

Thompson Parish Council (TPC)
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in Thompson Community Hall on Tuesday 9 August 2022

Present:	Jean Kaye	Chair
	Duncan Gregory	Vice Chair
	John Newnham	
	Ian Robertson	
	Jean Wagner	
	Angus Welch	
	Kate Winslow	
	Kim Austin	Clerk
	Phil Cowen	District Councillor

Also present: There were no members of the public present.

The meeting opened at 19:30. The meeting was originally scheduled to be held on 19 July 2022 but had to be postponed due to the power outage on that day.

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

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 Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 17 May 2022

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Jean Wagner proposed approval of the minutes and Cllr. Welch seconded the proposal. On a vote, this was carried unanimously and the minutes were signed by the Chair, Cllr. Jean Kaye.

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes (Tuesday 17 May 2022) not on the agenda.

Cllr. Welch had spoken to Katharine Wolstenholme regards the Parish Council donation to St. Martin's church. She agreed that the church would be happy to adopt the new system whereby the PC would donate up to £500 on receipt of invoices for cutting the grass at the Church. There would be no donation this year. The Clerk would email Katharine to confirm this agreement.

5. To adjourn the meeting for public participation, an opportunity for members of the public to raise any queries and concerns

The meeting was adjourned at 19:38. There were no members of the public present and the meeting resumed.

6. To discuss surface water management in Thompson and Reclaim the Rain project (JK)

Brilliant news that Thompson has been selected as one of three villages in Norfolk to participate in the Reclaim the Rain project. A first meeting was held to set out what was envisaged. Cllrs. Kaye and Welch will meet with the Project Manager on 22 August on a tour of the village to show areas of concern. There would be a workshop for people wanting to support the project and then another workshop for the wider village. They will collect data, record peoples' experiences and findings but all information will be kept within the project, not available to insurance companies for example. Flooding challenges to be identified in Thompson, and Merton and Watton who had also been selected. Would look at the microclimate in these areas. Can be raining in one area and not in another. The project is based on a requirement to capture the rain, to prevent flooding and also to make it available for later

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use. Applicants such as Thompson applied with an interest in flood prevention. The project is interested in capturing and reusing water e.g., water butts and attenuation ponds.

7. To discuss Fire Safety in the village (Barry Mallindine)

Unfortunately, Barry was away from home so was not able to attend this meeting. He had however provided Cllr. Kaye with some documents and links giving advice related to wildfires which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/safety/norfolk-fire-and-rescue-service/safety-advice-and-guidance/specialist-advice>

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/norfolk/downloads/safety/fire-and-rescue-service/thatched-property-safety-guide.pdf>

https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/media/1136340/sfrs_wildfiresleaflet.pdf

It was not thought necessary to leaflet all households as Geoff Winslow had already posted adequate posters at strategic places in the village. It was agreed to ask Geoff if he could post a few more in extra places.

8. To receive reports

8.1 Breckland District Councillor (PC)

Cllr. Cowen had provided a report for the meeting on 19 July that was postponed as follows:

- Nutrient Neutrality continues to be a problem and at a meeting on Monday all Norfolk planning authorities met to review progress to date regarding mitigation measures, responses to the Natural England requirements etc. It seems that in Breckland alone there are some 700 residential planning applications that are yet to be determined and the flow of new applications continues apace.
- The Local Plan call for sites has closed and we have received a significant number of proposals for residential, employment and open space across the district. This list is being collated at the moment and as yet there are no decisions on what may or may not be considered viable
- Our accounts for the past year have been audited, found to be sound and have been signed off
- Contrary to what has been reported in the national press recently about the council tax energy rebate scheme, Breckland has paid out nearly £7million to some 40,000 eligible households (86%) with the remainder who are generally not direct debit payers having had £150 credited to their council tax accounts to allow them to complete the appropriate application forms
- I note the Land Group planning application and advise that as I am Breckland's representative on the board of Breckland Bridge I am unable to comment as I am conflicted. However, if you have any concerns Sarah Suggitt as the other ward member will be able to step in

At this meeting, Cllr. Cowen gave an update on **Nutrient Neutrality**.

1. Background

As a result of Natural England's advice on 16 March 2022 alerting Norfolk Local Authorities to the unfavourable condition of the River Wensum and Broads SAC from nitrogen and phosphorus pollution, all planning applications within those river catchments which related to overnight stays were put on hold, until it could be scientifically shown that these additional dwellings would not impact the river catchments with any further nutrient pollution. This has currently affected around 80 planning applications with approximately 770 dwellings within Breckland alone, as well as impacting the progress of the Greater Norwich Local Plan and North Norfolk Local Plan. Mitigation measures to counteract nutrient river pollution are not easy to identify or implement and can take some time.

Following the advice from Natural England, local authorities, including Breckland, have lobbied Government detailing the economic and social issues arising from this advice and the lack of support to address those issues, especially around the provision of mitigation to allow applications to start to be determined. The Norfolk Authorities are continuing to work together and have a consistent approach to the determination of planning applications.

2. Ministerial Statement 20th July 2022 and DLUHC letter 21st July 2022

- New statutory duty on water and sewage companies in England to upgrade their WwTWs to the highest technical specifications available by 2030. Upgrades would reduce the

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amount of nutrients in discharges into river catchments in nutrient neutrality areas and would reduce the mitigation burden on developments, allowing them to come forward. This will be tabled as an amendment in the Levelling Up and Regeneration bill.

- Natural England to establish a Nutrient Mitigation Scheme working with stakeholders to identify mitigation projects within affected river catchments, enabling developers to purchase credits against mitigation projects being implemented. DEFRA & DHLHC to provide funding to pump prime the scheme investing in mitigation projects e.g. wetlands and woodland creation. This will enable LPAs to grant permission subject to conditions/obligations of securing mitigation. Nutrient management plans will be put in place to secure restoration of rivers long term.
- Habitats Regulations Assessments do apply to post permission approvals. i.e. reserved matters and discharge of conditions.

3. Considerations

- Upgrading WWTWs is very expensive, the government has indicated that these would be paid by developer contributions, which may create viability issues for development. The levelling up bill will require royal assent which could take some time and so this will create further uncertainty for the LPA as a competent body and to meet its obligations against the Habitat Regulations planning permissions would need to be granted with conditions attached to mitigate nutrient pollution. However, for this to be done there needs to be clarity on what the mitigation solution is and its timeframe.
- Equally, for a developer they would need to know how much the mitigation credit will cost and the timeframe as to when they can start development given the mitigation needs to be in place before properties can be occupied, creating more uncertainty.
- It is unclear what mitigation measures Local Authorities should be investigating. Short-term/mid-term mitigation i.e. measures that give capacity up to 2030 as it is unclear if the
- long term issue would be dealt with by the upgrade of WWTWs.
- It is unclear whether there will be sufficient mitigation to support growth across Norfolk, how this would be apportioned and whose development would go first?

4. Norfolk Nutrient Neutrality Group

- Norfolk Districts have appointed, using Government funding, Royal Haskoning who have created a nutrient calculator specific to Norfolk which reduces the nutrient burden on development, refined river catchment maps with discharge outlet information and a risk-based map on the impact of surface water on river catchments.
- A Consultant has been commissioned 1 day a week, going full time in August, as an additional resource to look at legal framework and delivery of mitigation credit system.

5. Legal Situation

- There is a difference in opinions around post-permission approvals with Charles Banner QC (HBF) advising that these should be allowed and Simon Bird QC (LA Counsel) advising that they should not. The ministerial letter agrees with Simon Bird's advice in that post-permission approvals are caught by this issue.

6. Planning applications

- All planning applications within the affected river catchment areas which involve overnight stays are on hold including reserved matters and discharge of condition applications. Some Section 73 applications (varying and existing permission) have been released but not all will be able to be.
- Commercial applications which require water as part of their operations are on hold as well as Agricultural applications which involve the increase of livestock.

7. Breckland's own workstreams

- Rivers Trust feasibility study on natural based river purifying options within Breckland alongside River Tud in Dereham and the Billingford WwTW

- Wendling Beck Exemplar NN mitigation solution with Ricardo Consultancy funded by the Nature Conservancy to provide a mitigation solution with credits alongside BNG credits for Breckland's development
- RP water saving retrofitting of Flagship properties 6800 within Breckland (some may already have these).

8.2 Norfolk County Councillor (FE)

No report from Cllr. Eagle.

8.3 Thompson Chair's report (JK)

Autumn Litter pick - Discussed October dates and decided on Saturday 22 October 2022. Cllr. Kaye will advertise in the September and the October issues of the Waylander.

Jubilee Celebrations. The event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee took place on Saturday 4 June. Thompson invited Merton to join in the celebration as they had not planned their own event. A number of people from Merton attended the evening barbecue and many also helped with preparations and clearing up. The children's afternoon party was well attended by 62 children who stayed from 2 o'clock and some into the evening. The evening barbecue was good and lots of people stayed for the concert. All feedback was very favourable. A couple of photos from the event have been entered into the Norfolk Day photo competition.

8.4 Community Hall report (KW)

Quiz night of 11 teams made some profit. Movie nights breaking even; some nights making a profit and some a loss. Films scheduled for September to December. Afternoon teas for Wimbledon were poorly attended. Coffee mornings every day between 10-12am. Ice cream Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lunches have stopped due to lack of support. Looking to upgrade the sound systems. The Clerk said the recent grant available from Breckland for Village Hall improvements might be useful.

8.5 The Millennium Green report (AW)

- Committee
 - No change
- Finances
 - Lottery income collection ongoing
 - Planning for the Thompson 10k Run 2022 on 2 Oct is ongoing under guidance of Martin Kaye
- Boundaries and Green
 - No change
 - Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Trust plaque placed on one of the pillars at the entrance to the Green by the bus stop (This is the plaque queried by Michael Corrie.)
 - Flint wall repaired
- Play Equipment and Adult Exercise Area
 - No change
 - OLP annual inspection completed 30 May 22 and report produced
 - A Work Programme will be formulated to action points raised
- Community Involvement
 - The Platinum Jubilee oak tree is flourishing and can be seen on the Green and on the <https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/>
A supporting plaque is also in situ. A circular bench will be added in due course.
- AGM took place on 26 Jul 22
- Next Working Party will take place on 25 Sep 22
- Next Committee Meeting 27 Sep 22

This report was accepted by members of the Parish Council, in their role as Parish Councillors and as Trustee of The Millennium Green.

Signed

Date

9. Finances

9.1 Financial position

The bank account balances at Tuesday 9 August 2022

Barclays Community Account	£	8492.92
Barclays Business Premium Account	£	1614.65
TOTAL as per bank	£	10107.57

Summary (Including monies allocated)

Allocated to Sports Equipment	£	1746.00
Allocated to Notice Board	£	1084.30
Thompson Parish Council	£	7277.27
TOTAL as per bank	£	10107.57

Cllr. Kaye signed printouts of the bank statements showing the current balances (as above)

9.2 Money in since last meeting (17 May 2022)

7/7/2022	Breckland Council - Glass recycling payment	£	185.49
6/6/2022	Barclays Saver A/C	£	0.12
	TOTAL IN	£	185.61

9.3 Bank Reconciliation

Opening balance at bank, Current (Last meeting, 17 May 2022)	£	10293.54
Opening balance at bank, Savings (Last meeting, 17 May 2022)	£	1614.53 (Total £11908.07)
PLUS Money in since last meeting (as above)	£	185.61
MINUS Money out since last meeting (Total cheques 17 May 2022)	£	1778.63
MINUS Cheque 782 - Insurance (Already signed and presented)	£	207.48
Closing balances at bank (This meeting, 9 August 2022, as above)	£	10107.57

9.4 Cheques out (to sign)

CHQ 782	Business Services at CAS Ltd - Annual Insurance	£	207.48 (Already signed)
CHQ 783	Clerks Wages - June 2022 M3	£	228.93
CHQ 784	Clerks Wages - July 2022 M4	£	228.93
	TOTAL OUT	£	665.34

THOMPSON PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS				RECON					INCOME	
YEAR ENDED 31 March 2023										
Date	From	Description		PRECEPT	SAVER AC INTEREST	RECYCLING GLASS & PAPER	GRANTS ETC	VAT	MISC	TOTAL
07/04/2022	Breckland Council	Precept 1 of 2	DR	3,300.00						3,300.00
26/04/2021	HMRC	Vat annual refund	DR					415.87		415.87
07/07/2022	Breckland Council	Glass recycling payment	DR			185.49				185.49
				3,300.00	0.00	185.49	0.00	415.87	0.00	3,901.36
									CHECK	3,901.36

