

Minutes of the Thompson Annual Parish Meeting held in Thompson Village Hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 17 May 2016

Present: Kate Winslow (Chair of Thompson Parish Council), 17 members of Thompson electorate, Steve Maine of Wispire.

- 1 To sign as correct the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 May 2015:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2015 were read and signed as correct by Kate Winslow (Chair of Meeting).

Suspension of meeting: The Chair asked those present if they would like to receive an update on Wispire's wireless broadband service that available in the village. The meeting agreed unanimously to this. Steve Maine (CEO of Wispire) said that their network made no use of BT's network being completely wireless. As well as broadband voice calls were available using VOIP meaning that a separate telephone line was necessary when using Wispire's service. The aims were to provide a good broadband service supplying the speed signed up for at all times. They also offer satellite services. Vouchers provided for those with less than 2MB speed can be used. The service is not available to all parts of Thompson but they are working on boosting the signal to areas where there is poor or no reception but that they it needed more potential users to express interest for this to go ahead. Kate Winslow thanked Steve Maine for his input to the meeting.

- 2 Report from the Chair of Thompson Parish Council:** Kate Winslow said that - We started this year after a non-contested election, with one vacancy. Mrs Kaye expressed her interest and was co-opted onto the council.

There were several planning applications requiring decisions throughout the year, one being a property in the garden of a listed property. This was turned down by Breckland. The Parish Council (amongst many, including Breckland Council) having objected to the proposed planning application opposite Barn Ruche, it unfortunately went to appeal and outline planning has now been granted for this site. Other applications in the village were for small extensions, car ports. The council applied for and received a grant from the Transparency fund for purchasing computer equipment.

The Council's application for a modification order to have the footpath (Pockthorpe to Sparrow Hill) reinstated on the County footpath map was rejected. Norfolk County Council during their research of this application found evidence that the "footpath" was in fact a soft road. They are now seeking a stopping up order for vehicles but it will remain a right of way.

Again the Council held 2 litter picks during the year, in October and again in April; in and around all the approach roads to the village and the village itself. These prove very successful with several parishioners helping. They are now becoming a regular event. I would like to thank Ann Kean for keeping our planters on the bus stop site looking magnificent all year.

The Council did not alter the precept this year. Several grants were given out this year, to Thompson Hearts towards a replacement defibrillator, for church maintenance and to the Millennium Green.

As you know Breckland have increased the items that can be recycled, including glass. But we still urge all villagers to continue to use our bottle bank at the Chequers, as the money received from this comes directly back to the village, this year in the region of £200. If we do not use it we will lose it!

The Council responded to Breckland Council's draft Local Plan, which was also available for everyone to make comments. Following on from this a small committee comprising of Councillors and villagers have produced a Village Appraisal questionnaire, which was hand delivered and is now being collected from every household in the village. When the results have been collated and analysed a copy will be delivered to every house and will be available on the village website. The results of this appraisal will help the Council when discussing planning applications, settlement boundaries, future growth and other matters that the village would like

to see implemented/improved or changed. I would like to thank all fellow Councillors' and the Clerk for their hard work and their support to me during the last year.

3 Reports from Local organisations:

3.1 Thompson Millennium Green Charitable Trust: No report.

3.2 Thompson Parish Church: A bid has been put into the Heritage Lottery fund for the first stage of repairs to St martin's church

3.3 Thompson Village Hall Committee: No Report

3.3.1 Coffee Mornings: Lynn Callnon reported as follows: Coffee mornings continue to be held in the Village Hall on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, plus additional Tuesdays when the walking group are walking our Thompson pathways (dates appear in *The Waylander*). The walkers are always appreciative of a cup of tea or coffee after their exertions, and their contributions account for the greater part of the money this event raises for the upkeep of the hall; this, including the £106 raised by supplying the Grumpies with cream teas in June, amounted to £760 over the past year. We look forward to seeing any Thompson residents and friends in the coming year, and are grateful to our band of helpers who step in when needed.

