



THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 22nd January 2024 in the Conference Room at the Thursford Exhibition

Present: Cllr S. Eckworth (Chair), Cllrs J. Bolam, K. Crompton, K. Drake (Vice Chair), R. Wilkes, Parish Clerk – K. Harris, 4 residents

24/01 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for coming.

24/02 To consider apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies were accepted by all for Cllr Pointer (health) and for NCC Cllr Aquarone, NNDC Cllr Butofiker.

24/03 To receive declarations of Interest and request for dispensations in any of the agenda items

Cllr Eckworth declared an interest in item 24/07 iv.

24/04 To **Approve** the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th November 2023.

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

24/05 Matters arising on the Minutes (for information only), not included on the agenda

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Sustainable Communities Fund was currently suspended so it would not be possible to obtain a grant for the telephone box and tubs on the Green.

24/06 Open Forum for Public Participation

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

NCC Cllr Aquarone had sent a written report:

Norfolk Devolution Deal – Approved by Full Council – the core features are a directly elected leader of the County Council, around £20m a year in additional investment, delegated decision making on Adult Education spending and fast track access to government spending schemes; Liberal Democrats now main opposition on the County Council – as a result of 3 byelection gains; Dedicated Minister for the Coast – at Government level. Recent damage to cliffs and properties and flooding around the Broads shows the Government must do more: the £80m or so of funding required for schemes is beyond the budget of local authorities and a dedicated Minister for the Coasts would be an important addition; My 2 Campaign Priorities for the year – 1. Supporting the re-establishment of the orbital railway from Sheringham through Melton Constable and round to Dereham, 2. Developing and launching my ‘footpaths toolkit’.

NNDC Cllr Butofiker had sent a written report.

Councillor Allowance Review – the recommendations for changes in pay awards are made by an independent remuneration panel and changes were last made in 2018 (Council rejected a recommendation for an increase in 2020). Members with no additional responsibilities will now receive £6,491 pa; Fakenham Swimming Pool and Leisure Facility – will be able to go ahead due to a successful bid to the Government’s Levelling Up Fund, support will also come from NNDC, Fakenham Town Council, the Football Association and some S106 monies. Cross party support

was achieved for the Motion "Clean Water – Clean Up Your Act"; the Budget will be debated at the February meeting.

- ii. Receive report from local Police Beat Officer, if attending

The new Beat Officer was not at the meeting – when she responded to an email sent by Cllr Eckworth it was from a generic email address as she did not yet have individual contact details.

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

A resident requested the PC to write to NNDC to raise the point that the Sustainable Communities Fund came from money raised from Second Homes and was a way of re-distributing this around the villages affected: it was hard won and a shame it had been withdrawn.

A resident noted that NCC Highways responded promptly to his online request for potholes to be repaired, but he was not convinced about the quality and longevity of the repair. He noted that many of the gullies were filled with leaves and detritus from the road, leading to flooding down the road. It was suggested that several residents report this situation which may elicit a response.

24/07 To receive an update on planning matters

- i. PF/23/1526 - Outline application with details of access only (all other matters reserved) for the erection of a self-build dwelling (class c3) at land to south-east of 1a the street – appeal approved

Cllr Eckworth attended the Planning Committee and was impressed that the Committee took into account what she and the District Cllr reported and overturned the report from the Planning Officer and allowed the Appeal. She noted that Thursford Parish was deemed "countryside"

- ii. PF/23/2456 | Two-storey replacement dwelling with solar panels following demolition of existing bungalow; detached outbuilding (garden studio) | Church View Cottage Church Lane – pending consideration.
- iii. PF/23/26552 – Construction of single storey rear extension, new pitched roof over flat roof garage and conversion of rear shed to bay window - Location: Brambles, The Street - pending consideration.
- iv. PF/23/2673 -Removal of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension
Location: 10 Station Road, - pending consideration
- v. To consider any action relating to Lynden House – empty house on The Street
This property is now an eyesore in the village and has been empty for approximately 12 years. It has heras fencing against it, now moved to the back. It was reported some years ago to NNDC Empty Homes team. The PC understand that if Council Tax is being paid then there is little NNDC can do but asked the Clerk to report it to NNDC – on a Proposal by Cllr Drake and Seconded by Cllr Bolam.
- vi. Planning applications since the close of the agenda
None

24/08 Financial and Governance Matters

- i. To Agree the Cashbook and Payments List
The balance in the Community Account, balanced to the 13th December Bank statement, was £3,021.96 and £6,334.72 in the Deposit Account.

