

Thompson Parish Council (TPC)
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in Thompson Community Hall
on Tuesday 21 September 2021

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

Also present: There were 6 members of the public present.

The meeting opened at 19:30

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Winslow who was unwell. Apologies were accepted.

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 Thursday 1 July 2021

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Duncan Gregory proposed approval of the minutes and Cllr. Angus Welch seconded the proposal. 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 (Thursday 1 July 2021) not on the agenda.

There were no matters arising.

5. To adjourn the meeting for public participation

The meeting was adjourned at 19.34.

There were no comments from members of the public present and the meeting re-opened at 19:35.

6. To discuss surface water management in Thompson (JK)

Item 11 Planning applications, was discussed before this item 6.

Cllr. Kaye reported that she had emailed Highways and the Environment Agency and despite chasing had not received a response. Liz Truss had emailed back to say she would contact Lord Dannatt.

Pockthorpe Lane had been jetted and bored but this had had no impact on the drainage problems. Think the exit point from the ditch is not working. The ditches are not that big so cannot use machinery to clear. Riparian responsibilities, not a new thing but an age-old ruling, would hold the householders responsible for maintaining the ditches. This would have a big impact on those households identified.

Cllr. Cowen reported 16 areas had been identified in the first tranche of high priority areas compiled by the Norfolk Flood group. It was noted that Thompson with its issues was not included. Six of these are in Breckland. Issues exacerbated by extra houses, more people, washing machines, baths and showers etc. Ditches are not adequate and some/many have been culverted without regard for the implications. Pipes too small/blocked. Cllr. Kaye reported that septic tanks were being emptied more frequently and one Thompson resident is known to be emptying his tank every two weeks! Need to keep petitioning. Need to let people know of their riparian responsibilities but need to tread carefully. Resident responses to PC flooding and drainage questionnaire showed many issues in the

Signed

Date

village. Cllr. Cowen said he will talk to Gordon Bambridge - 'drainage champion' and will feedback his comments.

7. To discuss Community Speedwatch (JN)

Two people volunteered to help in response to JN's advertising for Speedwatch volunteers in the Waylander. John now has 4 volunteers, but ideally needs 6. JN will continue to progress the project.

8. To discuss 'Welcome Letter' for new residents in Thompson

Geoff Winslow had found 900 covers remaining from the last issue of the Welcome Letter. The contents would need revising. Cllr Kaye has asked Geoff Winslow to provide a copy of the insert text in Word format so that it can be brought up to date.

9. To receive reports

9.1 District Councillor (PC)

No further report from Phil Cowen.

9.2 County Councillor (FE) No report.

9.3 Thompson Chair's report (JK)

A car had been vandalised and burnt out at the Range gate. Reported as fly-tipping and has been removed.

Celebration event held on 11 September was reasonably well attended. The school had been involved and lots of children had a fun time. There had been a celebration cake made of tray bakes and mocktails provided by Richard from the Chequers pub. There is a wash up meeting planned.

Next year 2022 is the **Queens Platinum Jubilee** year (an amazing 70-year reign). A cause for celebration. The September 2021 event will have been good practice for next year.

Litter Pick. Last year was held on the last Saturday in October. Suggested Saturday 20 November for this year. KW/Geoff have been asked if they will organise bags and collection of the rubbish afterwards.

9.4 Community Hall report (KW)

KW had provided JK with a report. Coffee mornings had restarted and were well attended. Ice cream Thursdays will continue until half term. Lunches (12-2pm) will start in October. Film nights to resume in November. Christmas tree lights and refreshments planned for Friday 3 December. Welcoming back the Quilters group and the WI to the hall. Enquiries received for several classes including puppy training and martial arts.

The Celebration Event was in part a belated celebration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day and the £500 grant received towards those celebrations had been used for Union Jacks and other such themed items.

9.5 The Millennium Green report (AW)

Finances

- Lottery income collection ongoing
- Thompson Run on 26 September (volunteers required - bake a cake and deliver to Community Hall by 1000hrs, speak with Martin Kaye for other volunteer tasks)

Boundaries and Green

- No change

Play Equipment and Adult Exercise Area

- No change, except some damage to an element of the children's trim trail. This item has been placed 'out of bounds' whilst assessment of the way forward is done

Heavy rainfall and flooding

- No change

Community Involvement

- Survey complete but only 9 questionnaires completed. However, all gave positive feedback which the management group is assessing. No negative feedback received so it is assumed the village is generally content with the way the TMG is managed

Signed

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- Successful Community Celebration on 11 September 2021
- **Next Working Party** will take place on 17 Oct and it is hoped turnout will be high. The management group is to approach those who have expressed an interest and those new to the village. The PC is asked to do the same amongst their friends and neighbours

Next Meeting Tuesday 8 November 2021

10. Finances

10.1 To agree annual donations to organisations (Wayland Partnership, St. Martin's Church, Thompson Community Hall and The Millennium Green Charitable Trust (TMGCT)).

