



## THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th September 2020 at St Andrew's Church at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Cllr S. Yerby (Chair), Cllrs V. Cushing, K. Drake, S. Eckworth, G. Pointer, K. Plumbly, C. Ross, NNDC Cllr R. Kershaw, Parish Clerk – K. Harris

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Vice-Chair welcomed the Chair back to full Parish Council involvement.

There were apologies from NCC Cllr S. Aquerone and PC R. Dawson.

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

There were none.

### **3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th June 2020 to be approved.**

On a proposal by Cllr Pointer, seconded by Cllr Plumbly these were agreed and signed by the Chair.

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

There were none

### **5. Close the meeting for Public Participation**

- 5.1 Cllr Kershaw updated the meeting: The tree planting season had now begun and this year and for each of the next 3 years, the Council were planning to supply 30,000 trees each year for planting. Interested parties could apply via the website. The Director of Public Health for Norfolk had confirmed that the Covid outbreak at Banhams was under control and that there was no risk to North Norfolk. He informed the meeting that £65 million had been distributed to 4,700 businesses in the area and that there was additional money in the pipeline., particularly for businesses in the leisure and hospitality sectors.

Cllr Aquerone's report was summarised by the Clerk: he was concerned about the rumours circulating regarding a Government plan to introduce Unitary authorities, replacing District and County Councils; he summarised the Government response to coronavirus introduced on 24<sup>th</sup> July and updated the PC that £1.015million had been allocated by central government to Norfolk to support people experiencing food hardship.

- 5.2 There were no residents present at the meeting, but a resident had requested that the PC consider adding the cost of nematodes to the budget for future years to be

Thursford Parish Council DRAFT Minutes September 2020

4 pages 4 appendices

DRAFT until AGREED at following meeting.

used in the tubs on the village green. It was agreed to add these costs to be considered with other budget matters in November.

## **6. Highway matters**

- 6.1 Balls Lane: A complaint has been received from a resident regarding antisocial driving by agricultural vehicles. This will be kept under review, and if appropriate, the community police officer will be asked to speak to the local farmer.

White lines on the A148 near to the Crawfish: Cllr Eckworth expressed disappointment that NCC had still not repainted the white lines on this stretch of road, despite refreshing the paint on other (smaller) roads locally, and that there had been another serious accident in the area. The clerk will follow this up.

Fingerpost off Church Lane: The broken Fingerpost has been removed, but not replaced. The Clerk will contact NCC and ask for a replacement date.

Clark's Lane: NCC have completed the work they needed to do in the lane. Final work needs to be completed by the landowner to create a gully from the lane down into the ditch to allow the water to drain. Cllr Cushing also reminded the PC that the drainage issues with the bungalow also need to be resolved.

Trees on the Green – a concern regarding the condition of these trees had been reported by a resident. The Clerk has consulted NCC who are to arrange for an inspection of these trees.

- 6.2 Verge cutting: The PC considered the regularity and type of verge cutting happening throughout the Parish and agreed that the level of cutting was fine.
- 6.3 Speeding and Village Gateway signs: The PC discussed applying for a grant from the Parish Partnership fund to purchase Village Gateways to see if this would slow motorists speeding through the village – cost approximately £360 each at current process. It was agreed that 3 would be needed (on the approach from the A148, along Balls Lane and near the allotments). The PC would have to find half the cost either from the precept or a local benefactor. The grant application doesn't have to be returned until 4<sup>th</sup> December so views of local residents are to be sought via the Tablet and a decision made at the November meeting.
- 6.4 Traffic cones: The PC would like to acquire a small number of traffic cones to warn residents and others of a hazard, such as a toppled or dangerous tree. A request will be made in the Tablet for residents to donate any spare cones.

## **7. Correspondence**

- 7.1 The Clerk summarised the correspondence received since the last meeting – much of it had related to the covid pandemic. There were no questions.
- 7.2 GIKI – Get Informed Know Your Impact – A carbon footprint calculator recommended by Norfolk ALC.

Thursford Parish Council DRAFT Minutes September 2020

4 pages 4 appendices

DRAFT until AGREED at following meeting.

This was discussed and concern was expressed regarding the amount of personal information required and the lack of transparency regarding how it might be used. On a proposal from Cllr Eckwork and seconded by Cllr Drake it was decided not to proceed with this as a Parish Council at this time.

7.3 Received since the close of the agenda: a link to a consultation on coastal adaption – open until October 16<sup>th</sup>,

## **8. Financial and Governance Matters**

8.1 The cashbook for the period from 14<sup>th</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> August was reviewed.

8.2 Receipts since 29<sup>th</sup> June have been received from:  
£180.00 Grant for the Clerk CiLCA training; £100.00 cemetery charge for installation of a memorial.

Payments since 29<sup>th</sup> June are due to:

£45.60 to Community Heartbeat Trust for replacement defibrillation electrodes;  
£10.00 for hire of Thursford Methodist Chapel for January PC meeting; £38.00 – Annual payroll charge; £234.52 Clerk's salary – July to September; £67.32 Clerk's expenses April to September, £180.00 Reimbursement from grant for CiLCA training.

Agreed on a proposal from Cllr Cushing, seconded by Cllr Pointer

8.3 Website Accessibility

The Clerk presented the Website Accessibility statement for the website to the PC. It was adopted on a Proposal from Cllr Yerby and seconded by Cllr Ross.

## **9. The Tablet**

The PC noted their thanks for the production of the Tablet by a local resident. Cllr Ross stated that she liked the current chatty format and Cllr Cushing likes the community aspect of the publication The current format was endorsed on a Proposal from Cllr Pointer and seconded by Cllr Cushing.

Members of the PC confirmed that they would like a return, when possible, to a hard copy which would then be received by residents who are not on the internet and by visitors to the village to holiday and second homes. In the interim it was suggested that a copy of the Tablet be placed on the Noticeboard. The Clerk agreed to do that. Production of the Tablet will be reviewed at the November meeting.

## **10. Any other Business**

10.1 Flying the Flag on the Village Green: on a Proposal by Cllr Drake and seconded by Cllr Yerby the following dates were agreed for flying the flag – 8<sup>th</sup> November, Remembrance Day; 14<sup>th</sup> November, Prince of Wales Birthday; 20<sup>th</sup> November, HM Wedding Day; 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021, HM Accession.

Update on the WW Memorial Arch: an update will be given at the November meeting. Cllr Pointer is to speak to Mr. Cushing regarding fixing the Arch to the wall.

**11. To note the date of the next meeting: November 9<sup>th</sup> (Budget meeting)**

To agree the dates for the meetings for 2021: January 25<sup>th</sup>, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup>, September 7<sup>th</sup>, November 15<sup>th</sup>

**12. Close the meeting for a confidential item (Personnel matter)**

12.1 The Clerk explained the advantages of having the CilCA training. The PC agreed to fund an additional half hour of time per week for the 6 month's of the training on a Proposal by Cllr Eckworth and seconded by Cllr Ross.

12.2 It was agreed to pay the Clerk in line with the LC5 scale for clerks with effect from September 2020 and to accept the pay rise awarded to local government officers for 2020 on a Proposal by Cllr Yerby and seconded by Cllr Pointer..

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm

.....

Chairman

.....

Date