



MAY 2019 THURSFORD TABLET

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Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May

This is the electors meeting, at which reports are received from various village organisations. For folks who say Parish Councils are just “talking shops” the Council Chairman was able to report no less than 13 interventions / involvements in parish matters by the Council in 2018/19 and apart from one project (the Community Led Housing Project) every thing had had a positive outcome for the community. As examples – we collected 19 bags of litter at our annual Spring Clean; we helped defeat one planning application which breached both the Local Plan and National Planning Policy Guidelines (18 Station Road); we continue to support the Church Project (Phase 3) which is to install a toilet; we supported the refurbishment of the BT Box and its conversion to a Library as well as the home of the defibrillator.

Other reports received advised that the Thursford Fuel Allotment Charity had donated (in cash and coal) a total of £1638 divided between 12 parishioners. The Allotment site on Walsingham Road was currently all taken up by allotment holders. Thursford Assist (a small group of volunteers) had started in July 2018 and was there to help residents in need of support and a helping hand.

Thanks were expressed to Annie Green for her dedicated work as a District Councillor. The Parish Council would arrange an event to thank Annie and invitations will be sent to all parishioners.

Notes from the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13th May

Elections There had been no parish council election on 2nd May, as 7 councillors had stood for 7 places. There had however, been an election for District Council. Thursford was now part of the newly created Priory Ward.

World War 1 Project This had been discussed at the March meeting and an idea had been put forward for a metal archway around the bench which sits against the wall on the Green. Cllr Plumbly had not yet received a quotation from his engineer for the archway and the matter would be considered at the next meeting. The Clerk advised that the bench on the Green had been inspected and the one rotten slat could be replaced but would need to be sourced.

NCC Cllr Aquerone had sent a report (as he was attending other meetings) in which he spoke of the Lib/Dem motion to declare a county wide Climate Emergency. The matter had been voted down by the Conservatives. However, a similar motion had been declared in North Norfolk District Council. He welcomed the new District Councillors to North Norfolk.

NNDC Cllr Kershaw was the newly elected District Councillor and he had sent a report as he was having to attend an induction event at NNDC. The report advised about his business background prior to retiring in 2016 to take up the role of Vice Chairman of the North Norfolk and Great Yarmouth Lib/Dems.

Planning It was noted that the planning application at 18 Station Road had been withdrawn. The Local Plan consultation period was noted and also local exhibitions about the plan. The Clerk would make contact with councilors before the end of the consultation period to see if a corporate response would be given to the Local Plan proposals.

Finances At 1st April there was a balance of £497.23 in the Community Account and NSI Account £7172.12. This included a reserve fund for future maintenance of the lychgate. Insurance Renewal was nearly due. The Clerk gave authorization to the Clerk to pay for the insurance ahead of the renewal date, based on the final best offer. Donation to the St Andrews Project was agreed at £1000 as budgeted. This would be a grant towards the Church Project (the new loo) work due to start September. AGAR Exemption Certificate for 2018/19 (as neither receipts or payments were over £25,000) was agreed as was the Governance Statement for 2018/19 (AGAR Part 2) and the Accounting Statement for 2018/19 (AGAR Part 2). It was noted that the Council had at least a 2/3rd elected council and a qualified Clerk and was therefore in a position to reaffirm its eligibility for the General Power of Competence which enabled it to support the Church Project.

Update on St Andrews re-development project Cllr Yerby advised that the faculty for Phase 3 had been obtained and work was due to start in September beginning with the loo. This would be built in the vestry. There was £30,000 in the project account which would pay half of the total project.

To note the date of next meetings: 9th Sept and 11th Nov (Budget Meeting).

Parish Clerk resigns after 11 years in the post Councilors were sorry to receive

this. A Job Description is available from the Parish Clerk. Applications by CV and accompanying letter to the retiring Clerk by 3rd June was agreed. The vacancy would be advertised in Thursford, Fulmodeston and Barney.

Food Production Club Annual Plant Sale

This raised over £600 for the Club. What a great do is was! The punters must have come from far and wide as well as our three villages of Thursford, Barney and Fulmodeston. Quality fruit and veg plants were for sale, hanging baskets all made up, house plants, garden tools and equipment and gardening books and magazines. Lovely crafty stalls as well. The usual delicious refreshments as well.

We say our farewells

It was with great sadness that we all learnt of the death of Paulette Doncaster. Such a devastating time for husband Tim, son Will and family members. Tim and Paulette had lived in Thursford for over 40 years, where they raised their family. Our thoughts are with you all.

THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Vacancy for a Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

If you are interested in your local community, have an administrative or legal background and some knowledge of accounting then your application would be welcome. 2 hours per week – salary in line with NJC recommendations (generally only 5 meetings a year). Training will be given. Application by CV plus accompanying letter to the retiring Clerk Di Dann didann@outlook.com

Tel 01328 878196

Message from the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (from the Local Beat Manager Rich Dawson)

Welcome to what I hope to be the start of a regular column to keep local residents up to date with the latest trends in local crime and to provide you with some crime prevention advice to help protect you and your property.

The role of Beat Manager is focused around community engagement, dealing with local issues which may not fit the criteria to be recorded as a crime and working alongside partner agencies to try and resolve local issues. So what are the top 5 things keeping the police busy at the moment? In no particular order:

Rural crime. Thefts from farms, building sites and remote locations. Quite often the incidents we attend are where property hasn't had sufficient security measures put in place because 'it's quiet around here and nothing ever happens'. Sadly complacency will not protect us. Think about fitting trackers to farm machinery, trailers and vehicles. CCTV and security lighting is another positive step to take. If you do have any unwanted visitors try and discreetly get a vehicle registration. That is a massive help to us. There's also the Farmwatch group or our own Fast SMS to join. For more residential properties why not try the 9pm routine. Set an alarm for 9pm and instead of sitting through the TV adverts pop the kettle on and check you've locked all your windows and doors for the night.

Drug related incidents. We are not a hotspot like some other towns and cities

but we have our fair share and it's not just in the towns. Small rural villages can also be subjected to the blight. If you see, or smell, something suspicious don't keep it to yourself. Let us know so we can stamp it out together.

Fraud and Scams. Usually it's the elderly that get caught out but it can happen to anyone. Scams have become far more sophisticated and are using well-known brands like BT, HMRC and Apple. If you're unsure about what you're being asked to do, don't do it. You can report all fraud attempts to Action Fraud via their website or if you'd like a volunteer to come out and speak to you then email scamspreventionservice@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Parking. An irritation to most of us. The general rule of thumb is: can a mobility scooter or pushchair get past on the pavement and can emergency vehicles get past on the road? The other usual rules apply such as not parking or driving on pedestrian areas, not parking on yellow zigzags outside schools, on corners or in restricted zones. Fakenham Market Place is one of these as it's in a conservation area and as such cannot have yellow road markings put down so please observe the signage.

Speeding. A regular complaint to us from right across the area. We get out as much as we can to stand by the side of the road with the speed gun and run campaigns throughout the year. If you have a particular concern in your area why not get a group of likeminded people together, minimum of 6, to start up a Community Speedwatch group. They have a real impact and details

The Luard Trio at St Andrews Church on Saturday 25th May at 7.00 p.m.

Tickets £10.00 per person on the door, including refreshments

The Luard Trio members sing and play everything from Barcarole to Boogie Woogie.

They are professional musicians and singers with a background of notable performance venues.