

Thompson Parish Council (TPC)
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in Thompson Community Hall
7.30pm on Tuesday 17 July 2018

| | | |
|----------|----------------|---------------------|
| Present: | Jean Kaye | Chair |
| | Duncan Gregory | Vice-chair |
| | Alan Dujon | |
| | Ian Robertson | |
| | Roy Shovelar | |
| | Irene Smith | |
| | Kate Winslow | |
| | Kim Austin | Clerk |
| | Philip Cowen | District Councillor |

Also present: 2 members of the public.

The meeting started at 7:30.

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Fabian Eagle (Norfolk County Councillor) who had another Parish Council meeting to attend.

2. To record declarations of interest from members in any items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve the minutes of the last council meeting on Monday 15 May 2018

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. Duncan Gregory proposed approval of the minutes and Kate Winslow seconded. On a vote this was carried unanimously and the minutes were duly signed by the Chair, Cllr. Jean Kaye.

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes (15 May 2018) not on the agenda.

At the last meeting Geoff Winslow reported that he had the village sign and was waiting for a new post. The post has now been delivered. It was agreed the responsibility for erecting the post would be left with Geoff. The possibility of using a stainless-steel sleeve (costing ~£100) for housing the post was mentioned.

5. To adjourn the meeting for public participation

Meeting adjourned at 19.36pm and opened to the public.

Old village hall. A member of the public asked what was going to happen to the old village hall ? A friend who she was representing had a few ideas about what the hall could be used for but as nobody had canvassed opinions residents had not had the opportunity to put forward any ideas. Both Cllrs. Kaye and Winslow confirmed that the Parish Council had nothing to do with the management of the old hall. Historically, it was made available in the late 1800s as a reading room for male members to meet. The Walsingham Estate had already requested the keys. The future of the hall will eventually be sorted between the Trustee (Betty Norris) and the Estate. It was not too late to put forward ideas to Betty but the PC advised that the old hall, as with many old buildings, contravenes all the H&S rules and regulations and has no disabled access and facilities which are a requirement in this day and age. No one has come forward to take on a project for the hall. One idea was as an information point to support tourism in the area but must remember the 'business' needs to be viable and make money to maintain the hall. There would be capital costs to upgrade and revenue costs to

Signed

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maintain. Most village halls are run by charitable trusts. Perhaps suggestions for the future of the hall could be asked for in the Waylander.

District Councillor's report (PC) Cllr. Cowen apologised for not having attended many meetings in the past but had provided a fulsome report in his absence.

The vision is to make Breckland 'a place where people and business can thrive' and this is underpinned by four priorities, outlined in the Corporate Plan:

- Supporting Breckland to develop and thrive
- Providing the right services at the right time and in the right way
- Developing the local economy to be vibrant with continued growth
- Enabling stronger, more independent communities

The draft **Local Plan** has been developed, has been through its final round of consultation and is now awaiting inspector feedback. The examination in public will take place between April and June, and it was anticipated that by the end of the calendar year there will be preparations to take the new plan forward to Council for adoption. March 2019 is now the suggested date for adoption. A date will be set in September. Breckland Council has advised that the councillors are confident that they will be able to answer all the questions put to them by the inspector. The inspector will then write a report on their findings.

A strategic **health and wellbeing** action plan has been developed and, in partnership with Public Health, identified Thetford as a priority area for investigation on health and wellbeing issues. Working with partner agencies to improve service provision. Missing link is the GPs. Looking to consult with GPs and send them the details of the bigger planning applications. Results can be skewed due to the high number of older people living here.

Infrastructure. Need better roads and better communications which will help with the demographics. Norwich and Cambridge are two major centres of research with Thetford in the middle. Breckland have secured grants and funding to help to unlock key investment sites that have been blocked through lack of infrastructure funding in the district, for example, £2.65m from New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to upgrade Snetterton Heath's existing electricity supply which will support substantial business growth.

Businesses. District Council is doing what they can to keep the youngsters in the area. People live in Breckland but many work outside. Want these people to live and work in the district. We have the lowest unemployment rate in the country. Thetford is perfectly placed geographically for a distribution centre, but the interested company can't invest because can't recruit the right people in the right numbers. Power station at Snetterton has no resilience.

Market Towns. Half the population lives in rural, market towns. Retail business is suffering due to the poor broadband service. There is a particularly high effect in the North of England but is now beginning to have an effect in our area. Community reserve pot of money will help to improve communications and social mobility. The Market Town Initiative includes a range of collaborative projects that will ensure each market town is economically vibrant, achieves long-term sustainability, has a clear identity, is a popular destination, has an enhanced environment, and secures third-party investment and implemented new partnership with ShopAppy, which will give local independent businesses a central web presence and enable shoppers to make purchases online 24/7. Few opportunities for school leavers, who will go where the IT industries are thriving.

