

Minute of the meeting of Thompson Parish Council

held in

Thompson Village Hall on Monday 23 November 2015 at 7:30pm

Present: Kate Winslow (Chair), Duncan Gregory, Alan Dujon, Ian Robertson, Irene Smith, Andrew Wagner, Phil Cowen (Breckland District Councillor) and the Parish Clerk

- 1 Apologies for absence:** Jean Kaye. Ian Monson (Norfolk County Councillor)
- 2 Declaration of Interest:** Kate Winslow is a trustee of Thompson Community Hall
- 3 Approval of Minutes of the Meetings held on:**
 - 3.1 14 September 2015:** Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2015 was proposed by Alan Dujon and seconded by Irene Smith and unanimously approved by the members present. The minutes were signed by the Chair of the meeting.
 - 3.2 12 October 2015:** Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2015 was proposed by Irene Smith and seconded by Alan Dujon and unanimously approved by the members present. The minutes were signed by the Chair of the meeting.
- 4 Matters arising:**
 - 4.1 CPRE Footpaths project:** Nothing to report.
 - 4.2 Breckland Local Plan:** Nothing to report.
 - 4.3 Thompson Footpath No.1:** The clerk reported that a request to examine the historic records of Thompson Parish Council had been received and that a DVD containing photographic records of all minutes of meetings not already published on line (i.e. from 1894 to 2008) had been provided to meet the request and the DVD had subsequently been returned to the clerk.
 - 4.4 Blocked drains:** A request has been made to the Highway Rangers to clear blockage of the drains in Church road/Church Lane. The blockage of the drain in Pockthorpe Lane is more of a problem as the entire length of the drain is blocked by roots. The Clerk said that he had e-mailed highways asking if the pipes could be bored out and lined. He also reminded the engineer that some months ago it was suggested that a platform would be installed across the driveway of the worst affected property to reduce the risk of the bungalow being flooded in heavy rain; this has not yet been done and the clerk asked when and even if this would be installed. No reply has been received as yet.

The meeting was suspended to allow the Council to hear from Phil Cowen, Breckland District Councillor.

Phil Cowen reported that there was likely to be a balanced budget in year 2016/2017 but that Council Breckland would likely apply a small increase (2%) which would increase the Band D rate by about £1.38 p.a. He also said that Breckland's strategy was to be free of reliance on the rate Support Grant by 2020 by growing a fund to replace it.

Money invested in Icelandic banks has mostly been recovered but recovery of £300,000 is proving difficult because of currency "restrictions".

Broadband rumbles on with Breckland pressing for improved access for users; however they are in the hands of BT/Openreach. Government grants to cover the setup costs to allow those with less than 2Mbps broadband speed to access satellite broadband will be available from mid December 2015. Breckland are taking part in the Devolution debate.

- 4.5 Thompson Community Hall:** Kate said that some legacy funds had been received. Meanwhile fund raising continues with the Charity taking a craft stall at the Watton Christmas Market on Sunday 29 November. The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with the solicitors and asked N P Law (Norfolk County Council's in house solicitors) to proceed with preparing a lease to allow the Thompson Community Hall to build and run a new Community Hall on the Parish Council owned portion of the

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Millennium Green. The work is being handled by Catharine Hastings. Spire solicitors have generously waived the fee for preliminary work carried out.

4.6 Village appraisal: Nothing to report.

4.7 Dog waste bin: The dog waste bin has been received and is waiting erection adjacent to the litter bin at Tottington Road/School Road.

4.8 Transparency: The application has been sent to Norfolk ALC, some queries have been dealt with and the outcome of the bid is awaited. We are like hear whether the bid was successful by the next meeting.

5 Correspondence not already notified:

Warm and Well poster received and displayed on all notice boards

Norfolk County Council silica sand extraction - not relevant to Thompson

Notification of planning appeal for 180 houses on land opposite Barn Ruche – nothing to add to the letter of opposition already submitted and which will be considered at the appeal.

6 Reports:

6.1 Chair: Kate said that the Wayland Heritage Group held a very successful World War 1 event at Watton Sports Centre. Thompson WI provided World War 1 cakes. The project continues until April 2016.

6.2 Clerk: The Clerk had nothing to report that is not mentioned elsewhere in the minutes.

6.3 Thompson Millennium Green: The AGM of the management committee was held in September. Mike Corrie is leaving the district and therefore stood down as chairman of the management committee. Kate asked the Council to join her in expressing the Council's thanks his work as chairman over the years. A new Chairman is yet to be found as none of the members were willing to stand as chairman.

6.3.1 Ratification of Management Committee: The membership of the management committee is made up as follows: Chris da Rocha –treasurer, Teresa Blake – Secretary, Amanda Borrows, John Scott and Irene Smith – Thompson Parish council representative.

6.3.2 Final accounts for 2014: The Thompson Millennium Green Charitable Trust's accounts for year ending 31 December 2014 were examined and accepted on a vote of 5 for and 1 abstention.

