

Thompson Parish Council (TPC)  
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in Thompson Community Hall  
on Tuesday 19 November 2019

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

Also present: There were 10 members of the public present.

**The meeting opened at 19:34**

**1. To consider accepting apologies for absence**

Cllr. Fabian Eagle sent his apologies. The Parish Council were disappointed and would have appreciated Cllr. Eagle attending knowing that the Public Inquiry was an agenda item and the Parish Council needed his support in this matter.

**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 September 2019**

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Roy Shovelar 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 (Tuesday 17 Sept 2019) not on the agenda.**

**Item 4** on Sept agenda. The Clerk had written several times to Amanda Byrne at Thompson Hall Cottage, regards tidying the garden at No. 1 College Road. No confirmation of receipt of the letters had been received. Nothing more the Parish Council could do.

**Item 13** on Sept agenda. The Clerk had contacted highways to ask if a mirror could be placed at the junction of Church Lane and Butters Hall Lane so cars could be seen coming from Mill Road. Highways replied that a mirror would not be allowed as this did not conform to Traffic Signs and Regulations. The Clerk emailed Martin Ethridge noting the comments re the mirror, but still asking for a site visit to assess road safety at this junction. The Clerk asked if the visit could be at a time when parents deliver or collect their children from school. Still no response 6 weeks later. The Clerk would resend the email for an update.

**Missing arm on signpost.** The missing arm had not yet been fixed. The Clerk would email for an update.

**5. To adjourn the meeting for public participation**

The meeting was adjourned at 19.42 and opened to the public.

The **defibrillator** sited on the school wall was discussed. JK asked for the history of the defibrillator from Linda. Fundraising paid for it 7 years ago. (Still holding £60). People were trained in its use. Over the years those people have gone, just leaving two. Linda monitors on a day to day basis. First responders check every week. Registered with ambulance service. Theresa Blake, Red cross is happy to join group and is already trained. Battery getting low (beeps as a warning) and needs replacing. Get

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quote for new battery. Theresa may be able to help. Defibrillator has been used 5-6 times. Parish Council to take on overall responsibility. Put on agenda for next meeting.

**Indian Balsam.** Classed as a problem weed because of the damage it causes to native plants. Not as invasive as Japanese Knotweed. A problem in College Road. Was cleared a few years ago. Post meeting note: Not notifiable but according to Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an offense in England and Wales to allow Indian Balsam to spread into the wild. More information on the Thompson Parish Council website.

Meeting re-opened at 19.49.

**6. Public inquiry - Norfolk County Council (Thompson, Pockthorpe Lane). April 2020**

Cllr. Kaye proposed a sub-committee be set up to deal with the Public Inquiry. Cllr, Kaye, Cllr. Winslow, Cllr. Welch and Cllr. Shovelar volunteered. Bronwen Tyler would also join due to her considerable historical knowledge and Geoff Winslow would be asked to join due to his involvement in previous years. It was agreed the sub-committee would meet on Monday 25 November at 10.00am in Thompson Community Hall. The letter received by Thompson PC from the Planning Inspectorate with submission deadlines has been posted on the noticeboard and on the PC website. Cllr. Kaye addressed members of the public present asking if anybody wanted to submit documents in readiness for the inquiry in April 2020.

**7. Division arrangements for Norfolk County Council (NCC)**

NCC had extended the consultation on proposals for new council divisions and division boundaries now closing on 13 January 2020. The process will ensure the electoral boundaries are equally mirrored across the county. Cllr. Cowen explained that as the number of houses increases and the population increases in the wards, e.g. Carbrooke and Dereham, then the numbers in the current divisions become skewed. The Boundary Commission stepped in to review the whole area. Based on number of people living in the areas, the boundaries will be redrawn after the review. Proposals are invited for a pattern of divisions to accommodate 84 councillors. Draft recommendations to be published in May 2020 to be finalised in Sept 2020 and new electoral arrangements coming into effect at local elections 2021.

**8. To receive reports**

**8.1 District Councillor (PC)**

**Local Plan (LP).** The Planning Inspector's report was long awaited. Now received 4 Fridays ago in the office. Normal Breckland Planning Committee meeting had been abandoned as most planning applications on the agenda could not be heard. Adopted in all but name. Councillors/officers need to be clued up on changes as will be taken to Council for adoption. Full briefing of local plan process scheduled for 26 November. Extra cabinet meeting scheduled for 28 November where cabinet will adopt or reject in its entirety. Will not reject. No Local Plan equates to no policies. Will then go to full council meeting. Have to view new applications in light of new LP. 6 year housing supply with 20% buffer.

Short of houses because developers never built developments that had been approved. Trying to encourage limited growth in rural communities. Need a variety of housing - too many 4/5 beds and not enough 2/3 bed houses. Currently doing budgets. Local government settlement figure has not been issued because of the December elections.

**8.2 County Councillor (FE) - No report**

**8.3 Thompson Chair's report (JK)**

**Litter pick** on Saturday 2 November went well. Disheartening when there is more litter the next day but does help to keep the area tidy. Cllr. Welch had reported fly tipped rubbish on the Stow Bedon Road, to the Council

**8.4 Community Hall report (KW)**

KW reported all was going well. 40 people enjoyed the Italian evening. Holding regular film nights that are well attended. Events booked include: guitar recital, afternoon teas, party

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bookings, wakes, quiz night and Breckland hiring the facilities for 16 hours for the elections. Christmas tree lights to be switched on 6 December at 6.30pm followed by a Christmas film 'It's a Wonderful Life' at 7.30pm.

#### 8.5 The Millennium Green report (AW)

**Finance** remains on a healthy footing with the recent Thompson fun run raising £1400 (after expenses). **Maintenance** will be carried out where appropriate. Recommendations following a ROSPA inspection will be actioned. **Pond, trees, meadows, hedges and grass cutting.** An annual plan with priorities, appropriate to the season, will be issued. Working mornings are good to get people together but not everyone can attend when planned. Ideally, if there was an actual plan in place, then anyone could see the jobs that need doing, and when they have some spare time, they could carry out some work. The first planned Working Day of 2020 is scheduled for 12 January at 09:30 hrs. Date of next Millennium Green meeting is 20 January 2020 at 20:15hrs.

#### 9. Thompson Showcase Day 2020 (JK)

An opportunity for Thompson clubs, groups and businesses to showcase what they do. For example: Fitness, flower arranging and even 'Winding the Clock' (Cllr. Welch). Possibly February 2020 but no firm date yet. Cllr. Kaye needs ideas.

#### 10. To report on financial matters

##### 10.1 Financial position

###### The bank account balances as at Tuesday 19 November 2019

Barclays Community Account	£	9295.04
Barclays Business Premium Account	£	1612.27
<b>TOTAL as per bank</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>10907.31</b>

###### Summary (Including monies allocated)

Allocated to Sports Equipment	£	300.00
Allocated to Notice Board	£	1084.30
Thompson Parish Council	£	9523.01
<b>TOTAL as per bank</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>10907.31</b>

##### 10.2 Money in since last meeting (17 September 2019)

26/9/2019	Breckland Council - Precept	£	2775.00
	<b>TOTAL IN</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2775.00</b>

##### 10.3 Bank Reconciliation

Opening balance at bank, Current (Last meeting, 17 Sept 2019)	£	6958.22
Opening balance at bank, Savings (Last meeting, 17 Sept 2019)	£	1612.27 (Total £8570.49)
PLUS Money in since last meeting (as above)	£	2775.00
MINUS Money out since last meeting (Total cheques 17 Sept 2019)	£	438.18 (Minus pre-signed)
Closing balances at bank (This meeting, 19 Nov 2019, as above)	£	<b>10907.31</b>

Cllr. Kaye signed a copy of bank statement showing the bank balances.

##### 10.4 Cheques out (to sign)

CHQ 708	Clerks Wages - Sept 2019	£	219.09
CHQ 709	Clerks Wages - Oct 2019	£	219.09
CHQ 710	Thinking Rural - 3 months payroll Jul - Sept 2019	£	36.00
CHQ 711	LCN Domain renewal for 5 years 2019 - 2024	£	41.94 (Clerk reimbursed)
CHQ 712	TTSR Ltd. Grass cutting. (2 of 2) 50% of year total	£	590.58
CHQ 713	Annual donation - Wayland Partnership	£	300.00

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CHQ 714      Annual donation - St Martin's Church Thompson      £      500.00  
**TOTAL OUT      £      1906.70**

**NOTE: Precept setting to be on the January 2020 agenda.**

**INCOME TO DATE (2019/2020 financial year)**

THOMPSON PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS				INCOME						
				YEAR ENDED 31 March 2020						
Date	From	Description		PRECEPT	SAVER A/C INTEREST	RECYCLING GLASS & PAPER	GRANTS ETC	VAT	MISC	TOTAL
05/04/2019	Breckland Council	Precept	DIR	2,775.00						2,775.00
16/05/2019	Breckland Council	Recycling payment	DIR			158.76				158.76
02/07/2019	HMRC	Vat refund	DIR					404.15		404.15
26/09/2019	Breckland Council	Precept	DIR	2,775.00						2,775.00
04/06/2019	Barclays	Barclays Saver A/C Interest	DIR		0.80					0.80
02/09/2019	Barclays	Barclays Saver A/C Interest	DIR		0.80					0.80
				5,550.00	1.60	158.76	0.00	404.15	0.00	6,114.51
									CHECK	6,114.51

