

Thorpe St Andrew Town Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st September 2008

Present:

Mr R. S. R James (Town Mayor)	Mr J. F. Fisher
Mr J. M. Ward (Deputy Town Mayor)	Mr S. Freeman-Pannett
Mr A. J. Barber	Mrs E. C. Laming
Mrs O. M. Campbell	Mr G. Rowe
Mr D. E. Eley	Mr D. R. C. Spooner
Mr J. Emsell	

Apologies : - Miss S. P. Lawn, Mr I. J. Mackie, Mr E. A. Newberry, Mr N. Shaw

In Attendance: Mr S. J. Ford (Town Clerk), Mrs C. M. Watkins (Assistant Clerk)

2. Declarations of Interest

Mr R. S. James, Mr J. F. Fisher, Mr J. M. Ward and Mr S. Freeman-Pannett expressed personal and non prejudicial interests in the Civic Award nomination in that they were members or supporters of the Royal British Legion.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held 4th August

The minutes of the meeting held 4th August, previously circulated to members were approved and signed after item no 13 was amended to "It was **AGREED** to support the installation of a bus shelter at The Denes, Yarmouth Road.

4. Announcements

The Town Mayor Mr R. S. James had attended the SNAP meeting on 27th August and reported that Sgt R. Cork was very pleased to report that crime in general in Thorpe St Andrew was reducing and that the Town was now at the bottom of the league for Hotspots. Sgt R. Cork was also pleased that the area on Laundry Lane next to recreation ground has been opened to enable police to have a good view over the area from the road. An extra police presence near there has been promised to address some nuisance behaviour on Laundry Lane that had started up again.

Town Clerk Mr S. J. Ford announced that he had met the person buying Thorpe Marshes and that he wished to continue to negotiate with him regarding their possible sale.

5. Public Participation

Mr P. Rope requested that information be obtained regarding the north side footpath on St Williams Way as signs had been moved that seem to indicate this was being converted into a combined foot/cycle way.

Mrs G. Abbott of Laundry Lane required clarification regarding the felling of lime trees at the recreation ground. It was her view that other residents' problems caused by nuisance behaviour in Laundry Lane were blown out of all proportion and that trouble makers have moved on from the school.

Mr W. Aspin of Laundry Lane considered removal of over twelve trees that were not dead or diseased as vandalism although he could see the reasoning for the removal of the trees immediately adjacent to the Bowls Club.

Mr D. Sorrell of the Royal British Legion Thorpe Branch asked if there were funds available for improvements to the War Memorial on River Green and if any action to improve was imminent. The picket fencing was in the way on Armistice Day and could make the memorial seem unapproachable for the community.

The memorial is to be included in the whole of the River Green improvements project that would lead to an integrated landscaping scheme being put forward by a landscape architect. The fencing had been installed to prevent the wild fowl fouling on the memorial and to prevent them removing the Remembrance crosses.

District Councillors

Mr J. Fisher announced that following negotiations with the developer of 149 Yarmouth Road the dwellings would incorporate renewable energy. The Town's s106 money held by the District Council was to be used for new open recreational space or the provision and maintenance of recreation equipment. This could include equipment aimed at the elderly and could possibly be incorporated in the scheme for the proposed community garden.

Mr J. Ward had attended an Extraordinary General Meeting of Broadland District Council to discuss the Boundary Committee report. There would be 21 Community Partnership Boards formed that would possibly reduce the power devolved to them as a Town Council.

Police

At the recent SNAP meeting it had been reported that overall crime was down in the area. The opening up of the area behind the tennis courts where anti-social behaviour had been a problem in the past was welcomed and supported. Additional policing had provided more police presence recently.

6. Town Tree Warden's Report

The contents of the report were noted. The tree warden, Mr P. Rope praised the grounds staff for the work they had carried out clearing leaves around the sycamore tree on the green in an attempt to reduce the damage caused by the Leaf Miner infection. He considered this had paid off and that the tree was in a better state as a result. Mr Rope supported the tree and hedge works that were in progress at Laundry Lane.

7. Payment of Accounts

Cheque numbers 003071 – 003124 totalling £27930.38, on the 2008/09 payments list were approved and signed.

8. Draft Minutes of Meetings Plans Committee

The draft minutes of the Plans Committee meeting held on 11th August were noted. The District Valuer would give advice on compensation payments that would be made with regard to the Flood Alleviation Scheme at Horsewater, Yarmouth Road.

Finance and Staff Committee

The draft minutes of the Finance and Staff Committee meeting held on 18th August were noted. All hirers' agreements were currently being rewritten.

Events Committee

The draft minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 19th August were noted.

9. Norfolk County Council

(i) Norfolk County Council had offered grants towards the cost of two bus shelters.

Mr D. Eley proposed that the bus shelter issue be dealt with by the Recreation and Amenities Committee as the shelter would be incorporated into the River Green Plan.

This was seconded by Mr A. Barber and it was **AGREED** to refer the matter to that committee.

(ii) Countrywide Bus Stop Infrastructure Improvements Phase 2, Thunder Lane.
Information on the improvements was noted.

(iii) Spinney Road/Thunder Lane, proposed prohibition of waiting at any time restriction.

Information on a revised scheme that met the Council's previous objections was noted.

10. Broadland District Council

(i) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Town Police Clauses Act
It was **AGREED** that a letter of support for the proposals be sent.

(ii) Parish plan/Grant Support.

