

THORNAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of the Thornage Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd March 2023 at 6.00pm at All Saint's Church, Thornage.

Present: Cllrs Dan Earp (Chairman), Teresa Anderson, Peter Hammond, Dany Pearce, John Pugh-Smith and Paul Hendrick, Kerry Harris (Clerk), NNDC Cllr Andrew Brown, NCC Cllr Michael Dalby, 20 residents.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

2. To consider Apologies for absence.

Apologies were accepted by all for Cllr John Garner.

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 6th December 2022

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2022 were unanimously approved on a Proposal by Cllr Anderson and Seconded by Cllr Pearce.

5. Matters Arising

There were none.

6. Open Forum for Public Participation

Report from NCC Cllr Dalby

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

County Deals - Consultation is taking place until 20th March on the in-principal county deal devolution agreement that NCC signed with the Government; County Councillor Member Allowance has increased to £11,000 for the 2023/24 Financial Year.

There were no questions.

Report from NNDC Cllr Brown

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

Council Tax Rates for 2023-24 Financial Year Rise of 2.9% for NNDC and there will be no cuts to frontline services; May election: Proof of ID required – Polling station staff will be able to accept outdated proof of ID long as the photo is recognisable. Registering for a postal vote is open until 18th April 2023; Local Development Plan for North Norfolk has now been approved and will be referred to the Government Planning Inspector. The Plan will identify sites for new development and prescribe new policies to control the development until 2036. New Polling Station Site – confirmed as Gregories Barn; Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal – Public meetings were held in Holt and Blakeney on 9th March. The extended consultation will close on 31st March; Nutrient Neutrality latest – NNDC are moving towards releasing some sites for development. A new not-for-profit company will be formed with several neighbouring District Councils and Anglian Water for treatment of effluent; Windfarm Community Funding – Cllr Brown has asked Hornsea Three to contact him to discuss how the fund can benefit nearby villages.

Opportunity for Members of the Public to raise questions or concerns

Cllr Pugh-Smith raised the dangerous condition of the Thornage/Hunworth footbridge. The PC had been informed via MP Duncan Baker that it was going to be repaired this year, but Cllr Pugh-Smith requested

that Cllr Dalby inform the Portfolio Holder that NCC now had a legal liability to act regarding the bridge and the meeting was informed that a resident had fallen off the bridge.

7. Finance and Governance Matters

1 To **Approve** the Cashbook and Payments list:

Payments: Thornage PCC - £22.50 (Hire of Church for PC and APM Meetings); NPTS - £55.00 (Annual Subscription); Countrystyle Recycling - £27.00 (Emptying of bottle bank); C. Harris - £404.63 (Clerk's salary Jan-March); HMRC - £101.20 (Tax on salary); DD to ICO - £35.00 (Annual Subscription to be debited on 23.03.23); C. Harris - £30.00 (Clerk's expenses October – March)

These were Approved on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Hendrick

The Clerk was asked to prepare an analysis of income and expenditure for the Bottle Bank in time for the next meeting.

The Clerk has also been asked to prepare a report on future banking provider for the PC due to the likely changes required after the election and recent difficulties with Barclays, the current provider.

2 To receive an update on the Village Sign

The Village Sign is in a resident's garage. The final touching up will be completed when the painter is next in Thornage

Cllr Dalby left

8. To receive an update on Planning Matters

1. To **Approve** any action on the Glaven Valley Rural Conservation Area Review Consultation.

The Chair thanked Cllr Pearce for attending the meeting and for circulating a report. She stated that NNDC Officers are open to representation and will give full consideration to anything submitted. Cllr Hammond informed the PC that he found it very difficult to hear what was being said at the meeting.

Concern was expressed that the report had been written by a firm of architects, only interested in the built heritage.

It was agreed unanimously that the Cllr Pugh-Smith would prepare the draft for submission according to his draft report already circulated.

NNDC Cllr Brown stated that this was a working document: the emphasis is on the built heritage because there is a separate department in NNDC who comment on the rural environment. It is important to get representations in. Each response will be considered in the context of the matrix as a whole and all will be informed whether the comments are accepted or not. If there is still wholesale dissatisfaction, consideration will be given whether to extend the consultation further.

2. Update on PF/22/3017 – Thornage Land south of Letheringsett Road

Concern was expressed about further growth within the site, and that when the gates had been broken there had been no-one to answer and respond to the issue. The PC wanted an easy way to contact someone who could rectify a problem. The PC also noted that it would not be possible to impose a "left-turn only" exit and there had, as yet, been no response from Highways.

It was noted that under Permitted Development there could be up to 30 tents + caravans, so the Planning Application could lead to less vehicle disturbance.

3. Applications since the close of the Agenda

There have been none.

9. To receive the NWT report on the Common prepared after their February 2022 visit

A report prepared in February 2022 by Norfolk Wildlife Trust has been received by the PC for consideration. As the maintenance schedule for this year has already been agreed, the report was moved for consideration at the next meeting.

- The following comments were made:
- The views of the Village made in the recent PC consultation need to be taken into account
- Impact on costs and volunteer time need to be considered
- Lord Hasting's view needs to be sought as he is the Landowner
- The GVCA had noted the mown aspect of the Common and its heritage significance

10. To Approve any action in preparation for the May election

The Clerk reminded Parish Councillors and members of the public present that the deadline for nominations to the Parish Council election was 4th April, 4pm that the forms needed to be hand delivered to the NNDC offices in Cromer and that an appointment needed to be made to do this.

11. To Approve a grant of up to £100 towards an Event to mark the King's Coronation

A decision would be made after the Annual Parish Meeting whether to go ahead with an event to mark the Coronation, but the PC was asked to agree an amount of up to £100 to support any event that took place.

The PC wanted to support an event if there was a will in the village to go ahead as there had been for the Jubilee.

It was agreed to Approve a Grant of up to £100 for a Coronation Event on a Proposal by Cllr Hendrick and Seconded by Cllr Pearce – 5 votes for the Proposal, 1 vote against.

12. To note any Correspondence

NPTS networking sessions
 Hunworth, Thornage Footbridge repair
 Rural services network – cost of living survey
 NALC Information on the Coronation, CPR training , free children's digifest events
 Holt police SNAP meeting and agreed priorities
 NNDC election nomination forms
 County Deal for Norfolk & webinar
 NWT recommendations for Thornage Common

The Clerk will investigate Defibrillator training

13. Any Other Business

The following activities will be undertaken when the weather improves: repainting the Telephone Box; Sanding the Bench; Clearing the dead wood from the Common.

The Clerk was asked to contact NNDC Highways to ask about cleaning the White Gates

14. Dates for future meetings.

Wednesday 10th May – Annual Parish Council Meeting.

15. To close the meeting

The meeting closed at 6.58pm.

Signed

Date: