

Thorpe St Andrew Town Council Meeting`

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th October 2009

1. Present: Mr R. S. R James (Town Mayor)
Mr J. M. Ward (Deputy Town Mayor) Mrs E. C. Laming
Mr A. J. Barber Miss S. P. Lawn
Mr J. Emsell Mr E. A. Newberry
Mr D. E. Eley Mr R. Robson

Apologies: - Mr G. Allison, Mr J. F. Fisher, Mr S. Freeman-Pannett, Mr I. J. Mackie,
Mr G. Rowe, Mr N. Shaw, Mr D. R. C. Spooner

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

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Mrs E. C. Laming declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 Thorpe Marshes. Mr J. M. Ward declared a personal interest in any matters relating to Norfolk County and Broadland District Councils as a member of those councils. Mr R. Robson declared an interest in agenda item 15 as a member of the R.B.L.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held 7th September 2009
The minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2009, previously circulated to members were approved and signed.

4. Announcements

Town Mayor, Mr R. S. James said that he had visited Mr S. Freeman - Pannett who had been taken to hospital at the end of August and found to be ill with viral meningitis. He was now recovering well and hoped to be back to full health within a few weeks.

In a report in the Evening News a story had been published regarding Acorn Playgroup at Dussindale School who had been found to be "outstanding" in a recent OFSTED report. The story had referred to Dussindale School, Norwich. Mr James had complained to the newspaper and received a letter from the Editor apologising for the error and asking for any repetitions to be brought to his attention. Mr James drew attention to the Town Mayor's reception on 14 October at the Village Hall where Mrs Wigby would give short talk on her work with the Community Speedwatch team.

The Clerk said that he would be circulating the Committees membership list for updating and asked members to let him know of any additions or changes to Committee Membership. The District Council would be holding Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment recycling events from December to March and had requested details of locations that could be used in Thorpe St Andrew. A foundry had indicated that they would be able to take a mould from either the wooden St Andrew statue in the Town Council office or from an original statue from one of the town signs. The cost had been predicted at £460.00p. Further enquiries would be made and the cost of casting two statues would be obtained.

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. Notes on the public session are attached as an addendum to the minutes of the Town Council meeting. The Town Mayor then closed the public session after members of the public, County and District Councillors had spoken and re-convened the meeting.

6. Payment of Accounts

Cheque numbers 003644 – 003691 totalling £32,324.12p, on the 2008/09 payments list were approved and signed.

7. Tree Wardens' Report

The contents of the monthly report were noted. Mr P. Rope was unable to attend the meeting and had offered his apologies. Mr Rope had attended the East of England Tree Warden meeting at Manningtree; Essex on 20 September, topics covered included hedgerow trees and street trees in an urban environment.

8. Draft Minutes of Committee Meetings

Plans Committee

The draft minutes of the meetings held on the 14th September 2009 were noted. Objections had been made to the planning application for Broadland Gate Business Park. A large number of residents had attended the meeting to object to proposals for a marina at the western end of Thorpe Island.

Publications and Media Committee

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2009 were noted. The committee had recommended to the Town Council that future news publications should be in eight page A4 format on glossy paper. It was proposed by Mrs S. C. Lawn, seconded by Mr A. J. Barber that the recommendation be adopted; it was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation.

Events Committee

The draft minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd September 2009 were noted. It was agreed the Christmas lights event would be held on Saturday 28 November due to a clash with an event at The Forum. Mr Emsell said that the August event had gone well but the long hours of operation had been demanding. He had organised a successful youth event on 26 September with skateboard ramps and fairground rides.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

The draft minutes of the meetings held on the 24th August 2009 were noted.

9. St Andrews Park roundabout

The sponsor's signs had been erected. It was **AGREED** that some spring bulb planting would be carried out on the roundabout as part of the annual bulb planting carried out by the Town Council.

10. Thorpe Marshes

Mr D. Eley had walked the marshes at the beginning of the month and had found paths to be muddy and overgrown. A further update would be provided at the next meeting on the current unlawful mooring of boats and restoration work that had been scheduled to have been completed during the summer.

11. Olive's Garden

An email from the Rotary Club said that local scouts and cubs who would be helping with the work in addition to the horticultural and rotary clubs.

12. Update on River Green improvements

Mrs E. Laming had prepared a report on consultations that had been made with the Broads Authority and District Council tree officers and the Tree Wardens to consider the condition of the poplar trees at the western end of the Green. Overall it was considered that the trees were in good health and concerns regarding their condition would not be expected for to arise within the next 25 – 40 years. Mrs E. C. Laming proposed, seconded by Mr A. J. Barber, that on the basis of the evidence that the trees remain and that their condition should continue to be monitored. On a show of hands it was **RESOLVED** to take no further action at present and to continue to monitor the trees condition regularly.

13. Dussindale Park Youth event

Mr J. Emsell had submitted a comprehensive report on the youth event he had organised at short notice. Skate park ramps, fairground rides and hair and nail treatments and a DJ workshops were the main attractions and it was hoped that the rides and beauty treatments would attend future events. Mr Emsell considered that the success of the event was a basis to work with to bring about plans to create a proper youth recreation area for Thorpe St Andrew.

14. Village Hall heating

The Clerk, Mr S. J. Ford, reported that there was insufficient heating in the village hall and suggested that sufficient low cost heaters should be purchased to raise the output to the 16kw of heat that the electrical contractor suggested was needed. It was **AGREED** this matter should be passed on to the Finance and General Purposes committee for a decision on any action that should be taken. It was **RESOLVED** to take advice from the Energy Team at the District Council and to make grant applications where possible to reduce the energy consumption in Town Council buildings.

