.1 Report by Cllr Kershaw, North Norfolk District Council

Cllr Kershaw informed the meeting that he was on the Planning Committee and will review the matters concerning the Housing scheme and report back to the PC. Covid cases in Norfolk were reducing and the roll out of the vaccine was progressing well with more centres coming online each week. By the end of January all over 80-year-olds and care home staff and residents will have received their vaccination. Information about the 2021 census (21<sup>st</sup> March) will start being despatched this week.

The new Planning software went live in December.

NNDC is still accepting applications from organisations and individuals who would like to plant their trees (apply online).

### Report by Cllr Aquerone, Norfolk County

Cllr Aquerone informed the meeting that Holt Hall has obtained “asset of community value” giving the community 6 months to seek alternative solutions. He also gave an update on the County-wide roll out of the vaccine.

Regarding the Exception Housing Scheme, Cllr Aquerone informed the meeting that, just like the Parish Council, NCC are only consultees to the Planning process to NNDC, but he will be able to make his views known regarding Highways matters. Cllr Aquerone agreed to look into the following concerns raised by a resident:

Flooding in Clarks Lane

Overflowing drain in The Street (reported to NCC in January 2021)

However investigation may need to wait until the water level has subsided.

Cllr Aquerone also suggested that walking space and footpaths was added to the PC agenda and he would do the same with the County Council after a number of residents had mentioned the issue with regard to the flooding and the Housing scheme.

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8.2 An opportunity for members of the public to raise questions and concerns  
Five residents spoke during the open forum. They all expressed their concern about the Exception Housing scheme. All who spoke were in favour of Affordable Housing, but felt that the location suggested was unsuitable due to its location on the periphery of the village, the lack of infrastructure, the proposed properties not being in keeping with those already existing and the known issues of flooding already affecting current residents. There was also concern that these would just be the first properties built on this site and that this would lead to more building here.

A resident also requested that the Parish Council organise a litter pick for the Spring.

**9. Close the meeting for a confidential item**

It was agreed to close the meeting to members of the public to discuss tenders prior to awarding two contracts. Proposed: Cllr Pointer, seconded: Cllr Drake.

9.1 Three tenders had been requested but only two received for the Grass cutting contract which comes up for renewal in April 2021. The merits of both tenders were discussed and it was decided to award the contract to J. Bolam. Proposed by Cllr Drake, seconded by Cllr Pointer. All councillors voted in favour

9.2 Action needed to be taken regarding the two red chestnuts on the Green. Two proposals had been received, suggesting different courses of action. These were considered by the Council: either to remove both trees at the same time or to remove one tree immediately and remove the diseased parts of the second and remove this at a later date. The latter course of action was agreed by all: Proposed by Cllr Yerby and seconded by Cllr Ross.

**10. Any other Business**

Update on the Arch: Cllr Pointer has spoken to Mr. and Mr. Cushing and the Arch can be fixed to the wall.

The Clerk has received a request from Jerome Mayhew, local constituency MP requesting an invite to a Parish Council meeting this year. All Councillors agreed and the Clerk will send him an invite to the May meetings.

**11. To note the date of the next meeting:**

The next meeting is March 22<sup>nd</sup> and dates for future meetings are May 17<sup>th</sup>, September 6<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup> (**Please note revised meeting dates since previous minutes**)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm

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Chairman

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Date