



THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27th January 2025 in the Conference Room at the Thursford Exhibition

Present: Cllr S. Eckworth (Chair), Cllrs J. Bolam, J. Coles, K. Crompton, R. Garrett, G. Pointer (Vice Chair), R. Wilkes and Parish Clerk – K. Harris, 2 members of the Public
NNDC Cllr Butikofer.

25/01 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

25/02 To consider apologies and reasons

There were no apologies.

25/03 To receive declarations of Interest and request for dispensations in any of the agenda items

There were none.

25/04 To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th November 2024.

The minutes were Approved by all and signed by Cllr Eckworth on a Proposal by Cllr Pointer and Seconded by Cllr Coles.

25/05 Matters arising on the Minutes (for information only), not included on the agenda

Cllr Bolam reported that there had been no further progress on the Village Green: the pampas grass has been cleared and the brambles have been cut back.

Cllr Bolam gave an update on the parked cars in Clarks Lane: 5 is the maximum that will be on the site.

It was clarified to the meeting that Clarks Lane is a restricted byway [a public right of way that allows people to travel on foot, horseback or by non-mechanically propelled vehicles]. Responsibility for clearing the ditch has not been ascertained.

Two moles have been caught on the Village Green, but the contractor is not continuing. Cllr Bolam will seek another quote.

25/06 Open Forum for Public Participation

- i. Receive reports from NNDC Cllr Butikofer, NCC Cllr Aquarone

NCC Cllr Aquarone – No report had been received.

The Clerk updated Cllrs on NCC actions – Norfolk will receive £56million in 2025 for road repairs; Norfolk topped the National Highways & Transport survey for the second year in a row with residents giving high satisfaction scores for road conditions; Norfolk has received 4 new tactical response vehicles to update the fire and rescue fleet; NCC has been asked to join the government priority Programme for devolution which would lead to County elections being delayed for one year.

NNDC Cllr Butikofer gave an update in person at the meeting:

Devolution: This would lead to the formation of a unitary authority and a separately elected mayor, the abolition of the District Councils and potentially more powers being devolved to Parish Councils although details are not available yet. Although NCC have requested to join the priority scheme, so have more Councils than expected so only those which already have a viable scheme will be accepted: it is not yet known whether this will include Norfolk and Suffolk. The decision will probably be known by about 11th February.

Tyre Baling Yard: Cllr Butikofer confirmed that this is still being investigated and that a report is being given by NNDC Cllr Hankins to the Fulmodeston with Barney Parish Council meeting also this evening. The site wants to apply for retrospective planning permission, but the noise has to be evaluated first. MP Steffan Aquarones's case workers are also involved regarding the site.

Rocket House in Cromer has less serious problems than originally thought: the toilets were not properly plumbed in, so the facility should re-open more quickly.

Second Homes Council Tax: NNDC have a meeting on 29th January to discuss the amount of this tax they hope to receive from NCC as the tax collected is being doubled from April.

Receive report from local Police Beat Officer - No report has been received. Cllr Eckworth will send her a reminder of the dates of PC meetings for the coming year.

ii. An opportunity for members of the public to raise questions or concerns

A resident requested that the dis-used bus stop sign on the Village Green be removed. Cllr Eckworth to contact NCC Highways.

A resident mentioned mud and grass on Church Lane and Heathe Lane. It was recommended to use the NCC Highways Report a Problem portal for these issues. It was confirmed that potholes were repaired using this method.

A resident confirmed that he had painted the red areas on the Arch and also painted the post box.

25/07 To receive an update and Approve any Action on the Tyre Bundling Plant in the Parish of Fulmodeston with Barney

Also – see NNDC Cllr Butikofer's report.

It was noted that the Depot is applying for retrospective planning permission, which they don't have even though they have a licence to bale tyres and that they require an environmental noise report. Concern was expressed that there has been no enforcement action, even though a "Notice To Stop" could have been issued.

Concern was expressed that a tyre baling yard – with consequent fire and environmental contamination risk – could be located next to a business dealing in wood.

Cllr Coles was concerned that if nothing happened within 5 years from commencement of the activity, they may be deemed to have automatic consent.

The action of lorries on the Highway constituted dangerous driving and obstruction of the highway and should be reported to the police.

Cllrs confirmed they wanted the business to be safe for residents and road users.

25/08 To receive an update on funding for the Defibrillator

The sponsored walk had raised £1,150 towards the replacement defibrillator, which should leave some funds for future replacement pads and batteries, Cllr Eckworth said it was a massive achievement and thanked the Cllr and resident who had achieved this.

