

THORNAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Kerry Harris, 89 The Street, Barney, NR21 0AD Tel: 01328 822583

Email thornageparishcouncil@gmail.com

www.thornagepc.wixsite.com/thornagepc

The minutes of the Thornage Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 6.30pm at Gregories Barn, Thornage Hall, Thornage.

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

2024/01 To welcome those present to the meeting

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. He noted his thanks to Thornage Hall for use of Gregories Barn for the meeting.

2024/02. To consider apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted by All for Cllr Anderson (health). NCC Cllr Brown and Rev'd Trudie Morris and 1 resident had also sent their apologies.

2024/03. To receive Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations

Cllr Pearce noted an interest in Planning item.PF/23/2610 which has now been approved.

2024/04. To Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th December 2023

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2023 were unanimously Approved on a Proposal by Cllr Hammond and Seconded by Cllr Hendrick.

2024/05. Matters Arising

There were none.

2024/06. Open Forum for Public Participation

(i) NCC Cllr Dalby

County Council have agreed the budget; Cabinet to vote on £457m plan for Norfolk's Highways and Transport set out over the financial years 2024/5, 2025/6 and 2026/7; Have your say on Norfolk saving proposals: these proposals are part of the £41.5m of savings that NCC needs to make to balance its budget for 2024/5. Drought and surface water flooding is getting worse in Norfolk and there is a push to build reservoirs to help with the situation. A Dedicated Minister for the Coast is supported by NCC due to the impact of erosion and the potential significant loss of properties to this.

NNDC Cllr Brown

Council Tax charges – NNDC increase of 2.99%, NCC increase of 4.99%; Environment Agency has announced 20% cuts in funding for river flood defences; Holt Bank Hub – this is supported by NNDC who will expedite any full planning permission; Planning Appeal delays are increasing; Biodiversity net gain – minimum 10% net gain in diversity will be required for all sites by 2nd April, large sites from 12th February; Offshore Windfarm Construction Traffic – Orsted have released their schedule of wide loads on local roads for the year; Local Plan Examinations – 2 of the 3 examinations are complete. The final decision will be announced by the Inspector during the summer.

(ii) FROTH

FROTH has been relaunched with new members and a meeting is planned to discuss how to move forward.

FROTH confirmed that they would reimburse the net cost of the defibrillator batteries.

Church – Rev'd Dr Trudie Morris

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). is scheduled for **Thursday 11th April at 7pm and will be in church**. When the annual accounts will be presented and 2 elections take place.

The meeting is open to any members of the public to attend.

The first part of the meeting includes the election of Church Wardens. Anyone on the **register of electors for Thornage** is entitled to stand for Church Warden and/or nominate/second a candidate and vote for one of the candidates standing for election (we have one Church Warden at present but ideally churches should have two.)

The second part of the meeting includes the election of members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Only those on the **Church Electoral Roll** are entitled to stand for election and/or nominate/second a candidate and vote for candidates standing for election (we have two elected members to the PCC at present but the church is allowed up to six members.). Anyone can apply to be on the roll if **they have lived in the parish for more than 6 months and are a communicant member of the church** (all those who have been baptised are seen by the Church of England to be communicant members)

The elections are for one year but anyone can stand again if they wish to, at the next annual meeting. **Forms to be on the electoral roll should be available in the church to pick up or from me. Nomination forms for Church Warden and PCC membership will also be available at the back of church or from me.** The forms should be completed to bring to the annual meeting or submitted beforehand. There is no restriction about nominations. You can nominate and/or second more than one person.

The meeting will also receive other reports.

I do hope Thornage parishioners will see the importance of attending the church annual meetings and consider standing for Church Warden and or PCC membership as these roles are vital to the viability and resilience of the church.

(iii) Opportunity for Members of the Public to raise questions or concerns.

There were no members of the public present.

