



THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th September 2024 in the Conference Room at the Thursford Exhibition

Present: Cllr S. Eckworth (Chair), Cllrs J. Bolam, K. Crompton, R. Garrett, G. Pointer (Vice Chair), R Wilkes and Parish Clerk – K. Harris, 2 residents

24/57 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked Karen Drake who had resigned as Cllr and Vice Chair between meetings for her services to the Parish Council which have been appreciated by all.

24/58 To consider apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies had been received from. NCC Cllr Aquarone.

24/59 To receive declarations of Interest and request for dispensations in any of the agenda items

There were none.

24/60 Election of Vice Chair – Sign Declaration of Office

On a Nomination by Cllr Crompton and Seconded by Cllr Bolam Cllr Pointer was unanimously voted to be Vice-Chair. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

24/61 To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th May 2024.

Cllr Garrett asked that her name be spelt correctly throughout the minutes The minutes were agreed by all and signed by Cllr Eckworth on a Proposal by Cllr Garrett and Seconded by Cllr Bolam.

24/62 Matters arising on the Minutes (for information only), not included on the agenda

Cllr Eckworth has submitted a request to the Norfolk Accident Rescue Service (NARS) about Defib training and is waiting for them to respond to her. In the interim she mentioned to Cllrs that there were online training sessions that they could look at.

24/63 Open Forum for Public Participation

- i. Receive reports from NNDC Cllr Butikofer, NCC Cllr Aquarone

NCC Cllr Aquarone had sent a written report which was summarised by the Clerk: Cllr Aquarone has been elected as MP for North Norfolk and wanted it noted that he is committed to working for everyone in the community. He will remain as the County Cllr until after Christmas for two reasons – 1. to continue the Members Call for Action on the Benjamin Court Campaign to nullify the decision regarding the reablement facilities; 2. To ensure that the next iteration of the Parish Paths Information Pack is as user-friendly, practical and operational as possible.

NNDC Cllr Butikofer had sent her September report in advance of the meeting. She brought Cllrs attention to the change in NNDC Member's tightening of the procedure to Call In planning applications to the committee which must now include material planning reasons; public conveniences are not a statutory function of a District Council so NNDC are reluctantly having to reduce the opening hours and numbers of these facilities to reduce costs in some areas – she noted there are particular problems at the Weybourne public WC due to tourist camper vans; an update on

Housing and Temporary Housing and the Sheringham Shoal & Dudgeon Wind Farm Extensions projects; and a request that posters advertising the Pension Credit campaign be displayed due to concern about the Winter Payments cut to pensioners.

ii. Receive report from local Police Beat Officer

No report has been received.

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

A resident asked that the Police Beat Officer be asked to organize a speed check along The Street and Balls Lane at 7am. Cllr Eckworth will contact the Police Beat Officer.

A resident requested that thanks be recorded to Peter Markwell for cutting the footpaths down to the Church and to Gordon Drake for his actions on moles on the Village Green.

A resident requested that the landowner is asked to clear the ditch in Clarkes Lane before the winter rain starts.

A resident requested that the PC get permission to add Biodiversity to an area near to the Church from the landowner; work to include thinning the trees and planting wild flowers. She suggested that the PC could apply for funding to the Stobbart Sustainability Fund. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting for consideration prior to setting the budget for next year.

24/64 Planning matters.

i. To receive an update on current planning applications

There are none.

NNDC Cllr Butikofer arrived at the meeting

ii. Planning Applications since the close of the agenda

PF/24/1741 Two-storey 'self-build' replacement dwelling with solar panels following demolition of existing bungalow; detached outbuilding (garden studio) Location: Church View Cottage, Church Lane, Thursford, - Cllrs resolved to Support this application on a Proposal by Cllr Pointer and Seconded by Cllr Bolam.

iii. To receive an update on Lynden House – empty property on The Street

NNDC Cllr Butikofer confirmed that there was little the District Council could do as the property was uninhabitable and would not therefore be eligible to pay Council Tax. She acknowledged the concerns of Cllrs and residents that there is likely to be asbestos in the building and that this could be becoming unstable. She will speak to officers at NNDC and let the PC know of anything that can be done.

Cllr Butikofer and 1 resident left.

