

Thorpe St Andrew Town Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd February 2009

Present:

Mr R. S. R James (Town Mayor)	Mr S. Freeman-Pannett
Mr J. M. Ward (Deputy Town Mayor)	Mr E. A. Newberry
Mr A. J. Barber	Mrs E. C. Laming
Mr J. F. Fisher	Mr G. Rowe
Mr J. Emsell	Miss S. P. Lawn

Apologies: - Mr G. Allison, Mr D. E. Eley, Mr I. J. Mackie,
Mr N. Shaw, Mr D. R. C. Spooner,

In Attendance: Mr S. J. Ford (Town Clerk)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Mrs E. C. Laming declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 15 Thorpe Marshes as a member of the Broadland Boat Club and would leave the room when the matter was discussed.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held 5th January 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2009, previously circulated to members were approved and signed.

4. Announcements

The Clerk announced that he had received an email earlier in the day advising that Anglian Water would be making a compensation payment of £1000 in respect of the pumping station cabinet that would be installed at Horsewater, Yarmouth Road.

5. Public Participation

The Town Mayor then suspended the meeting to enable members of the public to speak.

A number of residents of Margetson Avenue were present to raise their concerns regarding the increase in traffic and parked cars in the road. They considered that additional waiting restrictions that had recently been placed in St Williams Way had led to a greater number of bank employees and shoppers parking for long periods of time in the Avenue. Vehicles parked on both sides which reduced the width of the road and restricted visibility for residents accessing their property. Residents called for waiting restrictions to be imposed on one side of the road, bollards in verges and a resident's only parking zone.

It was explained that this type of request had been put forward to the highways department at Norfolk County Council for other roads locally that had similar problems. Installation of bollards and residents only parking zones were against County policy except in Norwich and Gt Yarmouth; increased waiting restrictions could have the effect of simply moving the problem. Town Mayor Mr R. S. James said that the requests for control measures would again be brought forward to the highways department. District Councillor Mr J. F. Fisher said he would try and get support from the District Council.

Mr P. Rope noted that the Lord Mayor of Norwich has recently visited Langley School and asked if the correct civic protocol had been followed. Mr J. F. Fisher informed Mr Rope that according to civic protocol the Lord Mayor could not wear his chain of office outside of the City. It was **AGREED** to write to the City Council requesting that the correct protocol be followed whenever the Lord Mayor was making an official visit outside of the city of Norwich.

Police

The police were not in attendance; however the crime figures for the previous month were circulated and showed a very low level of incidents.

District Councillors

Mr J. M. Ward had attended the inaugural meeting of the Norfolk Archaeological Group at the Great Hospital where aerial photographs dating back to the 1940's that were used to identify sites of archaeological interest. 90% of the sites identified were previously unknown. The next meeting would focus on Thetford and the A11 corridor.

Mr J. M. Ward and Mrs S. P. Lawn had attended the annual meeting held by the Police. It was reported that crime was down; 82% of the current budget was attributable to staff costs. There had been a clamp down on raves. A decision on the budget increase of 3%, 3.9% or 4.9% would be made on 19 February 2009.

Mr J. F. Fisher said that a 2% increase in the District Council's budget was likely. The Council was looking to make use of capital reserves to encourage businesses to take up their training courses.

County Councillor Mr I. J. Mackie reported that the County Council would vote on their budget increase on 16 February and that a 2.95% increase had been recommended; the lowest for figure in ten years. Mr Mackie also gave an update on the eight week Yarmouth Road closure.

6. Town Mayor's Achievement Award

The Town Mayor, Mr R. S. James said it was a privilege to welcome a special guest, Ben Spratling; a member of 1st Thorpe St Andrew Cub Scouts. Mr James then presented Ben Spratling with the Town Mayor's Achievement Award to mark Ben's unique achievement in being the first Cub Scout in the country to gain every activity badge that scouting has to offer.

The Town Mayor then closed the public session and reconvened the meeting.

7. Payment of Accounts

Cheque numbers 003302 – 003340 totalling £30,568.96p, on the 2008/09 payments list were approved and signed.

8. Tree Wardens' Report

The contents of the monthly report were noted. Mr P. Rope said that 950 hedging plants had been supplied under the Tree Warden scheme by Broadland District Council for the hedge that would be planted at Laundry Lane.

