

THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th AUGUST 2008

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Mr R. S. James (Town Mayor)	Mrs E. C. Laming
	Mr J. M. Ward (Deputy Town Mayor)	Miss S. P. Lawn
	Mr A. J. Barber	Mr I. J. Mackie
	Mrs O. M. Campbell	Mr E. A. Newberry
	Mr D. E. Eley	Mr G. Rowe
	Mr J. Emsell	Mr N. Shaw
	Mr S. Freeman-Pannett	Mr D. R. C. Spooner

1. Attendance book and apologies for absence.

The attendance book was circulated and signed by those present. Apologies were received from Mr J. F. Fisher.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

Mr I. Mackie, Mr N. Shaw and Mr J. Ward declared non prejudicial interests in agenda item 12 as District Councillors.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on the 7th July 2008

The minutes of the meetings held on the 7th July 2008, previously circulated to members were approved and signed.

4. Announcements (For information only).

Mr R. S. James reported that he had attended the Annual Meeting at Broadland Council of Parish and Town Councils where the topic for discussion was the unitary authority proposals. The status quo was strongly supported however if a unitary authority was imposed the Norfolk County Council proposals were the preferred option.

There had been a Safer Neighbourhoods meeting held earlier in the week that he and a number of other councillors had attended. Some 20 to 30 residents had attended to discuss SNAP members the problems that had occurred in the Ireton Close area in recent weeks. The next full SNAP meeting would be held at the Dussindale Centre at 7.30pm on 27 August 2008.

Residents had raised concerns regarding noisy functions at Thorpe St Andrew School and Mr James had put the Chairman of the Governors in touch with one of the residents but that had not produced a satisfactory outcome.

5. Public participation – It was unanimously resolved by a motion to suspend the meeting to allow members of the public, County and District Councillors the opportunity to address the meeting.

Special Constable Graham Gowland was present to represent Norfolk Constabulary and explained a number of initiatives that were currently being undertaken to address issues that had arisen in the last few weeks. He had been working alongside the P.C.S.O team as they had limited powers. That was not so much the case with Special Constables.

Mr I. Mackie as County Councillor expressed his astonishment at the recent announcement that the NHS Walk In Centre was to close despite the overwhelming support that had been shown to keep it open. It would be replaced by a GP led polyclinic that would operate with shorter hours and reduced parking facilities and could be run by commercial organisations such as Boots.

He had been working with local families who had not been able to get places for their children at their first choice school. A number of cases had been resolved and there were currently two cases waiting to be resolved.

Mr N. Shaw said that there would be more helicopter activity from the airport as Bristow Helicopters had opened a training base there that would increase the number of flights from 30 to 90 flights a day.

Mr J. Ward had attended the Unitary meeting that the Boundary Commission had held at the football ground. They were seeking comments on their proposals and had stressed that the status quo was not part of their remit.

6. Town Plan Questionnaire

About 100 questionnaires had been returned to date. A draw was held for prizes that had been donated by local businesses and winners would be asked to collect their prizes from the Town Council office.

7. Payment of Accounts:

Cheque numbers 003038 – 003070 totalling £19,877.96p, voucher numbers 400 – 408, 413 - 478 on the 2008/09 payments list were approved and signed. The position with the payment to the Bittern Line would be looked into and reported back at a future meeting.

8. Draft minutes of meetings.

Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting

The draft minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meetings held on 14th April and 14th July 2008 were noted for information. At this point it was **AGREED** to bring forward items 17 and 23 on the agenda for discussion.

It was considered that use should be made of s106 funding where possible to bring about a number of improvements to River Green Projects that had been identified were replacement of the posts and rails as soon as possible, the construction of a suitable bird bath, improved disabled access and the erection of a flagpole.

Planners had indicated proposals that had been drawn up for the replacement of the posts and rails by the utilisation of concrete gravel boards to encapsulate the posts were unlikely to be approved. It was **AGREED** that the works should be treated as a matter of urgency and that two schemes should be prepared at budgeted figures of £40,000 and £60,000. A motion was put forward that Su Chisnell, Landscape Architect, should be employed to draw up the proposals and negotiate with the District Council regarding s106 funding. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed in this manner; Mr D. E. Eley requested that his abstention on the vote be recorded.