Benefits. The way of dealing with benefits has changed. The way in which some services are accessed and provided has changed. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will move to the Breckland offices in Thetford, so they can work together as a 'services hub' to solve issues.

Finances. Central government has changed the way it supports local government. District Council used to collect business rates on behalf of the County Council who then paid them to Central Government. Now, District Councils are allowed to retain a percentage of those rates. Also, a new homes bonus is paid to District Council planning authority.

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Broadband. New cables are being put in for Caston and Thompson. 2mps is good, if you can get it in these areas. Cllr. Cowen he said he gets 28mps !! Mobile phone signals cannot be relied on. Cllr. Cowen went to a broadband surgery in September last year and has already lobbied Elizabeth Truss. He feels some progress has been made. There will be further discussions in February. Cllr. Cowen's full report can be found on the website with these minutes.

Planning applications. The planning application process was briefly discussed. For each new planning application notified in the parish, there is a deadline for comments that can be made, by email, in writing or on the Breckland Planning website. All applications are discussed by the Parish Council and an appropriate response agreed. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Clerk would add these comments to the planning website. If members of the public have views, they too should comment. It is worthwhile and can make a difference to the outcome. The more people that comment, the 'louder' the comments will be heard. If an application goes to the Planning Committee, the Parish Council are able to attend and may ask to speak. There is limited time so responses are timed. This is the Parish Council's chance to sway the councillors making the decisions should they feel the need to do so. It needs to be a co-ordinated approach. District Councillors may also attend and may support the Parish Council's views if they have been asked to do so. Alternatively, an applicant may also approach their District Councillor to support their application.

The outcome of a recent application was discussed. A parish councillor thought that Cllr. Cowen should have supported the Parish Council in their objections. The chair brought the meeting to order and suggested that if further discussion was required it should be held outside of the meeting.

The meeting re-opened at 20.21pm.

6. To receive reports and updates

- 6.1 **Chair.** Cllr. Kaye introduced Kim Austin as the new Clerk for Thompson Parish Council.
- 6.2 **Community Hall.** Bookings were increasing. Currently in the diary were Fit Step, Yoga, Stitchers and Quilters, coffee mornings, lunches for ramblers, WI and many more. There was an urgent requirement for a proper path from the gate to the hall as wheelchair users and mums with pushchairs found it very difficult to cross the gravel surface. Paving slabs will be laid. The cycle rack is to be moved. A book fair, normally held at Griston was held at Thompson on 14 July and raised more than £1000. There will be another book sale on 22 September. The Velux blinds had been fitted. Gradually getting to grips with the ventilation system. Need more volunteers to help at the hall.
- 6.3 **Millennium Green (IS).** Cllr. Irene Smith gave a brief update on the Green. A 'clean-up' was carried out on 1 July. Some brambles and nettled had been strimmed and some longer grass had been mown. The next event on the Green would be the 5K and 10K runs on 23 September.
- 6.4 **District Councillor (PC).** Cllr. Phil Cowen had already given his report during the open forum. Item 5.
- 6.5 **County Councillor (FE).** Cllr. Fabian Eagle had sent his apologies. Item 1.

7. To report on finance.

7.1 Financial position

The bank account balances as on last statement to 19 June 2018

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|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Barclays Community Account | £ | 11645.75 |
| Barclays Business Premium Account | £ | 1608.27 |
| TOTAL as per bank | £ | 13254.02 |

7.2 Money in since last meeting (15 May 2018)

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|-----------|--|----------|---------------|
| 17/5/2018 | Breckland Council - Recycling | £ | 272.02 |
| 4/6/2018 | Barclays - Interest Business Premium Account | £ | 0.80 |
| | TOTAL IN | £ | 272.82 |

Signed

Date

7.3 Cheques out (to sign)

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|------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| CHQ 674 | Geoff Winslow (as Clerk) Brother printer drum/toner | £ | 63.97 |
| CHQ 675 | Serco Ltd. Grass cutting - June 2018 | £ | 178.07 |
| TOTAL OUT | | | £ 242.04 |

Thanks. The new Clerk thanked Geoff Winslow for handing over the reins to her and for leaving everything totally in order, making for a very smooth handover. The Clerk also thanked Geoff for continuing to post agendas and meeting announcements on noticeboards in the village and for continuing to do updates to the website.

