

THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PUBLIC TOWN MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2024 AT 6PM

Present:

Mr F Bowe (Town Mayor)
Mr D Wiseman
Mr D Buck
Ms C Ferris
Ms L Barrett
Mrs M Friend
Mr J Ward

Mr S Snelling (Deputy Town Mayor)
Mr S Court
Mr J Fisher
Ms J Bailey
Mr J Emsell
Mr C Eden
Mr P Berry

Apologies: Mrs L Skinner

In attendance:

Mrs M Barron (CEO), Mrs R McCarthy (OM and RFO), Mrs D Wheatley (Administrative and Communication Officer), Mrs L Weston (Administration and Committee Officer), Mr J Calver (Parks and Estates Manager) and six members of the public were present

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Public Town Meeting held on 17 May 2023 were agreed as a true record.

2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL FROM THE TOWN MAYOR, COUNCILLOR FRASER BOWE.

The Town Mayor's report was circulated and read prior to the meeting.

3. FINANCE

- (i) Financial Statement 2023/24 – members noted the Financial Statement 2023/24
- (ii) Variance Report 2023/24 – members noted the Variance Report for the period 1/4/23 to 31/3/24

4. UPDATE FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

- a) Norfolk Police – A detailed update on the work which had taken place during the past year, was received from PC Jennings and distributed prior to the meeting. The CEO read the report aloud and points were raised by some members regarding the anti-social behaviour. Cllr Bowe asked the CEO to pass on our thanks to PC Jennings for the report.
- b) Thorpe St Andrew Parish Church – A report was tabled which was welcomed by members. Father James added a brief verbal report noting the small hamlet of Thorpe Next Norwich which had a church in it dedicated to Saint Andrew and from that this Town became known as Thorpe St Andrew. Life of the church and the community is inextricably linked and continue to be in 2024. The church involves itself in its community, schools, nursing homes and other groups. Being grateful to the Town Council, working together for

the community, meeting regularly with the CEO. Father James also wanted to mention the Cemetery support, without wishing to offend, as the finance papers showed it had gone from £2,000 to nothing and hoped this wasn't the case. The RFO explained that it was an accounting change and that the cemetery budget is now allocated to section 137, a more appropriate line for the funds to sit.

- c) Royal British Legion – Cllr Snelling, as the Thorpe Branch Chair, provided a detailed annual report. Highlighting to members the grateful appreciation of all the support from residents on the £18,000 raised from the poppy appeal. Sadly numbers are declining, through illness and some deaths, therefore anyone with association and support for the work of the British Legion, please come and join the group.
- d) Thorpe History Group – Cllr Wiseman tabled a report but wanted to emphasise the hard work of the secretary, Nick Williams, also acknowledging the work of Malcolm Martins, who has been engaged with the neighbourhood plan for the last 6 years.
- e) Thorpe Dementia Support – A report was tabled summarising the past year. Cllr Snelling wished to thank all the volunteers, the force behind the group. Also, to the people, organisations and councillors who have donated substantial funds to the group, which enables the group to function and is appreciated. The work is emotional for the volunteers, there has been a few deaths recently, which is hard on everyone. There has been 42 events and outings and new couples are joining, so it's important to continue. Thanks also to the council for everything it's done.
- f) Dussindale Centre - Mr Ford tabled a report which was forwarded a couple of days ago. Nothing to add but mentioned the effect of covid on the bookings, which are now back to pre-covid levels. Operational costs have soared however they are working hard to maintain the position and improve financially in the coming years.
- g) Community Groups – no verbal reports.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public asked on behalf of the History Group, if they could have access to the parish records from 1895 to 1945, believed to be in the Roxley cellar. If they could be made accessible to view, it would be a help.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm

Signed:

Dated: