



THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th December 2020 at St Andrew's Church at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr S. Yerby (Chair), Cllrs V. Cushing, S. Eckworth, K. Plumbly, C. Ross, Parish Clerk – K. Harris. There was 1 resident present at the meeting.

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The councillors accepted the apologies from Cllrs Drake and Pointer

There were also apologies from NCC Cllr S Aquerone, NNDC Cllr R. Kershaw.

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

There were none.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th September 2020 to be approved.

On a proposal by Cllr Cushing, seconded by Cllr Ross these were agreed and signed by the Chair.

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

The Chair reported that there had been no further complaints regarding the speed of tractors along Balls Lane; the white lines near the Crawfish had been repainted; the Fingerpost near the Church had still not been replaced: this query had been closed so the Clerk will raise a new query.

5. Open forum for Public Participation

5.1 The November report from Councillor Aquerone had been circulated to councillors with the correspondence.

6. Correspondence

6.1 The Clerk summarised the correspondence received since the last meeting: the "Thinking Fuel Leaflets had been distributed, the Clerk had submitted a response to the Planning White Paper, emphasising the importance of local input; the Clerk had replied saying that a textile Bank would not be required in the village
There were no questions.

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

7. Planning Matters

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DRAFT until AGREED at following meeting.

- 7.1 The Chair outlined details from the meeting held by NNDC and a Developer regarding the proposal to build 12 Affordable Homes (2- and 3-bedroom) on land between Brick Kilns Road and Station Road. The proposal is currently at the pre-planning stage, but discussions have taken place with the Landowner and Highways. The scheme is an Exception Housing Scheme and the homes would be let to people with connections to Thursford or the adjoining Parish Council areas.

The views of the councillors were mixed. There was an acknowledgement of the need for affordable housing, particularly as councillors have been informed that the properties would remain in the affordable category and could not be sold on the open market, but concern was expressed regarding their location on the periphery of the village, the height of the properties compared to those adjacent, previous flooding in the area and vehicular access to the site.

The councillors felt more information was needed.

8. Financial and Governance Matters

- 8.1 The cashbook for the period until 14th December was approved. Payments since 7th September are due to: £800.00 to J. Bolam – annual fee for grass cutting; £120.00 to Design Solutions Ltd – annual web hosting fee; £323.98 to C. Harris – Clerk :quarterly salary; £22.00 to HMRC – PAYE; £30.00 to C. Harris – Clerk expenses and Working from Home fee; £35.00 to Information Commissioner – Annual fee. Total £1,330.98. On a Proposal by Councillor Cushing, seconded - Councillor Ross.
- 8.2 The Budget report for 2021-2022 and the need to increase the precept was discussed. It was agreed that costs as stated in the budget needed to be met and a precept of £4,200 was agreed. On a Proposal by Councillor Ross, Seconded – Councillor Cushing
- 8.3 Cemetery fees were reviewed and it was agreed to leave them unchanged. On a Proposal by Councillor Yerby, Seconded – Councillor Cushing
- 8.4 The Clerk informed the councillors that the Grass cutting contract needed to be renewed from April 2021. The Tender documents had been sent to councillors for review. The three contractors who had tendered at the last renewal had been contacted. The Tender will be discussed and decided at the January 2021 Parish Council meeting.

9. Village Arch

An update will be given to the January meeting

10. Trees on the Village Green

As a result of a resident's concern regarding the condition of the red horse chestnut trees on the Village Green, the Parish Council requested a report from NCC Tree Inspectors. The trees are both diseased and one needs to be felled and the second either felled or the diseased part removed. This needs to be done within 6 months. The councillors agreed to fell both trees. One quote has been received and a second is to be sought.

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DRAFT until AGREED at following meeting.

11. To receive an update on St Andrews re-development project

The Chair reported that the project was nearly completed: the kitchen and toilet are finished, there is hot water throughout, all the south side windows have been rebuilt and the Elizabethan window reinstalled. There is now full disabled access and the drive has been resurfaced. The funds for providing more lighting for concerts has been raised but this work is still to be undertaken. The quinquennial survey of the church is due soon and this will note any further issues with the church.

12. To approve the new website and accessibility statement

The clerk reported that a resident had updated the website and made it compliant with most of the requirements of the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018. An updated Accessibility Statement has been produced and uploaded to the website. This was approved by all councillors

13. To note items for inclusion in the next Thursford Tablet

Items from the meeting were noted for inclusion in the Tablet

14. Any Other Business

There was none.

15. To note the date of the next meeting:.

The next meeting is January 25th 2021 and other dates for 2021 are March 29th, May 10th, September 6th and November 15th

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm

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Chairman

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Date