Information on grants that were available to support parish plans and community projects was noted.

(iii) Results from the Annual meeting for Towns and Parishes re local government review questions.

Town Mayor Mr R. James stated that there was a great deal of talk and not a great deal of action at the Annual Meeting.

11. Application for co-option onto the Council

One written application had been received for the vacancy and a number of verbal expressions had been received by the Clerk and Mr J. F. Fisher. It was **AGREED** that it would be best practice to have the choice of more than one candidate, the applications would therefore be considered at the next meeting.

12. Town Council Agenda Items and Committee Meeting Minute Ratification Thorpe St Andrew Town Council Committee System

Mr J Ward proposed that the Finance and Staff Committee and the Recreation and Amenities Committee are amalgamated to create the Finance and General Purpose Committee which would meet monthly the week prior to the full Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr J. F. Fisher and it was **RESOLVED** by seven votes in favour and one against with two abstentions to take the proposal forward.

13. Meeting with Natural England re the Crown Point Marshes

Information on a meeting that had been held with Natural England, Broads Authority, Norwich Fringe Project, Savills and Town Council members and officers were noted. Following the meeting management income and cost figures and the potential income from ESA grant funding from Natural England would be collated and brought to a future meeting to consider the long term management of the nature reserve. Mr J. Ward stated now that he had attended the meeting he was now more confident that this would be a step in the right direction for Thorpe St Andrew Town Council.

14. Proposed Standing Order Amendments

See attached addendum. A number of changes were made to standing orders and the revised document would be brought to the October meeting for ratification.

15. The Queen's award for Voluntary Service 2009

Information on how to nominate volunteers for the Queen's Award was noted.

16. War Memorial, Royal British Legion

Mr D. Spooner, Recreation and Amenities Committee Chairman said that the River Green was being overhauled in general. Planning permission was required for the posts and rails and other improvements that were under consideration. The war memorial was included in the River Green improvements project that would lead to an integrated landscaping scheme being put forward by a landscape architect. The fencing had been installed to prevent the wild fowl fouling on the memorial and to prevent them removing the Remembrance crosses. The Royal British Legion would be invited to meet with the landscape architect at future meeting to discuss their concerns.

17. Letter from resident of Laundry Lane re the Pollarded Lime Trees

Mr D. Spooner pointed out that the trees have not been pollarded as initially intended and as they are growing currently they are affecting the gutters and roof of the bowls club. The walls need re-pointing and there is damp inside the building. The tree roots are also growing into the foundations of the building. The trees are not particularly good specimens and some are diseased. Further information would be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

18. NCAPTC, Standards Boards Complaints procedures review

The Association were seeking views on proposed amendments on the way Standards Board Complaints were handled. It was the view of the meeting that a local determination over a national one was favoured and that in general the Council was sufficiently informed about the new determination regime and its process. Members would not be indemnified from legal costs arising from defending an allegation in respect of breaching the code.

19. EDP Pride in Norfolk Awards competition

Information that Thorpe St Andrew had not succeeded in being a winner or runner up in the annual competition was noted.

20. NRCC, Save the environment and money for your hall energy auditing course

Information on a course to enable a basic energy audit of community buildings was noted.

21. Representation to the Boundary Committee re proposed Unitary Authority

A response to the five points that the Committee wanted comments on would be submitted stating:

- (i) There will be loss of democratic representation. There is also concern that the CPB's could reduce the Town Council's authority and responsibilities.
- (ii) There are serious doubts regarding the Committee's proposals regarding strong, effective and accountable strategic leadership - how could this work with fewer councillors per populace.
- (iii) Regarding value-for-money service - Broadland had been a very efficient council and Norwich City Council had not. The proposed unitary authority would be inefficient cost wise due to a wider area that it would serve.
- (iv) All unitaries so far have failed to pay back their transition costs within five years and there is no evidence that the new authority would be any different.
- (v) There is no evidence of support for Unitary Status, never mind a broad cross section of support. There is strong evidence of opposition to the proposals on the Committee's web site.

There would be no advantage to Thorpe St Andrew or indeed any other suburb of Norwich. The Status Quo is the preferred option.

22. Norfolk Waste Partnership Conference and AGM 2008

Mr J. Fisher and Mr J Ward would attend the conference on 23 October at the John Innes Centre, Colney.

23. Request for donation from the Normandy Veterans Associations

The request for a donation was noted.

24. Planting proposal no 7 Skippon Way

The proposed shrub planting was not supported. Details of the planting proposals would be sent to the County Council together with a request for a licence to plant the two trees in the grass verge.

25. New development officer appointed for the Broadland Area, NRCC

The information was noted.

26. Civic Award Nomination

It was proposed by Mr J. F. Fisher and seconded by Mr S. Freeman-Pannett and unanimously **RESOLVED** that a Civic Award for 2008 should go to Mr and Mrs B Tarring.

27. Morse Pavilion Boiler

Dukes Heating Engineers had carried out a number of repairs and had recommended that the boiler should be replaced by two smaller units. If that was carried out hot water would still be available from one boiler if the other boiler failed. The Recreation Committee would be recommended to budget for its replacement over a period of three years.

27. Future Agenda Items

It was suggested that the Budget needs to be an agenda item to set a percentage increase following succession of budget proposals for 2008/09 that had been prepared and discarded following a late decision to set an overall increase and then adjust budgets to fit that increase.

Date of next meeting 6th October 2008 at the Dussindale Centre 7.30pm.