Receipts since the last meeting: £200 Bank compensation; NS&I Bank Interest £49.01

The Clerk informed the PC that the rate of interest was 1%. It was agreed to see if there was an account available to PC's offering a better rate of interest.

The following payments are awaiting Approval that have been made since the last meeting 13/12/23 ICO £35.00 (Annual registration) 25/12/23: C Harris - £365.64 (Salary Sept-Dec + backdated LGAward to 1st April); 25/12/23 HMRC - £91.40 (Tax on salary); NNDC - £44.82 (Dog waste collection: 27th Nov-31st Mch); Fakenham Prepress - £33.00 (January Tablet); To be paid today: S. Eckworth - £5.20 (postage); C Rheinberg - £22.78 (domain registration).

This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Bolam and Seconded by Cllr Wilkes.

- ii. To receive an update on the Barclays Bank Account
Most matters appear to be resolved, as reported to the last meeting and £200 had been received in November to resolve the second complaint. However the December bank statement had returned to the previous Clerk's name – even though the resolution to a complaint in 2022 noted that this should not have been the case.

24/09 To consider an Action Plan to be adopted by the Council to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the Parish

Cllrs discussed the proposed Action Plan. The main theme is encouragement of residents and advertising in the Tablet, on the Noticeboard and on the website. Cllr Eckworth noted that we were ahead of many Councils in our actions on this. The Clerk will draw up a policy to be presented later on in the year. The Action Plan was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Wilkes and Seconded by Cllr Bolam.

24/10 To receive an update on the Polling Station

NNDC are currently seeking a new polling station as the Methodist Church is no longer available. The Church would be available, but it was noted that this is not in the centre of the village.

24/11 To receive an update on Highways Matters

Potholes are being repaired, as noted above and there is nothing further to report.

24/12 To arrange a date for a working party at Thursford Cemetery

The Clerk to contact Cllr Pointer to see if he will be able to dispose of the spoil. Proposed date is Sunday.17th March 10am – 12. The Clerk will produce a poster and risk assessment.

Volunteers to be asked to bring tools with them.

24/13 To arrange a date for a Litter Pick around the village

Cllr Bolam will take responsibility for organising the Litter Pick.

Proposed weekend: 23rd and 24th March.

Everyone will be asked to provide their own black sacks, reminded to wear gloves and not to go out alone. Volunteers can go out at any time over the weekend.

The Clerk will prepare a poster and risk assessment.

24/14 To note any correspondence

The following correspondence has been sent to Cllrs since the last meeting: Highways Visit; NNDC Planning Roadshow; Police SNAP meeting; Affordable Homes plea from NNDC Cllr Fredricks; NNDC Christmas greetings.

Cllrs noted that they had tried to find a location for affordable homes in the village, but for different reasons had not been successful on two occasions.

24/15 To finalise details for the colour edition of the Tablet

Residents have been asked to provide photos.

The Clerk requested them soon as they will take time to format. The Tablet will have details of events as usual and a very brief section on the Parish Council.

24/16 To note the date for the next PC meeting and revised date for the Annual Parish Meeting.

The following provisional dates were agreed:

Parish Council Meetings – Mondays 7pm - 22nd, March 18th, May 20th (Annual Parish Council Meeting); September 9th and November 18th. Location - the Conference Room, Thursford Exhibition

Annual Parish Meeting – Monday May 13th.- 6pm Location – St Andrews (NOTE - revised date so that it remains light for longer and is warmer) Cllr Eckworth will contact the SAV team.

24/17 Any Other Business – for information only

None.

24/18 To close the meeting – There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.09pm

Signed

Date