

**THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2007**

**PRESENT:**

Mr R. S. James (Town Mayor)	Mr P. J. Harwood
Mr J. M. Ward (Deputy Town Mayor)	Mr E. A. Newberry
Mrs J. Baker	Mr G. Rowe
Mrs O. M. Campbell	Mr N. Shaw
Mr D. E. Eley	Mr D. R. C. Spooner
Mrs S. E. Eltringham	Mrs Y. Utting

**1.) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr J F Fisher, Mrs W. M. Howes  
Mrs E. Laming, Mr I. J. Mackie

**2.) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr J. M. Ward declared a personal interest in agenda item 20, application for funding, Norwich Fringe Project.

**3.) COUNCIL**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007, previously circulated to members, were approved and signed as a true record.

**4.) Announcements**

**Chairman:** The Chairman, Mr R. S. James, Mrs O. M. Campbell and the Town Clerk had accompanied engineers from Arquiva to carry out emission tests on signals from the St Williams Way telecommunications mast at twelve locations across the parish. Very low levels throughout were recorded and a full report would be submitted in due course.

Mr James had attended a meeting with Broads Authority planning officers in March to learn of the changes that would arise as a result of planning applications being dealt with in house. The Authority indicated wider consultation would take place than previously. Consultation would be carried out with persons likely to have an interest or be affected by specific applications as well as those fully involved. Details of planning applications would be published on the Broads Authority website.

**Clerk:** Town Clerk, Mr S. J. Ford, had been advised by the County Council that work had started at the Thorpe End level crossing earlier in the day and it could be closed for up to 21 days.

**5.) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Members of the public**

Special Constable Graham Gowland informed the meeting that the monthly crime figures for the town were low. The new Neighbour Policing initiative had started on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 and as a result there would be an increased police presence with officers dedicated to Thorpe St Andrew daily until 12 midnight. An additional two Police Community Support Officers would be provided. An operations base had been established in the old Music Room at Thorpe St Andrew School with a computer link to police headquarters which would help eliminate the need to return to Sprowston Police Station to complete reports etc.

Mr P. Rope with Mrs M. Amos, Parish Tree Wardens would put a case for a tree preservation order on the belt of lime trees at St Andrews Business Park that could be affected by a recent planning application for a hotel at the Bannatynes leisure centre site. There were concerns that trees shown on the plans were not a true indication of what was actually there. Mr Rope had been very impressed with the work recently carried out at the cemetery and Yarmouth Road allotments by the Unpaid Work Unit of Norfolk Probation and would contact the local press praising the work and the manner in which it had been carried out.

## **County Councillors**

Mr P. J. Harwood informed the meeting that earlier in the day the County Council Cabinet meeting had been preceded by a full Council meeting to elect a new leader.

## **6.) PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Cheques numbered 002366 - 002408 totalling £17,299.38p, vouchers 1518 – 1605 on the 2006/07 payments list were approved and signed.

## **7.) COMMITTEES**

### **Plans Committee**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> March were presented by Mr R. S. James and the draft minutes of the meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> March were presented by the Vice Chairman, Mr J. M. Ward and noted.

### **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March would be presented to the next meeting.

## **8.) Parking problems South Hill Road**

Businesses and residents had raised concerns regarding parking problems that had been exacerbated by the erection of a small wall at 52 South Hill Road. The wall prevented use of a dropped kerb that had previously enabled vehicles to park on the forecourt outside the adjacent hairdressers and beauty salon.

Recently staff working in the South Hill Road shops appeared to have increased in number and as a result residents had complained that all day parking was restricting access to their property. The escalation in parking on the road had also obstructed bus services on a number of occasions.

The highways department would be asked if they could provide any solutions to the difficulties and if there were any plans for kerb work to be carried out in the road. Additional dropped kerbs would enable more off road parking.

The police would be requested to monitor the situation and take appropriate action when vehicles were parked unlawfully or causing an obstruction.

## **9.) Future of the NHS Walk In Centre**

It was **RESOLVED** to reaffirm support for the NHS Walk In Centre and to oppose any plans to close the Walk In Centre should they be put forward.

## **10.) Unitary Status for Norwich**

Information that the bid for unitary status based on the existing City Council boundary had been short listed by the Government was noted. If the bid was successful a supplementary proposal would call upon the Boundary Commission to extend the city boundary to take in surrounding parish and town councils. Concerns that the District Council and County Council consider would arise as a result were noted.

## **11.) Community Hall Development Committee**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the terms of reference that had previously been drawn up by the Recreation Development Committee who had been responsible for the construction of the Morse Pavilion.

## **12.) Town Council website**

Work had begun and a design for the home page of the site was selected from a range of samples put forward.

### **13.) Thorpe St Andrew Episcopi**

Information on the work carried out at the cemetery by Norfolk Probation Service Unpaid Work Unit was noted. A letter of thanks for the Unit's work would be sent.

### **14.) Norfolk Association of Village Halls Conference and AGM**

Mrs E. C. Laming and Mr D. E. Eley had attended the meeting and had found the presentation on clean energy and how village halls could reduce their environmental impact particularly interesting. A report by Mrs Laming was noted.

### **15.) Thorpe St Andrew Business Watch**

The Town Mayor, Mr R. S. James had attended the inaugural meeting of the group. Problems with vehicles parking along the length of Peachman Way had been identified. There were concerns with health and safety and the possibility of theft from vehicles. The parking issues would be raised with the District Council; particularly with regard to provision of a temporary car park for use by contractors when the next tranche of office building commenced.

### **16.) Police Authority Budget**

The reasons for a budget increase of 6.94% were noted. A public meeting to discuss the 2008/09 budget would be held at Jubilee House on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 7.00pm.

### **17.) Thorpe St Andrew Anti Social Behaviour Action Group**

Information on the inaugural meeting of the group and a further meeting that would be held with Laundry Lane residents was noted.

### **18.) Volunteer manned speed traps**

Mr D. E. Eley had asked if the Town Council would consider purchasing equipment to enable volunteer manned speed traps. It was **AGREED** that further information would be requested from the Norfolk Police authority.

### **19.) 20mph Speed limits near school**

Officers at the County Council were considering guidance from the Department of Transport that encouraged the creation of 20mph zones where people were particularly at risk. A letter of support for the introduction of 20mph limits in roads near the four schools in the town would be sent.

### **20.) Norwich Fringe Project**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that in pursuance of the power conferred by the Local Government Act 1972 s137 to make a donation of £100.00p to the Norwich Fringe Project .

### **21.) New headed notepaper**

A revised design had been submitted but further changes were still required.

### **22.) Future Agenda Items**

None

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - Annual Town Council 7.30pm on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at the Meeting Room, Dussindale Centre.**

After the meeting had been formally closed the Town Mayor, Mr R. S. James thanked Mrs J. Baker, who would not be standing in the May elections, for 20 years of service in total to the council.

Mrs S. E. Eltringham would not be standing for election either but had indicated that she would continue with her work on the Events Committee. Mr R. S. James expressed his thanks for her service and to all the other members of the Council during the time that he had been Chairman and Town Mayor and he hoped to see those standing for election at the next meeting.

Mr D. E. Eley said he would like to associate himself with Mr James remarks and thanked colleagues for all their assistance during the years that he had been Chairman of the Parish Council.