24/65 To Approve any Action on the Tyre Bundling Plant in the Parish of Fulmodeston with Barney

It was noted that both the owner and occupier had responded promptly to the letter sent by Cllr Eckworth on behalf of the PC. The occupier has applied for 3-phase electricity which will remove the noise from the generator which would no longer be needed. The level of noise has been described by the nearest residents as having the dustbin lorry around for 12 hours per day. The occupier is planning to extend, so there is concern about vehicle movements. There are known to have been 2 vehicle near misses as the larger lorries negotiate their way on site. All incidents should be reported to NCC Highways

24/66 Financial and Governance Matters

i. To Approve the Cashbook and Payments List and note actual spending against budget

The balance in the Community Account, balanced to the 13th August Bank statement, was £3,967.35 and £6,383.73 in the Deposit Account.

Receipts since the last meeting: £520.00 (cemetery fees)

The following payments are awaiting Approval: Fakenham Prepress - £33.00 (Newsletter), C. Harris - £345.40 (Clerk's salary, April - June), HMRC - £86.20 (Tax on salary), NNDC - £134.16 (Annual charge for dog bin emptying), C. Harris - £32.14 (Clerk's expenses July - September); C. Harris £345.20 (Clerk's Salary July - September), HMRC - £86.40 (Tax on Salary). This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Pointer and Seconded by Cllr Garrett.

ii. To consider any action regarding funding for the Defibrillator

A resident reported that the Defibrillator had been installed in January 2014, and had been donated by a charitable trust. It has never yet been used, however it is now reaching the end of its viable life. The battery has between 1 – 2 years remaining and the resident suggests that it should be replaced when the battery fails. He has investigated a replacement machine that would fit into the current cabinet (to avoid the cost of replacing that) and has found something which appears suitable for c.£800 + VAT (The VAT would be reclaimed). A discussion took place about whether the defibrillator should go into a locked or unlocked cabinet: if it were not locked it would not be insured, but it would be quicker to access. Cllr Garrett will draft an article for the Tablet; Cllr Bolam will discuss fundraising solutions with SAV at their next meeting; Cllr Eckworth suggested that the surplus funds from the recent Cemetery income could be allocated. Sourcing funding for a replacement defibrillator was Approved by All on a Proposal by Bolam and Seconded by Cllr Garrett.

The resident who maintains the defibrillator said that the current machine had one set of pads, but no spare. He will not order a spare set at this time.

iii. To consider any action regarding funding for the fabric of the church

Cllr Eckworth informed the PC that recent legislation now allowed this, but in order to raise funds for this purpose the Precept would need to be increased. The PC currently pay for grass cutting in the environs of the church. It was agreed by all to take no action at this stage.

iv. To Approve the following policies: Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Biodiversity

There were no questions and the Policies were Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Crompton and Seconded by Cllr Garrett.

v. To Approve £145 + VAT for the Clerk to attend the SLCC/ICCM Course – Cemetery Legal Compliance (Feb 5th 2025 – online)

This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Wilkes and Seconded by Cllr Bolam. The funds to pay for it will come from the recent Cemetery receipts.

vi. To Approve 20% cost of Training for the Clerk on a Data Protection Course: £9.60

This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Pointer and Seconded by Cllr Garrett.

vii. To receive an update on the purchase of an acrylic notice for the Village Green.

Cllr Bolam will follow this up with the resident organising this.

24/67 To receive an update on the Village Green (pampas grass and tree planting)

Cllr Bolam to follow up.

24/68 To receive an update on the website

Cllr Garrett and the Clerk will arrange to meet with the resident who has worked on the website.

24/69 To receive an update on Highways Matters

The Clerk has reported the broken sign and Highways have confirmed that it will be repaired. The PC has no projects for Parish Partnership funding for the next year.

24/70 To request contributions for the Tablet before 22nd September

Include information about bonfires

24/71 To note any correspondence

The following correspondence has been sent to Cllrs since the last meeting:

Rural Services Bulletin: Teleswitch	NPTS Newsletters
Parish Partnership Scheme	Housing Allocations Survey
East of England Ambulance Service Consultation	Police SNAP Meeting
Marie Curie Charity Request	NNDC Online Planning Roadshow
NNDC Polling Districts	

24/72 To note the date of next meetings: Monday, 7pm 18th November:

The PC have permission to use the Pavilion if disabled access is required.

24/73 Any Other Business – for information only

There have been complaints about bonfires being lit at unsuitable times. There are no rules for North Norfolk. The Tablet will include an article asking people to be mindful of their neighbours when lighting bonfires – particularly with the approach of 5th November.

Two Ukrainian flags have been stolen in the village (one from the village flagpole, the other from a resident); the Clerk has also received a complaint about the flying of the Ukrainian flag. The flag mistress has replaced the flag. It was agreed that the PC needs to ensure it represents the views of all the village and will monitor and discuss at the next meeting

24/74 To close the meeting – There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.43pm.

Signed

Date