

THORNAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of the Thornage Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 13th July 2023 at 6.30pm at All Saint's Church, Thornage.

Present: Cllrs Dan Earp (Chairman), Dany Pearce (Vice Chair), Teresa Anderson, Kate Dickson, Peter Hammond, Paul Hendrick and Nigel Watchorn, Kerry Harris (Clerk), 0 residents.

1. To welcome those present to the meeting

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

2. To consider apologies for absence

NNDC Cllr Brown.

3. To receive Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations

There were none.

4. To Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th May 2023

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th May were unanimously approved on a Proposal by Cllr Dickson and Seconded by Cllr Hendrick.

5. Matters Arising

There were none.

6. Open Forum for Public Participation

6.1 Report from NCC Cllr Dalby

Cllr Dalby had sent a report circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting:

500 Norfolk locations join the Refill Revolution and offer free water refills; Water Rescue Equipment for Ukraine secured through the National Fire Chiefs Council; Norfolk County Council's scrutiny committee will consider a report from finance officers about savings proposals ahead of a budget being set in February next year (2024).

Report from NNDC Cllr Brown

Cllr Browns report had been circulated to Cllrs before the meeting:

The new North Norfolk Local Plan has been formally submitted to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up; Proposals have been announced through the Capital Hydrogen and Hydrogen Valley projects which would see the Bacton Energy Hub being developed as a production site for processing hydrogen and the capture and storage of carbon; Further rounds of public consultation and engagement were undertaken for the Cromer Phase 2 and Mundesley Coast Protection Schemes due to be commenced this year; Planning Service Improvement Plan - The new service will allow greater self-service in understanding the progress of applications and provide more engagement with town and parish councils; Customer Service - a new service level dashboard has been introduced and is being monitored weekly; Glaven Valley Rural Conservation Appraisal – The Council are considering a short final consultation with the responders to the earlier consultation; Complaints to the Ombudsman against the Council in 2022/23 totalled 11 with one outstanding decision and the other 10 closed with no action; Appeal Decision re Arcady at Cley - The Planning Inspector has ruled that the main residence must be demolished by no later than October 2024 and grants permission for an annex building and swimming pool to remain; Financial Sustainability and Growth - Council tax bills have been issued on 55,000 accounts following the adoption of the 2023/24 budget which introduced a 3% rise in the District Council Charge ring-fenced for cost of living support programmes. The Revenues Team achieved a Council Tax collection rate for 2022/23 of 98.26% and an

NNDR collection rate of 99.25% ; Purchase of Waste Collection Vehicles - the Council are looking at ordering 2 new vehicles at a cost of £450,000; Temporary Letting Accommodation - Government Consultation - The Council supports the proposal of a new national registration scheme for homes used as temporary letting accommodation which would help bring Air B&B safety standards into line with traditional guest houses. The second consultation outlines options for introducing new planning controls to create a new use class for temporary letting accommodation. None of the provisions would apply retrospectively; Bridge Damage - I will be supporting our MP and County Councillor to improve warning signage and survey for a priority system being installed as clearly the approach in both directions has been proved to be dangerous for road users.

6.2 Reports from Other Organisations

FROTH

There will be a Pop Up Bar on 30th July and a possible quiz later on in the year..

Thornage Hall

New office – the new reception is open – if you are visiting by car please use the car parking along the drive; Volunteers – if you think you have a skill which would be of use please find further details on our website. We look forward to completing more communal based activities together. Our tenants had a great time at the King's Coronation so thank you for inviting us.

Church

Regular services continue on the third Sunday of each month at 9.30am.

In October we are starting another series of Thornage Talks. The historian Sue Smart will be talking about Lady Jane Butts of Thornage Hall on 5th October. Hazel Mindham will speak about her research into the men of Thornage who did not return on 3rd November These two talks will be in All Saints Thornage. Drinks at Six. Talk at 6.30- 7.30. In early December Tony Britten will be the guest of Desert Island Discs.

We are grateful to the Parish Council who support the Church. These are difficult times for all small rural parishes and your continued support is more than ever needed for our services and events.

6.3 Opportunity for Members of the Public to raise questions or concerns.

Concern was expressed about the latest accident on the Bridge on the B1110. The Chair thanked the resident for sending a letter to MP Duncan Baker. A site meeting is now proposed involving the MP D. Baker, NCC officers and Cllr Dalby, NNDC Cllr Brown and residents. Suggestions included setting a priority from the Thornage direction to slow traffic coming down the hill, traffic lights and removal of hedging.

Thornage/Hunworth Footbridge – this is due for repair at the beginning of August.

7. Chair's Report

The Chair informed the meeting that he was waiting for an update on the flooding round the Bottle bank. – but that the water had receded for the time being. This will be added to the next agenda.

8. Clerk's report

There was an underspend of £218.82 on the grant for the Noticeboard. NNDC may request this money back. She had informed NNDC on their request that the PC would like to spend the money on costs of materials surrounding installation of the Noticeboard and use the remainder as a contribution towards paint and other materials to refurbish the red telephone box.

