

THORNAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of the Thornage Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.00pm 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), NCC Cllr Michael Dalby, 2 residents.

1. Election of Chair

Dan Earp was unanimously voted as Chair to the PC on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Anderson. He signed the Declaration of Office.

2. Election of Vice Chair

Dany Pearce was unanimously elected as Vice-Chair, on a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Watchorn.

3. Welcome

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

4. To consider Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from NNDC Cllr Brown.

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

There were none.

6. To Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd March 2023

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2023 were unanimously approved on a Proposal by Cllr Anderson and Seconded by Cllr Hammond.

7. To review minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd March

The minutes were seen to be a true record of the meeting.

8. Matters Arising

There were none.

9. Open Forum for Public Participation

9.1 Report from NCC Cllr Dalby

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

Norfolk's annual road surface dressing is now underway:. The new seal consists of a thin layer of bitumen and chippings which is laid onto the road. This helps prevent water penetration and helps stop potholes opening up; Norfolk Trading Standards issues charger safety warning after two lithium battery fires; Enhanced bus services between North Norfolk and Norwich launch next week; Repair of Footbridge – materials have been ordered for the repair of the footbridge and the repair should commence by the end of the month – Contact him if not.

Cllr Dalby will also look into issues raised at the meeting: the condition of the road towards Holt after Surface Dressing and a large pothole on the road to Hunworth.

Report from NNDC Cllr Brown

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

Local Election Results - Cllr Brown had been re-elected. and the Lib Dems continue to hold control over NNDC with 25 seats out of 40; Voter Photo Identity Rules - The Council was asked to keep records on the effect of the new rules at every Polling Station. Local Government Devolution – The Bennett Institute and Institute for Government have released a detailed review of local government structures For their recommendations on how to address this issue visit www.bennettinstitute.cam.ac.uk and instituteforgovernment.org.uk.; Affordable Homes Rescue– A recent planning committee decision has saved 23 from 52 dwellings being built on Hempstead Road in Holt; Anti-Social Behaviour– Under a new scheme announced by the Government, offenders will be made to repair the damage they cause to communities with work starting within 48 hours of an offence being committed. Council Agenda for 2023-27 – The new administration will be working on the new Corporate Plan for the next 4 years. Voting Reform Motion - An opposition motion was passed by the Council last month requesting the Chief Executive of the Council to write to the Government urging an urgent reform of the voting system to replace the outdated first past the post system; Second Home Planning Consultation - The Council are responding to a consultation in April to look at new rules to give communities greater control over short term holiday lets in the tourism sector. Finally I would like to thank everyone regardless of whether you voted for me and I will continue to serve this District to the best of my ability.

Cllr Dalby left the meeting.

9.2 Reports from Other Organisations

FROTH

More people have joined the lottery, and there will be a meeting later in the month to plan the rest of the year. FROTH is looking at ways to liaise with other groups in the village and to support them in their activities.

Thornage Hall

Salads and cakes were provided by Thornage Hall for the Coronation Event and many tenants attended. Photos can be used with permission from the Hall. It was noted that there had been a change of management.

Church

The Church is looking for support for the events it hosts – “Use it or lose it”.

9.3 Opportunity for Members of the Public to raise questions or concerns

Outgoing Cllr John Pugh-Smith thanked residents local to the Bottle bank for their help dealing with the water and laying duck boards to make the bottle banks accessible – type 2 hoggin was recommended for a more permanent solution and the area joining the layby and road edge will need to be resolved. There is a pond behind the bottle bank and 1 on the adjoining property. The Astleigh estate have agreed to clear out the culverts to the brook.

Water meadows: The land has been let to a Melton cattle farmer and the meadows have been fenced to accommodate cows. Dogs must now be on leads when on the footpath.

Campsite: the election has prevented a determination. The PC has to decide whether to maintain their current position, or whether this is the best solution that could be achieved.

GVCAA – there is no update.

Second Homes legislation – mentioned in the report from Cllr Brown: the Clerk to be asked to send an email asking NNDC for additional information to ensure the money can be spent locally.

10. Chair's Report

The Chair thanked the outgoing Cllrs: John Pugh-Smith and John Garner for all the work they had undertaken while members of the Council. He thanked Cllrs for standing again and welcomed the new Cllrs.

He also wanted to express thanks to Dany and Jerry Pearce for the success of the Jubilee event.

Cllr Hammond left the meeting.

11. Clerk's report

The clerk informed the meeting that she had nothing to add to the Financial Report below.

