

Thorpe St Andrew Town Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th July 2010

1. Present: Mr R. S. James (Town Mayor)
Mr J. M. Ward (Deputy Town Mayor) Mrs E. C. Laming
Mr J. Emsell Miss S. P. Lawn
Mr J. F. Fisher Mr E. A. Newberry
Mr R. Robson Mr G. Rowe
Mr I. J. Mackie Mr N. Shaw

Apologies: Mr G. Allison, Mr A. J. Barber, Mr D. E. Eley,
Mr D. R. C. Spooner, Mr S. Freeman-Pannett

In attendance: Mr S. J. Ford, Mr P. Rope, Town Tree Warden

2. Declarations of interest: Mr J. M. Ward and Mr I. J. Mackie declared a personal interest in any matters relating to Norfolk County Council and Broadland District Council as members of those councils. Mrs E. C. Laming declared a personal interest in item 23 Broadland Canoe Kayak Sprint Racing team as a member of the club where the team was based.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2010, previously circulated to members were approved and signed following the addition of "It was **AGREED** not to make a Civic Award." to item 25.

4. Announcements:

The Town Mayor, Mr R. S. James reported that he had attended five very different functions during the previous month ranging from a Wellbeing event to an open evening at the British Legion. He said the different functions were indicative of a flourishing community spirit that he felt privileged to be a part of.

The Clerk announced that a resident had arranged for Radio Norfolk to broadcast from his home in Plumstead Road East about proposals to develop houses in the adjacent woods. The resident would welcome any members who might be available to attend the broadcast with Wally Webb at 07.10 on 6 July.

5. Public Participation:

The Town Mayor then put forward a motion, seconded by Mr G. Rowe 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, 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. Finance:

Payment of accounts: Cheque numbers 004056 – 004089 totalling £22,300.03p, on the 20010/11 payments list were approved and signed.

7. Town Tree Warden's Report

The two tree walks had been held in June had gone well. Mr Rope said he would attend an appeal against a tree preservation order at Old Rectory Close that would be held later in the month. The Town Council had previously supported the TPO. Mr K. White had offered his services as a Tree Warden and had provided a brief resume of his experience. The Tree Wardens were due for re-election. Mr E. A. Newberry proposed, seconded by Mr G. Rowe that Mr P. Rope, Mr K. White and Mrs M. Amos be elected to serve as Tree Wardens and following a show of hands the three candidates were elected for a twelve month term of office. The Town Mayor, Mr R. S. James welcomed Mr White to his new role and passed his thanks to Mrs Amos and Mr Rope for the work that they had carried out in the past year.

8. Town Amenities Report

Mr D. Sayer reported that the zip-line for Dussindale Park had been ordered and was due to be installed from September onwards. Information on Woodland Grant Scheme funding that would be available to carry out tree works at Gargle Hill woods and Dussindale Park recreation ground was noted.

Mr Sayer had looked into revising the byelaws that affected the two recreation grounds and River Green. The byelaws officer at the Communities and Local Government department had provided information on revoking the existing byelaws and making new byelaws. He also had advised that later in the year (subject to Ministerial agreement) an option would be available that would make it easier for local authorities to revoke and make new byelaws without the need to come to central government for approval. Mrs E. C. Laming proposed, seconded by Mr J. F. Fisher that the Town Council waited for the easier option to be available and on a show of hands it was **RESOLVED** to take that course of action.

Development of a bee friendly nature reserve that could attract grant funding for the top part of Hillside allotments, the tree plantation and the southern area of Dussindale Park recreation ground was being looked into. The District Council's Climate Change Adviser had made a site meeting and would look into funding opportunities. It was noted that if grant funding became available for some or all of the areas a detailed long term management and cost report would be prepared for approval.

9. Draft minutes of committee / working group meetings:

Plans Committee

The draft minutes of the Plans Committee meeting held on 21 June 2010 were noted.