A summary of the donations made in previous years had been circulate by the Clerk prior to the meeting. It was agreed to donate the same as last year, £300 to Thompson Community Hall for hire of hall for meetings and some storage, £300 to Wayland Partnership towards cost of producing the Waylander and £500 to the TMGCT. Donations to the church used to include payment for maintenance of grass cutting equipment but now not required for this purpose. The Clerk would check current regulations regarding donations to churches before a decision is made.

DONATIONS SUMMARY								
Financial Year:		2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Thompson Community Hall (Jan)	2	£150.00	£150.00	£150.00	£300.00	£300.00	300	
Wayland Partnership (Sept)	1	£300.00	£300.00	£300.00	£300.00	£300.00	300	
St. Martin's Church (Sept)	1	£323.00	£360.00	£430.00	£287.72	£500.00	500	
Thompson Millenium Green Charitable Trust (Sept)	1	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500	
		£773.00	£810.00	£880.00	£887.72	£1,100.00	£1,600.00	£0.00
	1	Discussed at Sept/November PC meeting						
	2	Paid in January						

10.2 Financial position

The bank account balances at Tuesday 21 September

Barclays Community Account	£	7579.34
Barclays Business Premium Account	£	1614.45
TOTAL as per bank	£	9193.79

Summary (Including monies allocated)

Allocated to Sports Equipment	£	1746.00
Allocated to Notice Board	£	1084.30
Thompson Parish Council	£	6363.49
TOTAL as per bank	£	9193.79

10.3 Money in since last meeting (1 July 2021)

6/9/2021	Barclays Savers A/C - Interest	£	0.04
	TOTAL IN	£	0.04

10.4 Bank Reconciliation

Opening balance at bank, Current (Last meeting, 1 July 2021)	£	7898.39
Opening balance at bank, Savings (Last meeting, 1 July 2021)	£	1614.41 (Total £9512.8)
PLUS Money in since last meeting (as above)	£	0.04
MINUS Money out since last meeting (Total cheques 1 July 2021)	£	319.05
Closing balances at bank (This meeting, 21 Sept. 2021, as above)	£	9193.79

10.5 Cheques out (to sign)

CHQ 763	Clerks Wages - July/Aug 2021 2 months - M4/5	£	438.10
CHQ 764	Clerks Wages - Sept 2021 1 month - M6	£	219.05
	TOTAL OUT	£	657.15

Signed

Date

THOMPSON PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS					INCOME						
					YEAR ENDED 31 March 2022						
Date	From	Description			PRECEPT	SAVER AC INTEREST	RECYCLING GLASS & PAPER	GRANTS ETC	VAT	MISC	TOTAL
07/04/2021	Breckland Council	Precept 1 of 2	DIR		3,050.00						3,050.00
26/04/2021	HMRC	Vat annual refund	DIR						275.70		275.70
07/06/2021	Barclays	Barclays Saver A/C Interest	DIR			0.04					0.04
24/06/2021	Breckland Council	Recycling payment	DIR				93.18				93.18
06/09/2021	Barclays	Barclays Saver A/C Interest	DIR			0.04					0.04
					3,050.00	0.08	93.18	0.00	275.70	0.00	3,418.96
										CHECK	3,418.96