12. Finance and Governance Matters

12.1 Agree the Internal Audit undertaken for y/e 31st March 2023

The recommendations from the Internal Audit Report:

SAM2 should be included on the Asset Register and a Risk Assessment drawn up for the volunteers managing it

Village Sign: Costs relating to any purchase or activity should be obtained in writing prior to purchase

Receipts and payments should be recorded in the Minutes and cross referenced to the cashbook

Chairman to sign the end of year Bank Statement and Bank Reconciliation

Cllr Pearce agreed to continue as Cllr responsible for Finance

These were agreed by all on a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Anderson

12.2 Agree the signing of the Exemption Certificate for 2022/23

This was agreed by all on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Dickson

12.3 Agree the Governance Statement for 2022/23 (AGAR Form 2)

This was agreed by all on a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Anderson

12.4 Agree the Accounting Statement for 2022/23 (AGAR Form 2)

This was agreed by all on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Dickson

12.5 To note the dates of the Notice of Public Rights

The Clerk informed the PC that the dates for Public Rights would be 12th June to 21st July.

12.6 To adopt The General Power of Competence

This was agreed by all on a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Hendrick.

12.7 Approve the Cashbook and Payments list

The balance in the Barclays account is £4,350.86

Receipts: NNDC £2,250.00 (Precept payment);

Payments: Countrystyle Recycling £9.00 (Emptying of Bottle Bank); Zurich Municipal £214.00 (Annual Insurance); Thornage PCC £18.75 (Hire of Church)

These were approved on a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Watchorn

12.8 To consider a report on future banking provider and to agree signatories to the bank account

The PC discussed changing Banking Provider to Unity Bank, but the PC did not want to pay a monthly fee.

Cllr Pearce offered to manage the new signatories to the account and Cllrs decided to remain with Barclays if this process worked smoothly.

New signatories were agreed to be Cllrs Anderson, Dickson, Hendrick and Watchorn.

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

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DRAFT until AGREED at following meeting.

12.9 Approve the Asset Register

The SAM2 was added to the Asset Register and the Noticeboard was updated to reflect its new value. The Asset Register was Agreed on a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Dickson

13. To receive an update on Planning Matters

These have been reported in Item 9.3 above

14. To receive an update on the Village Sign and to Approve the final payment of £250.00

The appearance of the renovated sign was discussed and it was deemed to be satisfactory. The final payment was Approved by all on a Proposal by Cllr Anderson and Seconded by Cllr Watchorn.

15. To Approve any action on the bus service through Thornage

The PC had received a request from a resident about an empty bus travelling through Thornage daily on weekdays and whether there was a possibility of approaching the Bus Company for an improved service. A letter will be sent to Saunders to make enquires and NNDC noting their non-car policy.

16. To receive an update on the SAM2

Reports are now available showing the speed of vehicles approaching the SAM2 at different locations. The data will be sent to Cllr Watchorn who will produce a report for the Newsletter. Cllr Earp will discuss the information with local police to see if there was information that could lead to further action. The data will be sent to all Cllrs.

The Cllrs discussed whether the existence of the SAM2 made drivers more aware of their speed and anecdotal evidence suggested that it made drivers slow down and this was a benefit.

Cllr Earp suggested that the one thing not done was up a Speed Watch Group, however, this required volunteers to run it.

17. To receive an update on the Volunteers Group and to agree Parish Council responsibility

Cllr Hendrick volunteered to take responsibility for the group.

Cllr Earp will provide a list of outstanding tasks to be completed.

The Clerk will contact the company who installed the White Gates for advice on cleaning them.

18. To receive an update on the Path to the Common and appoint the Working Party

Cllr Earp will make enquiries with Lord Hastings regarding his intentions about a footpath: as it is his land, the PC is unable to get funding.

Cllr Watchorn will have a look at the current footpath.

19. To Agree the publication of the next Newsletter

This should go out about 10th June.

Information should be included on: a report on the Coronation, the new Council, Cattle on the footpath and wanting the Church to be used.

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.

20. To note any Correspondence

22.03.23	Work by the Environment agency on the River Stiffkey
31.03.23	Highways Inspection
24.04.23	Holt Neighbourhood Plan

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

June – Cllr Earp, July – Cllr Anderson, August – Cllr Dickson, August – Cllr Watchorn

22. Any Other Business (for information only)

The Norfolk Wildlife Trust Survey and Consultation should go on the agenda for the next meeting. Outgoing Cllr Pugh-Smith suggested that as the Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal mentions the Green as a green space the PC need to be aware that Planning Permission may be needed to change its status.

23. Dates for future meetings.

Thursday 13th July, Wednesday 18th October, Wednesday 6th December.

24. To close the meeting

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed

Date: