



THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th September 2023 in Thursford Methodist Church

Present: Cllr S. Eckworth (Chair), Cllrs J. Bolam, K. Drake (Vice Chair), G. Pointer, K. Crompton, Parish Clerk – K. Harris, NCC Cllr Aquarone, NNDC Cllr Butofiker, 1 resident

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To consider apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies were accepted by all for Cllr Wilkes.

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

There were none.

4. To **Approve** the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd May

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

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

There were none.

6. Open Forum for Public Participation

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

NCC Cllr Aquarone – Cllr Eckworth welcomed Cllr Aquarone to the meeting. Report:

Benjamin Court – closure of this facility, providing an opportunity for convalescence and reducing hospital readmission, particularly for patients living alone is a concern. I am urging NCC to reconsider; Blakeney Surgery – it is important for as many people as possible to completing the official consultation survey, available on Holt Medical Practice website between 14th August and 30th September to ensure all views are considered; Bank Hubs – this is an ongoing campaign and one of my key priorities: Last month, I met supporters of bank hubs in Holt, who I introduced to the local area. They were better able to appreciate how North Norfolk works and the necessity of these facilities through visiting the area in person rather than studying it from their desk based work.

He asked Cllrs and Parishioners to email him any thoughts regarding his report and in particular their thoughts on local banking.

Cllr Aquarone left the meeting.

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

The resident expressed her concern that MP Jerome Mayhew had not followed through on his commitment to object to the New Town proposed near North Elmham. She requested that the PC write to ask him to do this – all agreed. She also suggested that individuals may like to write too.

The resident contacted NCC after completion of the drainage works in Thursford to ask what the costs and purpose had been. She has not received a response so is planning to raise a FOI. Cllrs agreed to await the outcome of this and to revisit the issue at the next PC meeting when any results of the drainage work are likely to be more evident.

The resident left.

NNDC Cllr Butofiker arrived and was welcomed by all: NNDC finances – these are currently showing an underspend on budget, but this is common for this time of year, an overspend to budget happens later in the year, but NNDC have in recent years underspent to budget at the year end; North Norfolk Sustainability fund – these funds are no longer being topped up so NNDC is seeking other sources of money for this; Planning Application PO/23/1526 – Cllr Butofiker confirmed that she was in touch with the applicant. She mentioned that if a member of the PC wanted to attend the Planning Meeting to register local support – he/she will need to register in advance to speak – the Planning meeting is currently planned for 12th October.

Cllr Butofiker left the meeting

7. To receive an update on planning matters

PF/23/0491: Change of use from agriculture to dog walking field – application withdrawn

PF/23/0506: Retention of mobile home on a permanent basis – Approved

PO/23/1526: Outline application with details of access only (all other matters reserved) for the erection of a self-build dwelling (Class C3) Location: Land To South East of, 1A The Street, Thursford Green, Pending consideration – the PC supports this application

Planning Matters since the close of the agenda

PF/23/1806: Erection of two-storey side/rear extension, 2 North Lane, Thursford, NR21 0BP, Pending consideration – the PC agreed to support this application. This was Approved on a Proposal by Cllr Drake and Seconded by Cllr Bolam.

8. Financial and Governance Matters

i. To Agree the Cashbook and Payments List

The balance in the Community Account, balanced to the 11th August Bank statement, was £2,703.73 and £6,334.72 in the Deposit Account.

The following payments are awaiting Approval that have been made since the last meeting 14/6/23: Fakenham Prepress - £39.60 (printing of The Tablet); 23/6/23 C. Harris - £255.48 (Clerk's salary April to June); HMRC - £63.80 (Tax on salary); Payments to be made at the meeting: Methodist Church - £30.00 (Hire of Church for meetings on 22nd May and 4th September) C. Harris - £255.48 (Clerk's salary July - Sept); HMRC - £63.80 (Tax on salary); C. Harris £102.92 (Clerk's expenses April to Sept); S. Jenkinson- £16.48 (Reimbursement for pot planting on the Green). There have been no receipts since the last meeting. This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Pointer and Seconded by Cllr Crompton.

ii. To receive an update on Signatories to the Barclays and NS&I Bank Accounts

A letter has been received from NS&I confirming the new signatories.