THOMPSON PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2021 - 2022											EXPENDITURE											
											YEAR ENDED 31 March 2022											
Date	Invoice	To	Description	CHQ	CLERKS WAGES	POSTAGE	PAYROLL SERVICES	COUNCIL EXPENSES	TRAINING	HALLHIRE	PRINTER	INSURANCE	AUDIT	DONATIONS	SUBS	GRASS CUTTING Etc.	WEB SITE	MISC	CAPITAL	VAT	TOTAL	
18/05/2021	5399	TTSR Limited	Grass cutting 1 of 2 (50%)	754												512.02					102.40	614.42
18/05/2021		Info Commissioner	Annual Data Protection Fee -	755											40.00							40.00
04/04/2021	NW78291055	ZOOM	Monthly virtual meeting fee	756														11.99			2.40	14.39
04/05/2021	NW84115223	ZOOM	Monthly virtual meeting fee	756														11.99			2.40	14.39
18/05/2021		Kim Austin	Clerk's wages April/May 21 -	757	438.10																	438.10
18/09/2021		Mrs J Roberts Plants	Internal Audit 'Plant Hamper'	758									30.00									30.00
01/06/2021		Bus. Services at CAS	Insurance renewal Yr 3 of 3	759								207.48										207.48
30/06/2021	1015942	SP Services	Defib battery and pads	760														306.00			89.82	395.82
30/06/2021		NPTS	New councillor training JW/JN	761				100.00														100.00
30/06/2020		Kim Austin	Clerk's wages June 2020 - M	762	219.05																	219.05
31/07/2021		Kim Austin	Clerk's wages July 2021 - M	763	219.05																	219.05
31/08/2021		Kim Austin	Clerk's wages Aug 2020 - M	763	219.05																	219.05
					1,095.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	207.48	30.00	0.00	40.00	512.02	0.00	329.98	0.00	197.02		2,511.75
																					CHECK	2,511.75

10.6 Budget Vs Actuals

Thompson Parish Council Budget Vs Actual 2020/2021

AT 21/09/2021

	Budget 2021/2022	Forecast 2021/2022	Actual to date 2021/2022
INCOME			
Precept	6,100.00	6,100.00	3,050.00
Recycling	120.00	120.00	93.18
Interest (Barclays Saver)	3.20	3.20	0.08
Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00
VAT	300.00	300.00	275.70
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	6,523.20	6,523.20	3,418.96
EXPENDITURE			
Staff Costs including PAYE	2,630.00	2,630.00	1,314.30
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	207.48	207.48	207.48
Grass cutting	1,228.84	1,228.84	512.02
Training	100.00	100.00	100.00
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	306.00
Miscellaneous/Contingency	200.00	200.00	23.98
Donation - St. Martin's Church	500.00	500.00	0.00
Donation - Wayland Partnership	300.00	300.00	0.00
Donation - Thompson Community	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	197.02
Total	6,780.77	6,780.77	2,730.80
PRECEPT £6100	Budget	Forecast	Actual to date
2021/2022	2021/2022	2021/2022	2021/2022

Signed

Date

Notes

Website (LCN)

Just to note LCN hosting fee is paid for until 2022. LCN domain paid for until 2024.

Grass cutting contract

Thompson PC has a 3-year contract 2019-2021 with TTSR. This will finish at the end of October 2021. Geoff Winslow had informed the Clerk he was very happy with the service and they had a good working relationship with TTSR. Councillors confirmed they were also happy with the service received. TTSR had been asked and they would be happy to quote for the next three years. There was a unanimous decision to ask TTSR to quote for the next 3 years. There may be some extra verge cutting required. Geoff Winslow would be asked to discuss with TTSR

11. To consider planning applications

11.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting

3PL/2021/0806/HOU MESSENT/Corner House Mill Road/2 storey rear extn. (040) PERMISSION

3PL/2021/0813/D JONES/Land to west of Marlpit Road/Reserved Matters (041) PERMISSION

It was disappointing that despite objections from residents and the Parish Council this reserved matters application had been approved. At the last PC meeting Cllr. Cowen agreed it was a very large house and had grown exponentially between outline planning and the reserved matters applications. It was suggested and agreed the application should be 'called in' to go before the Breckland Planning committee. This had not happened. The PC and residents were therefore not present for the decision making and find that they are not able to appeal - even though they didn't have any opportunity to voice their opinion.

There was no reiteration of the conditions around the ecological report. The arboreal report needs revising. Tom Donnelly, case officer failed to mention the size of the dwelling and on numerous occasions had not replied to emails or called residents back. They considered they had been seriously let down. It was thought not all communications were shown on the Planning website. Cllr. Kaye had stressed the issue of size, so Tom Donnelly was well aware.

New residents in neighbouring property said it was a selfish build, with disregard for the community, blocking neighbours' views. They were concerned about the location on the plot which was set well back. The design has changed a few times and is completely different from the outline application. Tom Donnelly had told them he would bring up their points raised but he never did. The residents believe their comments were certainly not taken into consideration.