THOMPSON PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2022 - 2023													EXPENDITURE								
YEAR ENDED 31 March 2023																					
Date	To	Description	CHQ	CLERK'S WAGES	POSTAGE	REVELL SERVICES	COUNCIL	TRAINING	HELLING	POWER	INSURANCE	AUDIT	CONTRACTS	REPAIRS	GRASS CUTTING	WATER	MISC	CAPITAL	VAT	TOTAL	
17/05/2022	Instaprint	Reimb. Print Flood leaflet	775														84.38				84.38
17/05/2022	Kim Austin	Clerk's wages M12-Mar22 incl	776	333.99																	333.99
17/05/2022	Kim Austin	Clerk's wages M1-April 22	777	228.93																	228.93
17/05/2022	Info Commissioner	Annual Data Protection Fee	778										40.00								40.00
28/04/2022	TTSR Limited	Grass cutting 1 of 2 (50%)	779											693.68							693.68
17/05/2022	Sally Coleman - Parish	Internal Audit 'Plant Hire'	780										30.00								30.00
17/05/2022	Kim Austin	Clerk's wages May 22 - M2	781	228.93																	228.93
10/06/2022	Bus. Services at CAS	Annual Insurance - renewal	782							207.48											207.48
19/07/2022	Kim Austin	Clerk's wages June 2022 - M	783	228.93																	228.93
19/07/2022	Kim Austin	Clerk's wages July 2022 - M	784	228.93																	228.93
				1,249.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	207.48	30.00	0.00	40.00	693.68	0.00	84.38	0.00	138.74		2,443.97
																				CHECK	2,443.97

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9.5 Budget Vs Actuals

Thompson Parish Council Budget Vs Actual 2022/2023			
AT 9/08/2022			
	Budget	Forecast	Actual to date
	2022/2023	2022/2023	2022/2023
INCOME			
Precept	6,600.00	6,600.00	3,300.00
Recycling	120.00	120.00	185.49
Interest (Barclays Saver)	0.20	0.20	0.00
Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00
VAT	400.00	400.00	415.87
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	7,120.20	7,120.20	3,901.36
EXPENDITURE			
Staff Costs including PAYE	2,852.22	2,852.22	1,249.71
Payroll services	72.00	72.00	0.00
Internal audit fee	30.00	30.00	30.00
Postage	15.00	15.00	0.00
Insurance	250.00	250.00	207.48
Grass cutting	1,387.35	1,387.35	693.68
Training	100.00	100.00	0.00
Printer/consumables	50.00	50.00	0.00
Website	70.00	70.00	0.00
Capital	70.00	70.00	0.00
Defibrillator	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous/Contingency	200.00	200.00	84.36
Donation - St. Martin's Church	500.00	500.00	0.00
Donation - Wayland Partnership	300.00	300.00	0.00
Donation - Thompson Community H	300.00	300.00	0.00
Donation - Thompson Millenium Gre	500.00	500.00	0.00
Subs - Norfolk ALC	117.45	117.45	0.00
Subs - Community Action Norfolk	50.00	50.00	0.00
Subs - Info Comm Registration	40.00	40.00	40.00
VAT	300.00	300.00	138.74
Total	7,204.02	7,204.02	2,443.97
PRECEPT £6600	Budget	Forecast	Actual to date
2022/2023	2022/2023	2022/2023	2022/2023

The Clerk informed the councillors that there was now an online form for declaring Pecuniary Interests (DPI form) to be used in the future, as and when councillors' interests change.

10. To consider planning applications

10.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting

3PL/2022/0016/O SYER/Allard Land adjacent to Farriers/Proposed new dwelling (049) **APPROVED**

10.2 Applications pending outcome

3PL/2022/0098/F GORAM/Dersingham House/Stornaway/Chalet bungalow/Waste plant (050)