Cllrs Drake and Crompton confirmed that they had verified their identities with Barclays. Barclays refused to give the Cllrs a copy of the document. The Clerk received on 25th August a letter sent (1st Class) by Barclays and dated 4th August stating that both Cllrs still need to verify their identity. The Clerk will contact the bank, and, if they have lost the documents, she will raise a complaint.

iii. To Approve the Purchase of the Grit Bin for Station Road

Cllrs reviewed a letter from a resident regarding the need for a grit bin in Station Rd, but, as he was writing about summer conditions and Highways had informed the PC that there was previously a grit bin in this location, the PC agreed unanimously to purchase a 200l bin – Cllrs Eckworth and Drake will confirm the measurements - on a Proposal by Cllr Drake and Seconded by Cllr Pointer

iv. To Review and Approve the Information Audit and the updated Asset Register
These were Approved by all on a Proposal by Cllr Bolam and seconded by Cllr Crompton

- v. To consider a request for a contribution to Clerk's Training: NPTS Update seminar (25% = £20 – including mileage) and Freedom of Information (25% = £12) – Total £32
This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Pointer and Seconded by Cllr Drake.

9. To Note any correspondence

The following correspondence had been received since the last meeting: Submission of the North Norfolk Local Plan for independent examination; Parish Partnership application information; Rural Bulletin on Post Offices & the DVLA; NNDC Sarah Butofiker July report; Police information re change of Beat Officer, Fakenham police newsletter; Resident email on the proposed grit bin for Station Rd.

10. To consider any application for Parish Partnership funds

There is no call for this funding at present.

11. To receive an Update on the Website and Approve any funding

The Clerk and Cllr Crompton had met with the resident who is upgrading the website.

The domain registration comes up for renewal in October – as the timescale is short it was agreed that this should be renewed.

The hosting contract lasts until the end of December – the resident is hoping to launch the site in October. Cllrs discussed whether to use the free wix site or to upgrade to a paid site. It was agreed to start with the free site and to upgrade if this was seen to be beneficial to the PC and the village – on a Proposal by Cllr Pointer and Seconded by Cllr Crompton.

The PC expressed their thanks to the resident for all the work he has been doing on both the current and the new website.

12. To consider the purchase of a contract for a dog waste

All agreed unanimously on the purchase of a dog bin for the Green and to arrange fortnightly collections on a Proposal by Cllr Bolam and seconded by Cllr Drake. The Clerk will arrange the purchase of the chosen bin and Cllr Pointer will secure it to one of the posts on the Green.

13. To receive an update on Thursford Cemetery

Cllr Pointer will purchase chemicals to spray on the brambles and undergrowth in the Autumn. A working party for the cemetery will be arranged for the late winter to clear the ground before new growth starts to extend the life of the cemetery.

Cllr Drake has received a report from Mr. Roberts, a local QS on the condition of the Cemetery Lychgate and front boundary walls.

Actions given to ensure continuing good condition of the structure require: Short-term: removal of ivy from the boundary wall and brickwork of the Lychgate; Medium-term: repaint gates, repair

wooden seat, repair metal mesh on underside of roof; longer term: repointing as required to the brickwork of the lychgate and the parapet stones.

The Parish Council thanked Mr Roberts for his thorough report.

14. To Approve the remit of a Volunteer Working Party and to agree maximum funding for 2023/4 projects

Cllr Wilkes has offered to lead a Working Party on small maintenance work around the village – funding to come from the community and grant fund. It was agreed that the first task should be repainting the phone box and funds were Approved to buy paint and other materials on a Proposal by Cllr Drake and Seconded by Cllr Bolam.

An article will go in the Tablet for residents to give their suggestions of required works.

15. To receive an update on Highways Matters.

The Clerk reminded all that the quickest way to inform Highways of any issues was to use the online form. She will notify Highways of concerns regarding the delay to repaint the lines on the A148 near the Crawfish. Cllr Eckworth also expressed concern that the mph signs in the village are so faded.

16. To receive an update on the Mobile Library

The Chair expressed thanks to all those in the village that had shown support for the mobile library: Thursford has retained the level of service it has previously received in the re-organisation.

17. To request contributions for the Tablet to be sent to the Clerk before the last week of September.

The next Tablet should be ready on or about 1st October.

Cllr Crompton had a photo from her childhood in the village. It was proposed to dedicate the January edition to photos of the village from years gone by. There will be an article in the Tablet.

18. To Note date of next Parish Council meetings: November 20th in the Conference Room at the Thursford Collection

19. Any Other Business – for information only

The **Coronation Celebration** at the Church raised £129.69 which was given to the Church.

Thanks were given to the resident who manages the pots on the Green for the magnificent display.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Grounds Maintenance contract is up for renewal for discussion at the November meeting.

Vacancy: there is still 1 space remaining on the PC. All welcome. Contact the Clerk or any Cllr for information.

20. To close the meeting – There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed

Date