3.4 Parish Land: Bronwen Tyler reported In December we gave out the usual sums of money to those retired of Thompson who live alone and do not own their own property or are known to be in need of a boost at Christmas. We continue to rent out the land for agricultural use.

3.5 Thompson Women's Institute: Kate Winslow gave a report on behalf of Thompson WI saying -We had a varied mix of speakers during the past year. 2015 being the 100 years of Women's Institute many special events were held. The AGM at the Albert Hall was live streamed out over the country and several of our members went to Mattishall and watched the event, enjoying a very pleasant celebratory picnic lunch. Three of our members, Jane Cross, Bronwen Tyler and Kate Winslow were fortunate to get tickets for the garden party at Buckingham Palace that the Queen graciously allowed the Women's Institute to hold. Over 6500 women attended. It was a fantastic experience, although the weather was a little overcast, the atmosphere was fantastic. The garden party was attended by the Duchess of Cornwall, the Duchess of Wessex and Princes Alexandra. It was an experience not to be missed. The actual birthday was in September and we hijacked the Stitches usual evening and invited all the ladies from the village, we put on an exhibition and had our archive photographs etc. on display and provided a birthday cake. This resulted in several new members. Our July meeting last year took on a different form; we held a WW1 tea party inviting guests from other institutes. This was in response to our support of the Wayland Heritage WW1 project. We learned how to look after our backs, and then had a very enjoyable evening sampling several different ice creams from Lakenham Creamery. We also enjoyed Face and laughter yoga. We went out for a meal at Christmas being also a delayed birthday meal. Since the New Year we have been entertained by Julian Horn talking about Watton's history, Simon White of Beale's about pruning and caring for roses, and a talk on the Suffragettes movement, and ingesting talk from Jeff from our local pharmacy.

We again entered darts and ten pin bowling competitions. One of the darts team again won through to the finals unfortunately not successful and the bowling team again moved up the league a little again. We again hosted the group quiz, with Caston being successful this year. Our membership continues to be steady losing some members but gaining others.

Again there was no election at our AGM and the main officers continue in their posts, we do have a new committed member.

3.6 Stitches Group: Bronwen Tyler reported on the Stitches activities saying: It has been a busy year with a greatly increased membership. We have taken part in a number of activities such as holding workshops to learn how to make items to sell at the Watton Christmas Market for Community Hall Funds, and joining with the church workshop to complete kneelers. At

Christmas we joined with other Thompson ladies to take over the large room at The Chequers for a Christmas meal which was great fun. We celebrated our 21st anniversary on May 11th with a get together in the village hall and welcomed several former members, one of whom travelled from Norwich for the evening. We all enjoyed nibbles provided by those attending and a celebration cake. Stitchers actually began in February 1994 as a social outlet when we began to realise that many of us no longer met together as we had done when our children were at the village school. Taking some stitching or other craft along was a way of providing a focus. Within a year some of the group were meeting weekly on a Wednesday to learn to make bobbin lace and there was a request from the monthly group to join us with a promise to sew quietly in a corner so as not to interfere with our lessons. As if that was going to last! We soon acquired a reputation for being a fun group sharing lots of laughter, even, on one occasion, being prescribed by the doctor, and hope we have continued this way. We have also developed new friendships and shared trips out with like-minded members of the group. If anyone would like to join us the social element is still far more important than the stitching. We meet from 7.15 each Wednesday in the Village Hall and all are welcome, even if only for a coffee.

