

Thorpe St Andrew Town Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th April 2010

1. Present: Mr R. S. James (Town Mayor) Miss S. P. Lawn
Mr J. M. Ward (Deputy Town Mayor) Mr I. J. Mackie
Mr G. Allison Mr E. A. Newberry
Mr D. E. Eley Mr R. Robson
Mr J. Emsell Mr G. Rowe
Mr D. R. C. Spooner

Apologies: . Mr A. J. Barber, Mrs E. C. Laming, Mr N. Shaw,
Mr S. Freeman-Pannett, Mr J. F. Fisher,
Mr P. Rope, Town Tree Warden

In attendance: Mr S. J. Ford,

2. Declarations of interest: Mr I. J. Mackie and Mr J. M. Ward declared a personal interest in any matters relating to Norfolk County Council and Broadland District Council as members of those councils.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2010, previously circulated to members were approved and signed. Mr D. E. Eley pointed out that he had requested that a report on Dussindale Park Community Trust should be listed under Item 5 Public Participation each month.

4. Announcements:

None.

5. Public Participation:

The Town Mayor then put forward a motion, seconded by Mr J. M. Ward to suspend the meeting to enable members of the public to speak. Following a vote the meeting was suspended to enable members of the public, the Chairman of Dussindale Park Community Trust, Town and District Councillors to speak. Notes on the public session are attached as an addendum to the minutes of the Town Council meeting.

6. Payment of accounts

(i) Cheque numbers 003914 – 003960 totalling £27,124.38p, on the 2009/10 payments list were approved and signed.

(ii) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the appointment of Mrs P. James as Internal Auditor for the current financial year.

7. Tree Warden's report

The content of the monthly report was noted. The summer walks with the Tree Warden would commence on 18 May with a walk around Dussindale/Business Park. Information on Tree Preservation Orders at 63 Furze Road, 24 Booty Road and Laundry Lane recreation ground was noted.

8. Draft minutes of committee meetings

Plans Committee

The draft minutes of the Plans Committee meeting held on 8th and 29th March 2010 were noted.

Media and Publications Committees

The draft minutes of the Media and Publications Committee meeting held on 9th March 2010 were noted.

Events Committee

The draft minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 30th March 2010 were noted.

9. Update on the marshes

Mr R. Beazley of Savills, the land agents for Crown Point Estate, had submitted Heads of Terms for a ten year lease of the Thorpe Marshes nature reserve. Mr Beazley had indicated that he would be unwilling to grant the Norwich Fringe Project a lease as suggested by the Town Council. Management of the site by the Fringe Project would be supported but it was considered by Mr Beazley that the leaseholder needed to be an organisation that was not dependent on partnership funding for its existence. The Fringe Project had provided a 5 year management plan that showed it could manage and improve the site on the existing level of income. Natural England had indicated it was likely that it could provide larger funding if the site entered into the ten year Higher Level Stewardship funding stream it offered. It was **AGREED** that the Town Council had already said it did not have the capacity or capability to take on the management of Thorpe Marshes nature reserve. Although not wishing to take on the lease the Town Council would be willing to cooperate with other bodies that would be willing and capable of taking on the management of the nature reserve.

10. Update on Olive's Garden

The Rotary Club national president had recently visited the garden and been very impressed with the work that had been carried out. Benches would be installed later in the year.

11. Update on River Green

It was **AGREED** to appoint Ms Su Chisnel as project manager for the construction of the project. A minimum of six site visits would be made whilst the contractors were on site but more would be made if necessary. Norfolk Wildlife Trust Services had been asked to quote for the pre tree works bat survey that was a planning condition.

12. Town Plan

The Town Plan had been distributed and a number of compliments had been received for its content.

13. Thorpe St Andrew Burial Trust

The Charity Commission advised that the Burial Trust charity had acted appropriately to the request for the charity to transfer the surplus burial land to the Town Council. It was noted that such a transfer would not be regarded by the Charity Commission as an appropriate cy pres application and would not be approved.

14. Amendments to standing orders

Amendments would be considered in May after the committee review had taken place.

15. Encroachment of land at Dussindale Park

Norfolk County Council Legal Services had been instructed to proceed with the sale of the land.

16. Prejudicial interests and confidential business

The Standards Officer at the District Council had been requested to advise on procedures that should be followed when a member with a prejudicial interest wished to address the council on a confidential item that was to be discussed in the closed session of a Town Council meeting. Standards for England, NALC and the Monitoring Officer had all reached the same conclusion. It would not be technically possible as the public would not have the opportunity to address the Council on matters of confidential business. The only options open to the member with the prejudicial interest would be to either submit views in writing to be considered by the Council in private or alternatively ask a fellow councillor (who did not have a prejudicial interest) to present the case/read out a prepared statement on behalf of the member declaring the prejudicial interest.

17. Advice on Council leases from N.A.L.C.

At this point of the meeting it was **RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be conducted the press and public would be excluded whilst this agenda item was discussed. The confidential minutes are contained in a separate addendum.

18. Loss of sporting facilities at Pinebanks, Yarmouth Road

Following the closure of the Pinebanks leisure and sports club sports facilities used by clubs and organisations outside of Aviva who formerly owned the site. It was understood that the site had been sold to a developer and it was not known if any sporting facilities would be reopened to the public at the site. It was **RESOLVED** to contact Broadland District Council regarding the lost facilities and to request that any development negotiated on the site should result in a s106 payment that would enable provision elsewhere in Thorpe St Andrew of facilities that had been lost. The loss of the Pinebanks facilities had led to an intensification of use of some of the public sporting facilities in the town that as a result were now at capacity.

19. Informing the public of proposed changes to Town Council facilities

It was considered that the nine town notice boards and the website were the prime means of informing residents of any changes that were proposed or would be carried out to Town Council facilities.

20. Dussindale Park allotments

A further 21 year lease on the allotments commencing on the 1st April 2008 had been completed. It was noted that it was unlikely that any of the site would be needed in the event of the proposed rail halt being constructed.

21. Invitation to Norfolk RCC General meeting

Information on an invitation to attend a General Meeting of the Association to appoint new trustees was noted.

22. Greater Norwich Development Partnership

Information that the Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk had been submitted to the Secretary of State was noted.

23. Apportioning Growth in Broadland

Information on a meeting at the District Council on 19 April 2010 to explain the growth agenda was noted. 10,000 new homes in Broadland would be required by 2026; the whole of Broadland would be affected and the meeting would look at towns/parishes that would best be able to accommodate growth.

24. Future agenda items

Miss S. P. Lawn raised concerns regarding the cleaning of the Fitzmaurice Pavilion; the clerk would look into the matter.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Date of next meeting: Annual Meeting of Town Council 7.30pm
Monday 10th May followed by 2010

Annual Public Meeting 7.30pm Tuesday 11th May 2010 at the Village
Hall, Yarmouth Road

Addendum to Town Council minutes of meeting held on 1 March 2010

5 (i) Public Session

P.C. S. McCardle explained that Thorpe St Andrew school, wished to use the redundant garden area at the rear of the Village Hall as an allotment plot as part of a community project where members of the school would grow produce for distribution to needy residents. There were no objections raised by members of use of the plot for that purpose.

A fortnightly surgery was being held with partners by the SNAP team to address issue raised at the regular public SNAP meetings.

P.C. Sam Stolworthy had spoken with members of the Thorpe Gardening Club who were keen for Thorpe St Andrew to take part in the Anglia in Bloom competition.

It was noted that any persons riding a moped/motorcycle on the recreation grounds risked having their machines seized by the Police. A Section 59 notice could be issued to the rider of moped/motorcycle the first time they are seen riding on the park. The notice would be logged on computer and if the machine was ridden a second time on the park it would be seized and not returned to its owner. All instances, including registration number where possible, should be reported to the Police on 0845 456 4567.

County and District Councils

Mr J. M. Ward had attended the Norwich Growth Area Transport Exemplar. It was anticipated that a rapid bus service would be provided along Salhouse Road and Gurney Road. The cost of taking waste to landfill had soared to £48 per tonne resulting in a bill of £11,000,000 for waste disposal.

Mr I. J. Mackie reported that the County Council financial year had ended and £32,000,000 of efficiency savings had been achieved. The Council Tax increase of 1.9% was the lowest ever. There had been a £1,300,000 surplus in the previous financial year and this together with an under spend by adult social services and a one off recoup of VAT charged on museum admission charges had enabled £2,000,000 to be added to the budget for patching potholes.

In the previous week the Unitary Proposal had passed through parliament. It was possible that the order might be revoked by a new government by statutory instrument after the May general election. The cost of setting up the new authority had been calculated at £300,000,000.

Dussindale Park Community Trust

Mr D. E. Eley, Chairman of the Trust said that a new caretaker/cleaner had been appointed for Dussindale Community Centre and would start on 19 April.