

Minutes of the Meeting of Thompson Parish Council

held in

Thompson Village Hall on Thursday 28 November 2013 at 7:30 pm

Present: Kate Winslow (Chair), Duncan Gregory, Laurie Hull, Jean Josiah, Anthony Murphy, Ian Robertson, Phil Cowen (District Councillor) and Parish Clerk.

1 Apologies for absence: Andrew Wagner

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 16 September 2013: Following a correction to item 6.2.1 approval the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2013 was proposed by Duncan Gregory 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 District Councillor Phil Cowen to speak:

Phil Cowen spoke at length regarding the Breckland budget which is a 6 year rolling budget. Reduction of the Revenue Support grant amounting to 25% for the coming year with reductions in subsequent years of 24%, 32%, 37% and 38%. There is a balanced budget for the next 2 years but currently there looks to be a large gap in the budget for 2017. Breckland are looking to make savings by using technology to improve work flow and said that rental of Commercial property brought in more funds than Council Tax and added that Breckland was acquiring more property having just bought the Jaeger building in Kings Lynn.

With regard to matters of local concern he said that Enforcement Notices were in place regarding TNP's development at Watering Farm.

4 Matters arising:

4.1 Salt Bins: Highways will no longer re-fill wooden salt bins on environmental grounds. It was therefore proposed by Duncan Gregory and seconded by Laurie Hull and carried unanimously to purchase 4 x 200 litre Grit/Salt bins from Broxap Limited who were recommended by Norfolk County Council Highways at £89.00 per unit plus £55.00 delivery and VAT. Total £493.20 of which £82.20 is VAT.

4.2 Welcome pack: Nothing further to report

4.3 Telephone box: Painting of the Telephone box has been put back until the Spring when weather conditions will be more suitable for exterior painting.

4.4 CPRE Footpaths project: Kate Winslow reported that as members of the project both she, the Clerk and others had attended a seminar at Ickworth House. Following the seminar, articles with photographs regarding Thompson's part in the Project had appeared in both the Eastern Daily Press and the Swaffham and Watton Times.

4.5 Village litter pick: It was agreed to hold another Litter Pick in the spring.

4.6 Removal of Ivy from some village trees: Kate Winslow distributed information regarding Ivy and its removal from trees. It was felt that the removal of Ivy from some trees, particularly on Church Road was necessary as the Ivy was detracting from the appearance of the trees.

4.7 Breckland Local Plan: Nothing further to report.

4.8 Dog Waste Bin: The Clerk reported that he had been in touch with Mike Gardiner of Breckland who would visit the area to establish where to display dog waste notices.

5 Correspondence not already notified:

Leaflets Breckland Art Trail – left in Village hall for use of Parishioners

Help the Aged – donation. It was decided not to make a donation.

AON regarding Snow clearance. Filed.

Watton Safer Neighbourhood Street Briefing – Thompson 17 December 2013

Letter from local MP Elizabeth Truss

6 Reports:

6.1 Chairman: Nothing further to add to the items reported during the meeting.

6.2 Responsible Financial Officer: The RFO presented details of the accounts for the period from the previous meeting to date and set out in minute 6.2.1. These accounts were approved unanimously by the members present.

6.2.1 Financial transactions since last meeting:

Thompson Parish Council – Community Account

<u>Community Account – Opening balance (19/8/13)</u>			<u>2,734.47</u>
		Paid in	Paid out
19/9/13	100514	G Winslow (website rental)	91.80
19/9/13	100515	G Winslow (oil for village sign)	37.32
19/9/13	100518	G Winslow (salary)	400.80
24/9/13	100519	St Martin's	380.00
25/9/13	100513	CGM Landscapes (grass cutting Aug)	169.15
25/9/13	100516	J Scott (erection of notice board)	55.00
26/9/13		Breckland Council (precept)	2,261.06
7/10/13		Dividend Hmt 2½ Cons	0.08
18/10/13	100517	The Post Office (inc. tax)	100.20
23/10/13	100520	CGM Landscapes (grass cutting Sept)	169.15
23/10/13	100521	CGM Landscapes (grass cutting Oct)	169.15
<u>Closing balance (19/11/13)</u>			<u>3,423.04</u>

Business Premium Account balance (19/9/13) **1,603.77**

6.3 Clerk: The clerk reported that he had attended a Battle Area liaison meeting at West Tofts Camp and that the matter of the lack of communication regarding activity on the Battle Area had been raised. As a result the Commanding Officer agreed to distribute on a weekly basis an unclassified summary of Battle Area activity for Councils etc. The Clerk also reminded Members that it would be necessary to set a Precept for year 2014/2015 at the January meeting and accordingly distributed information to aid this process.

6.3.1 Damage to Well. Both Ian Robertson and the Clerk reported on the damage to the Well. Norfolk County Council has provided an estimate for repair which has been accepted by the Councils insurers and work will go ahead on receipt of a cheque. The Parish Council is responsible for the first £125.00 of the claim.

6.4 Thompson Millennium Green: Laurie Hull reported that 5 year Grassland Management Plan had been developed for the Green to put the rough areas back to meadow. Work on the was held up because of its high water level, and that a draft agreement with Flagship Housing was awaited regarding the drainage of surface water from their site in Tottington Road..

6.4.1 Ratification of Management Committee: Held over to a later meeting.

6.5 Thompson Community Hall: Regular fund raising events are being held the last being a spooky tales evening and a Christmas Fare is to be held at the end of the month in the Village Hall. Appointment of an Architect for the project had been delayed subject to a feasibility study aided by Pro Help being carried out, as some funders will not fund projects that are already underway.

- 7 Planning Applications:**
- 7.1 Decisions since last meeting:**
- 7.2 3PL/2013/0730 – 0737/F – Breckles Farm Site, Land near Breckles Heath, Various applications some of which appear to be retrospective.** Refusal of all applications on 01 November 2013. Enforcement notices have now been issued.
- 7.3 3DC/2013/0118/DOC 9 off Hall Lane, Thompson Abel Energy (for Raker Farms) – Discharge of condition 3 of Application 3PL/2103/0351/F Screening of Solar array.** Discharge granted 23 September 2013.
- 7.4 3PL/2013/0937/F – 1 Redbrick Farm Barns for installation of a metal flue, new parking area and removal and replacement of gates (application partly retrospective).** There was no objection to this application and the Clerk was directed to inform Breckland planning of this decision. Following an e-mail from the owner of a neighbouring property regarding this application and the the application in 7.5 below; the members directed the Clerk to prepare a reply and to circulate it to the members of the Council for comment before sending it.
- 7.5 3PL/2013/0938/LB - 1 Redbrick Farm Barns for installation of a metal flue, new parking area and removal and replacement of gates (application partly retrospective).** There was no objection to this application and the Clerk was directed to inform Breckland planning of this decision.
- 8 Electoral Review of Breckland:** Nothing further to report.
- 9 Date of next meeting:** Thursday 16 January 2014
- 10 Any other business (for agenda of next meeting):**

Kate Winslow
Chair Thompson Parish Council

16 January 2014