



APRIL 2018

THURSFORD TABLET

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Notes from the March Parish Council meeting

Highways. A decision was awaited from NCC as to whether or not North Lane could go on the gritting route.

Co-Option to fill vacancy. It was noted that no election had been called and a co-option vacancy had been advertised. Sherri Eckworth had expressed an interest and it was agreed that she should be co-opted on to the Parish Council. A further resignation had been received, and the Clerk advised that the vacancy had been formally advertised and if no request was made for an election, a further co-option could take place at the May meeting. NNDC Cllr A Green expressed an interest in being co-opted.

Reports. NNDC Cllr Green advised that NNDC had raised their council tax by 3.4%.

Cllr Aquerone would look into the matter of the blocked drain in the Street. The Chairman asked if he could consider funding the refurbishment of the BT box approximate cost £100. This would be paid for through his "Slush Fund" The Clerk would advise actual costs to Cllr Aquerone, who was thanked. The NCC Budget had been impacted by the reduction in Government grant of £100,000,000 by 2021. The proposed cut of £500,000 to bus subsidies had been postponed and a £400,000 cut on the gritting budget had been stopped.

Planning matters. An application had been received from The Old Hall, Church Lane, Thursford for a tennis court and fencing. There were no objections.

"In good company" NCC event. The Clerk reported the proposed Village Support Group to help and advise as required in the village. This idea had arisen following attendance at a meeting held in Norwich, hosted by NCC. It was agreed to support the proposal through a Committee of the Parish Council and Cllr Pointer was happy to be part of that. The Clerk would make enquiries to see if the Parish Council's insurance would cover the Committee. Risk assessments would need to be done, and the project would need to be managed.

Update on St Andrews Re-development project. The Chairman advised that a soil test was being undertaken to assess drainage requirements, ahead of the next phase of refurbishment work. Estimated cost of work for this final phase was £80,000. The concert held on Saturday had been a great success with £540 being raised for the works in the church.

Next meeting Monday 14th May 2018

(Parish Meeting at 7.00 p.m. followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting). Other dates for meetings in 2018: Sept 3rd and Nov 12th (budget meeting).

“MY LIFE AROUND AGRICULTURE - 17th May 2018

The talk by Gillian Shephard which the “Beast from the East” forced us to postpone in March has been rescheduled for Thursday 17th May.

As before, the meeting will be held in Fulmodeston’s Old School Hall and the entry fee will be £3.00. The doors will be open for the buffet and bar from

6.30 p.m. and the talk will begin at 7.30 p.m.

Police alert!

Police are warning people to take some simple precautions to enhance the security of their properties. This follows a spate of local burglaries. If you go out – leave a light on or even a radio on.

And another warning. Jackdaws and nesting birds are currently eyeing up chimney pots where they can nest. Keep an eye out for this too. A nesting Jackdaw can cause considerable problems – not least it’s a nesting bird so can not be dealt with until after the nesting season but will need to be removed by a visit from the chimney sweep – at considerable expense.

However, note that under s1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to intentionally damage or destroy a wild bird nest being built or in use.

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION.

NCC are currently consulting on their document for the future of public footpaths. Consultation is now open until 15th June www.norfolk.gov.uk/naip

Their vision is to manage the countryside access network so it can meet the varying demand placed on it :

- Increase public, economic and environment benefit associated with pathways
- Involve communities

- Act pragmatically with others to manage best use of resources
- Increase investment in the countryside access network

The Norfolk Coasthopper service update

Rumours that this much used service was being axed have now been qualified. The service has been saved all be it in a slightly different way! Stagecoach who had been operating the service suddenly withdrew the service. However, a Coastline service will now run from Hunstanton to Wells every 30 minutes. For the rest of the route Sanders take over the contract and provide a service called the Coasthopper. Great news in that it will go up to Mundesley. Let’s hope that the two services being provided by two different operators just match up! At best it will be a “Hop on, get off, hop on” service now! norfolk.gov.uk/stagecoach

Data Privacy

Are you being asked if your personal data can be stored? A new Data Protection Regulation comes into force on 25th May this year. It is European legislation but, despite Brexit, Government have said it is coming our way! This is because our government want our trade to be as strong as European trade when we are Brexited! It will be followed quite soon by a new Data Protection Act (UK legislation) which will then take over from the European legislation. So, we are now having to tick and sign Consent Boxes and be referred to Privacy Statements regarding the holding of our personal information. It

applies to all organisations who hold personal data.

One for the boys

A group of men in the village have decided to meet regularly for a social meal and a chat in a pub. We would love any interested men from the village to come and join us. The first get together will be in the Upper Room at The Barsham Arms in East Barsham on Thursday May 3rd at 6.30pm. The plan is to meet at the same time, on the first Thursday evening of each month, so the following date will be June 7th. The venue will be the same for now, and a tailored menu will be available nearer the time. You can buy your own drinks at the bar.