**EXPENDITURE TO DATE (2019/2020 financial year)**

THOMPSON PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2019 - 2020				EXPENDITURE													
				YEAR ENDED 31 March 2020													
Date	To	Description	CHO	CLERKS WAGES	CLERKS REIMBURSEMENTS	POSTAGE	PAYROLL SERVICES	INSURANCE	AUDIT	DONATIONS	SUBS	GRASS CUTTING Etc.	WEB SITE	MISC	CAPITAL	VAT	TOTAL
01/05/2019	TTSR Limited	Grass cutting 1/2	693									492.15				98.43	590.58
07/05/2019	Info Commissioner	Annual Data Protection Fee -	694								40.00						40.00
31/03/2019	Thinking Rural	Payroll Services Jan-Mar 2019	695				30.00									6.00	36.00
20/03/2019	Kim Austin	Clerk's wages March 2019	696	208.21													208.21
01/04/2019	NALC	Annual Subscription	697								117.62						117.62
06/05/2019	Wymondham Garden	Internal Audit Voucher Mike C	698					25.00									25.00
30/04/2019	Kim Austin	Clerk's wages April 2019	699	175.29													175.29
30/05/2019	Bus. Services at CAS	Insurance renewal	700					207.48									207.48
22/05/2019	Caloo	Outdoor adult equipment	701											5,000.00		1,000.00	6,000.00
30/06/2019	Thinking Rural	Payroll Services Apr-Jun 2019	702				30.00									6.00	36.00
31/05/2019	Kim Austin	Clerk's wages May 2019	703	262.89													262.89
30/06/2019	Kim Austin	Clerk's wages June 2019	704	219.09													219.09
19/07/2019	Breckland Council	Election costs May 2019	705											75.00			75.00
31/07/2019	Kim Austin	Clerk's wages July 2019	706	219.09													219.09
31/08/2019	Kim Austin	Clerk's wages Aug 2019	707	219.09													219.09
30/09/2019	Kim Austin	Clerk's wages Sept 2019	708	219.09													219.09
31/10/2019	Kim Austin	Clerk's wages Oct 2019	709	219.09													219.09
30/09/2019	Thinking Rural	Payroll Services July-Sept 2019	710				30.00									6.00	36.00
26/10/2019	LCN.com	Domain renewal - 5 years 2019	711										34.95			6.99	41.94
01/11/2019	TTSR Limited	Grass cutting 2/2	712									492.15				98.43	590.58
19/11/2019	Wayland Partnership	Donation	713							300.00							300.00
19/11/2019	St. Martins Church TH	Donation	714							500.00							500.00
				1,741.84	0.00	0.00	90.00	207.48	25.00	800.00	157.62	984.30	34.95	5,075.00	0.00	1,221.85	10,338.04
																CHECK	10,338.04

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## 10.5 Budget Vs Actuals

Thompson Parish Council Budget Vs Actual 2019/2020				19/11/2019
	Budget 2019-2020	Forecast 2019-2020	Actual to date 2019-2020	
<b>INCOME</b>				
Precept	5,550.00	5,550.00	5,550.00	
Recycling	240.00	240.00	158.76	
Interest (Barclays Saver)	3.20	3.20	1.60	
Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	
VAT	300.00	300.00	404.15	
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,093.20</b>	<b>6,093.20</b>	<b>6,114.51</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Staff Costs including PAYE	2,630.00	2,630.00	1,741.84	
Payroll services	120.00	120.00	90.00	
Internal audit fee	0.00	25.00	25.00	
Postage	15.00	15.00	0.00	
Insurance	400.00	207.48	207.48	Saving £192.52 on last year
Grass cutting	1,181.16	984.30	984.30	
Training	0.00	0.00	0.00	No training budget
Printer/consumables	50.00	50.00	0.00	
Website	100.00	100.00	34.95	
Capital	0.00	0.00	0.00	No capital expense
Miscellaneous/Contingency	0.00	75.00	75.00	Election Costs
Donation - St. Martin's Church	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Donation - Wayland Partnership	300.00	300.00	300.00	
Donation - Thompson Community	300.00	300.00	0.00	
Subs - Norfolk ALC	111.00	120.00	117.62	
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	221.85	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,097.16</b>	<b>5,816.78</b>	<b>4,338.04</b>	
	<b>Budget 2019-2020</b>	<b>Forecast 2019-2020</b>	<b>Actual to date 2019-2020</b>	
* £6000 Caloo outdoor equipment	inc. VAT £1000		* 6,000.00	
			<b>10,338.04</b>	

