



THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk and RFO : Di Dann
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 18th May 2016.

Attending: Cllr Bolam (Chairman), Cllrs Cushing, Jenkinson, and Yerby.
 NNDC Cllr A Green, NCC Cllr D Ramsbotham 3 members of the public
 Parish Clerk

1. Welcome and to consider apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Ross (family illness) and Plumbly (family illness).

2. Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were none.

3. Agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2015

On a **PROPOSAL** by Cllr Jenkinson the Minutes were **AGREED** and signed by
 the Chairman.

4. Receive the Chairman's Report

The Chairman paid compliments to the many volunteers in the village, it was only because of their efforts that the precept was retained at £3000. The Thursford Collection and Steph Jenkinson were thanked for maintaining the Village Green and the flowers tubs on the green. Messrs Yerby, Rheinberg and Carter were thanked for their efforts with the fund raising for the Church Project. He thanked Karen Drake for looking after the Defibrillator. The volunteers who had assisted with the Annual Village Litter pick were also mentioned. Other villagers undertook tasks and arranged events to support the community. He thanked the Clerk for completing grant applications.

The council year had begun in May 2015 with the election - 7 members for 7 places.

The track from Church Lane to the Church – there had been an ongoing debate about this matter and this had resulted in members attending a seminar and a decision to gather together evidence to support the registration

of the track on to the Definitive Footpath Map. The process of registration is a function of NCC.

The council reconfirmed its Power of General Competence in May allowing it to work alongside the Friends of St Andrews for the refurbishment project. A Grant Application has recently been submitted to the Big Society Fund for funding to support Phase 3 of the project – the installation of a small kitchen in the church.

The Parish Council had applied for a 50% grant from NCC for the Parish Partnership initiative and was successful. A sign will be erected in North Lane “Thursford – Please drive carefully”.

Problems of drains in the Street and Clarks Lane. The Parish Council had encouraged NCC to investigate this and once the work has been done satisfactorily the Parish Council could then progress making some improvements to the top end of the Lane and the middle part of the Lane.

The Council had met with Ralph Harrison concerning use of Balls Lane by heavy goods.

The Parish Council had highlighted to both NCC and Carrilion about the lack of safety at the crossing points and also encouraged both to finish off the work. It has been hampered by wet weather

The Parish Council had set budget without raising precept, and is slowly accumulating savings to help pay for repairs to the Lychgate.

The Parish Council had written and published 4 Thursford Tablet Newsletters

The Parish Council had obtained a grant of over £600 to aid Transparency requirements – this will provide new equipment for the Clerk and assist with the website.

The Parish Council had organised the Annual Litter Pick.

There had been a cemetery working party, and Cllrs Jenkinson and Ross and the Clerk were thanked for their efforts with this.

The Parish Council had arranged a double event for the Queen’s birthday celebrations – a vintage tea party in St Andrews and a Beacon Bonfire. Cllr Jenkinson was thanked for his efforts with the beacon bonfire, magnificent bonfire.

The Parish Council was pursuing the allocation of second homes council tax money by NNDC and NCC

5. Receive other Reports

5.1 County Councillor Ramsbotham The political make up of the Council was 41 conservatives and 41 members of the “Rainbow Alliance” with 2 unattached

19

members. The Chairman of the council was now a Conservative. The budget for 2016/17 had now been set with a £42 million saving per annum from back office staff and NCC were also looking for savings from providing more care in the home. There is a 3.99% increase in council tax for this year. The Chairman commented that local people would prefer that Cranmer House in Fakenham stayed open. Devolution was also on the agenda This would be for the three counties of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire and would have a cabinet of 23 members with an elected mayor.

Cllr Ramsbotham was thanked for being the independent referee for the BIG Society Grant application.

5.2 North Norfolk District Councillor Cllr A Green. Cllr Green advised that NNDC had a healthy balance and were using shared services with the CEO working for both NNDC and Gt. Yarmouth Borough. She had recently attended a police meeting and this had given advice about speed reduction. Boundary changes were being planned with NNDC Councillors being reduced from 48 to 40.

5.3 Other Reports –

5.3.1 Parish Fuel Charity. There was no report other than the fact that the Secretary had been unable to attend the last meeting.

5.3.2 Allotment Committee. Two allotment holders, who had retired from the site had now returned. There would be a spare plot for rent from April 2017. There would be a BIG Allotment tea on site on Saturday 13th August.

5.3.3 Cllr Yerby gave a report from the Friends of St Andrews. Phase 2 of the Church restoration project had been completed There was a shortfall in funds of about £1500 and it was hoped this could be raised at the Open Gardens event on 19th June. There would be a 30% / 70% split from proceeds for the Chapel and the Parish Church. On 17th June the Purcell School of Music was giving a concert in the Church. Recent Quinquennial report advised that urgent restoration works had now been completed but further works to the windows on the south side of the building had been identified but it was hoped to obtain external funding for their repair. An application to the BIG Society fund for Phase 3 of the restoration works had recently been made. The Church was now open every Saturday and Sunday up until early October. There would be a choral evening in October, a Harvest Supper and an Xmas Concert.

6. Public Opportunity for Questions to Councillors

There were none. The Chairman had noticed that Gt. Snoring had a different format for their Annual Parish Meeting and it was held on an afternoon.

The meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.

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Chairman

Date