- 3.7 Thompson Community Hall Project:** Bronwen Tyler reported as follows: There has been so much progress with the plans for a new community hall on the parish land adjoining the Millennium Green that it is hard to know what to include. After some very slow progress and a few hiccups with the solicitor we finally received the legacy from Mr and Mrs Jessup of a little over £700,000. We began the process of appointing an architect and discussing possible design ideas, based on various consultation exercises held within the village and amongst regular users of the current hall which helped establish facilities requirements. Architects Lucas Hickman Smith were appointed. We have also been shortlisting and appointing the relevant experts such as construction engineers, electrical experts etc. We have some suggested plans for the layout but it should be stressed that these are not final drawings and may be subject to change due to costings. They are available to view and for comments. One of the restrictions has been to design a building with the internal space required, but which can be fitted within the narrow plot of land available. We think Paul Lucas has been imaginative in finding solutions to avoid corridors taking up unnecessary space. We also aim to keep the profile of the building low to avoid over-dominance of the centre of the village and at the same time take full advantage of the wonderful outlook across the Green. Subject to plans meeting our budgetary requirements we hope to apply for planning within the next few weeks. We have achieved charitable status recognised by the Charity Commission and have eight Trustees. The Trustees and additional management group members meet at least monthly and often more frequently as plans require. We try to meet on the second Thursday of each month in the village hall although the fast pace of needing to agree stages or meet with the architect has meant this has not always been possible recently. Our meetings are open if any of the public wish to hear of progress. Apart from the planning and design process we have been holding fundraising events. These do not raise large sums of money but do help to raise the profile of the project. Despite having a good sum for building we are conscious that we will need to ensure there is a contingency fund for unexpected costs and money for initial running costs until bookings become regular and numerous. Our next major event is the Gardens Open on June 25th and 26th. We will be joined by the church fundraising team who are providing the refreshments for church restoration funds. We aim to have the process as transparent as possible. If you have any queries please do approach Trustees / members of the committee. A progress report is also printed in the Waylander each month.

- 3.8 Thompson Hearts** Paula Corrie reported that: Thompson Hearts is now in its sixth year. In that time a few of the founder members have moved on, whilst Chris da Rocha and I have joined since but are stepping down as we are both in the process of leaving the village. The aim of the Group, which comprises interested villagers, is to maintain the village defibrillator – ‘defib’ or AED – located at the school. This is done by raising funds and, in conjunction with the Community First Responders and East of England Ambulance Service,

organising training: it is hoped a session can be arranged in the near future, date and venue TBA.

In the last year we have received donations from two families in the village, the Thompson Marquee fund and the Parish Council. We are extremely appreciative of these donations. The defib battery was replaced in March 2015 – funded by the Thompson Marquee donation – after its life expired, along with the electrodes. The defib itself has a 7-year warranty which will expire in 2017. Whilst it will remain functional we may experience difficulties purchasing accessories for it as the model has been superseded. In due course it will need to be replaced thus the need to continue to raise funds. The cost of a defibrillator varies on make and model but is between approx £1000-£2000.

The bank account is currently a Community Direct plus Account at the Co- op in Norwich. The balance is £255.82.

We are in need of your help and support in the form of a chairman, secretary, treasurer and annual auditor.

For anyone interested in any of the above, please contact Linda May, Bob Bryden or Geoff Winslow.

3.9 Wayland Partnership: Bronwen Tyler reported: We continue to endeavour to provide services for the people of Wayland. Our latest tourism booklet, which includes a list of local what's on, is available from Wayland House. We continue to offer serviced offices to rent and have quite a range of businesses in occupation at present. Perhaps the most popular are the two Mr Kaye, physiotherapists. One Wednesdays and Fridays we have Breckland Council who are available on a drop in basis to discuss any queries and issues. Most popular are probably housing and council tax but they will attempt to assist with anything related to Breckland Council.

We have a new trustee on board – Andrew Merritt-Morling , who is also a Griston parish councillor. The trustees have recently signed off the new action plan to take the Partnership forward in continuing to try to meet local needs. High on the agenda are ways of bringing people into the area and of ensuring local people are able to obtain goods and service locally, avoiding loss of trade from our shops and businesses to those further afield.

The Dragonfly Gallery continues to be a huge success and we have had some wonderful exhibitions with more planned for the coming season, which will end shortly before Christmas. Gifts and cards created by our artists and craftspeople are also available daily. Within the Gallery is the Tourist Information Centre with leaflets and information about Wayland and Norfolk. We will advertise your local event. The TIC and Gallery are always manned daily from 10-4 and Saturdays 10-1. A new tourism website is also being developed and will be launched later this year, in early September. A new Gallery innovation is Wednesday Swap Shop from 10-1 when you can take away free items for crafting in exchange for your unwanted craft items. The range is large – from painting and artists materials, to card making, sewing, knitting and more. Books as well as materials are available. If you have nothing to swap the Gallery will take donations. Plans are afoot to extend this to Saturday mornings too.

