



THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th November 2021 starting at 7.00pm at St Andrew's Church

Present: Cllr S. Yerby (Chair), Cllrs, V. Cushing, S. Eckworth, K. Plumbly, C. Ross, NNDC Cllr R. Kershaw (from 7.30pm), Parish Clerk – K. Harris.

There was 1 resident present.

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were unanimously accepted for absence for Cllrs K. Drake and G. Pointer.

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

There were none.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th September to be approved.

All councillors agreed that the minutes were a fair representation of the meeting and were signed by the Chair on a Proposal by Cllr Eckworth and seconded by Cllr Ross.

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

There were none.

5. Planning Matters

5.1 To receive an update on the Exception Housing Scheme

The Chair reported that he had heard from the Developers and they are keen to continue towards Planning Permission for the site. Their agents are arranging a consultation with the village which will take place on **24th November from 3pm until 7pm in St Andrews Church**. The Developers have arranged for information about the consultation to be sent to residents neighbouring the site but the PC agreed that all Parishioners should have the opportunity to comment so agreed to copy the leaflet and distribute to all households in the village. The Developers have told the Chair that they will consider the comments raised in the consultation before putting in a planning application.

Cllr Plumbly was disappointed at the lack of information in the leaflet.

Cllr Eckworth informed the PC that there had been 4 or 5 small shunts since the new Highways signs had been installed at the Crawfish Crossroads, but the police had not needed to attend.

Cllr Eckworth had attended the recent npts Chairs networking session and had the names of some contacts who may be able to help with planning advice.

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DRAFT until AGREED at following meeting.

Cllr Ross thanked Cllr Yerby for all the work he had undertaken on this matter.

6. Financial and Governance Matters

6.1 To approve the Cashbook and Payments List

The following Payments were agreed:

24.09.21: Fakenham Prepress Solutions (Printing of the Tablet) £39.60

8.11.21: S. Jenkinson (Tubs on the Green) £30.32; C. Rheinberg (Reimbursement for domain registration - Thursford.org.uk) £22.78; J. Bolam (Grass cutting) £850.00; S. Yerby (photocopying of the Exception Housing leaflet) £11.00

5.12.21: by Direct debit – Information Commissioners Office (annual subscription)

It was agreed to reappoint Mrs Dann as the Internal Auditor for the 2021-22 Financial Year.

This was approved on a Proposal by Cllr Eckworth and seconded by Cllr Ross, All agreed.

6.2 To approve additional signatories to the Barclays Bank Account and to apply for Internet Banking

Currently the Barclays account has 2 signatories. The Clerk suggested that this should be increased. It was agreed that Cllrs Eckworth and Cushing would become additional signatories. The Cllrs were not sure about the security and authorisation for online banking so all agreed that the Clerk would speak to the Internal Auditor about this and the PC would continue with the current banking procedure at least until the new Financial Year. On a proposal by Cllr Yerby and seconded by Cllr Ross.

6.3 To approve additional signatories to the NS&I Account

It was agreed to add Cllrs Eckworth and Cushing as signatories to the NS&I account: on a Proposal by Cllr Ross and seconded by Cllr Yerby.

6.4 To approve the budget and set the Precept for 2022 – 23

The Cllrs had examined the budget report and calculations and agreed to set the precept at £4,400 for the 2022-23 Financial Year to ensure that the costs identified in the budget were met: on a Proposal by Cllr Eckworth and seconded by Cllr Ross.

6.5 To review and approve cemetery fees for 2022-23.

It was agreed to remove the charge for the burial of children under 12 years of age – with immediate effect the cost will be £0. The charge for a burial for an adult or over 12 years of age is increased to £150 with effect from 1st April 2022 on a Proposal by Cllr Eckworth and seconded by Cllr Ross and agreed unanimously.

6.6 To confirm membership of the Norfolk Town and Parish Forum

This was agreed unanimously.

Cllr Richard Kershaw (NNDC) arrived at 7.30pm

7. Open Forum for Public Participation

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DRAFT until AGREED at following meeting.

Cllr Aquerone (NCC) was unable to attend and had sent a written report which had been circulated to Councillors. He mentioned two areas that he wanted, in particular, to bring to the attention of Cllrs: funding for road safety which will be included in the 2022 Parish Partnership programme and the larger sum for tackling potholes – he believed the priorities should be the other way around. Secondly he wishes to promote active living in villages, particularly improvements to local footpaths.

Cllr Kershaw (NNDC) gave his report: he said that the impact of covid locally is likely to be challenging over the next few weeks and that, despite a delay, dates for the boosters were now coming through. He informed the PC that the new leisure complex in Sheringham, The Reef, despite delays, was now back on track. NNDC have a new Director of Place in the Planning Department which has led to an improvement in performance.

Cllr Kershaw left the meeting.

8. Correspondence

Correspondence circulated since the last meeting – 2 Police Newsletters and the Fakenham SNAP meeting; information about the Memorial Plaque; NPTS networking sessions; NCC Tourism Survey; information about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and dates of Highways visit.

8.1 To note any update for marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The PC decided that they did not want to commit to lighting a beacon at this stage – it is late before it gets dark and they were concerned about the land being too dry. Cllr Eckworth stated that residents had informed her that they appreciated the village being hung with bunting and others agreed that this was a good idea. Cllr Ross suggested planting a tree on the Green to commemorate the occasion and to replace the tree cut down earlier this year. A party will also be considered at the next meeting.

9. To agree the next step for funding a replacement noticeboard in Station Road

The Clerk reported that the Noticeboard frame was essentially sound, so it should be possible to repair it. An advert will be put into the Tablet asking for a volunteer to repair the cork board and the door and to paint the frame.

10. To request contributions to the Tablet before 20th November

These should be sent to the Clerk. Cllr Yerby recorded that he liked that the Tablet focussed on the village and its activities and that a hard copy of the Tablet was the fairest way to ensure that all residents in the village could access it.

11. Any Other Business – for information only

Cllr Ross said that the resident who looks after the tubs on the Green would like the PC to fund a new bin as there was no longer a bottom in the current one. The Clerk will investigate prices for the next meeting.

The memorial Arch should be installed in position before the next meeting.

The Clerk had received an email from the local police team who had received a complaint about speeding along North Lane from a Thursford resident wanting to know if the PC had also been contacted. The PC had not received such a complaint, but noted it and encouraged the effort from the police.

Cllr Plumbly informed the PC that the Chapel was not doing well financially which could be a concern for the Village.

Cllr Ross suggested that alternate PC meetings could be held there. Cllr Eckworth suggested that while Covid was still an issue the venue was probably not suitable. She suggested an advert in the Tablet reminding residents that the Chapel is available for hire.

12. To note dates of meetings for 2022

The date of the next meeting is Monday January 17th 2022 and proposed dates for the remainder of 2022 are: Mondays March 28th, May 23rd, September 5th and November 4th.

13. To consider excluding the public under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the items to be discussed (personnel matter)

This was agreed unanimously

14. To agree staff pay for 2022 - 23

The Clerk was absent while her pay was discussed.

The meeting decided unanimously that a pay rise for the Clerk was appropriate with effect from 1st April 2022 on a Proposal by Cllr Yerby and seconded by Cllr Eckworth,

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

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Chairman

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Date