



## THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 in Thursford Methodist Church

**Present:** Cllr S. Eckworth (Chair), Cllrs K. Drake, K. Plumbly, G. Pointer, C. Ross, V Cushing, R. Wilkes, Parish Clerk – K. Harris, NCC Cllr Aquarone, NNDC Cllr Kershaw, 1 Resident

1. Welcome and to consider apologies and reasons for absence

The Chair welcomed everyone. There were no apologies.

2. To receive declarations of Interest and request for dispensations in any of the agenda items

There were none

3. To **Approve** the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November

These were agreed by all and signed by Cllr Eckworth on a Proposal by Cllr Cushing and Seconded by Cllr Drake.

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

Cllr Drake reported that the rose will be planted against the Arch in the Spring.

Cllr Plumbly reported that, as the Arch is no longer square to the wall, he will redo fixings to the wall. He noted that: the bricks are very soft. He stated that the Arch was safe as it was firmly fixed to the bench.

5. Open forum for Public Participation

1. Receive reports from NNDC Cllr Kershaw, NCC Cllr Aquarone if attending

**NNDC Cllr Kershaw:** Local elections are taking place this year and the pre-election period will start on 21<sup>st</sup> March. The Budget meeting took place this week. It was necessary to take into account: only a 3% rise in the Government Settlement; the local Government pay rise and inflation of 10.75%. NNDC will still have a surplus due to the pragmatic attitude of all; they will not be cutting services and there will be no redundancies. Changes in ways of working should help to reduce costs. NNDC is receiving £14million from the Government to protect the coast. Help for Business from Government is being reduced, but so far the area is not losing many businesses. NNDC is planning to advertise new ways of helping business by 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**NCC Cllr Aquarone:** Making it through the winter – NCC Cllrs will do what they can to help people access support services and will contact the support organisation needed if this may help. Devolution – there has been further contradictory reports as to what shape this may take, but the latest report suggests a directly elected leader – not quite a mayor. Cllr Aquarone informed the meeting that, depending on the constituency boundaries, he is planning to become a prospective parliamentary candidate, and therefore has engaged a bigger team to support him and to help the community.

The Clerk will forward to Cllr Aquarone information about the road signs that need repainting and he will see if this can be raised as a scheme. He also suggested that the PC should acquire a grit bin and NCC would then fill it. This will be added to the next agenda.

Cllr Aquarone left the meeting.

2. An opportunity for members of the public to raise questions or concerns

There were none.

## 6. To discuss any planning matters

1. Planning Matters since the close of the agenda

PF/23/0055 and PF/23/0056 - St Andrews, Hindringham Road - single storey extension to replace existing conservatory. Cllrs noted that, although the building was listed, the conservatory was not. They had no comment to make on the application.

Cllr Kershaw reported that Mr Martin had not taken any further action regarding the proposed Exemption development in Thursford.

## 7. To Receive a report on the NNDC Town and Parish Engagement Forum

The Clerk had attended the Forum on 9<sup>th</sup> January. Bank closures: it is hoped that representatives from the closed banks will attend a Community Hub facility. Locations proposed are Holt, Wells and Stalham. The Community Connectors now have a web page listing the Warm Spaces: everyone is welcome. The aim is to help with the cost of living and to combat social isolation. Elections: The Register of Interest forms will be completed online and each page will require a response before access will be allowed to the next page. An introductory pack is being prepared for new Councillors. NNDC would like to know as soon as possible if any PC is likely to be inquorate. Concern was again expressed to NNDC about charging PCs whose election is uncontested. The review of the location of Thursford Polling Station had been withdrawn before the NNDC Council meeting. Planning: a web page dedicated to Town & Parish Councils is being considered to improve communication; Local Plan: this has been delayed due to covid and Nutrient Neutrality, but it is hoping that it will be presented to the Inspector this year. Nutrient Neutrality: about 1,500 properties are on hold, but NNDC now have their own Calculator along with other affected Councils and it is hoped to begin building again by March.