Plans committee

The draft minutes of the Plans committee held on 21st July 2008 were noted.

9. Town Tree Warden's report

Mr P. Rope, Town Tree Wardens, said that he supported the resolution that had just been passed and that he had been very impressed by Ms Chisnell when he had met her earlier in the year when the River Green works were discussed. At the beginning of July Mr Rope had organised a walk around Carey's Meadow that had been attended by eight people, The contents of the Tree Wardens' Report were noted,

10. Norfolk County Council

(i) Single new unitary council for Norfolk and Lowestoft

Information on the proposals was noted together with a response from Dr Ian Gibson M.P. to a resident who had contacted him regarding unitary proposals. Dr Gibson said there was no compulsion for local government reorganisation.

(ii) Thunder Lane waiting restrictions

Revised proposals had been received suggesting an extension to the previous proposals. It was **AGREED** to respond by requesting once more that the waiting restrictions end at the oak tree by the side of the Post Office forecourt.

(iii) Yarmouth Road waiting restrictions

A new scheme had been put forward suggesting that waiting restrictions should extend from Dales Loke to beyond the entrance to The Oaklands Hotel on both sides of the road. A motion was put that the proposals were far too extensive and that the scheme should be restricted to deal with the problems at the bus lay by pinch point and up to the entrance to the Rushcutters car park. On a show of hands the motion was carried with eight members voting in favour and four against.

11. Broadland District Council

(i) Consultation on weekend voting

The Ministry of Justice was consulting on the merits of moving Election Day from Thursday to the weekend. It was unanimously **AGREED** that there should be no change in the voting day.

(ii) Olympic Flag

It was possible that London 2012 Olympic flag might be available to fly on the afternoon that the Beijing Games closed. It was **AGREED** that it might be possible for the church to fly it on their flagpole.

(iii) Casual vacancy.

A letter of confirmation that there had not been a request for an election to fill the vacancy on the Town Council was noted. Information that the vacancy would be filled by co-option would be posted on the notice boards.

12. Closure if the NHS Walk In Centre

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council continued to oppose the closure of a well used facility, The decision to close the Walk In Centre was contemptuous of public opinion, illogical in that ignores all the advantages of the present site and that replacing the Centre with a new expensive Polyclinic is profligate use of public money.

13 Request for a bus shelter.

There were concerns that take up might be limited on the promotional bags that could be sold at Town Council events. It was **AGREED** to request a sample and request a mock up of the presentation.

14. Standing Orders

The present Standing Orders required reviewing. This was noted and adjourned to the next meeting as the regulations required.

15. Safer Neighbourhoods

Information on the Thorpe St Andrew Safer Neighbourhood Team and the date of the next public meeting at Dussindale Centre on 27 August was noted.

16. Acknowledgement of donation

An acknowledgement of the £100 donation to the British Heart Foundation in memory of Councillor Brooks Simpson was noted.

17. Local Government Pension Scheme – Review of Abatement Policy

It was **AGREED** that Abatement should continue as per the current policy.

18. Thorpe Marshes

Information on a meeting being held in the Town Council office with the Broads Authority, Natural England, Norwich Fringe and the agents for the marshes was noted. Members were welcome to attend. Natural England had indicated funding might be available for the future management of the nature reserve.

19. East of England Regional Assembly

Information on the review of the Draft Project Plan for the Review of the East of England Plan was noted.

20. Members Register of Interests

A reminder to Members to update their entry was noted.

20. Lottery Funding for Play Equipment at Laundry Lane

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the terms set out in the draft agreement with the District Council and the Big Lottery to enable the installation the new play equipment for older children. Additional grants had been obtained from Broadland District Council, WREN.

23. Future agenda items

Mr J. Ward requested that his proposal that the Finance and Staffing Committee and Recreation and Amenities Committee should dissolve and that their work be carried out at Town Council meetings should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Date of next Town Council Meeting 1st September 2008 at 7.30p.m.
At the Dussindale Community Centre.