

THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th AUGUST 2007

PRESENT: Mr R. S. James (Town Mayor)
Mr J. M. Ward (Deputy Town Mayor) Mrs E. C. Laming
Mr A. J. Barber Mr I. J. Mackie
Mrs O. M. Campbell Mr E. A. Newberry
Mr D. E. Eley Mrs Y. Utting

1. Attendance book and apologies for absence:

The attendance book was circulated and signed by those present. Apologies were received from Mr J F Fisher, Mrs S. P. Lawn, Mr N. Shaw, Mr D. R. C. Spooner

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2007, previously circulated to members, were approved and signed as a true record after the names of Mrs O. M. Campbell and Mr I. J. Mackie had been added to the list of members present at the meeting.

4. Announcements (For information only)

To receive announcements from
(i) the Chairman

The Chairman drew attention to the public meeting Norfolk Constabulary Safer Neighbourhood team were holding at Thorpe St Andrew School on 22nd August at 7.30pm.

(ii) the Clerk

The Clerk informed the meeting of a new bus service operated by Anglian Coaches that would commence the following week. Bus route maps and timetables were available from the Town Council office.

5. Public participation:

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** by a motion to suspend the meeting to allow:
(i) members of the public, (ii) County and District Councillors the opportunity to address the meeting.

Members of the public expressed concern regarding the number of vehicles that were parking on pavements and grass verges; often waiting restrictions were in place but action did not appear to be taken to issue fixed penalty notices on offending vehicles. A number of locations where the abuse often occurred would be brought to the attention of Norfolk Constabulary.

Residents were reminded to call Norfolk Constabulary at Wymondham regarding speeding traffic when a regular pattern evolved for instance when school finished. There were concerns regarding activities at the school and members of the public felt this could be alleviated by the school locking gates at Laundry Lane and making greater use of the Pound Lane entrance.

Mr I. J. Mackie, County and District Councillor, said that his counterpart for the North West ward, Mr N. C. Shaw, had been doing a great deal of work at the County Council to bring about lower speed limits and traffic calming measures near schools.

For the District Mr Mackie had been in contact with the officer who dealt with travellers to raise concerns regarding issues relating to their presence adjacent to the

Audi garage. Attention would be drawn to the large volume of rubbish that been accumulated at the site in a very short space of time.

6. Payment of Accounts:

Cheque numbers 002537 – 002586 totalling £27667.22p, voucher numbers 397 – 507 on the 2007/08 payments list were approved and signed.

7. Draft minutes of committee meetings.

Plans committee

The draft minutes of the Plans committee meetings held on 9th and 30th July 2007 were presented by the Vice Chairman, Mr D. E. Eley and noted.

Events committee

The draft minutes of the Events committee meeting held on 16th July 2007 were presented by J. M. Ward and noted. Mr I. J. Mackie wished to thank the Chairman Mrs S. P. Lawn for all her hard work on the Committee; especially for the recent fete and the proposed St George's Day event which he was extremely enthusiastic about.

8. Norfolk County Council

(i) Prohibition of waiting. Experimental order 2007

The contents of the Experimental Order that brought about waiting restrictions in a number of roads near the new Dussindale School were noted.

(ii) 20 m.p.h. speed limit zone, footway conversion to cycleway/footway, road humps.

Information regarding the traffic management measures that would be implemented in Dussindale as part of the Safer and Healthier Journeys to School scheme was noted.

(iii) Unitary announcement.

Information from the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Society of Local Council Clerks and Norfolk County Council on the outcome of Norwich City Council's bid for unitary status was considered.

It was **RESOLVED** to write again to the Secretary of State pointing out that 96% of Broadland residents who had expressed views on the unitary bid were opposed to the City Council's proposals. Reductions in service provision such as closing libraries that had been identified in the City's bid were completely unacceptable.

The County Council had recently been awarded a fourth star for its service provision by the Government whilst Norwich was a single star authority. The Secretary of State in assessing the City's bid stated she had concerns regarding the financial data submitted in the proposal and also recognised some concerns as to the corporate capacity of the City Council to deliver its ambitious initiatives for neighbourhood empowerment. The County Council had calculated that its costs would rise by £8,000,000 a year if the unitary proposals were implemented.

The Secretary of State considered that the City Council's proposals for a unitary bid on extended boundaries would command a cross-section of support from stakeholders, both public and private sector, as well as some support from general public however she had not responded to a request from the Town Council for evidence that supported that view.

It was considered that there was a great need for a proactive response and that public opinion should be illustrated effectively. Local media would be asked to canvass opinion via text for example to gauge support for enlarging Norwich's

boundaries to take forward the unitary authority proposals. The Beacon would carry a questionnaire to gauge local opinion.

(iv) Report of Green Infrastructure Project Meeting

The report that Mr J. F. Fisher and Mr P. Rope had submitted following the project meeting in July was noted.

9. Broadland District Council

(i) Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

A letter supporting the retention of the four polling stations listed in the review would be sent.

(ii) Letter from Colin Bland

Mr Bland had noted the Town Council's comments made in reply to his last letter regarding the count at the May elections.

(ii) Broadland District Council's Licensing Policy Review. Licensing Act 2003.

It was noted that the Licensing Act 2003 did not allow town and parish councils to be consulted or take into account their comments unless they have been requested to comment on behalf of local residents. Site notices and public notices in the local press were the only way members of the public were informed of a license application.

It was **RESOLVED** to request that town and parish councils be informed of licence applications to enable the Town Council to consult residents in a similar manner to the procedures followed for planning applications.

10. River Green Improvements

Notice had been received from the Broads Authority that planning permission would be required for most of the improvements being considered for River Green. A meeting with the Broads Authority Landscape Architect for advice on the improvements would be held at 11am on 23 August 2007.

11. Correspondence from Great and Little Plumstead Parish Council to NCC Highways.

Correspondence regarding various matters in Thorpe End and Gt Plumstead was noted. A letter of support would be sent requesting that contractors be recalled to satisfactorily reinstate the surface of the trod from Dussindale Drive to South Hill Road.

12. Business Sponsorship Group update.

It was anticipated that the St Andrews Park roundabout landscaping would be carried out in September. Letters seeking sponsorship for projects such as Christmas lights, River Green flagpole and town signs were about to be mailed out. Mr Mackie drew attention to s106 funding that would be received when flats under construction began to be occupied and suggested that this could be used to enhance facilities at River Green. Town Mayor, Mr R. S. James thanked Mr Mackie for all his work to date.

13. Norfolk N.H.S. Walk In Centre

Information had been received from local surgeries on the level of service provision they could offer to counter the reduction in primary care services that had been made at the NHS Walk In Centre. It was considered that many patients would need to make greater use of the already overstretched emergency services offered by hospitals and that the cuts had simply transferred costs from one resource to another and greatly inconvenienced patients as a result.

14. Community Hospitals Norfolk PCT Consultation.

Mr E. A. Newberry was thanked for attending a meeting at Aylsham that had been held with the purpose of coordinating communities who wished to raise their concerns regarding plans to close some community hospitals and other cuts that were being made by Norfolk Primary Care Trust. Subsequent to the meeting a number of closures had been announced and a letter of commiseration would be sent to Aylsham Town Council for the loss of their community hospital.

15. Norfolk Rural Community Council

Information that an application for a grant from the Sports Relief Fund to enable the purchase of play equipment had been unsuccessful was noted. Mrs E. C. Laming had submitted the application and was considering making an application for a Biffa award to fill the gap in the funding that had been put forward to other grant providers.

16. Building work carried out on the cemetery wall.

A resident had emailed to compliment the church on the restoration work that had recently been carried out on the cemetery wall. It was considered that the work had been carried out to a high standard and was an enhancement to the area.

17. Norwich and District Citizens Advice Bureau - 40th Anniversary Appeal for Financial Help.

It was **RESOLVED** to make a donation of £100 to the organisation under powers conveyed by the Local Government Act 1972 s142 (2a).

18. Letter to Parishioners regarding Flytipping.

A letter would be sent to residents whose properties backed onto Town Council owned parks and allotments asking for their support in cracking down on persons flytipping on the land.

21. Tree Wardens' report.

The contents of the Tree Wardens' report were noted.

22. Zurich – Annual Health and Safety Seminar.

Information that had been provided at the seminar was circulated to all members of the Council. The Town Clerk, Mr S. J. Ford and Deputy Clerk Mrs J. Fenn had attended the seminar.

23. Norwich Unitary authority bid.

Information from various bodies regarding the outcome of the bid was noted. Mr E. A. Newberry hoped to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee of the N. C. A. P. T. C. at Sprowston to consider the implications of the boundary changes.

24. Staff meeting monthly update.

The summary of points arising from staff meetings was noted.

25. Parish and Town Councils A.G.M.

It was noted that the meeting would be held at 10.00am on 15th September at East Tuddenham Village Hall.

26. Cary's Meadow - Declaration as a Local Nature Reserve.

Information on the designation of Cary's Meadow as a Local Nature Reserve was noted.

27. Publications received: Broadsheet - July and August Newsletter, SPAN Re-energise directory and Norfolk Rural Community Council newsletter.

Date of next meeting 3rd Sept 2007 at the Dussindale Centre 7.30p.m.