She reminded Cllrs that there was £200 in the budget for training for Cllrs as well as the Clerk.

She updated the PC on income and expenditure for the bottle bank:

	Cost	Income
2021 - 22	£94.50	£337.05 (3 years together)
2022 - 23	£82.50	£183.37
2023 – 24 (April – July)	£37.50	Claim will be made in January

9. Finance and Governance Matters

9.1 Approve the Cashbook and Payments list

The balance in the Barclays account is £3,246.67

Receipts: FROTH 100.00 (Contribution to installation of Village Sign);

Payments: Countrystyle Recycling £12.00 (30th April - Emptying of Bottle Bank); Thornage PCC £18.75 (Hire of Church – 10th May); Norfolk Parish Training and Support £35.00 (Internal Audit); Mrs C. Harris £539.64 (Clerk's salary); HMRC £134.80 (Tax on salary); Thornage PCC £18.75 (Hire of Church – 13th July); Countrystyle Recycling £12.00 (30th June - Emptying of Bottle Bank); Mrs C. Harris £39.75 (Clerk's expenses)

These were approved by all on a Proposal by Cllr Hammond and Seconded by Cllr Pearce.

9.2 To receive an update on banking signatories.

Cllrs Anderson, Dickson, Hendrick and Watchorn have all been added to the account, ex-Cllrs Pugh-Smith and Garner have been removed from the account. Cllr Pearce will train new additions to the internet account when they are ready. Cllr Hendrick is waiting for a card machine and authentication card. Thanks were given to Cllr Pearce for her work with the bank.

9.3 To Approve Clerk's Training (25%) NPTS Update seminar (£20) and Freedom of Information (£12)

This was Approved by all on a Proposal by Cllr Anderson and Seconded by Cllr Dickson

10. To receive an update on Planning Matters

10.1 To Approve the PC response to PF/23/1273 Barnaway Cottage

No comments were made.

10.2 To Approve the PC response to Planning Applications since the close of the agenda

There were none.

10.3 To receive updates on current planning applications

PF/22/2772 - Flintern Barn - Approved

These have been reported in Item 9.3 above

11. To receive an update on the SAM2

There is currently an issue downloading the data. Once this is resolved the data will be shared with a local police officer to decide what action to take.

It was suggested using the SAM2 to monitor the road bridge, but this has not been agreed with Highways and there was concern that the speed limit is 60mph.

12. To receive an update on the Volunteers Group

The Group have cut the grass verge in the middle of the village and by the gates at either end of the village. Refurbishment has started on the bench by the Noticeboard. The 'phone box will be next. Cllr Hendrick to draw up an annual and bi-annual schedule. The Clerk will check whether any information has been received regarding maintenance of the Village Sign. A budget of £200 ex-VAT was Approved by all for maintenance, on a Proposal by Cllr Hendrick and seconded by Cllr Watchorn

13. To Approve the members and remit of a Working Party on Green Spaces in the Parish

Cllr Dickson suggested that more could be done with the Common for both wildlife and local people. A discussion ensued summarising discussions that have taken place in recent PC meetings and suggesting a review of recent PC minutes.

It was agreed to form a Working Party to discuss and investigate the various options and to report back to the PC – membership to include Cllrs Dickson, Watchorn and Earp and interested members of the public.

This was Approved by all on a Proposal by Cllr Dickson and seconded by Cllr Watchorn.

14. To discuss the NWT survey on the Common and to Approve any action

The Working Party on Green Spaces will investigate the options and report to the next PC meeting.

15. To Agree the publication of the next Newsletter

This should go out in August.

Information should be included on: work on the bridges, the Green Spaces Working Party, the Church, Thornage Hall and the Volunteer Group. Cllrs Dickson (Green Spaces Working Party) and Hendrick (Volunteer Group) will send a short update to the Clerk by 1st August.

It was considered whether this could be delivered at the same time as B&B News (from the Church) Cllr Earp will check the delivery date.

16. To note any Correspondence

6.06.23	Notification of Highways inspection
13.06.23	Update on footbridge repair
14.06.23	Holt Police Newsletter
15.06.23	Submission of North Norfolk Plan for independent examination
20.06.23	NPTS Course information
22.06.23	Armed Forces Covenant
22.06.23	Parish Partnership Application information
22.06.23	Closure of Thornage Road for footbridge repair
7.07.23	NPTS Cllr training
8/9.07.23	Thornage Bridge correspondence

17. To Approve any action on the Armed Forces Covenant

The PC could not see how they could be of benefit so agreed they would not sign the Covenant at this time.

18. To set the rota for the Bottle and Paper Banks

September – Cllr Watchorn, October – Cllr Pearce, November – Cllr Hendrick

22. Any Other Business (for information only): There was none.

23. Dates for future meetings: Wednesday 18th October, Wednesday 6th December.

24. To close the meeting: The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed

Date: