



THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th April 2022 starting at 7.00pm at St Andrew's Church

Present: Cllr S. Yerby (Chair), Cllrs, K. Drake, S. Eckworth, G. Pointer, K. Plumbly, C. Ross, Parish Clerk – K. Harris.

There were 3 residents 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 V. Cushing. NCC Cllr Aquarone and NNDC Cllr Kershaw sent their apologies.

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

There were none.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 17th January and 14th March to be approved.

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

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

Cllr Plumbly informed the meeting that the Memorial Arch was now in place. The PC expressed thanks to him.

The PC had agreed to plant a rose to climb the Arch when it was first agreed. A rose marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was suggested. Cllr Eckworth will investigate the options

5. To receive a report from the Chairman

The Chairman informed the meeting that Reverend James Muggleton was retiring at the end of June 2022. The new Bishop of Lynn does not want to close churches down so Thursford church will probably have 5 years to prove that it is viable.

The Chairman informed the PC that he is moving at the end of this week, so is resigning from the PC after the meeting this evening. The Chair will be voted in at the May meeting for the next year.

6. Open Forum for Public participation

6.1 NCC Cllr Aquarone: summary of written report - Holt Hall is being sold to an unidentified buyer for private use; NCC is one of 2 councils in East Anglia to have stopped free school meals for the Easter holiday; Climate Strategy - the council will bring a climate action plan to a future council meeting.

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NNDC Cllr Kershaw: summary of written report – the Town and Parish Forum was well attended and covered many topics; NNDC are establishing a Youth Council to encourage younger residents to get involved in civic matters; a Ukranian/Russian speaking officer is to be appointed to help with the influx of refugees; Covid – all testing has now stopped, numbers have doubled but there is only 1 patient in ICU and Covid Support Officers are being stood down; Natural England have introduced a Nutrient Neutrality Policy which has a big impact on Planning Applications; NNDC have just won 2 grants - £300k for accessible toilets and £37million shared with West Riding of Yorkshire to run a pilot scheme for coastal protection.

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

A resident reported that the Grant Application for equipment for the SAV team plus the cost of up to 4 additional Tablets has been submitted to NNDC.

A resident stated that he was looking forward to using St Andrew's Church as a community hall. The Church needs to raise £5,000 just to keep the fabric of the building going. Our local churches are one of the biggest assets in the community and the PC felt that the Church should make a contribution to their maintenance for this reason

7. To consider any action towards registration by the Parish Council of the Methodist Chapel as a Community Asset (Agenda item 15)

A resident had suggested applying to the District Council to register the Methodist Church as a Community Asset as this would give the PC first option to purchase the building at market value if it was put up for sale for use as a community asset – although they would not be obligated to do so. It would allow the PC at the time to consider whether there may be a use for the building and to consider raising funds for the purchase.

This was agreed on a Proposal by Cllr Drake and Seconded by Cllr Eckworth.

8. Planning

8.1 PF/22/0489 - Thursford - Land South West Of, Brick Kiln Road -To receive any update on the Exception Housing Scheme.

Comments on the Scheme had to be submitted prior to 25th March, and the PC had submitted an objection.

The PC would need to appoint a representative to speak at the Planning Meeting when the application was discussed and it was suggested to email members of the Planning Committee prior to this meeting.

8.2 To receive an update on PF/22/0002 - Thursford - Orchard House, The Street. The PC had made no comments to this application. Its current status is pending consideration.

9. Financial and Governance Matters

9.1 To approve the Cashbook and Payments List:
The following payments were agreed:

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ICO (Annual payment) - £35; Fakenham Prepress Solutions (Tablet) - £39.60; Community Heartbeat Trust (Battery) - £318.00; Norfolk Parish Training and Support (Annual Subscription) - £50.00; C. Harris (Clerk's Salary, including Local Government pay award of 1.75%, backdated to 1.04.2021 = 17p per hour increase) - £223.12; HMRC (Tax on Clerk's pay) - £55.60; C. Harris (Clerk's expenses) - £30.00; Thursford Methodist Church (Hire for meeting tonight) - £15.00

The following payments had been received:
Funeral Income - £600.00

The balance on the current account was £1,872.12

The Clerk informed the PC that a VAT claim had been submitted for £141.30

These were agreed on a Proposal by Cllr Yerby and Seconded by Cllr Pointer.

9.2 To review the asset register

This was reviewed and agreed – on a Proposal by Cllr Eckworth and Seconded by Cllr Ross.

10. To note any Correspondence

Correspondence circulated since the last meeting: 2 police newsletters, police information re post box theft, NPTS Networking sessions, Information about energy webinar, OTN Update, Queen's Platinum Jubilee Guide, Tourism Survey, Public Conveniences comments request, Information about Highways webinar, Information re grants for energy.

11. To consider the report for Thursford Cemetery and approve any actions to be taken

The PC discussed the Cemeteries Report which had been sent to Cllrs in advance. This had been prepared by a resident after the Clerk expressed concern about the remaining space for burial plots.

It was agreed that an assessment of the area would be made and Cllr Pointer would report back to the next meeting regarding the feasibility of clearing the area to the right hand side of the path. Cllr Plumbly thought that a mini-digger could be hired and the scrub and self-set saplings cleared. The PC expressed thanks to both.

12. To approve any action on Highways Matters

The Clerk reported that a list of Highways issues had been prepared by residents carrying out the recent litter pick which she would circulate. Any other issues could be added to this list. The Clerk expected that the next Highways visit was imminent. The Chairman expressed his thanks to the residents.

13. To receive an update on action for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Cllrs Eckworth and Ross, plus 2 residents are leading the working party for the PC event: A Right Royal Occasion: an afternoon tea to take place between 2pm and 5pm on Sunday 5th June. Residents will be encouraged to dress up, there will be Tea On The Green (a Bring and Share event) and a Bunting competition. They are also seeking volunteer entertainment and will put an advert in the Tablet.

The Chair reminded the PC that it must be clear for insurance purposes whether the event is a PC event or a PCC event when it is advertised.

14. To approve any action on the donation of 30 oak saplings

After hearing about Ash Die back in 2020 a resident collected a number of acorns from under the first pendunculate tree on the right-hand side of Walsingham Road travelling out of the village. He now has 30 oak seedlings which will be 2 years old in time for the 2022 growing season starting in October and he would like to offer these for free to local residents as part of the Queen’s Canopy Jubilee celebrations.

The PC approved the idea and the Cllr Eckworth will contact the resident to see if he would like to prepare a short article for the May Tablet.

15. To consider the costs of a Dog Pooh Bin and approve any action, if required

The PC considered the costs for purchase and emptying of a Dog Waste Bin and decided that it was not a good use of residents’ money as there was no guarantee that it would be used.

Cllr Eckworth will produce a sign to say that Dog Waste should not be put into the Bin on the Green.

16. To request contributions to the Tablet to be sent to the Clerk before 12th April

Agreed

17. To note date of next meetings,

Mondays May 23 (Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting),
September 5 November 14

18. Any Other Business – for information only

A resident informed the meeting that the condition of Clarkes Lane was now so precarious that people walk along the field boundary instead, which was not fair on the landowner and she suggested requesting that the landowner make the field boundary into a Permissive Path to formalise the arrangement. Cllr Pointer said that he would investigate and report to the next meeting.

Cllr Eckworth made a presentation to Cllr Yerby on behalf of the PC to thank him for his time on the PC and as Chairman. The PC extend their huge thanks for all the work he has done on behalf of the village.

19. To close the meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.22pm

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Chairman

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Date