7 Financial matters:

7.1 Accounts to date: The accounts to date were presented as follows:-

01 April 2015 to 10 November 2015

Community Account

Date	Reference	Details	Receipts	Payments	Balance
01/04/2015		Balance brought forward			3,511.51
07/04/2015	REC 000003	Dividend HMT 2 1/2% Cons	0.08		
10/04/2015	REC 000004	Breckland	2450.00		
10/04/2015	REC 000005	Breckland	111.06		6,072.65
08/05/2015	REC 000006	Breckland	230.72		
28/05/2015	CHQ 100554	Serco		168.06	
28/05/2015	CHQ 100555	Aon UK		585.79	
28/05/2015	CHQ 100557	Baggleys		212.16	5,337.36
05/06/2015	CHQ 100556	Norfolk ALC		105.4	5,231.96
06/07/2015	REC 000008	HMT 2 1/2% Cons	0.08		
07/07/2015	CHQ 100560	G Winslow		300.8	
08/07/2015	CHQ 100558	Serco		168.06	
08/07/2015	CHQ 100561	HMRC		75.2	
08/07/2015	REC 000009	HMT 2 1/2% Cons redemption	16.59		

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15/07/2015	CHQ 100559	Norfolk RCC		50	
16/07/2015	CHQ 100562	Thinking Rural		36	
18/07/2015	REC 000010	HMRC	221.35		
20/07/2015	CHQ 100563	Serco		168.06	
20/07/2015	CHQ 100564	Breckland		75	
20/07/2015	CHQ 100565	St Martins Church		323	
20/07/2015	CHQ 100566	Thompson Village Hall		150	
20/07/2015	CHQ 100567	Wayland Partnership		300	3,823.86
13/08/2015	CHQ 100568	Serco		168.06	3,655.80
14/09/2015	CHQ 100569	Serco		168.06	
22/09/2015	REC 000012	Breckland	2450.00		
22/09/2015	REC 000013	Breckland	111.06		6,048.80
03/10/2015	CHQ 100570	G Winslow		300.8	
03/10/2015	CHQ 100571	HMRC		75.2	
12/10/2015	CHQ 100572	G Winslow		91.8	
12/10/2015	CHQ 100573	Thinking Rural CIC		36	
12/10/2015	CHQ 100574	Serco		168.06	
22/10/2015	CHQ 100575	Norfolk ALC		15	
22/10/2015	CHQ 100576	Broxap LTD		207.6	5,154.34
10/11/2015	CHQ 100577	Serco		168.06	4,986.28
10/11/2015		Balance carried forward			4,986.28

NB This amount includes a ring fenced grant of £1084.30 for a footpath information board

Business Savings Account

Date	Reference	Details	Receipts	Payments	Balance
01/04/2015		Balance brought forward			1,604.97
08/06/2015	REC 000007	Interest	0.22		1,605.19
23/09/2015	REC 000011	Interest	0.20		1,605.39
10/11/2015		Balance carried forward			1,605.39
		<u>Total carried forward</u>			<u>6,591.67</u>

7.2 Approval of payment of accounts due: None.

7.3 Approval of accounts due for payment since last meeting and paid:

Date	Cheque No	Payee	£	Explanation
03/10/2015	CHQ 100570	G Winslow	300.80	Clerks Salary July to Sept 2015
03/10/2015	CHQ 100571	HMRC	75.20	Tax
12/10/2015	CHQ 100572	G Winslow	91.80	Website hosting with LCN
		Thinking Rural		Payroll services
12/10/2015	CHQ 100573	CIC	36.00	
12/10/2015	CHQ 100574	Serco	168.06	Grounds maintenance
22/10/2015	CHQ 100575	Norfolk ALC	15.00	Transparency training
22/10/2015	CHQ 100576	Broxap LTD	207.60	Dog waste bin
10/11/2015	CHQ 100577	Serco	168.06	Grounds maintenance

The items above all became due for payment prior to this meeting. Payment was approved unanimously by the members present.

8 Planning Applications: 3PL/2015/1220/F - 1 High Houses, Mill Road, Thompson, IP24 1PH - Erection of a garden shed (retrospective): The members present had

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slight misgivings about the size of the shed, but it was noted that Breckland Council's Historic Buildings Consultant had no objection to the application. Similarly it was noted that there were no objections to the application on the Breckland planning portal; nor has the Parish Council received any objections to the application and no member of the public attended the meeting either to support or object to it. Thus it was felt that the Parish Council had no cause to object to this application. The Clerk was directed to inform Breckland Council.

8.1 Planning Application decisions since last meeting: 3PL/2015/1041/F - Little Beck Lodge, Church Lane, Thompson, IP24 1QD - Erection of a free standing carport: Decision - Permission granted on 23 October 2015.

9 Grant request from Thompson Hearts: The members present agreed to give an interim grant of £150 and will consider a further grant in the next financial year.

10 Budget for Financial year 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2017: Thompson's precept requirements do not have to be decided until 31 January 2015 and in view of the level of uncertainty regarding the Council's transparency grant bid it was decided to finalise the precept at the January meeting of the Council.

11 Assessment of Clerk- performance: The members review the Clerk's performance and decided that they were happy with this. Salary and hours of work remain unchanged.

12 Date of Next meeting: 19 January 2016

13 Any other business (for agenda of next meeting):

13.1 Trees: The Clerk has 3 Oak trees available for immediate planting on Church Road and will endeavour to do so before the next meeting. It is also intended to plant the excess trees to be removed from The Millennium Green on Church Road but as yet the date for their removal has not been decided.

13.1.1 Ivy on trees: The members felt that the amount of ivy on some trees is leading to their instability and would like to look at removing some of it.