10.3 New applications since last meeting (17 May 2022)

3PL/2022/0634/O LAND GROUP BRECKLAND/Tom's Haven, Tottington Road/2 x 2-bedroom houses. Approval had been given for one dwelling back in 2012 (3PL/2012/0547/F) but Breckland had allowed this to lapse. Now applying to squeeze two houses into the same site. The applicant, Land Group Breckland is the development arm of Breckland Council and Land Group. Cllr. Cowen confirmed the houses, if built, would remain in the ownership of Breckland. This outline application to build 2 x 2-bedroom houses on the plot of land at the entrance to the Airey houses had received a number of objections from neighbouring residents and so far, no favourable comments. Thompson Parish Council had sent a letter strongly objecting to this new application. Cllr, Cowen confirmed that he agreed with the Parish Council's objections and he would be speaking against the application when it comes up for discussion by the Breckland Planning Committee. Thompson Parish Council will have 3 minutes to speak and a resident, speaking on behalf of all residents, will also have 3 minutes. There should be a co-ordinated approach from Thompson residents. It was thought perverse that Breckland the council should decide on the outcome of this application from Breckland the applicant.

Signed

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It was thought the proposed development was not appropriate for the site. The proposed buildings are out of keeping with the adjacent houses and do not match the pair of bungalows on the other side of the access road into the Airey houses close. The floor space is ridiculous and ludicrous to suggest the houses are suitable for the disabled and can incorporate a lift and hoist system.

The objection letter that had been sent to Breckland was confirmed as addressing the points discussed by councillors, by email, prior to this meeting.

It was agreed that Thompson would respond to the amendments, referring to the objection letter that had already been submitted, adding, they would urge Breckland Council members to visit the site to see just how inappropriate the application was.

11. To discuss any correspondence.

The Parish Council has received emails from a parishioner regarding a boundary dispute relating to the removal of a boundary hedge and the fence owned by the correspondent, and the erection of a new fence within the complainant's property. The Parish Council has replied saying boundary matters need to be resolved by the two parties concerned and this is not something that the Parish Council has any authority to become involved in. If the dispute cannot be resolved between the parties, then a solicitor may need to be consulted. We also suggested it may be useful to look at the title deeds to see who has responsibility for the boundary in question, and to see whether it helps to clarify the boundary line. Land Registry documents are not always helpful as they do not show measurements and specific locations, but worth checking. If threats have been made it may be sensible to make the police aware, also mentioning the illegal removal of fencing.

12. AOB - To receive items for the next agenda.

Thompson Millennium Green (TMG). Cllr. Welch reported that it was apparent that TMG did not raise enough income to cover the cost of repair and maintenance of the adult exercise and children's play equipment. Some of the equipment was old (10 years plus), had survived well, but now showing some deterioration. A good company has been approached and they are happy to quote for repairs by item.

- Could the Parish Council grant a bigger donation to TMG ? Would have to increase the precept.
- Look at applying for available grants.
- The Clerk to check if £1746 held from previous grant for sports equipment can be redirected to TMG. (Go through minutes and speak to Michael Corrie.)

Play equipment and its maintenance will be an agenda item at the next PC meeting.

Trees on Church Road from Leggates Farmhouse to St Martin's. Cllr. Welch has planted, over the last 2 years, 13 saplings in Tubex containers (11 oak, 1 ash and one Horse Chestnut); six in year one and seven in year two. A further 6 oak saplings are intended to be planted winter 2022/23. The Woodland Trust have stated, plastic tree guards should not be used on Woodland Trust land. Removal of the existing Tubex tree guards would certainly leave the saplings vulnerable to damage by deer. There was a question as to whose land the trees are planted on (Highways or landowner land). Cllr Welch is liaising with the Trust and both have agreed to mutually find a way forward.

Stow Bedon Road/Culvert. Has been a complete nonsense. Cllr. Gregory said the repairs made were superficial only so not sure why such a lengthy road closure. Cllr. Newnham said the culvert had been mended and the signs removed this afternoon.

Himalayan Balsam. Cllr. Gregory reported areas of growth. Looks pretty but invasive.

Eating poverty. Cllr Gregory asked, with the current cost of living crisis and ensuing food poverty, could anything be done for this in need from the Community Hall ?

Travellers. Concern was expressed for travellers moving onto farmland that was not currently being farmed. Private landowners would be responsible for the cost of evicting should the situation arise. Posts, fencing and gates had been erected around the Millennium Green to prevent unauthorised vehicles from entering.

13. Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 20 September 2022 starting at 7.30pm in Thompson Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.12

Signed

Date