The date for defibrillator training has not been confirmed by Hindringham Village Hall

Thornage PC are also interested in the training.

25/09 To receive an update from the consultation in the Tablet on flag flying in the village and Approve any action

Cllrs reviewed the comments received. 90% wanted the Ukrainian flag to continue to be flown in the village. Cllrs unanimously agreed to support the majority view on a Proposal by Cllr Bolan and seconded by Cllr Crompton.

25/10 Planning matters.

i. To receive an update on current planning applications

PF/24/1741: Church View Cottage – Approved

PF/24/2141: 6 Clark's Lane – Approved

PF/24/2456: Thursford Collection, Outdoor Play Area – Pending consideration.

ii. Planning Applications since the close of the agenda

PF/24/2431: Driftend Farm – 2-storey extension to existing dwelling & replacement doors & windows: Cllrs unanimously agreed to Support this application

PF/24/2654: 2 North Lane – part 2 storey & part 1 storey extension: Cllrs unanimously agreed to Support this application

RV/25/0062: amendments to PF/22/0002: Cllrs unanimously agreed to Support this application.

25/11 Financial and Governance Matters

NNDC Accountancy had sent an email with a potential change to the Tax Base due to the Second-Home premium. NNDC are planning to discuss and make a decision on this at their Ccl Meeting on 29th January. Cllrs discussed the implications and on a Proposal by Cllr Bolam and seconded by Cllr Pointer unanimously Approved retaining the £47.75 Band D charge Approved at their meeting in November.

i. To Approve the Cashbook and Payments List and note actual spending against budget

The balance in the Community Account, balanced to the 13th December Bank statement, was £4,238.38 and, after receipt of 31st December statement £6,447.74 in the NS&I Deposit Account. Receipts since the last meeting: £64.01 (Annual interest to the NS&I deposit account)

The following payments are awaiting Approval: Fakenham Prepress - £33.00 (Newsletter), C. Harris - £396.63 (Clerk's salary October – December and backdated LGA), HMRC - £99.00 (Tax on salary), ICO - £35.00 (Annual registration fee). This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Crompton and Seconded by Cllr Garrett.

ii. To Approve a transfer of £1,000 to Reserves

Transfer of £1,000 to Reserves was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Coles and Seconded by Cllr Pointer.

iii. To review and Approve the following policies: Risk Management, Co-option, Freedom of Information Guide to Publication

Cllr Garrett noticed that the Dog Waste Bin needed to be added to S. 7 the FOI Guide to Information. This was added. There were no other amendments. The policies were Approved on a Proposal by Cllr Garrett and Seconded by Cllr Bolam.

iv. To Approve £15.70 = 20% Training fees for the Clerk to attend the NPTS Spring Seminar

This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Pointer and Seconded by Cllr Coles.

v. To receive an update and Approve payment for the purchase of an acrylic notice for the Village Green

The resident who ordered the Village Sign has donated it to the Village. Cllr Eckworth thanked him for the donation on behalf of the PC

25/12 To receive an update on Highways Matters

There is damage to the hedge on the S bend at the approach to the village from Walsingham which was hit by 2 vehicles in a single day due to ice. Cllr Bolam has reported this to Highways.

25/13 To arrange a date for a Litter Pick through the Parish

Dates agreed – 15th and 16th March. Cllr Bolam will co-ordinate
The Clerk will prepare posters and arrange for the litter to be collected.

25/14 To arrange a date for a volunteer group to tidy the cemetery.

Cllr Eckworth asked whether the village should have two clear ups each year. Cllr Bolam thought this would not be necessary.

Date agreed – 8th March.

A resident agreed to bring refreshments.

25/15 To request contributions for the Tablet before:

12th February

25/16 To note any correspondence

The following correspondence has been sent to Cllrs since the last meeting:

MP S Aquarone's end of year report

Fakenham Police Priority meetings

NNDC possible Council Tax Base changes

25/17 To note the dates of meetings for 2025:

Mondays, 7pm – 17th March, 12th May, 15th September, 3rd November

The PC have permission to use the Pavilion if disabled access is required.

Annual Parish Meeting – Provisional date Monday 7th April 6pm at St Andrews Church

Cllr Eckworth is planning to invite representatives from the PCC, Methodist Church, SAV, Fuel

Allotments, Allotments and representatives of local businesses Mr. C Cushing and Mrs. V Cushing

25/18 Any Other Business – for information only

Cllr Wilkes noted that he had submitted a complaint and spoken to an officer of the Council.

24/95 To close the meeting – There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.27pm.

Signed

Date