We hope to see you, as we have a great community in Thursford. If you are interested book directly with the pub yourself at least a few days in advance, before the meeting, saying that you are part of the Thursford men's group. Please come armed with a suggestion for a name for the group!

The Barsham Arms number is 01328 820729

Concerts in St Andrews

Cantilena Concert in the Church draws the crowds from near and far. A truly grand total of £540 was raised by the vent. This will go towards the refurbishment of the Church – Phase 3 which is the provision of a toilet and a kitchen servery in the church. Friday 18th May at 7.00 p.m. in the Church "Music for the '60's and the '70's". Get into the swing of things and dress up for this event!

Message from North Norfolk District Council Local Housing Enabler

The headlines show that the total number of second and holiday homes in the North Norfolk District has increased by 527 since 2016 (up to 6,213). This brings the percentage of second and holiday homes across North Norfolk up to over 11% (previously 10%). There are now 67 parishes with levels of second and holiday homes over 10% (an increase from 62 in 2016). The parishes with the highest proportion of second and holiday homes are along the north of the North Norfolk coast. The 'top' parishes being: Salthouse & Morston at 49%, Blakeney 44%, Cley 42%, and Stiffkey 40%. The largest increase in the numbers of second and holiday homes has been in the coastal towns of Cromer, Sheringham, Wells and Mundesley. In Cromer alone the number increased by 74 from the previous year (2016).

North Norfolk District Council are now using that information to target the new

parishes which now have 10% or more second and holiday homes.

These figures may still be an underestimate (as, for example, not all owners declare their homes as second homes or holiday lets). However, the figures give a good indication of the overall levels in the District, the 'hot spots' and the rate of change. North Norfolk District Council operates a revolving loan fund to help community-led housing groups. The revolving loan fund can help fund:

a) Technical advice and support to establish a community-led group. This could include support to agree aims and objectives and to establish a legal structure for the group.

b) Pre-development costs. These are the costs associated with getting a housing development designed and through the planning application process.

The loan is repayable when (and if) a community group develops its first housing scheme. The loan enables a community group to make progress at a time when it will not yet have a source of income. If you want more information about financial support please contact NNDC.

The Community Housing Fund is money given to NNDC by government to be used to help build affordable homes for local people in areas adversely affected by second homes. Thursford is one of those villages which has a high number of second homes. NNDC are having further

discussions with those parishes who are interested in providing affordable homes for their communities and can help to:

- Set up a community led group
- Find a suitable site for new homes
- Consult the wider community
- Find a partner (housing associations) to build and manage the new homes.

These activities are now taking place in a number of parishes who have recognised the positive impact affordable homes can have, not only on the lives of the future residents, but also on a parish as a whole. It is still early days with discussions so far with parish councillors and their communities. Building new homes with local communities for local people, in a sensitive way that means they will become a valued part of a parish, can take time. NNDC commitment is to ensure that everyone works at a pace which is comfortable to them and ensures the community has a say in the key decisions. NNDC are certain that a number of new housing developments will be built, providing much needed homes for local people!

Thursford Assist

Planning is currently under way to launch a new service for people living in the village. Called "Thursford Assist", its aim is to provide short term assistance whenever it is needed, to those who'd like a helping hand, maybe on account of age, illness, bad weather or other reasons. We are also pulling together useful information on a whole range of services and "trusted suppliers" available to those who live in Thursford. Useful if you are new into the village. Thursford Assist will be supported by the Parish Council and Councillor Gary Pointer has agreed to become the group's Council member. The new service is due to launch in July and further details will appear in the Tablet. In the meantime, if you'd like any further information, give Chris and Janet a call on 01328 878476 or Nigel on 07826 067935.

Village volunteers wanted – very short term! To repaint the village BT Box. Paint provided. Please contact the Parish Clerk didann@outlook.com

WANTED – A Parish Councillor

Following a recent resignation we now have a vacancy for a councillor. Please contact the Clerk for further information or come along to our next Parish Council on Monday 14th May at 7.00 p.m. The meeting is held in the Methodist Chapel. Please contact 01328 878196

NOT WANTED - Litter

The weather was so bad in March we did not have much of an opportunity to do our Spring Litter Pick. If you can do any litter picking in April that would be welcome

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 17th April 7.30 p.m. at Fulmodeston Old School Hall. The Food Production Club Talk by Julia Stafford" The National Garden Scheme **Thursday** 17th May 7.30 p.m. at Fulmodeston Old School Hall My Life Around Agriculture Entrance £3 Buffet and Bar from 6.30 p.m. **Friday** 18th May at St Andrews Church Thursford Music from the '60's and '70's £10 **Saturday** 2nd June Methodist Chapel Coffee Morning

Exhibitions in the Gallery at NWT Cley Marshes: Wednesday 18th April – Tuesday 1st May Rural and wild Norfolk Photographs by Sarah Weston; Wednesday 2nd May – Tuesday 15th May "Awash with Colour" by water colour artist John Hurst.

The Thursford Tablet is published by Thursford Parish Council
Visit our website thursford.org for a great run down on all village activities, even the weather forecast!