

Thorpe St Andrew Town Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2016

- 95 Present:** Mr I Mackie (Town Mayor)
- | | |
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| Mr J Fisher | Mr J Ward |
| Mr L Reeves | Mr R Wooden |
| Miss S Lawn | Mr F Bowe |
| Mrs T Mancini Boyle | Mr N Shaw |
| Mrs J Fisher | Mr N Hancock |
| Mr J Emsell | |

Apologies: Mr P Berry, Mr R Robson, Mr M Pickess, Mr D Sears

In attendance: Mr T. Foreman (Town Clerk), Mr M Seaman (Norfolk Constabulary) and one Member of Public

96 Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

Mr I Mackie and Mr J Ward declared interests on items 103 Vane Close Car Parking and 105 Silca and Sand Review (Minerals Site Specific Allocations) as members of Norfolk County Council.

97 To confirm the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 3rd October 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record.

98 Announcements (For information only)

To receive announcements from

(i) The Town Mayor- Mr I Mackie thanked the members and officers of the Town Council for the organisation and assistance at the fireworks display. Special appreciation was given to Miss S Lawn for her assistance. Mr I Mackie further explained that he had attended the Frostbites exhibition and spoken to the Eastern Daily Press regarding the proposed changes to River Green.

Mr I Mackie presented Mr J Ward with a Past Mayor medal for his dedicated service as Town Mayor.

(ii) The Clerk- Mr T Foreman provided an update on his activities over the previous month, in addition to those outlined by the Town Mayor.

99 Public participation –To consider a motion to suspend the meeting to allow members of the public the opportunity to address the meeting limited to 3 mins each

The Meeting was suspended following a proposal from Mr I Mackie, seconded by Mr J Fisher.

(i) Norfolk Constabulary- Mr M Seaman updated the Town Council on the crime statistics for October 2016. It was outlined that an administrative error had occurred meaning 43 incidents were listed, when the true figure was 26 incidents. The Town Council thanked Mr M Seaman for his compressive report and ongoing partnership working with the Town Council officers.

(ii) County and District Councillors – Mr I Mackie gave an overview of the 2.5-hour County Council meeting on the devolution deal. The County Council are committed to continuing discussions, but have reservations about having a Mayor. Furthermore, it was estimated that the County Council would be seeking an increase in Council Tax of no more than 3.8%.

Mr J Fisher updated the meeting on the relaunch of the Top Dog campaign which had been well supported by the Town Council over the past year. The campaign seeks to promote responsible dog ownership throughout the Broadland District Council area.

Mrs T Mancini-Boyle provided an update on the District Council funding changes from 2020 where business rates will be kept by the authority with a reduction in central government funding.

(iii) Members of the public – Mr D Wiseman spoke on item 104 BT consultation on payphone removals. It was requested that the Town Council support his proposal to retain a modern 1980s telephone box on the Ring Road or Laundry Lane to use as a History Society noticeboard. Mr D Wiseman requested that one box scheduled for removal be used for spares and he had earmarked a sum of £400 for maintenance. The box would feature some advertisement for his local business.

100 Finance

(i) Payments List: Voucher numbers 593 to 723 totalling £44,557.44 were approved and signed

(ii) Bank Reconciliation Statement was agreed and signed as a true record.

101 Draft Minutes of Committee Meetings.

(i) Plans Meeting 10th November 2016 - were noted

(ii) Events and Media 17th November 2016 - were noted

(iii) Finance & Staff 24th November 2016- were noted

102 Budget 2017/18

Mr T Foreman provided an overview of the legal requirements for voting on a budget for councillors, the proposed 2017/18 budget, the budget report and the recommendation from the Finance and Staff Committee. It was explained that the approved asset management plan, increase in staffing and improvements to the buildings, parks and open spaces had been somewhat offset by contract savings and greater efficiencies through less reliance on contractors in 2017. Mr T Foreman explained that the proposed increase, subject to any amendments by Broadland District Council, was 7.4% equating to an estimated £80.62 per year for a Band D property. Mr I Mackie queried the current cost for Band D properties in surrounding Towns and Parishes of a similar size. Mr T Foreman explained that Band D in Sprowston is currently £107.47, Band D in Reepham is £105.71 and a Band D in Hellesdon is £109.35. Miss S Lawn stated that a great deal of time had been taken in considering this budget by the Finance and Staff Committee and felt it represented good value, particularly when placed in context of comparable Councils in the area. It was proposed by Miss S Lawn, seconded by Mr I Mackie and on a show of hands with all in favour **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed budget for 2017/18 with an estimated increase of 7.4%.

103 Vane Close Car Parking

Mr T Foreman provided an overview of the Vane Close car parking issue during school drop off and pick up times. It was confirmed that a near miss had been reported in recent weeks, however Norfolk County Council remain steadfast in the belief that the road is entirely safe and that parked vehicles on these roads are good for traffic calming. The road closure proposal was discussed in detail, however while the new headteacher at Dussindale Primary School settles in, it would not be advisable. Mr T Foreman outlined a proposal to put signage at the entrance to Vane Close suggesting that parents park elsewhere. Mr I Mackie said that the signage should be firm and send a clear message. It was proposed by Miss S Lawn, seconded by Mr I Mackie and on a show of hands with all in favour **RESOLVED** to place signage at the entrance to Vane Close to discourage car parking during school hours.

104 BT Consultation on payphone removals

The Town Council discussed the consultation document received from BT to remove KX100 telephone boxes in the town, due to lack of use. There was some discussion regarding the future of the red telephone box on River Green, but it was confirmed by Mr T Foreman that due to its listed nature and proximity to the river, it is unlikely this would be marked for closure. The proposal outlined by Mr D Wiseman to create a community board and advertising kiosk was discussed. There were some concerns that already unattractive phone boxes would be made to look worse with any advertising of notices and that this may in turn attract fly-posting. In support of the proposal, it was considered that these are prime locations and would be a good location for notices and also support local businesses. It was proposed by Mr J Fisher, seconded by Mr I Mackie and on a show of hands with 8 in favour and 4 against **RESOLVED** to support the proposal to adopt a telephone kiosk for advertising and noticeboard usage, subject to approval from planning and BT.

105 Silca and Sand Review (Mineral Site Specific Allocations)

The Town Council considered the consultation documents received from Norfolk County Council. On a show of hands, it was **AGREED** to support the review.

Future Agenda Items. (Not for discussion)

Town Council meeting 19th December 2016

Date of next Plans meeting 12th December 2016

Date of next Finance & Staff meeting to be confirmed