24/07. Chair's Report

Cllr Earp reported that there would likely be some form of partial road closure due to the recent building collapse, but the County Surveyor has checked and the building is currently stable.

24/08. Clerk's report

The Clerk had nothing to add to the items in the agenda.

24/09. Highways Matters

(i) To receive an update on the SAM2

At the request of a Little Thornage resident a location has been agreed with NCC Highways and the SAM2 is currently in Little Thornage. A discussion took place after concern was expressed by some Cllrs that, as almost all the traffic passed through the main road in the village, that was where the SAM2 needed to be located. This will be discussed at the next meeting and the data analysed to check the speeds at the SAM2 locations.

(ii) To receive an update and Approve any action on Thornage/Hunworth footbridge

The Clerk has not received a response from Highways regarding the condition of the Bridge. She will forward the latest photo to NCC Cllr Dalby and he will investigate.

(iii) To receive an update and Approve any action on the bridge on the B1110.

Cllrs think that visibility and safety is much improved now the hedge is low and the reflective chevrons have been added. Cllrs would like reflective chevrons on the other side of the wall and would like the hedge kept short as it can be cut at any time of year for safety reasons.

The Chair will write to the Highways portfolio holder as the research supplied related to urban traffic. NCC Cllr Dalby will supply the email address.

24/10. To receive an update on the Volunteers Group

The leaves have been cleared round the Black Boys.

Cllr Hendrick has prepared a list of the annual tasks to be undertaken which he read out and will email to all Cllrs.

Thanks were given to the Volunteer group.

24/11. To receive an update on the Working Party to the Common and to Approve any action

The Working Party have agreed to use the NWT Action Plan as a basis and are now considering how to achieve it: the boundary hedges are out of control and not doing much for wildlife. A tree surgeon in the village has agreed to work on the project.

It is proposed to deal with small sections of the Common at a time.

It is proposed that some of the land will be left uncut until towards the end of the summer. Thornage Hall are supportive and will help with this major cut but, if agreed, this will not happen until next year.

Next stages:

To have an Open Meeting to consult with the village

To consult the Grass cutter.

This was Approved on a Proposal by Cllr Watchorn and seconded by Cllr Dickson - 4 votes for the proposal and 2 abstentions.

24/12 To receive an update on the Green spaces in the Parish and Approve any action

(i) Thornage Beck

MP Duncan Baker is now involved and a meeting has been proposed with NNDC, the EA, River Glaven Conservation Group and Norfolk Rivers Trust to consider a Landscape Recovery Plan. The farming tenant also needs to be involved. It was noted that some of the trees removed were on Cllr Dickson's land. NNDC Cllr Brown had sent a message that he had been informed that there was dialogue between NNDC enforcement and the Woodland Trust which was causing a delay.

It was Proposed to contact all concerned questioning the right to fell the trees and to ask whether the appropriate permissions had been sought – on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Watchorn – 5 for the Proposal, 1 abstention.

(ii) Silting up of the River Glaven

It was reported that the Environment Agency are investigating.

(iii) Bottle bank area

The pallets have been removed from the Bottle Bank by the Volunteer Group and the trench has been dug out. The Estate have removed some roots from the culvert. It now needs to dry out.

24/13. To Approve an Action Plan on Biodiversity in the village

The Clerk had sent round a draft plan. This will be a living document: Cllr Dickson has sent some comments and Cllr Watchorn is to send some. These will be added to the Action Plan. The work on the Common also forms part of this strategy.

Information will go into the Newsletter. It was noted that Thornage Hall make bat and bird boxes.

24/14. To consider any action on inappropriate disposal of waste in the Parish (holiday homes and domestic waste/dog waste)

Holiday accommodation which is Business rated will not have a domestic bin and there have been cases when end of let waste has been added to a neighbour's bin. Dog waste has also been deposited in the Churchyard bin.

It was agreed that information will be put into the Newsletter and Holiday Home owners will be asked to put a notice into their properties requesting that this does not happen.

