

THORNAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of the Thornage Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th September 2024 at 6.30pm at All Saints Church, Thornage.

Present: Cllrs Dan Earp (Chairman), Dany Pearce (Vice Chair), Teresa Anderson, Jerry Cox (from item 24/**) Kate Dickson and Nigel Watchorn, Kerry Harris (Clerk), NNDC Cllr Andrew Brown
1 resident.

24/47 To welcome those present to the meeting

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. He stated that he was truly sorry to hear of the death of John Smart, his predecessor as Chairman of Thornage Parish Council and then latterly as church warden of this church. He noted that he was unable to attend the funeral as he was away, but understood that it was well attended.

24/48. To consider apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

24/49. To co-opt a new Councillor and to sign the Declaration of Independence

Jerry Cox was the only applicant. He was unanimously co-opted onto the Council on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Watchorn. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the Cllrs.

24/50. To receive Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations

There were none.

24/51. To Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd May

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May were unanimously Approved on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Dickson.

24/52. Matters Arising

There were none.

24/53. Open Forum for Public Participation

(i) NCC Cllr Dalby

Cllr Dalby had sent a written report: NCC celebrates the success of GCSE students and noted a range of resources available to help them make decisions about their future. He noted that the Norwich Western Link Planning Application was now available and could be viewed online.

NNDC Cllr Brown

Cllr Brown attended the meeting and had sent a written report in advance noting Awards for the Planning Department; the Second Homes Surcharge where NNDC are seeking to retain 50% of the additional income, but NCC are only offering 20%; updates on Local Enterprise Partnerships, the County Devolution Deal and the New Local Plan; information on the increasing number of potholes and the national approach as reported in the News; development at Holt Hall; rationalisation of Public Toilets in the District required as a cost-savings measure.

There were no questions on the report.

He also informed the PC that he will be putting a Notice on the Noticeboard requesting the return of 2 Poster Boards belonging to the Lib-Dems that were stolen from Thornage during the recent election campaign and requesting their return.

(ii) Friends of Thornage – Dany Pearce

Cllr Pearce said that the following events had been organised: coffee morning (21st September), Harvest Supper (5th October – sold out), Film Night (1st November). The Friends had also manned a stall at the recent Thornage Fete to fund-raise and promote the Group's activities. This had been well supported.

Thornage Hall – Solomon Bernard

Firstly, a big thank you to Friends of Thornage and the local community. It was great to see so many come along and support our annual Summer Fair including those that hosted a Friends of Thornage stall at our event - It was a great addition that received positive feedback. We would also like to thank you for providing us with tables at this event.

Also, we will also be having a Christmas Fair at Godwick Great Barn on 13th November (4pm-8pm) & 14th November (9:30am-3pm). More information to follow on our website.

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

An email received just before the meeting from a resident sharing his thoughts on how to improve road safety in Thornage Village, had been circulated to all Cllrs. A meeting with the new Highways engineer has been arranged and these thoughts will be shared with him at that meeting and this will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

24/54. Chair's Report

In a positive note, I have always believed in encouraging what can be called community spirit, so I was delighted to hear that the stall at the recent Thornage Hall Fete run by the Friends of Thornage which also promoted Church activities was commended by Thornage Hall as a great addition at the fete.

On a sadder note, it is unfortunate that vandalism has happened once again in the village: first it was the campsite signage, then the postbox theft, and most recently political signs during the recent parliamentary election. The Council cannot condone such behaviour and hope that the signs will be returned.

24/55. Clerk's report

A new KYC request has been received from Barclays, initially by email and 10 days later in the post. I have contacted a senior Barclays official who has said that she will look into this, and no action is required at this stage. Mr Hendricks has now been removed as a signatory – thank you Cllr Pearce for organising this.

The next meeting will discuss the budget and agree the Precept for the 2025-26 Financial Year. Please could any Cllrs let me know if there is a need for funds for any proposed projects.

24/56 Planning Matters

- (i) To receive an update on current planning applications - There were none.
- (ii) To Approve the PC response on new Planning Matters - There were none.

24/57. Highways Matters

- (i) To receive an update on the SAM2

Cllr Watchorn reported that he moves the SAM2 every 4 weeks along the main road from one end of the village to the other and vehicles slow down where it is facing them. Acceleration happens in the middle section. The SAM2 will have a spell in Little Thornage some time next year.

The data is available and shows little speeding in the village with most vehicles less than 30mph.

