

THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th FEBRUARY 2008

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Mr R. S. James (Town Mayor)	Mr J. F. Fisher
	Mr J. M. Ward (Deputy Town Mayor)	Mrs E. C. Laming
	Mr A. J. Barber	Miss S. P. Lawn
	Mrs O. M. Campbell	Mr I. J. Mackie
	Mr D. E. Eley	Mr E. A. Newberry

1. Attendance book and apologies for absence.

The attendance book was circulated and signed by those present. Apologies were received from Mr G. Rowe, Mr D. R. C. Spooner and Mrs Y. Utting.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

Mr I. J. Mackie declared a personal interest in agenda item 20 Norwich Fringe Project as a member of Norfolk County Council.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on the 7th and 28th January 2008

The minutes of the meetings held on the 7th and 28th January 2008, previously circulated to members, were approved and signed.

4. Announcements (For information only).

The Town Mayor, Mr R. S. James announced that a meeting would be held with Sainsbury's building project manager to discuss their proposals for constructing a bus lay-by on the patio area that was part of the curtilage of Dussindale Community Centre. It had been indicated that in return for permitting the lay-by to be constructed improvements to access the patio area to allow its use for parking exclusively by users of the Centre could be paid for by Sainsbury's.

Mr James had attended a meeting at Pinebanks where it had been announced that the leisure centre would close at the end of August. Its future was uncertain but it was indicated that housing development at the site was an option that would be considered. A further meeting with users of the centre would be arranged.

The Clerk said he had received correspondence from a resident regarding the recent election and other town council matters. The letter had been received too late to be brought before the current meeting; the resident had requested that the council be notified of the correspondence that would be brought to the March meeting.

A further letter had been received from a land owner who had requested that they be given a key to River Green. This would also be referred to the March meeting having been received after the papers had been prepared for the current meeting.

5. Public participation – It was unanimously resolved by a motion to suspend the meeting to allow members of the public, County and District Councillors the opportunity to address the meeting.

Mrs A. Cook told the meeting that she considered nobody knew about the recent election and asked how much was saved by not issuing poll cards and went on to express a number of her concerns regarding issues that she considered arose from poor publicity for the election.

Mr P. J. Harwood had similar concerns to Mrs Cook and was particularly interested the correspondence listed under item 8 on the agenda and in especially that of the Chief Executive of Broadland District Council, Mr C. Bland, who had commented on

procedures. Mr Harwood considered the information to have substantial implications that in his view may need consideration on a national basis.

Mr P. Rope commented that he had been proud to have stood as an independent candidate at the recent election and that he and his supporters had distributed leaflets to all residences within the ward.

County Council

Mr I. J. Mackie said that the unitary authority debate staggered on and that the terms of reference for the Boundary Committee had not yet come forward. Residents had been pressing for a cycle path on Yarmouth Road, The Museums and Archaeological Committee had announced that some admission fees would be reduced and some discount days for over 55's would be offered during the summer.

District Council

Mr N. Shaw said he would be attending a meeting in London regarding Norwich Airport. The police SNAP meeting would be held on 27th February at 7.30pm at Thorpe St Andrew School.

Mr J. Ward drew attention to the Turning Ideas into Reality funding fair that the District Council had organised.

6. Payment of Accounts:

Cheque numbers 002785 – 002826 totalling £36,232.05p, voucher numbers 1175 – 1197 and 1206 - 1227 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 held on 21st January 2008 were noted.

8. Election 10th January 2008

(i) Result of Poll

Mr J. Emsell had been elected and signed the Acceptance of Office document. The Town Mayor, Mr R. S. James, welcomed Mr Emsell to the council.

(ii) Email from Chief Executive Broadland District Council

Chief Executive Mr C. Bland had commented on the procedures that had been followed for the recent election and casual vacancy that existed on the council in reply to a number of questions that had been set by Mr P. J. Harwood who was acting on behalf of Dr I. Gibson, M.P. The contents of the correspondence were noted.

(iii) Correspondence from Thorpe Labour Party

The group requested information on procedures that were followed when vacancies arose on the town council particularly with regard to publicity and the issuing or non-issuing of poll cards. It was considered the correspondence from Mr C. Bland addressed the issues regarding advertising vacancies.

The subject of poll cards had been largely decided by cost and the precedent set by previous councils. It was understood that both candidates were confident that all residents had election leaflets through their letter boxes to inform them of their reasons for seeking election and the date of the election.

It was **RESOLVED** to carry out a comprehensive review of methods of public communication at its next meeting and will take into account the contents of correspondence relating to the recent by-election.

9. Casual Vacancy

The casual vacancy would continue to be advertised on town notice boards. The vacancy would be published in "Parish Life" magazine. In the event of more than one candidate coming forward the procedures for the secret ballot that would be held were explained by the Town Mayor, Mr R. S. James.

10. Tree Wardens' report

The contents of the report were noted. Information on tree planting on the Furze Road verge was being sought from the County Council.

11. Norfolk County Council

(i) Norfolk gritting routes

Information contained in the leaflet was noted.

(ii) Closure of Yarmouth Road

Information that Yarmouth Road would be closed for five weeks for resurfacing was noted.

(iii) Bus Shelters

It was **AGREED** that in principle the Town Council would agree to accept responsibility for two bus shelters that would be provided by the developers of Broadland Business Park. A commuted sum of £7,500 per shelter would be paid in a lump sum to cover cleaning and maintenance costs.

(iv) Norfolk Minerals and Waste LDF

Information on the consultations that would be carried out regarding the proposals was noted.

(v) Gas Governor site

Information from the County Council's solicitor regarding progress on the sale of the property was noted.

(vi) No Cold Calling Zones

Information on No Cold Calling zones that had been established in Norwich was noted and would be forwarded to wardens of local sheltered housing.

(vii) Waiting restrictions Yarmouth Road/Roxley Close junction

The proposals for double yellow lines were not supported. Single yellow lines with restrictions finishing at 1830 would be requested.

12. Norfolk Safety Camera Partnership

A high level of speeding motorists had been detected when the team had set up in Thunder Lane and St Williams Way. Visits to Spinney Road, South Hill Road, Booty Road and Pound Lane would be requested. Information on subsequent action taken when a high level of speeding vehicles was detected would be requested.

13. Broadland District Council

(i) Protecting against terrorist attack

Information on an event to show measures taken to prevent, handle and recover from a terrorist attack that was taking place at Oaklands Hotel was noted. Further information could be downloaded from the MI5 website. www.mi5.gov.uk

(ii) Broadland Community Partnership

Information on the summary report of the Public Consultation was noted.

(iii) Joint Core Strategy – Issues and Options

Comments on the proposals would be submitted based on a report prepared by Mr J. F. Fisher.

14 Thorpe Marshes – Future management

The contents of a comprehensive report by Mrs E. C. Laming were noted. It was considered that information should be obtained from Whittingham Trust on how it worked and was funded. The Trust would be asked if it would consider partnership working in the management of the Marshes.

15. Larger Councils meeting

Mr R. S. James, Mrs E. C. Laming and Mrs J. B. Fenn, RFO would attend the meeting later in the month at North Walsham where the main topic would be Section 106 payments.

16. Empowering Me Empowering You

Information on the East of England Development Agency meeting on 26th February at Cambridge was noted.

17. Consultation on Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England

Information contained in the consultation booklet was noted.

18. Civic Award

Further proposals for taking the scheme forward were **AGREED**. Mr E. A. Newberry would obtain information from Diss Town Council who already operated a similar scheme.

19. Norfolk Association of Village Halls

Information that two delegates could attend the Association's AGM at County Hall on 15 March 2008 was noted.

20. Norwich Fringe Project

The contents of the Fringe Project's Newsletter were noted.

21. Norfolk PCT – Proposed Vision and Priorities for 2008 - 2011

The contents of the consultation document were noted.

22. Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places Orders

It was **RESOLVED** to request a DPPO on the Recreation Ground and Dussindale Park. Sufficient evidence to satisfy the District Council that there was an existing problem would be required. The views of the Police would be sought in the first instance.

23. Budget 2008/2009

The budget put forward by the Finance and Staff Committee was noted. The Committee would be requested to prepare alternative budgets with an increase of 4, 6 and 8% on the current year's budget.

24. Future agenda items

Deputy Town Mayor, Mr J. M. Ward asked if matters arising could be part of the agenda; the Clerk would report back to a future meeting.

Date of next meeting 7th April 2008 at the Dussindale Centre 7.30p.m.