There were flaws in the process. Cllr. Cowen said he would investigate.

Planning note: Cllr. Cowen confirmed that Breckland Planning had changed their process regards 'called in' applications. An inspection a year ago, showed the process was taking too long and Planning Committee meetings were taking too long. Applications needed to be pushed through. Any application identified to be called in by residents/Parish Council/District Councillor now go to the Breckland Planning Chairman's panel to be 'triaged'. This panel consists of the chair and 3 others who sift through the applications. The Planning Officer puts forward his case for or against and the panel decides to call in or not. Approximately two thirds are turned away for consideration by the planning committee. This means that residents/PC do not get a chance to put their points of view/local knowledge forward. Breckland Legal Adviser has final say and can overturn the decision of the Chairman's panel.

11.2 Applications pending outcome

3PL/2021/0793/F GORAM/Land rear of Dersingham House/Chalet bungalow and waste treatment plant (042)

The Parish Council had received an email from Mr. Goram. At the last meeting there was much discussion about flooding and drainage and Cllr. Kaye reported that they were trying to understand the ditches and culverts that made up the drainage system in Thompson to better control any flooding. Mr. Goram asked for a drawing of drainage that comes onto his property.

Signed

Date

There seems to be a misunderstanding that a drainage map of this sort is currently available. Cllr. Kaye's intention was to visit Mr. Goram as soon as the planning outcome was decided.

11.3 New applications since last meeting (1 July 2021)

APPEAL APP/F2605/W/21/3272258 (3PL/2020/1215/PIP) BLUE OAK (043) 29/9/21

Blue Oak continue to pursue this after many, failed applications and appeals. Thompson PC stand by all previous objections. All objections absolutely should be re-iterated and sent to the Planning Inspector for their consideration, including anything new they should consider. Residents should be encouraged to write too. Must be objective. Planning Inspector will look at policies. Cllr. Welch had formulated a response and circulated to councillors prior to this meeting. All councillors were happy with the document. Cllr. Welch proposed the response be sent to the Planning Inspector and this was seconded by Cllr. Robertson. The Clerk would submit letter to the Planning Inspector before the deadline.

3PL/2021/1196/HOU EASTER/Beech Cottage, Hallfield Road/2-Storey ext. (044) 24/9/21

The extension would not be overlooking neighbours and was sympathetic in design. The councillors had no objection to this application. Cllr. Gregory proposed a vote of no objection and this was seconded by Cllr. Welch. The Clerk would add this comment to the Breckland Planning website.

Planning note: Simon Wood from Breckland Planning is attending a Stow Bedon PC meeting to discuss planning, in particular, agricultural applications. The councillors thought it would be useful if Simon would be willing to attend a Thompson PC meeting too in order to discuss the planning process and the different types of applications, PIP, Full, Outline, HOU, Reserved matters etc. The Clerk would contact Cllr. Cowen to arrange.

12. To discuss any correspondence.

Cllr. Kaye read out an email that had been received from Mrs. Ann Scott.

'I would like to make a fairly informal request for information concerning cycle route 13 and the disappearance of the Peddars Way signpost at the junction of Tottington Road and the Peddars Way route. I am assuming that the two must be connected as cycle route 13 does not go along Tottington Road (as the signpost used to indicate.) Cyclists should use the Shakers Furze Road from Peddars Way through Thompson to The Watton road (as should motorbikes). Recently I had to move quickly out of the way of two obviously long-distance cyclists who appeared to think that they could use the Peddars way route as they were heading for Merton. Please could I have clarification as to the point at which cyclists and horse riders cannot use the Peddars way footpath. Perhaps the signing should be clearer as to the route available for users other than walkers and the public footpath ONLY sign re-instated. It is the responsibility of the Council Rights of Way Dept. to keep the definitive map and signing up to date.'

Cllr. Kaye suggested the email be forwarded to the Highways Department.

13. To confirm meeting dates for 2022.

Suggested meeting dates for 2022 had been circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. All Tuesdays and all 3rd Tuesday in the month as normal. Starting at 7.30pm in Thompson Community Hall.

18 January 2022

15 March 2022

17 May 2022

19 July 2022

20 September 2022

15 November 2022

Councillors approved these dates for 2022.

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

Butters Hall Lane looks a bit messy.

Signed

Date

14. Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 16 November 2021 starting at 7.30pm in Thompson Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.20

Signed

Date