Financial position. The Clerk would normally give the financial position as at the meeting date. However, as she doesn't yet have access to online bank statements, for this meeting she has used the balances on the last paper statements received, being 19 June 2018. For online access to be granted to someone that is not a signatory, there would be a form to complete and sign. The Clerk will obtain the relevant forms from Barclays.

Barclays. Geoff very kindly wrote to Barclays asking for the new Clerk's name and address to be linked to the accounts for correspondence and for himself and Dr. Murphy (Financial Officer from many years ago) to be removed. A letter to say the changes had been effected was sent by Barclays to Dr. Murphy at Geoff's address! The Clerk will persevere with getting Barclays to correct the details.

Signatories. It had previously been decided to add Jean Kaye as fourth signatory on the account. The Clerk had requested a mandate change pack from Barclays but this had not yet been received.

8. To consider planning applications

8.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting

3PL/2016/1122/F Scott/36 Pockthorpe Lane/2 new dwellings (001) PERMISSION
This application although objected to by the Parish Council had been referred to the Planning Committee. Committee meeting was held on 2 July 2018 and permission was granted.

8.2 Applications pending outcome

There were no applications pending outcome.

8.3 New applications since last meeting

There were no new applications since the last meeting.

9. To agree donations

Donations are made on an annual basis to:

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|---|--|
| Thompson Village Hall | (Donation was previously £150, no longer required) |
| Thompson Community Hall (PC meetings and storage space) | £300 (Payable in January 2019) |
| Wayland Partnership | £300 |
| St. Martin's Church | £500 |

(Previous payments to St. Martins: £380, £323, £360 and last year (17/18) £430)

The PC agreed to continue on this basis. The Clerk would prepare cheques to be signed at next PC meeting.

10 To discuss Petanque

A piece of land has been left near the sewerage treatment plant at the back of the Community Hall which could be developed as an area to play Petanque. Petanque is becoming increasingly popular and there is a huge Petanque league. The area would need to be of a suitable size to encourage league games. The Community Hall is prepared to consider installing a pitch in this area. Need to also consider the cost of levelling. Both Great Ellingham and Scoulton have Petanque pitches and both would be worth talking to if haven't already. The Clerk had the following contact details for Great

Signed

Date

Ellingham: Graham Beales 01953 454715 or email petanqueclub51@outlook.com. Petanque will be on the PC agenda for September.

The councillors went on to discuss **adult outside exercise equipment**. Cllr. Smith had a 'Caloo' brochure and had done some initial costings. Individual pieces are very expensive but can be bought as a bundle. For example: 4 pieces such as a rider, a cross trainer, a bike and a body twist are £2920. Need to check what this includes in terms of vat, installation and delivery costs. Young people are able to use the equipment too. Breckland funding might be available for this sort of project. Cllr. Cowen will email Rhianna at Breckland for more details. Adult exercise equipment will be on the PC agenda for September.

11 To discuss ideas for Breckland Parish Partnership application 2019-2020

The Clerk described the scheme whereby Parish Councils can apply for half the cost (so on a 50:50 basis) of projects that make life in the village, safer, better or cleaner. The deadline for applications is 7 December 2018. The letter from Breckland included a list of the sort of projects that would be eligible for a grant. Just a few examples.

- Small lengths of formal footway
- Trods (a simplified and relatively low cost footway),
- Improved crossing facilities
- Improvements to Public Rights of Way.
- Flashing signs to tackle speeding. (SAM2 flashing signs that show a motorist's speed.)
- Part-time 20mph signs with flashing warning lights, outside schools.
- New Bus Shelters

The Clerk is looking at the cost of SAM2 (Speed awareness mobile) signs for Rocklands Parish Council and is happy to share the information with Thompson should they identify a need for the same. There is an application form that would need to be completed to apply.

12 To discuss any correspondence

There was no correspondence.

13 AOB

Litter pick. Cllr. Winslow said the verges had been mowed and she would be organising a litter pick around the village, starting at the Community Hall at 10am on Sunday 14 October. It was reported also, that there had been fly tipping on the Griston Road.

Litter bins are needed near the play area and on the Millennium Green and would need to be emptied.

POST MEETING NOTE: Litter pick date amended to **Saturday 3 November**.

Noticeboard by Church. Cllr. Gregory reported that the noticeboard needed attention. He knows someone that would be willing to do the repairs.

Benches. The 3 new benches need to be secured to the ground. Not chains. Probably hefty bull rings that the benches can be padlocked to. Contractor will be asked to quote for the job.

14. Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 18 September 2018 at 7.30pm in Thompson Community Hall - Parish Council Meeting

The meeting closed at 21:00

Signed

Date