

Minutes of the meeting of Thompson Parish Council

held in

Thompson Village Hall on Thursday 16 September 2013 at 7:30 pm

Present: Kate Winslow (Chair), Duncan Gregory, Jean Josiah, Anthony Murphy, Ian Robertson, Andy Wagner, Ian Monson (County Councillor) and Geoff Winslow (Parish Clerk).

1 Apologies for absence: Laurie Hull, Phil Cowen (District Councillor).

2 Declaration of interest: None

2.1 Requests for dispensations regarding matters covered by Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: None

3 Approval of minutes of previous meeting held on Thursday 18 July 2013: Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2013 was proposed by Andy Wagner and seconded by Anthony Murphy and unanimously approved by the members present. The minutes were signed by the Chair of the meeting.

Suspension of meeting to allow Ian Monson – Norfolk County Councillor to speak:

Ian said that Norfolk County Council had received prior notice of Government Grant reduction which meant that the county now needed to find an extra £65 million to make up the short fall for year 2014/15 and similar amounts for each of the following two years. The shortfall amounts to about 10% of the Councils spend for the year. Public consultation is to be carried out via the County Council website.

Highways have a new partner for road repairs from March 2014 repairs will be carried out by Lafarge Tarmac. It is projected that over the 12 year life of the contract it will save Norfolk rate payers £480 million pounds.

Broadband continues to be improved in the county with more villages joining Croxton with higher speeds.

Following bad OFSTED reports improvements to the education system were of high priority.

Duncan Gregory asked about the ever increasing numbers of deer on and near our road. It was suggested that better signing to warn of the dangers of deer and a public awareness campaign should be considered.

The amount of continuous night-time security lighting at Thompson School was queried and Ian said he would see if it was possible for this to be reduced.

4 Matters arising:

4.1 Salt Bins: The clerk said that he had hinges for one box and would put a new lid on the box and applied a coloured finish. If this was acceptable the others would also be refurbished. County Council Highways have been notified of the position of all salt bins and they should be topped up before winter.

4.2 Welcome pack: Nothing further to report.

4.3 Telephone box: It is intended to paint the Telephone box towards the end of October 2013.

4.4 CPRE Footpaths project: The deadline for reporting for the CPRE Footpath project has been extended to May 2013 which will allow two further seasonal walks to be carried out.

4.5 Village litter pick: It was proposed and agreed that a village litter pick be carried out. The date set was 20 October 2013 meeting at the Village Hall at 11.00 AM. The clerk is to ask Bronwen Tyler to put a note of the pick in the October edition of The Waylander.

4.6 Removal of Ivy from some village trees: Kate said that she had received some environmental notes regarding the removal of Ivy from large tree which she would circulate to all members of the Council prior to the next meeting.

4.7 Breckland Local Plan: This is a watching brief with nothing to report as yet.

4.8 Dog Waste Bin: It was suggested that we look at putting up some signage regarding dog waste. Clerk is to obtain information for next meeting. With regard to spreading lawn cuttings on verges it was suggested that a request be put in The Waylander for this to stop.

5 Correspondence not already notified:

Norfolk County Council Highways – request for position of village salt bins. Information has been sent.

Mazars LLP – Audit of Councils accounts has been carried, the auditor being satisfied with the information received. Statutory notices and accounts are now on the notice boards and will go on the website shortly.

6 Reports:

6.1 Chairman: Kate said that she had been notified by a Parishioner that the footpath from Pockthorpe lane to Sparrow Hill is on the definitive statement but not on the definitive map and that she would pursue this matter with the County Council on return from her holiday.

6.2 Responsible Financial Officer:

6.2.1 Financial transactions since last meeting:

Thompson Parish Council – Community Account

Community Account – Opening balance (17/7/13) **2,988.20**

	<u>Paid in</u>	<u>Paid out</u>
19/08/13	CGM Landscapes (Grass cutting)	253.73

Closing balance 16/9/13 **2,734.47**

Business Premium Account balance (16/9/13) **1,603.57**

6.3 Clerk: The Clerk said that he had re-erected the Village Sign and that he had also painted a portion of the Telephone box in a paint that is easily available locally and is safer in use than the normally recommend paint in order to gauge reaction to the slight colour change. The members thought the colour was acceptable.

6.4 Thompson Millennium Green: No report was given

6.5 Thompson Community Hall: It was reported now that Out-line Planning Permission had been gained; fund raising continued and funding sources and architects were being looked at.

7 Planning Applications:

7.1 3PL/2013/0730 – 0737/F – Breckles Farm Site, Land near Breckles Heath, Various applications some of which appear to be retrospective. This application is not within the Parish of Thompson but because it was on land adjacent to the Peddars Way and Thompson Water it was felt that it was relevant for this Council to let its views be known. The Council views had not changed since it previously commented on similar development on this land and directed the Clerk to convey the objections of Thompson Parish Council to these applications to Breckland/Capita Symonds

7.2 Decisions since last meeting:

7.2.1 3PL/2013/0638/F 9 Airey Houses, Tottington Road, Thompson,IP24 1PU – Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of extension. Permission granted 28 August 2013.

8 Electoral Review of Breckland: Nothing further to report.

9 Date of next meeting: Thursday 28 November 2013

10 Any other business (for agenda of next meeting): None

Kate Winslow
Chair – Thompson Parish Council

28th November 2013