## 11. To consider planning applications

### 11.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting

3PL/2019/0941/HOU JAMES/College Farm Barn/outbuilding to annexe & garage (017) PERMISSION

3PL/2019/0942/LB JAMES/College Farm Barn/outbuilding to annexe & garage (018) PERMISSION

3PL/2019/0956/HOU WOLSTENHOLME College Farm/Goat shed to annexe (019) WITHDRAWN

3PL/2019/0957/LB WOLSTENHOLME College Farm/Goat shed to annexe (020) WITHDRAWN

3PL/2019/1040/HOU CAVANAGH 15 Pockthorpe Lane/Rear extension (021) PERMISSION

### 11.2 Applications pending outcome

3PL/2019/1169/F WOLSTENHOLME College Farm/Goat shed to annexe (022)

3PL/2019/1170/LB WOLSTENHOLME College Farm/Goat shed to annexe (023)

### 11.3 New applications since last meeting

3PL/2019/1189/F BLUE OAK/AR PLANNING East of Marlpit, south of Mill Load/6 dwellings (024)

The original application for 8 dwellings was withdrawn. This new application is for 6 dwellings. Cllr Welch commented: This application has been submitted when Breckland has not approved the Local

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Plan. However, the application is written as if the Council had already approved the 'Inspector Approved Local Plan'. Therefore, some confusion as to which criteria should be considered.

**If considered under the 'yet to be endorsed' Local Plan:**

If the application were to be approved, then it would mean that Thompson's quota under the proposed Local Plan would be met 16 years early.

The inspector's report (Para 56) states that development should be:

**Appropriate in design and scale.** Thompson has evolved slowly over many decades with overwhelming low-density housing. This application is completely out of keeping with this rural settlement in terms of scale and density. The proposed development would result in an incongruous and unwarranted intrusion into the rural setting of the village. The proposal definitely would not enhance, by even one iota, the existing form and character.

**Coalescence is avoided.** This application in itself is coalescence ...

**Design contributes to preserving and where possible enhancing, the historic nature and connectivity of communities.** See appropriate in design and scale.

**If considered under the 'current' Local Plan:**

Cllr. Cowen commented on this application. A figure of 6 houses is in the new plan being ~5% for Thompson. Form, scale and character. Open tracts of land and green open spaces gives Thompson its character. Development on this scale in the middle of the village would affect that character. Huge amount of work has gone into this application and lots of money thrown at it. Need to consider drainage, water and biodiversity. Cllr. Cowen said the Cllr. Welch's summary/comments were very good. Those that commented before must submit comments again on Breckland website. Mark Simmonds is the case officer and is very good. Cllr. Cowen was sure he would listen and reach an unbiased decision. Lots of detail but he is not fooled by 'weasel words' and tree surveys.

The Parish Council's strong objections still stand in their entirety. The principal objections being under four main headings; sustainability, quantity, character/transport and management of surface water.

Parish Councillors agreed unanimously with Cllr. Welch's summary. Cllr. Shovelar proposed and Cllr. Robertson seconded the proposal for the Parish Council to strongly object again on the same grounds as before. Cllr. Kaye would circulate comments. The Clerk would post comments.

The meeting was adjourned for public comment. A member of the public said they agreed with Phil's comments. They had met with Mark Simmonds and had a very balanced dialogue. Has been invited to discuss with him and happy to be the ambassador.

Other comments: Trying to build here for 30 years. Culvert across the road has never been shown on the diagrams. Neighbours concerned about being asked to cut down trees. Trees absorb water and trees are being felled. Test pits were abandoned as the water table was too high. Traffic document is ridiculous.

Cllr. Cowen said that local knowledge/history is absolutely vital. Developers do not know the detail. He confirmed that Natural England etc. would have been consulted. The meeting re-opened.

**12. To discuss any correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**13. AOB**

Cllr. Winslow mentioned the Parish Council **Christmas Tree**. Cllr. Robertson agreed to supply the tree as last year and Roy will arrange lights/decorations and help set up by 6 December.

Cllr. Gregory mentioned some vagrants were living in a garden shed in College Road. Has been reported to the police.

Flowers in tubs.

Snooker table. (To be an agenda item in January)

**14. Date of next Meeting**

Tuesday 21 January 2020 at 7.30pm in Thompson Community Hall

**The meeting closed at 21:16**

Signed .....

Date .....