10. Olive's Garden

No further planting had been carried out. The two benches were on order and would be installed as soon as possible.

11. Update on River Green

Correspondence had been received from the landscape architect, Su Chisnell, setting out twelve procedural points that required confirmation from the Town Council. A pre start project meeting would be held with the

contractor, CDM coordinator and architect at the Dussindale Centre on 6 September 2010 at a time to be confirmed.

12. Encroachment of land at Dussindale Park

No further correspondence had been received.

13. St Andrews Park roundabout

It was considered that the planting and maintenance of the roundabout had not been of a satisfactory standard in the current year. Miss S. P. Lawn proposed, seconded by Mr R. Robson, that the sponsor should be written to and given until the middle of September to come up with an acceptable planting scheme; the raised bed was in particular need of attention to reinstate the original flag design. On a show of hands it was **RESOLVED** that a letter be sent setting out a planting and maintenance schedule and removal of staff vacancy advertising by the sponsor. It was **AGREED** that Town Council staff should receive training to meet the County Council's requirements to enable them to work on the highway.

14 Village Hall

Mrs E. C. Laming had submitted a report on a training session at the New Victory Hall, Neatishead that had been organised by Norfolk Rural Community Council. A presentation had been made by the chairman of the volunteers who had raised £550,000 to build a new eco-friendly village hall. The project had taken thirteen years to complete and an enormous amount of work by a large team of volunteers.

15 Police community allotment

An area of ground behind the village hall had been made available to the Thorpe St Andrew Safer Neighbourhood Team to launch a project to help the police tackle anti-social behaviour and strengthen community roots. Students from Thorpe St Andrew School intended to create raised beds on the site to grow produce that would be donated to local care homes. PC Sam Stolworthy had thought of the idea and sourced donations of equipment, tools, bulbs and vegetable plants from Sainsbury's, Morrisons and Homebase. The allotment project was launched on 18 June at a press call attended by police officers, students and staff from Thorpe St Andrew School and Town Mayor Russell James.

16. Hillside allotments

The Clerk reported that the allotments at the north eastern corner of the site had a large fox earth in the rear half of the plot that had been cleared of fly tipping. The plot to the rear of that also had a quantity of fly tipped vegetable matter and was extensively overgrown with brambles. To clear the brambles with a mini digger would cost in the region of £800. It was **RESOLVED** to rotorvate the half plot nearest the path and to leave the remainder to be incorporated into a nature reserve that would be created utilising grant aid as part of the District Council's "Putting the Bee back in Broadland" campaign.

17. Village Hall chairs

Thorpe Players had tried unsuccessfully to get grant funding to enable the purchase of 120 upholstered chairs that would be available for all users to

use. Two quotations had been obtained; the cheaper chair would cost £2634 plus vat however it was foreign made and did not have the web seat and lumbar support that the British made seat offered at a cost of £4,794. Thorpe Players offered to pay half the cost of the cheaper seats but would find it more difficult to fund half the cost of the more expensive seats. Thorpe Players Business Manager had contacted Norfolk Community Foundation regarding a grant that could be applied for by the Town Council and asked if the Town Council would be prepared to pay the half of the cost of the chairs. It was **RESOLVED** to apply for grants to assist with the purchase of the more expensive chairs. Mr I. J. Mackie said that a price should also be obtained from OGC Buying Solutions.

18. Bittern Line

Membership of the Bittern Community Rail Partnership was due for renewal at a cost of £100.00p. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to continue to be a member of the organisation. Mr E. A. Newberry said he was willing to continue to represent the Town Council at their meetings.

19. Norwich Fringe Project

It was **RESOLVED** to donate £100 to the project in acknowledgement of the work that they carried out in Thorpe St Andrew.

20. Fitzmaurice Pavilion

It was noted the grant from the District Council had been confirmed at £11,500. Work had been agreed in the previous financial year to upgrade the entrance doors and the funds allocated ring fenced. The remaining spend would come from capital reserves.