(ii) To receive an update on the B1110 Road Bridge and Approve any action

The hedge has now been cut by NCC on one side, as requested by Cllr Earp when he saw them on site. Frequency of cutting the hedge and around the visibility signs will be added to the agenda for the meeting with the Highways Engineer later this month.

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

Cllr Earp will see if he has any photos of the previous footbridge for comparison with the sizing and accessibility of the previous bridge. They will support Hunworth with Stody PC in any action they decide to take.

(iv) To consider the NCC Urban Grass Cutting Proposal

Cllrs considered the NCC Proposal and unanimously agreed not to take on this task at this time, on a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Pearce.

24/58 To receive an update from the Working Party on Green Spaces in the Parish and Approve any action

Cllr Watchorn stated that there had been no comments following his presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting and it was now proposed to use the Norfolk Wildlife Trust plan as a basis for moving forward. Approximately half the Common would follow this plan and the other half would be managed as now. Cllr Cox will be in charge of the Tree work and will take on the responsibility of being the contact with the NNDC Tree Officer and the Astley Estate for obtaining the necessary permissions. He will also provide the Risk Assessments. Cllr Hammond mentioned that fruit trees had been planted some years earlier. Cllr Cox said that he would prune them. Cllr Watchorn asked for contingency to be put into next year's budget for trees and for wild flowers. The plan was unanimously Approved on a Proposal by Cllr Watchorn and Seconded by Cllr Anderson.

The volunteer who had previously cut the grass on the small tringle at one end of the village had informed the PC that he would no longer be doing this at the start of this year. It was now in need of work and a tree had died on the land. Cllr Cox will sort this area out, including sending an advisory notice to the Tree Officer about the removal of the dead tree.

24/59. To receive an update on the Volunteers Group

Paint has been purchased for the Telephone Box and Treatment to maintain the Noticeboard. It is planned to complete the refurbishment this year. Cllr Cox to lead and to provide the Clerk with a Risk Assessment.

Cllrs propose to undertake a Litter Pick in the Autumn when the foliage dies back. NNDC Cllr Brown will supply dates he can attend and the equipment from NNDC,

24/60. Finance and Governance Matters

(i) To Approve the Cashbook and Payments list and note actual spending against budget.

The balance in the Barclays account is £4,122.13, balanced to the 31st July bank statement.

Receipts: £62.40 – UK Power Networks Wayleave Payment

Payments: C. Harris £622.00 (Clerk's salary, April – June); HMRC £155.40 (Tax on salary); Countrystyle Recycling £24.00 (Bottlebank); C. Harris £622.00 (Clerk's salary, July - September); HMRC £155.40 (Tax on salary); C. Harris £36.00 (Clerk's Expenses); Thornage All Saints PCC £40.00 (Hire of Church for meetings 22nd May & 18th September).

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

Paul Hendrick will be removed from the signatories list.

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

Actual spend was compared with budget and all was found to be in order.

(ii) To Appoint Mrs. Di Dann as the Internal Auditor for 2024 – 2025 Financial Year.

This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Anderson and Seconded by Cllr Cox.

(iii) To Approve the following policies: Financial Regulations; Biodiversity.

There were no questions and the policies were Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Watchorn and Seconded by Cllr Dickson.

24/61. To Approve the publication of the next Newsletter

Content to include Green Spaces (Cllr Watchorn to draft); profile of Cllr Cox; Reports from all Village Groups that submit a piece for inclusion; Village events and Church services; update after the Highways meeting; reminder that the next meeting will include a decision on next year's precept. Contributions to the Clerk in time for a November publication.

24/62. To note any Correspondence

Holt Police SNAP meetings
Parish Partnership Scheme
East of England Ambulance Survey
Marie Curie charity request
NCC Cllr Dalby September report
Polling District venue information

NPTS Newsletters: June, August
Housing Allocation Survey
NCC Cllr Dalby August report
NNDC Planning Roadshow online
Local Plan Inspector's Letter

24/63. To set the rota for the Bottle and Paper Banks

October – Cllr Earp; November – Cllr Hammond; December – Cllr Cox

24/64. Any Other Business (for information only)

To be added to the next agenda: Highways: back road to Stody; Astley Estate: footpath and access.

24/65 Dates for future meetings;

PC meeting – Wednesday 11th December 6.30pm

24/66. To close the meeting: The meeting closed at 7.56pm.

Signed

Date: