

THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th December 2006

PRESENT:

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

1.) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mrs W. M. Howes, Mr N. Shaw

2.) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr J. F. Fisher and Mr I. J. Mackie declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in agenda item 17, as the owner of the property was known to them. Mr R. S. James and Mr J. F. Fisher declared a personal interest in agenda item 19 as Trustees of the Dussindale Trust.

3.) COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2006, previously circulated to members, were approved and signed as a true record following deletion of the words "opposition to".and "vote against" being inserted in Item 9 – Resolution to adopt Town Council Status.

4.) Announcements

Chairman: The Chairman, Mr R. S. James, informed the meeting that his offer of a personal donation of a prize to Thorpe St Andrew School had been accepted. Mr James would be attending the official launch of construction work on the new technology unit at the school later in the week and a meeting of the Dussindale Action Group that had been organised by the Broadland Community Safety Partnership.

Clerk: The Clerk, Mr S. J. Ford, advised the meeting that the Unpaid Work Unit of the Norfolk Probation Service had been clearing the Burial Trust Allotments and when the work there had been completed would continue their work within the adjoining cemetery to clear overgrown graves and memorials. Notice had been received that construction of the Thunder Lane zebra crossing would commence in the middle of the month.

Future Agenda Items - None.

5.) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Parish Constables:

The Parish Constables were in attendance but were called away before they had the opportunity to speak but informed the Clerk that crime figures were low.

Items Raised by District and County Councillors:

County and District Councillor Mr I. J. Mackie informed that a motion opposing the closure of hospital beds and other cuts in the health service had been supported by the County Council at a recent meeting. The Adult and Childrens Services department had been awarded another Government star for improved services and achieved Beacon status for Valued People Services. The third Christmas Recycling Road show was touring the County and would be at Tesco, Sprowston on 12th December. Yellow lines had been put down at Thorpe Hall Close and Margetson Avenue would receive its yellow lines later in the week.

Mr Mackie had been appointed as a mentor to the Outer and Norwich Fringe Project who managed Carey's Meadow locally. Mr M. Davies, project officer, had offered to make a short presentation on the project's work to the February meeting of the Town Council.

County Councillor Mr N. Shaw was continuing to press for the introduction of 20mph speed limits in Thorpe St Andrew. Mr P. J. Harwood said that the County Council Cabinet had agreed to financial provision for the County Council to make its case regarding the proposal for a Unitary Authority.

County Councillor Mr P. J. Harwood said that the new Bittern Primary School was currently short-listing for the appointment of head teacher. With regard to the proposed unitary status Mr Harwood pointed out that Norwich area schools received substantial support from Norfolk County Council and questioned whether the same level of support would be possible if a unitary authority was created.

Mr J. F. Fisher said that the District Council was working with the Primary Care Trust in realising some of their assets. Seven Primary Care Trusts had been merged into one and owned lots of spare parcels of land that could be developed.

Members of the public

Mr P. Rope, Parish Tree Warden commented that the November minutes regarding Item 9 on the agenda did not record the number of votes cast for the resolution however under the Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, paras 12(2) and 29 (2) this was not necessary unless a member specifically requested the voting be recorded.

6.) PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Cheques numbered 002050 to 002089 totalling £19,810.96p, vouchers 981 – 1089 on the 2006/07 payments list were approved and signed.

7.) COMMITTEES

Plans Committee

The draft minutes of the meetings held on 20th November were presented by the Chairman, Mr J. F. Fisher, and noted. Mr J. F. Fisher drew attention to the recommendation to the Parish Council that negotiations for the lease of the site for a telecommunications mast at Dussindale Park be withdrawn. The recommendation was on the agenda for consideration later in the meeting.

Recreation and Amenities Committee

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 13th November were presented by the Chairman, Mr D. R. C. Spooner and noted.

8.) 3g Telecommunications Mast, Dussindale Park

A very large number of residents had objected to the proposal to install a telecommunications mast on land at Dussindale Park between Naseby Way and Pound Lane. The Plans Committee had recommended that the Town Council withdraw the use of the land for telecommunications equipment. It was **RESOLVED** that the offer of use of the land to site telecommunications equipment be withdrawn.

9.) Spinney Road speed reactive signs

Two temporary speed reactive signs had been erected in Spinney Road that displayed the actual speed of passing vehicles. The signs had been very well received and the County Council would be asked if similar signs could be erected on a permanent basis. A request for similar signs in Laundry Lane and Pound Lane would be made.

Lower speed limits, similar to those in Sprowston and Hellesdon, in roads near schools would again be requested.

10.) To consider a resolution to exclude the press and public on the grounds of publicity that would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be considered

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude members of the press and public for the rest of the meeting as there were a number of matters of a confidential nature to be discussed.

11.) Casual Vacancy

Three applications for the vacancy had been received and all the candidates had submitted information supporting their applications. A ballot was taken and twelve votes were cast for Mrs E. C. Laming and one for of another of the two candidates. There being an absolute majority vote Mrs E. C. Laming was co-opted as a member of the Town Council.

12.) Budget 2007/08

The Finance and Staffing Committee had prepared a draft budget with a recommendation that the precept should be increased by 5%. It was **RESOLVED** following a motion proposed by Mr J. F. Fisher and seconded by Mr J. M. Ward, a resolution that the budget be adopted.

It would not be possible to retain a fourth member of grounds staff within the next year's budget but a further three month temporary contract would be offered to the Temporary Groundsman

13.) Morse Pavilion

(i) The final grant payment of £19,700.00p had been received from the Football Foundation.

(ii) A copy of a letter from the Derek Jessett Builder to the architect regarding disputed items was noted.

14.) Town Sponsorship Working Group

To capitalise and coordinate the Town's approach to gaining local sponsorship it was **RESOLVED** to form a Town Sponsorship Working Group comprised of Mr I. J. Mackie, Mr G. B. Walker, Mrs Y. Utting, Mr D. Spooner, Mr G. Rowe.

Landscaping of roundabouts, new road signs and planters were specific projects currently identified that would be funded by the work of the Town Sponsorship Working Group.

15.) Broadland District Council

(i) Statement of Community Involvement

Information on the latest update to the document that would eventually replace the Local Plan was noted.

(ii) Car Park – Recreation Ground, Laundry Lane

Correspondence relating to use of one of the car parks as a result of a report of an alleged breach of planning control was noted.

(iii) 3 The Moorings, Yarmouth Road

Information on the history of investigations into use of the site for residential purposes was noted.

(iv) Broadland Resilience Group

Information on resource material to assist in dealing with emergencies was noted.

(v) Erection of 22.5m Telecommunications tower

The opportunity to speak at the planning committee meeting was noted.

16.) Norfolk County Council

(i) Plumstead Road – Footway Assessment

A survey had been carried out that had moved improvements to the path a little higher up in the waiting list.

(ii) 7.5t Weight Restriction Order

An Order to implement the limit for the entire length of Green Lane North was noted.

17.) Dussindale Park - Encroachment

Correspondence regarding the value of the land encroached and possible solutions that had been sent to the Council's solicitor for consideration and advice were noted.

18.) Thorpe St Andrew Episcopi

An acknowledgement of the £500.00p donation towards the cost of the cemetery wall repairs was noted.

19.) Dussindale Park Community Trust

Correspondence suggesting that the Town Council should become Custodian Trustees of the Dussindale Community Trust was circulated for consideration. A motion to consider the proposals would be placed on the agenda for the meeting to be held on 8th January 2007.

20.) Norfolk & Norwich Voluntary Services

Information on support for voluntary and community organisations was noted.

21.) Unitary Authority for Norwich

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council did not support the Government in seeking to change local government structures in those parts of the country that retain 2/3 tier local government as the council believed that the residents of Thorpe St Andrew were well served by the existing structures of Broadland District Council, Norfolk County Council and the Town Council.

Letters would be sent to the Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government to express opposition and rejection to any Norwich unitary bid that included Thorpe St Andrew. A letter would be sent to the Chief Executive and the Leader of Norwich City Council expressing opposition to being part of any unitary council bid.

22.) Public Consultation

Topics put forward for discussion at the proposed public meeting in January included the Proposed new Community Building, telecommunications antennae, the NHS Walk in Centre.

Members were asked to bring ideas and suggestions for improving public relations to the next meeting when details of the proposed public consultation meeting would be drawn up.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - Town Council on 8th January 2006 at the Meeting Room, Dussindale Centre.