



THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 17th May 2021 at Andrew's Church, following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Present: Cllr S. Yerby (Chair), Cllrs, V. Cushing, K. Drake, S. Eckworth , K. Plumbly, G. Pointer, NNDC Cllr R. Kershaw, Parish Clerk – K. Harris

1. To elect a Chairman for 2021-22 and to sign the Declaration of Office.

Cllr Steve Yerby agreed to stand as Chair. He was proposed by Cllr Drake and seconded by Cllr Pointer. He was elected unanimously and signed the Declaration of Office.

2. Welcome and to consider apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Aquerone (NCC)

3. To receive declarations of Interest and request for dispensations in any of the agenda items

There were none.

4. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th March 2021

These were signed on a proposal by Cllr Plumbly and seconded by Cllr Ross.

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

There were none.

6. Open forum for Public Participation

1. Receive reports from NNDC Cllr Kershaw, newly elected NCC Cllr and Police if attending

Cllr Kershaw updated the Councillors on the progress of the covid vaccinations locally which are slightly above the national average. He noted that the area was expecting an additional number of caravans this year and that landowners may be offering additional camping sites and the District Council was negotiating to use school playing fields for this purpose in the summer holidays. Parking wardens will be out early to prevent overnight stops in car parks and caravans are not allowed to stop outside of designated camping areas, so not along parish roads. NNDC will also be employing additional wardens to enforce social distancing rules.

The Clerk read out Cllr Aquarone's report: thanks for re-electing him. His main priorities remain climate change, public transport and growing the local economy. He has resigned as Group Leader of the local Liberal Democrats over the proposed construction of the Western Link road. He also would like to receive comments from Councillors and residents about local footpaths or the lack of them.

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3 pages 1 appendices

DRAFT until AGREED at following meeting

2. An opportunity for members of the public to raise questions or concerns

There were no local residents present.

7. Correspondence

- 1 To note any correspondence since the last meeting

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors: Road closures around Walsingham for the Tamil festival; a local resident's letter requesting PC action after issues on the A148 junctions; NNDC Town and Parish Council Forum; resident's email about the Pumpkin Farm.

8. To discuss any planning matters

1. To receive a report on the Exception Housing Scheme

Cllr Yerby referred to comments made earlier this evening at the Annual Parish Meeting on the Exception Housing Scheme. Concern was expressed about the re-introduction of the Government's White Paper on Planning which was seen as a "Developer's Charter".

9. To discuss any Highways Matters

1. To discuss any walking space and footpaths that need action due to recent flooding and to decide on any actions

The Clerk will contact Highways again about the Fingerpost on Church Lane

The Clerk will report the issues of mud at the point where Church Lane and Heath Lane meet.

2. To discuss concerns and action to take regarding the Thursford junctions off the A148 after recent reports regarding accidents and near-misses.

The Clerk will contact Highways to report the resident's concerns about the A148 junction with the Melton Constable road and request the arrows be repainted.

The Clerk will ask if Highways can put up a "High Risk of Accident" sign at the Crawfish junction after another bad accident there on May Bank Holiday

10. Financial and Governance Matters

- 1 To agree the Internal Audit undertaken for y/e 31st March 2021 and approve any actions to be taken

The PC considered the Internal Audit report and all action will be taken as recommended.

2. To agree to the signing of the Exemption Certificate for 2020/21

Agreed: Proposed Cllr Ross, Seconded Cllr Eckworth

3. To agree the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 (AGAR Part 2)

The Clerk read out the statements for the Councillors to consider.

Agreed that the Chair may sign: Proposed Cllr Pointer, Seconded Cllr Cushing

4. To agree the Accounting Statement for 2020/21 (AGAR Part 2)

Agreed: Proposed Cllr Cushing, Seconded Cllr Eckworth

5. To approve the Payments of Account list

The following payments were agreed: £39.60 (Fakenham Prepress Solutions for printing the Tablet); £35.00 (D. Dann for undertaking the Internal Audit); £340.17 (Came & Co Insurance) – Proposed Cllr Drake, Seconded Cllr Ross

Income had been received: £540.00 in Burial Fees; £2,100.00 – first instalment of the Precept

11. To request any contributions for the summer Tablet to be sent to the Clerk before the middle of June

To put a note in the Tablet requesting people using the little library in the phone box not to put books on top of the defibrillator.

12. Any Other Business – for information only

Cllr Yerby gave an update on the Church: the new kitchen and toilet facilities are complete and the path has been upgraded, the path is now wheelchair friendly. The next phase is to install lighting along the path. A concert using medieval instruments is planned for early July as money needs to be raised to cover the £4,000 Annual costs for insurance, water etc. £80,000 had been raised for the improvements. The building is for the benefit of the village and should be used as much as possible.

Cllr Eckworth enquired why The Meadows didn't have a road sign with the name. Cllr Cushing informed the meeting that the Estate was private land and the landowner didn't want the properties advertised for security reasons.

13. To note date of next meeting Monday 6th September and meeting dates for 2021: Nov 9th

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

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Chairman

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Date