



THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th January 2022 starting at 7.00pm at St Andrew's Church

Present: Cllr S. Yerby (Chair), Cllrs, V. Cushing, S. Eckworth, G. Pointer, K. Plumbly, C. Ross, NNDC Cllr R. Kershaw, 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 Cllr K. Drake and NCC Cllr Aquarone.

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

There were none.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th November 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.

The Memorial Arch is in hand: it needs another coat of pain and for the temperature to be adequate for it to be welded in place.

5. Open Forum for Public participation

5.1 NNDC Cllr Kershaw's report

Cllr Yerby thanked Cllr Kershaw for his support with the Exception Housing scheme and on other local matters.

Cllr Kershaw informed the meeting that the NNDC draft Local Plan was now open for consultation from today until 28th February. Comments can be made on the interactive page of the website; hard copies of the document are also available if requested and are located in libraries.

Covid cases in Norfolk appear to have peaked and currently of the 229 people in hospital, only 4 are in ITU. Inoculations of 5 – 11 year olds will start within the next 2 weeks and will take place in schools.

The Government has provided an additional £8.07million for the hospitality industry and NNDC are funding a £176,000 discretionary grant for other businesses which is being distributed by NNDC.

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NCC Cllr Aquarone – summary of written report

Affordable Homes: a change in the law is needed to allow councils to control the rapid expansion of second homes and Cllr Aquarone has written to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities on this matter

Footpaths: The CC is planning a support kit to help parishes identify circular walks

Mobile phone coverage: About ⅔ of the Division has experienced improvements in the last 4 years; the majority of devices are able to support wi-fi calling, helping to improve networks' default home signal.

From December 31st 2025 all landlines in Britain will only continue to work if they are hooked up to the internet – due to concerns on coverage Cllr Aquarone is seeking a delay to this date.

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

A resident reported that Clarkes Lane is in such a bad state that most residents are now walking along the adjacent field boundary. She suggested obtaining permission for a permissive path from the landowner as this gives no rights to the public and the timeframe may be specified, but gives legitimacy to something already happening. She also suggested that steps could be created next to Rosedene into the field. The CC could be contacted regarding funding for this.

Cllr Yerby will speak to the Landowner and report back.

6. Planning

6.1 To receive any update on the Exception Housing Scheme

Cllr Yerby reported on a site meeting that took place on 12th January attended by himself, Cllr Eckworth and the Clerk and by NNDC Cllrs Kershaw and Fredericks and. The issues covered were sent in a report to all Cllrs and Housing Portfolio Holder Cllr Fredericks has reported on the issues to NNDC Head of Housing.

Cllr Cushing wanted to note that she had no argument with the technical issues surrounding the site, but felt that the lack of facilities would be understood by people who had grown up locally. Cllr Kershaw reported that this point had been made at the site meeting.

Cllr Kershaw informed the meeting that there was no timeline on the number of times the Developer could apply for Planning Permission, which was a concern to the PC due to the impact on local residents.

7.30pm Cllr Kershaw left the meeting

6.2 To receive an update on PF/212/3271: Kestrel Cottage, Fakenham Road – single storey extension to side/rear of dwelling; dormer extension to rear.

The PC had made no comments to this application. Its current status is pending consideration.

7. Financial and Governance Matters

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7.1 To approve the Cashbook and Payments List

The following payments were agreed:

6.12.21: Fakenham Prepress Solutions (Printing of the Tablet) £39.60; Dessol (webhosting) £120.00; C. Harris (Clerk's Salary) £208.84; HMRC (Tax on Clerk's salary) £52.20; C. Harris (Clerk's expenses) £37.92

The balance on the current account was £1,649.72

These were agreed on a Proposal by Cllr Pointer and Seconded by Cllr Eckworth

7.2 To receive an update on additional signatories to the Barclays Bank Account

Cllr Eckworth went to the bank before Christmas to verify her identity. The bank have not yet confirmed the additional signatories have been accepted.

7.3 To receive an update on the NS&I Account

The bank have confirmed that the additional signatories have been added to the account..

7.4 To review and approve Standing Orders

Agreed by all on a Proposal by Cllr Cushing and Seconded by Cllr Pointer

7.5 To review and approve the Financial Regulations

Agreed by all on a Proposal by Cllr Eckworth and Seconded by Cllr Ross.

7.6 To review and approve the Risk Management Scheme

Agreed by all on a Proposal by Cllr Pointer and Seconded by Cllr Eckworth

8. Highways Matters

8.1 To agree any action regarding Heath Lane and Church Lane

There are large, deep potholes in Heath Lane, Church Lane and Balls Lane as well as damage to the verges and a large amount of mud on the road. The PC are concerned that they could be dangerous. The Clerk will contact Highways Officer Steve White and request a site visit for his advice.

9. To note any Correspondence

Correspondence circulated since the last meeting – 2 Police Newsletters, Update on the OTN, arrangements for presentation of the memorial plaque, dates of 4 webinars, Transport East public consultation, Local Plan Winter Newsletter, NPTS networking sessions, Norfolk Local Plan Consultation on Proposed Submission.

10. To agree any action for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

All agreed that it was important to mark the occasion:

A tea party on the Green – kettle and crockery from the Chapel and the Chapel could be used as back up in the event of rain. Cllr Eckworth will act as contact and Cllr Ross will support. A resident will also be involved with the arrangements.

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A resident suggested also lining some tables up at the end of Ball’s Lane and having a pudding competition.

St Andrews has some large tables which could be used.

It was also suggested that a tree could be planted on the Green to mark the occasion. Cllr Plumbly will check that it is not too soon to plant a tree after the previous tree was removed.

11. To receive an update on the repair of the Station Road Noticeboard

A resident had responded to the request for a volunteer and was in the process of effecting a repair. The PC expressed its thanks and this will be put in the Tablet

12. To agree the next step for funding a new bin on the Green

The PC felt that the costs for replacing the bin were too great and Cllr Pointer agreed to look into repairing it.

13. To request contributions to the Tablet to be sent to the Clerk before 24th January

Agreed

14. Any Other Business – for information only

A resident had requested that a date be set for a Litter Pick – Date set is 13th March

Mrs. Di Dann agreed to be the co-ordinator

15. To note dates of meetings for 2022

The date of the next meeting is Monday April 4th – date changed since previous minutes and proposed dates for the remainder of 2022 are: Mondays May 23rd, September 5th and November 4th.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.58pm

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Chairman

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Date