Cllr Kershaw left the meeting

## 8. Financial and Governance Matters

1. To Approve the Cashbook and Payments List

The balance in the Community Account, balanced to the 13<sup>th</sup> December Bank statement, was £2,499.01 and £6,328.83 in the Deposit Account.

There are no payments due.

Approved on a Proposal by Cllr Drake and Seconded by Cllr Pointer.

2. To Approve the following updated policies: Complaints Policy, FOI and Guide to Information, Guide to members of the public, Data Protection Policy

There were no questions and these were Approved on a Proposal by Cllr Cushing and Seconded by Cllr Ross.

The Guide to members will be located in the Policies section.

**9.** To note any Correspondence since the last meeting

The following correspondence had been received since the last meeting:

Review of bus services

Police Newsletter

Review of Polling Station

Visit of Police and Crime Commissioner to Fakenham

NPTS Cllr Networking session

NPTS Chair Networking session

**10.** To **Approve** the date of the March Litter Pick

Agreed – this will be advertised to take place on the **weekend of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March**. Cllr Pointer will act as contact. The Clerk will give details of the NNDC contact for disposal to the Chair.

**11.** To receive an update on Registering the Methodist Church as a Community Asset

Cllrs discussed the pros and cons of continuing with this proposal. It was Agreed to raise this at the Annual Parish Meeting to ascertain the views of the village. Any action on this will be added to the Agenda at the May Parish Council Meeting.

**12.** To receive an update on actions for Thursford Cemetery and to **Approve** any costs for necessary maintenance

Cllr Plumbly will speak to the contractor about a quote for the work required to the trees; the Clerk will contact the grass cutting contractor regarding the clearance work required.

**13.** To receive an update on Highways Matters

This had been discussed during the Open Forum – the Clerk will investigate costs for a grit box and add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

**14.** To **Approve** the format and invitees to the Annual Parish Meeting on **6<sup>th</sup> March**

Personal invites were seen as likely to be more successful than posters alone. The APM will also be advertised in the Tablet and at the SAV Coffee morning the week before.

The Chair will invite: SAV Team, Thursford Assist, Fuel Allotment Charity, Allotments to speak briefly at the meeting.

Cllr Pointer will speak to the Museum

Each group will be asked to give a short talk, followed by questions from Electors.

The APM will be Chaired by the PC Chair and will take place from 6pm – 7pm, Location – Methodist Church.

The Clerk will put together some wording for the Tablet and circulate it to Cllrs.

**15.** To **Approve** content for the Tablet and request contributions to be sent to the Clerk by 27<sup>th</sup> January

To include adverts for the March Litter Pick, the Annual Parish Meeting, and confirmation that the cost for Commercial Advertisements is £5. This was **Approved** by all on a Proposal by Cllr Ross and seconded by Cllr Plumbly.

**16.** To Note date of next Parish Council meetings: March 13<sup>th</sup>, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, September 4<sup>th</sup>, November 20<sup>th</sup> - Location: Methodist Church.

**17. Any Other Business – for information only**

**King’s Coronation** – The PC will liaise with the SAV Team. Suggestion is to hold a Village event on Bank Holiday Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May, between 2pm – 4pm. Cllr Drake will contact the SAV team.

**Light Industrial Depot** – corner of The Street and the B1354 – Residents in Station Road have expressed concern about the arrival of a large number of tyres stacked at the depot, particularly about the risk of fire and noise. The site has been let on a 3-year lease and the lease-holder has all the correct licences in place. The site has also been visited by NNDC. Fulmodeston Parish Council have been informed and residents have a telephone number to contact if there are issues.

**Walsingham Surgery** – To note that the Surgery is changing its hours: it will now be closed on Wednesdays (previously open) and open on Thursdays (previously closed)

**18. To close the meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

-----  
Signed

-----  
Date