The Heritage Group is working towards finalising the Project on the impact of WWI on Wayland. Following the successful exhibition weekend in November 2015 we have been collating information on many categories. We will be producing a special, glossy commemorative book for display plus slightly less expensive versions, one of which which will go to each Wayland village, and hope to make it possible to purchase affordable versions via an internet publisher. In addition the large volume of material which cannot be included in the print versions will be placed on DVDs so that the research and information is available to view. We will also be launching trails booklets around the memorials of Wayland which will contain stunning photos by local photographer Neal Trafankowski. Many members are also working on their own village-centred projects.

The Dementia Café continues to be a successful venture. It is held the first Tuesday of each month in the Christian Community Centre in Watton from 10-12noon. However, it is soon to be extended to the First and Third Tuesdays due to Dragon's Den-style funding which also enables the purchase of small items of equipment.

The People's Postcode Lottery bid is funding a new project - Wayland Growing Together, which aims to identify small unloved parcels of land in each Wayland community which will be

mapped by Suzanne and a project leader as yet to be appointed. The plots identified will be put to a community vote and then volunteer teams created to tidy the plots, perhaps sow with wildflowers or plant trees, hedges etc. Tools and small equipment will also be made available. Small amounts of funding will be available per community taking part to fund plants, trees etc. It is envisaged that the main planting events will take place in the autumn. See Wayland Partnership website for more details.

The Wayland Men's Shed is a new venture. Currently we are seeking an unloved/unused building or piece of land in or around Watton that the Men's Shed could use at no or reduced cost. The group would have the skills to refurbish and maintain a building so it doesn't have to be pretty and it doesn't have to be huge! Men's Sheds have been started from market stalls. If you would like to join or know of premises, have tools and equipment to donate contact either Suzanne at Wayland House 01953 880204 or email jez.b.jones.wayland@gmail.com. Next meeting is June 15th 10am Wayland House.

The First Wayland Jobs fair will be held on June 28th 1pm-7pm At the Queen's Hall. The aim is to have representation from Norfolk's key employment sectors as well as smaller local businesses. 25 stands are already signed up which means the venue is virtually full. Local schools and other centres are being circulated with information leaflets.

Our Generations Connections project has been very popular and successful in joining together older people and young people. The older people have been learning from the young how to use smartphones, lap tops and other devices. Although the initial funding has now ended there are sufficient young volunteers and customers for us to continue so, if you, or anyone you know, has a wish to learn new technology please get in touch.

We will once again be manning a Health and Wellbeing marquee at the Wayland Show and spaces are still available if anyone would like to have a stand in it. There is a Well Wayland meeting at Wayland House on May 24th at 10am.

We have a small project called the Happy Project. HAPPY aims to address loneliness and isolation in 3 Wayland communities and we have been able to employ a part time outreach worker. Thompson is not one of the areas identified by the funders but it is working well in those areas in need.

On 5th June from 12.30 we have a Big Lunch at Wayland House. We only ask that you bring a small plate of food to share. We will be holding the Swap Shop on that day and hope to add in surplus plants to swap, so bring them along.

The Wayland Photography Challenge will be taking place this summer. Entries to be handed in by 4pm on July 1st at Wayland House. Subject is not restricted but the photos must be taken in Norfolk and preferably in Wayland or the Brecks. Contact Wayland House for more details and entry form.

We continue to recruit volunteers and specifically need volunteer receptionists in the front office. The main tasks are manning the front desk and providing administrative assistance. The experience can be added to a CV for those seeking employment or return to work experience.

For all information contact Wayland House on 01953 883915 or visit the website: www.wayland.org.uk

4 Village Appraisal: Nothing further to add, subject covered in Report by Chair of Thompson Parish Council.

5 Any business not already notified: None.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:20 pm.