



THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk and RFO : Di Dann
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2019 in the Methodist Chapel at 7.00 p.m.

Attending: Cllr Yerby (Chairman), Cllrs Cushing, Drake, Eckworth, Plumbly, and Pointer.

2 members of the public, Parish Clerk

1. Welcome and to consider apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He advised that apologies had been received from Cllr Ross.

NCC Cllr S Aquerone and NNDC Cllr Kershaw had sent apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were none.

3. Agree the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2018

On a **PROPOSAL** by Cllr Cushing these were **AGREED**.

4. Receive the Chairman's Report

Our Councillors

We were pleased to welcome Cllr Drake on to the Council in July 2018. This filled the vacancy left by the resignation of previous Chairman. Cllr Drake and our other new Councillor Eckworth dutifully undertook training for their role. We held 6 meetings during 2018/19. We enjoyed a very happy event arranged to thank our previous Chairman.

Refurbishment of the BT box and the Village Green

This was undertaken by volunteers thanks to a grant from NCC Cllr Aquerone. The volunteers also converted the inside of the BT box into a Library. It retains its main purpose as a home for the defibrillator. The Chairman thanked Cllr Drake for her regular inspections of the Defibrillator. Cllr Drake was happy to show

anyone how it worked. The Council arranged a successful launch for the newly refurbished BT box. The Green was smartly maintained and thanks given to the resident who maintained the flowering tubs.

Community Housing Project

This project progressed to local consultation, the Parish Clerk helping NNDC organise an event on 4th July in the Chapel. The Clerk and Cllr Drake attended an NNDC meeting in Trimingham to hear about how these projects are developed. Others attending were parish representatives from the NNDC area. The offer to sell was then unfortunately withdrawn by the land owner.

Thursford Assist (TA) Group

This was developed during 2018 and started to function fully at the beginning of July. It has been used by a number of parishioners in need. Note that the support offered by the volunteers of TA is only for one off activities.

Governance

The Council was able to exempt itself from an intermediate audit in 2017/18 as both receipts and payments were under £25,000. This was a saving for the council but as a consequence the governance of the council has to be uploaded on to the website. Thanks to the web manager for undertaking this. We will exempt ourselves in 2018/19 as well.

Thursford Tablet

We have printed and distributed 4 Thursford Tablets during the year – conveying details from Parish Council meetings and local news to our residents.

St Andrews Project

The Parish Council gave financial support to the ongoing project to make the church into a Community Centre, during the financial year 2018/19 under its General Power of Competence.

Planning

We continue to respond to local planning applications and take an interest in the development of the new NNDC Local Plan. The Clerk attended a meeting at Cromer about this earlier in the year. Most recent applications were a proposal at 18 Station Road to which the Parish Council raised strong objections. The Parish Council also worked with neighbouring parishes to ensure that the illegal Potato Packing Plant on the Melton Road was cleared.

Grass Cutting Contract

In January 2018 we instigated a new contractor for a 3-year term and this commenced in April 2018. The Council has been very happy with the service provided. The contractor had very generously given a grant to the Church.

Annual Little Pick

This was arranged in March 2019 and a record 19 bags of rubbish were collected. Thanks to all the hard-working volunteers.

Flooding in Clarks Lane

The Council wishes to thank Cllr Aquerone for his great efforts in persuading the main users of the road that they should make some essential improvements to the drainage of the road. This has allowed the track to be usable throughout the Winter. In addition, the water flowing down the Street (a continuous problem) has stopped. The situation would be monitored.

Visit to the Thursford Collection

Members of the Parish Council and parishioners had been invited to an event at the Collection in the Summer to illustrate their planned proposals for the re-development of the site – extended car parking, new interactive undercover complex and extended play area. The hospitality given had been much appreciated by everyone.

Elections May 2019

It is noted that Thursford returned its 7 councillors for the 7 vacant seats. However, with the readjustment of the Upper Wensum Ward and Thursford being incorporated into the Priory Ward (A change made by the Boundary Commission) we have a new District Councillor and would like to thank Annie Green for her efforts over a great number of years as District Councillor.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work.

5. Receive other Reports

5.1 Parish Fuel Charity

Noted that in the Accounts to 19th February 2019 a total of £1638 had been given out in cash payments or coal provision. Total expenses for the Charity £1707.91
Total Receipts £1688.70. Balance at 20th February 2019 £1298.35

5.2 Allotment Committee

Noted that all plots had been taken. The Annual Committee meeting had yet to take place. Total in the bank at 31st March 2019 was £153.59

5.3 Thursford Assist

This group of 4 volunteers had set up TA in July 2018, offering one off support to parishioners. A grant application had been made by the Parish Council to the BIG Society Fund for support of the project.

6. Public Opportunity for Questions to Councillors

Two members of the public asked if appropriate thanks could be passed to the retiring District Councillor for her efforts over a great many years.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date