21. Risk Assessment ratings

The Council's insurers had advised against the use of numbers and letters in grading risk assessments. It was **RESOLVED** to follow the advice from Zurich insurance and continue to grade as high, medium or low risk.

22. Joint Core Strategy

Information set out in the Core Strategy document was noted.

23. Broadland Canoe Kayak Sprint Racing Team

It was **AGREED** that reduced fees for use of the Village Hall for training sessions by the group should be charged at the normal rate. A donation to assist the group get off the ground could be considered if it was being run on a charitable basis.

24. Thorpe Island Residents Association

Sixteen people who lived on boats on the north western section of Thorpe Island had written to advise that they had formed the Association and that they wished to hold a picnic on the Green for about two hours to provide an opportunity for local residents to meet the group with the aim of establishing or improving community relations. It was **AGREED** councillors would be welcome to attend as individuals; however that should not be interpreted as a formal meeting with the Town Council.

25. Additional recycling facilities

Following the loss of recycling facilities at Pinebanks and the Woodside public house consideration was given to additional locations that could be considered for recycling centres. It was **AGREED** to suggest sites that could be considered such as the Gordon public house, shops on Plumstead Road, the scout hut on Plumstead Road East and the Raj of India restaurant, Yarmouth Road. The facilities for recycling cardboard, paper, bottles and tins at the Thorpe Branch R.B.L. headquarters next to The Cottage would be advertised in the next town newsletter.

26. Leaking sun pipes, Morse Pavilion

A letter from the Clerk requesting a reply from the architects to a letter dated 28 December 2009 was noted. No reply had been received.

27. News from N.A.L.C.

Contents of the newsletter were noted.

28. South Hill Road bus shelter

Part of the metal frame had corroded at the South Hill Road bus shelter. The Clerk had contacted the manufacturers who had offered to replace the affected gantry as gesture of goodwill. The original warranty had expired some years ago.

The meeting closed at 9.29pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 2nd August 2010

Addendum to Town Council minutes of meeting held on 5 July 2010

5 (i) Public Session

County and District Councils

The report on activities at Norfolk County Council and Broadland District Council given by Mr J. M. Ward is attached to the notes on the public session.

Mr I. J. Mackie, County Councillor, said that the High Court had killed off Norwich's bid for unitary status and had quashed the Order put in place by the last government. As a result thirteen City Councillors had to immediately hand in their City Council passes and an election for their former seats would have to be held within 35 days.

Mr Mackie then went into detail on the cuts that the County Council would have to face, a comprehensive spending review would be carried out. There would be a Council Tax freeze for two years and major cuts in the school building programme. Better news was that the lease had been agreed for the Sure Start Centre that would open in the former NHS Walk In Centre in September.

District Councillor Mr J. F. Fisher said the recent Waste Electrical Event at the Morse Pavilion had proved a great success. For the first time people could bring along their waste electrical appliances for recycling; the appliances were tested to see if they were in working order. If satisfactory they were then available free to anyone who wanted them. 150 items had been taken away and Nelson's Journey charity had benefited from voluntary donations made by recipients of the electrical goods.

Public

Mr P. Rope raised his concerns regarding allotment holders who lived outside Thorpe St Andrew who were not able to have their annual tenancies renewed on 1 October 2010. He pointed out that since 2006 non residents had been required to pay £5 per annum more than residents for a whole plot and he considered the removal of the non resident tenants who had worked their allotments well for some years was slightly unfair.

Mr Rope was further concerned that whilst charges for most Town Council facilities had been increased by about 4% the allotment charges had been raised by 20% to £30.00p for a full plot for 2010/11.

Mr Rope asked if tenancies can be transferred to spouses and felt this needed to be clarified in the allotment rules.

Mrs J. Jones, Business Manager of Thorpe Players, gave a great deal of additional information on the need for new upholstered chairs at the Village Hall and confirmed that Thorpe Players would make a substantial contribution towards the cost of the chairs.