

Minutes of Thurton Parish Council (TPC)

Wednesday 27th November 2024 – 7:30pm

held at Ashby & Thurton Village Hall

In Attendance: I Capps (IC) Chair, Jan Whitehouse (JW), C Popplewell (CP), P Black (PB)

Minutes: T Higlett (TH) (Parish Clerk)

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chairman I Capps chaired the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies from K Calderwood and L Patterson, Vic Thomson and Kay Mason-Billig
These were accepted.
2. To receive declarations of Interest for items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations.
None
3. Public Forum including County and District Councillors.
No public in attendance.
District Councillor provided a report for September prior to meeting. This can be found on the parish website
County Councillor provided a November report on Norfolk County Council. This can be found on the parish council website
PB referred to planning framework and that all new builds should automatically have solar panels included. CP also stated that parish biodiversity policy should be included in planning applications too.
4. To approve the minutes from the meeting held on the 25th September 2024.
These were approved.
5. Matters arising from minutes – councillors only.
 1. **Remedial maintenance of bus shelters** – IC stated he had the specifications of the bus shelters and the maintenance which needs to be carried out. No contact had been made with a contractor. It was proposed that council should perhaps contact the owners of the George and Dragon public house to ask for the details of the builder who is currently building the outdoor shelter on their site.
 2. **Barking dogs** – Clerk advised that the last correspondence received from South Norfolk stated the owner is trying to home two large dogs before he can move into their new residence.
 3. CP advised that South Yare Wildlife Trust was in favour of holding a summer event in 2025 to address the importance of Biodiversity. This to include neighbouring parish councils.
6. Finance
 1. To note the council's current financial standing.
Bank account on 28th October 2024 £20,445.32.
 2. To approve payments

- a. T Higlett Salary October/November 2024
- b. HMRC – Taxation for October/November 2024
- c. C Limbach – Remembrance wreath - £10.00
- d. Village Hall – grass cutting/bookings - £1,000.00.
- e. Autela Payroll - £81.86

3. To note receipts since last meeting

- a. Winter pressures grant - £500.00
- b. Second half precept - £4573.50

The council proposed allocating the winter pressures grant to the Community Café which is held at the Village Hall each month. PB proposed discussing with LP the allocation of £200 to December and £100 to each café in January, February, and March 2025. LP is parish council's village hall representative. Council all in favour.

4. The nationally agreed salary review for the Clerk for 2024/25 was noted.

7. Budget for 2025/26

The budget was reviewed, and the forthcoming expenditure was predicted. The budgetary need was agreed at £10,351.00 with an increase on last years of £732.00.

Clerk reminded council if they are successful in obtaining funding from the Parish Partnership Scheme the bus stops in the village will have solar lighting fitted and council will have to allow for annual maintenance of the equipment. It was proposed a slight increase in councils reserves to allow for future highways improvements and bus shelter maintenance.

Council approved budget for 2025/26.

8. Administrative Issues

1. **Online Banking** – IC advised he has returned his documents to bank.

2. **Application for funding from the Parish Partnership Scheme** –Council reviewed the breakdown of proposed Parish Partnership Scheme proposal and reviewed two quotations. Members approved going with quote 2 which would see two 'other danger/pedestrian' signs and mph roundels painted on the carriageway at a cost of £4630. A quote for 4 x solar bus stop lighting of £2500 each had also been obtained. Members felt that council should trial 2 solar lighting systems. One to be installed Norwich to Loddon side of the road opposite Prospect Place. Loddon to Norwich side of the road by Manor Farm close to the layby.

Clerk has asked for clarification on costings and as to who should be funding the 'Slow' Lineage on the approach to Prospect Place along with 40mph roundel where the speed limit reduces coming into Thurton. Awaiting a response from Highways Engineer. Grant application form must be returned to NCC by the 6th of December 2024.

CP advised there was a cat's eye lying on the A146 near the pedestrian refuge.

3. **Report from Internal Control Officer** – JW advised she had carried out a review of the finances. One query was around the recording of the VAT. Clerk advised this was recorded on the Payments spreadsheet where there was separate column headed VAT. All documentation was well presented. A perfect set of accounts.

9. Village Issues

1. **De-illumination of streetlights**-NCC had advised the council of which streetlights would be switched off. The clerk stated she had one resident contact her regarding this and advised it was being carried out on a year long trial across Norfolk and that there is the opportunity to report their concerns on the NCC website.

2. **Ditch clearance** – Council noted that the NCC Highways Rangers can look at regular incidents of flooding or standing water including the inspection of gullies and grips. Perhaps they could look at ditch clearance. South Norfolk's Surface Water Drainage Officer has supplied the council with additional information about the responsibility of landowners and how Norfolk County Council Water Management Team will get involved if there is extensive flooding. Council felt it may be worth contacting NCC should guidance be required. CP said it maybe worth enquiring about the availability of sandbags. Clerk proposed contacting Emergency Coordinator at South Norfolk Council.

10. Update on speed awareness campaign.

Meeting had taken place on the 25th October. Attendees included Cllr Kay Mason Billig and Highways representatives. Discussion was around the safety issues of crossing the A146 at Prospect Place and the pedestrian refuge. Pedestrian crossing signage can be installed and slow lineage close to Prospect Place. The pedestrian refuge currently is missing the streetlight, and this will be replaced asap. Also proposed clearing away the debris which has built up. A traffic survey has been planned for Spring 2025. A pedestrian count will take place between the hours of 7am and 7pm on a mid-weekday during term time. Depending on the results of the survey it will be decided whether improvements could be made. Council would like to install solar lighting on bus stops near Prospect Place and Manor Farm.

11. Consultations

1. Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Publication of proposed Main Modifications and Additional Modifications.

12. Correspondence

1. South Norfolk – Unauthorised encampment
2. Broadland & South Norfolk Design Code 2nd consultation

13. General Parish Issues (for information only)

Chairman spoke of the sudden death of Mr T Kitt Chairman of Ashby St Mary Parish Council and passed on condolences to his family.

JW asked if council could consider sending out a newsletter in the new year to advise residents of council's projects.

14. Date of next meeting to be advised for early January 2025.

Meeting closed at 21:10