24/15 To consider any action on defibrillator training and First Aid

The Clerk will contact the trainer in Bale and request a Saturday morning in May for the training which will be linked with a coffee morning, to take place in the Church.

24/16. Finance and Governance Matters

(i) To Approve the Cashbook and Payments list

The balance in the Barclays account is £3,441.93, balanced to the 27th February bank statement.

Receipts: None;

Payments: NNDC £27.00 (19th October - Uncontested Election Fee); Countrystyle Recycling £12.00 (14th December Bottlebank collection); SP Services Ltd £303.17 (7th February – defibrillator battery); 6th March: J Matthews - £525.00 (grass cutting 2023-24); Norfolk Parish Training & Support £55.00 (Annual Subscription); Mrs C. Harris £581.24 (Clerk's salary, January - March); HMRC £145.20 (Tax on salary); Mrs C. Harris – £30.00 (Expenses October to March)

Payments will be paid via the bank by Cllrs Pearce and Hendrick.

Cheque for £75.00 to Will Peck for grass cutting 2023-24

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

(ii) To Approve the following policies: Standing Orders, Co-option

Standing Orders were examined and the draft was approved as recommended by the Clerk. There were no queries on the Co-option policy.

These were Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Earp.

(iii) To Approve payment of £25.50 as 20% contribution to the Clerk attending online "Risk" training session and travel to and cost of the NPTS Spring Seminar

This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Hammond.

24/17 Planning Matters.

(i) To receive updates on current planning applications

PF/23/2749 Demolition of existing conservatory and lean-to rear extensions and erection of single storey rear extension - Hill House, Holt Road, - Approved

PF/23/2610 Detached outbuilding within rear garden – The Grange, Letheringsett Rd - Approved

PF/23/2346 Erection of electrical substation & 6 vehicle hub – Back to the Garden – Approved

(ii) To Approve the PC response to Planning Applications since the close of the agenda
There were none.

(iii) To receive an update on the Local Plan Examination

Cllr Earp has attended 2 of the examination meetings with the Inspector who will consider the applications and report on his decisions later in the summer.

Cllrs Dickson and Watchorn left the meeting.

24/18. To consider the options for a venue for Parish Council meetings and to Approve donation for 6th March meeting at Gregories Barn

Cllrs agreed that meetings should not be paid for before they happened.

Cllrs want to retain the option of using the Church. if agreement can be made. Cllr Hammond stated that in his view the hire charge was incidental to the costs of the Church.

A donation of £20 to Thornage Hall for the use of Gregories Barn was Approved on a Proposal by Cllr Hammond and Seconded by Cllr Hendrick

24/19. To Agree the publication of the next Newsletter

This will be published week commencing 8th April and include the following items: Biodiversity and the Common, Holiday homes and business rental/waste disposal; the footbridge and B1110 bridge.

24/20. To note any Correspondence

2023: 7/12 NPTS courses, 18/12 NNDC Affordable Homes, MP Duncan Baker flooding meeting, 20/12 NNDC Christmas Greetings, 2024: 4/1 & 2/2 NCC Cllr Dalby report, 23/1 & 8/2 Hornsea 3 Abnormal loads, 25/1 NNDC Planning roadshow, 8/2 NNDC Armed Covenant request. 15/2 King's portrait, 22/2 Holt police SNAP meeting; 23/2 Thornage road closure; 1/3 Holt police meeting results; 5/3 Rural Business Awards

24/21. To set the rota for the Bottle and Paper Banks

March – Cllr Pearce, April – Cllr Hendrick, May – Cllr Earp

24/22. Any Other Business (for information only)

There was none.

24/23 Dates for future meetings; 22nd May Annual Parish Council Meeting 6.30pm, Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm, to be followed by social gathering.

Provisional date for Autumn meeting – Wednesday 11th September 6.30pm

24/24. To close the meeting: The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed

Date: