

**Thorpe St Andrew Town Council  
Minutes of the meeting  
held on 4 February 2019 at 7.30pm**

**105 Present:**

Mr J Fisher	(Town Mayor)		
Mr P Berry	Mr F Bowe	Mr J Emsell	Mrs J Fisher
Mr R Robson	Mr N Shaw	Mr S Snelling	Mr J Ward

**Apologies:**

Miss S Lawn	Mr I Mackie	Mrs T Mancini Boyle	Mr L Reeves
Mr D Sears	Mr R Wooden		

**In attendance:**

Dr T Foreman (Town Clerk)	Mrs D Matthews (Committee Officer)
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Also attending were three members of the public.

**106 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None made

**107 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record.

**108 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported that he had been pleased to be invited to award the Junior Cup at the recent Frostbite sailing event. He also reported that there was a possibility of consideration being given to improvements to the Heartsease roundabout as part of an application by the County Council for potential Transforming Cities funding. A Norfolk SCRAP fly-tipping campaign had recently been launched aiming to fight fly-tipping in the County with a further campaign planned for later in the year. The scheme was being supported by the Norfolk Deputy Lieutenants.

**Thorpe Woodland** - The Town Mayor reported that the decision of the Inspector appointed for the Thorpe Woodland planning appeal had now been issued and the developer's appeal had been granted for a development of up to 300 homes, despite objections from the District and Town Councils. The concerns raised by the Town Council that 300 homes would not deliver sufficient sums to cover the cost of the community woodland had been dismissed together with all the concerns regarding the detrimental impact on biodiversity. With regard to any further action, it was unlikely that there was any cause for judicial review as the decision-making process appeared sound and there was no provision for reconsideration of the merits of the decision. There was confidence that representations regarding the impact on the ecology of the woodland had been made robustly but had been dismissed and, without any further evidence, could not realistically be revisited. The Town Clerk added that, as objectors to the proposal, the Town Council was disappointed with the outcome of the appeal but there was also disappointment at the nature of the reaction to the decision of some

individuals on social media and in the local press. There had been a clear lack of understanding and respect for the integrity of the professional officers presenting the objections to the development at the inquiry. Officers had been subjected to a very thorough and robust inquiry process only to face claims of bribery and corruption without any validation. It was agreed to officially record the Town Council's appreciation of the work of the officers of the District Council in preparing the case against the proposed development.

The Town Clerk reported that he had been involved in meetings with the following:

- officers from Broadland District Council regarding s106 matters;
- the Mayor regarding the Town's Neighbourhood Plan;
- the Broads Authority regarding the updated version of the Broads Plan;
- the Highways Engineer regarding a number of issues in the Town including proposals to facilitate repair and retention of the path from White Farm Lane to Yarmouth Road.

### **109 PUBLIC SESSION (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)**

It was proposed and duly seconded that the meeting be suspended to allow members of the public to address the meeting.

- (i) Norfolk Constabulary – members were advised that the method for reporting on crime matters in the Town was changing and that they would in future receive an update from the Beat Manager at the meeting. He was not present at the meeting and the Town Clerk undertook to circulate data from the engagement officers to members on this occasion.
- (ii) Members noted the report from Cllr Ward.
- (iii) Cllr Fisher reported on work by the Digital Innovations Committee at the County Council in relation to surveys of users of adult social services to identify potential areas where technological innovations could assist people to stay in their own homes.
- (iv) A local resident, Mr Martins, reported that if any Councillor was interested and supplied him with a suitable memory stick, he would furnish them with a copy of the Janet Smith Archive. He also expressed his support for the potential for collaborative work with Sprowston Town Council regarding the provision of a skatepark as referred to in the agenda papers. The two main issues blocking the provision of a skatepark in Sprowston had been cost and a suitable location. If the two councils could work together on this it could only be a good thing. Mr Martins sought clarification on whether the initial proposals regarding the transfer of land for the community woodland at Thorpe Woods was still on the table. The detailed arrangements for the provision of a community woodland would now need to be developed in the light of the recent decision but it was still envisaged that some form of transfer to a public body would take place.

**110 FINANCE**

- (i) Payments List – voucher numbers 1082 to 1214 totalling £56,469.17 were approved and signed.
- (ii) Bank Reconciliation Statement – the statement as at 31 January 2019 was noted and approved.

**111 DRAFT MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- (i) Plans Committee – 14 January 2019 – noted. Members were advised that the next meeting of the Plans Committee would take place at Roxley Hall as a number of residents in that area were interested in a planning application which was being considered (68 Yarmouth Road). There would also be an extra meeting of the Plans Committee on 18 February solely to consider the application relating to the Oasis and would likely include a presentation by the applicant. (The Finance and Staff Committee meeting on 18 February would now be on 21 February.)
- (ii) Neighbourhood Plans Committee – 14 January 2019 – noted. Members were advised that the submission of the Town's draft Neighbourhood Plan to consultees for a preliminary view had been delayed pending the imminent decision on the Thorpe Wood Inquiry. Members agreed to authorise the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Town Mayor, to make the necessary alterations to the draft plan to reflect the outcome of the inquiry and submit the draft plan to initial consultation.
- (iii) Finance and Staff Committee – 21 January 2019 – noted. Cllr Snelling commented that, whilst the offer of funding for additional fridge/freezer facilities for the Luncheon Club had been very warmly received, a request had been made that the funds be split to cover the cost of improved fridge/freezer facilities but also much needed extra cooking facilities. The Town Clerk undertook to investigate the options.
- (iv) Events and Media Committee – 28 January 2019 – noted.

**112 VEHICLE LEASING**

Members considered the report of the Clerk regarding the Council's vehicle contract. Due to a number of mechanical faults, the leasing company of the Council's current ford ranger had stated that it was no longer viable to continue offer the vehicle on a fleet term basis. Other options were now available and had been considered by the Finance and Staff Committee who were recommending the Isuzu D-Max tipper as the favoured vehicle.

**RESOLVED** to agree to enter into a vehicle lease contract for the Isuzu D-Max Tipper at a cost of £356.53 per month for a 47-month contract.

**113 CHILDRENS PLAY EQUIPMENT PROPOSAL**

Members considered the report of the Clerk setting out options for the installation of children's play equipment using section 106 funds previously held in reserve and the funds from the Pinebanks development for the provision of a skatepark. A number of

elements of the original park plan had been implemented and the Clerk invited members to consider the options for taking the plan further forward. Having regard to the likely cost of providing a skatepark, options for working with a neighbouring council to create a destination skatepark could be explored, enabling the existing funding to be utilised to deliver significant elements of the parks project at Laundry Lane. A potential site for a skatepark had been identified for further investigation and the sharing of costs could bring the project forward. Members agreed to explore the options for collaborative working with Sprowston Town Council regarding the joint provision of a skatepark. Mindful of a number of other developments in the Town which would bring forward future s106 monies for future projects, members also supported the use of the current s106 monies available to deliver significant parts of the parks project at Laundry Lane. Priority was to be given to the development of the area near the café and the provision of a significant item of equipment (cone climber) on the opposite end of the park.

**RESOLVED**

1. to explore options for working collaboratively with Sprowston Town Council to create a joint destination skatepark;
2. to utilise section 106 monies to purchase children's play equipment as set out in the Laundry Lane Parks Plan, with priority being given to the area of the park around the café and to the installation of the cone climber, up to the maximum of £49,092.83;
3. that the Finance and Staff Committee continue to monitor the implementation of the Plan.

**114 WOODLAND PLANTING PROPOSAL**

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk including indicative maps detailing the proposed planting scheme at the Fitzmaurice Park of Maple and Ironwood species forming an avenue and the proposal to plant the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy within the designated nursery area. Members supported the proposals and it was

**RESOLVED** to approve the planting schemes as proposed and agree to purchase supplementary tree protection (tree ties, tree guard frames/posts and post and wire boundary fencing to form nursery protection).

**115 BOWLS CLUB LEASE – COMPLETION**

The Clerk advised Members that the Bowls Club lease had now been finalised and duly signed.

*The meeting closed at 8:45pm*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....