9. Draft Minutes of Committee Meetings

Plans Committee

The draft minutes of the meetings held on the 19th January 2009 were noted.

10. Broadland Community Bank

Information on the Community Bank and its method of operation. It was **AGREED** that representatives of the organisation would make a presentation at the March meeting.

11. Norfolk Association of Local Councils

An invitation to attend the Larger Councils meeting at Cromer was noted. Members of staff would attend to hear speakers from Norfolk County Council on the new parish/town council direct telephone service and Andy Coulson of H.M.R.C. on the subject of VAT.

12. Norfolk Flooding

An invitation to an environmental consultation on who is responsible for doing what in the event of flooding at Acle on 7 February was noted.

13. East of England Empowerment Partnership

An invitation from the Partnership to a meeting at Gt Yarmouth on 26th February to see how the Borough Council was delivering a range of empowerment projects was noted.

14. Road links to Plumstead Road East

A proposal regarding road links to Plumstead Road East put forward by Mr D. E. Eley was considered. Mr J. F. Fisher proposed, seconded by Mr G. Rowe, that the scheme should be adopted as Town Council policy. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt as policy:

1. Any new road connecting the roundabout to at Smee Lane to Plumstead Road East should be restricted to a maximum of 7.5 tons.
2. Connection to and from Thorpe End to the Northern Distributor Road should be confined to vehicles under 7.5 tons.
3. Any new link from Salhouse Road should be confined to vehicles under 7.5 tons.

15. Thorpe Marshes

Owing to the nature of the business to be considered the minutes are contained in the confidential addendum attached.

16. Initial training for Clerks and Councillors

Information on training courses provided by the Norfolk Association of Local Councils was noted. Mr J. Emsell would attend the one day course on 17 March at Morley St Peter.

17. Chairmanship and Engagement training

Information on courses run by the Norfolk Parish Training Partnership was noted.

18. Verge cutting contract renewal

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the five year contract offered by Norfolk County Services for the cutting of grass verges that was carried out as a delegated function for Norfolk County Council.

19. Action plan for the Town Plan

Mrs E. C. Laming had prepared an action plan that following some amendments that arose during the discussion would be used to progress production of the document.

Thanks were given to Mrs E. C. Laming for all her work on the Town Plan to date and to Miss Janet Smith, Tree Wardens Peter Rope and Marion Amos and Mr Tony Howes for their input to the Town Plan.

20. N.A.L.C. Consultation service

The Association had provided information on their new consultation service that would provide a précis on many of the consultation documents that were circulated to parish and town councils. The first was on the government's consultation on the proposed Code of recommended local authority publicity; the contents were noted.

21. Casual vacancy

No applications had been received to date for the vacancy that existed on the Town Council.

22. Scamnesty 2 – 15 February 2009

Information that Norfolk County Council Trading Standards would be taking part in the Office of Fair Trading Scamnesty campaign was noted.

23. Military briefing – TA Centre Aylsham Road, Norwich

Mr J. M. Ward, Deputy Mayor, would be attending a military briefing on the army on 12 March 2009.

24. Inspire East, East of England Development Agency

Information on community events in Cambridge and Basildon was noted.

25. N.A.L.C. Training on The Power of Economic, Social or Environmental Well Being

Information that the Association would provide the training required to implement the power of well being provided by s.2 Local Government Act 2000 was noted.

26. Yarmouth Road – temporary closure

Information on the road closure from 9 February 2009 for a period of about 8 weeks was noted.'

27. S.A.M. speed monitoring Plumstead Road East

The statistics of three visits that had been made by the team to Plumstead Road East were noted. The highest speed recorded was 81mph.

28. Yare Valley Medical Practice

Information that the Thorpe Road and Heartsease surgeries wished to move to Wellesley Road, Norwich was noted. The surgery would be contacted and asked if additional services could be provided such as a dentist, optician, out of hours service, nurse facility, C.A.B. etc if the move to the new premises went ahead.

Date of next meeting 2nd March 2009 at the Dussindale Centre 7.30pm.

Confidential addendum to the minutes of the 2nd February 2009 Town Council meeting.

Mrs E. C. Laming left the room when the following matter was discussed.

15. Thorpe Marshes

It was **AGREED** to reject the offer of a six year lease at a rent of £1200.00 per annum and continue to negotiate with the landowners with a maximum price of £15,000 in mind.