15. Remembrance Day parade

An invitation to members and officers of the Town Council to take part in the annual Remembrance Day parade and Service on Sunday 8th November was noted. The parade would muster at the car park at Broadland District Council at 14.15 and march off at 14.30. Following the laying of wreaths at the war memorial there would be a service at the parish church at 15.00 followed by a march back to Thorpe Lodge. There would be a brief ceremony of remembrance at the War Memorial on Wednesday 11 November at 11.00am.

16 Plumstead Road drainage works

An email from a Norfolk County Council engineer explaining why the surface water drainage from Beechwood Drive, Booty Road and South Hill Road would not be connected to any existing surface water drainage system due to incompatible levels was noted.

17. Start time of car boot sales

A letter of complaint from a Laundry Lane resident regarding the start time of the monthly car boot sales was noted. The organiser, Mr J. Emsell, said that the gates had been open at 07.15 to get cars onto the Recreation Ground as quickly as possible to minimise disturbance to Laundry Lane residents.

18. Macmillan Cancer Support in Norfolk

A request for a donation would be considered at the end of the current financial year.

19. Postwick Park and Ride

An email from the Clerk asking if the County Council would consider issuing an annual pass for Over 60 Bus Pass holders was noted; when received the reply would go on the next agenda.

20. Proposals for Dussindale Park

Mrs E. C. Laming had submitted a report setting out improvements that could be carried out at Dussindale Park and funded by some of the s106 money held by the District Council for improvements to outdoor recreational space. It was **RESOLVED** on a motion put forward by Mrs E. C. Laming, seconded by Mr A. Barber, that £16,000 of the s106 funding should be earmarked for the improvements and that the proposals should be passed to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for detailed consideration.

21. Toddler slide

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £3,185.25p from SMP Playgrounds for the supply and installation of a toddler slide and safety surfacing at Laundry Lane Recreation Ground.

22. Wooden steps

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £1,100 from Adventure Playgrounds Ltd for the installation of woodland steps near the new slide at Dussindale Park.

23. Request for donation

A request for a donation from Norfolk Lowland Search and Rescue was considered and it was **RESOLVED** to make a donation of £50 to the organisation under the powers of s137 of the L.G.A. 1972.

24. Village Screen

Information on a rural touring cinema scheme and a promotional evening at Blofield was noted. Mr J. Ward would attend the meeting and report back to the next meeting.

25. Request for memorial plaque

A resident asked if they could place a memorial plaque on a bench at River Green. There was no space at present. The resident would be informed after the redesign of the Green had been carried out if an opportunity for a plaque had arisen.

26. Public toilet upgrade

Information from a specialist installer of public toilet facilities was noted.

27. Town Council leases

The National Association of Local Councils would be asked to provide further information on some contentious parts of some of the leases for Town Council property.

28. Town Council papers

It was **AGREED** that papers would be sent out on Fridays eleven days before the meeting would take place.

29. Norfolk Fringe Project

Norwich Fringe Project would attend a meeting at Hillside allotments to discuss the possibilities of establishing a new nature reserve at the top end of the site.

30. Transport for Norwich exhibitions

Information on a series of exhibitions that would be held over two weeks commencing 12 October was noted.

31. Broads Authority Tree Warden meeting

Information on the inaugural meeting held on 16 July 2009 was noted.

32. Matthew Project – Dussindale Park

The final report of the Matthew Project Youth Engagement Project in Thorpe St Andrew was noted.

33. Norfolk Waste Partnership Conference and AGM

Information and a booking form were circulated for return to the Clerk by members who might wish to attend.

34. Town Notice Boards

The Amenities Officer provided information on the sites and method of fixing for the new Town Council notice boards.

35. Future agenda items

Consideration of putting matters arising from the minutes would be placed on a future agenda. The use of the Fitzmaurice Pavilion by the Street Pastors would be placed on a future agenda.

Date of next meeting: 2nd November at the Dussindale Centre 7.30pm.

Addendum to Town Council minutes 5th October 2009-10-06

Notes on the public session

Police

P.C. Meri Bunston and P.C.S.O. Mike Seaman gave an explanation on the background to some of the incidents that appeared on the monthly list of call and crime statistics. P.C. Bunston said that the priorities that had arisen from the recent SNAP meeting were speeding and that their colleagues in the traffic division were active in the area as a result. The Community Speedwatch team was being promoted and it was hoped new volunteers would come forward to help with running the scheme. Tackling anti social behaviour continued to be a priority.

P.C.S.O. Seaman said the Matthew Project had asked for a question and answer session to be held with the police at the high school. The session had been held the previous week and had been reasonably successful with 15 – 20 pupils attending and making a number of drug related enquiries. The team would be giving talks at each of the primary schools in the next four to six weeks.

District Council

Mr J. M. Ward reported that the District Council was implementing the empty homes policy and was taking action to bring a long term empty property in Wroxham Road back into use. The Council was keen to hear of any long term empty homes.

County Council

For the County Council Mr Ward said that there would be a change of contractor at the Postwick Park and Ride. CT plus, a London based company, would run the service when the existing contract ran out.

Mr I. J. Mackie advised that a vacancy for a Local Authority appointed governor existed at Dussindale Primary School. Anyone interested in the vacancy should contact Mr Mackie for more information.