

# THORNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Thornham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.00 pm at Thornham Village Hall.

## **Present:**

Cllr S Mocatta (Chair), Cllr I Barrett, Cllr A Needham, Cllr S Greef, Cllr A Jamieson

Clerk: Sarah Raven

Members of the Public: 3

## **1. Apologies for Absence:**

It was resolved to accept apologies from Cllr A Chesterman and Cllr D Arthur (personal).

## **2. Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations by Councillors in any of the Agenda items listed:**

None

## **3. Public Participation:**

- Advertisement of Events Posters – These have been taken down now but if they are put up in the village they should be taken down after the event.
- Register of Election – The Borough Council advised parishioner that he was not allowed to register on the electoral role as not living in the parish for more than three months a year. Cllr A Jamieson will investigate this with the Borough Council.
- Parking Issues on High Street: Commercial vans parking on the pavement. Safety issue for pedestrians. Concerns with cars overtaking the vans. Thank you to the Chair for liaising with the contractors to remove the vans from pavement and trying to sort out an alternative for parking arrangements with the Village Hall. Cllr Mocatta explained she has liaised with the site foreman to liaise with Village Hall regarding parking at the Village Hall car park.
- Ditches – with high water levels it is good that the ditches have been cleared. Cllr Needham has cleared a couple of drains/ditches.
- Streetlight at Hall Lane – Not working. Cllr Greef will obtain number to report.
- Tree near Village Sign – Cllr Needham has removed all the ivy off the tree.

## **4. Councillor Reports:**

4.1 County Councillor Cllr A Jamieson –. See [Below for Report](#).

4.2 Borough Councillor – Cllr T De Winton None.

## **5. Minutes of last council meeting 13 December 2023**

5.1 **Consider and Approve the Minutes:** The Minutes were circulated before the meeting. The minutes were APPROVED and signed as a true copy by the Chair, Cllr S Mocatta.

5.2 **Clerks Report** – Circulated report before the meeting. Outstanding for Clerk: Light over the Give Way at Ringstead Road is not working. This has been reported to K&M Lighting to be fixed. Norfolk Coastal Path have not attended to fix the costal path sign. Dog bin now received and waiting to be installed. Noticeboard measurements completed. Npower and UK Power Network have

been asked for a report for all streetlights to be identified on each electricity bill.  
PAT Testing on the laptop cable arranged for next week.

## 6. Finances

6.1 **Finance Chair Report** – Cllr I Barrett reported Current Account £749.51  
Business Account £63412.28.

### 6.2 Accounts for Payment:

<b>PAYMENTS to be APPROVED</b>	
English Country Gardens	132.00
Burnham Area Community Car Scheme	400.00
Npower	123.73
Information Commissioner Office Renewal	35.00
Glasdon (dog bin for Jubilee Meadow)	218.26

These payments were APPROVED.

### 6.3 Money Received:

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest	227.73

6.4 **Bank Reconciliation December 2023** – Bank Reconciliations for both accounts, Statements and Budget Comparison had been circulated to all Councillors. These were AGREED.

6.5 **Draft Budget by Advisory Group** – Advisory Group has recommended a budget and to set the precept at £35,000. The Budget and grants were discussed in detail. The budget was then APPROVED.

6.6 **Grants from Thornham Village Hall & Playing Field, Thornham United Charities and Thornham PCC for 2024:**- Discussion on organisations which hold funds in their bank accounts. It was AGREED to pay £2,750 to Thornham Village Hall & Playing Field, £2,750 to the Parochial Church Council and £5,000 to Thornham United Charities. These were included in the budget and AGREED on the following conditions.

- These sums are only for one year and no commitment for future years and will be reviewed.
- 2025/2026 financial year, more transparency on spending for the organisations. To also provide invoices/receipts of the spending of the grant money.
- Fund raising together as community organisations.

Churchwarden and Secretary were thanked by Cllr Needham for their hard work.

6.7 **CIL Grant Funding** – Applications to be in by 1<sup>st</sup> February. It was AGREED that if any community organisations needed a letter of support from the Parish Council this would be dealt with by email as will be outside the deadline for next meeting.

6.8 **Courses** – It was AGREED for the Clerk and Cllr S Greef to attend the Seminar in March with Norfolk Parish Training and Support.

## 7. Village Matters

7.1 **Community events in Village Hall** – Possible two bingos on behalf of the Cricket Club. Thornham Village Hall has a Quiz night on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

- 7.2 **Update on Street Lights:** Cozens has supplied an updated quote for the 28 timers to be installed with the switch off for the streetlights between midnight and 5.30 am. The Quote for £1750 plus VAT. This was AGREED.
- 7.3 **Streetlight at Red House:** Unfortunately, K&M Lighting have not provided a quote. Clerk to chase.
- 7.4 **Pavilion:** It was AGREED to complete a letter of support and commitment of £5,000 from the Parish Council for this project. This was already earmarked in reserves.
- 8. Governance:**
- 8.1 **Biodiversity Policy** – This is still being completed.
- 8.2 **Website** – Discussion on website design. This could be completed initially for £120 for set up with Clerk completing pages. This was AGREED.
- 8.3 **Appraisal for the Clerk** – This was undertaken by Cllrs A Chesterman and S Mocatta. This was signed and completed.
- 9. Outside Agencies:**
- 9.1 **Thornham Village Hall & Playing Field Ltd (TVH&PF):** No report.
- 9.2 **Representative to join TVH & PF:** A representative had come forward, Billy King Harman would become a Trustee and a representative on behalf of the Parish Council. This will include the Pavilion and will report back on this project. This was AGREED.
- 9.3 **Thornham United Charities:** [Report attached](#). Trees will be planted in February. Whips to go in January. Seeds have been planted. Plaques have been ordered. Trees to be taken out of the southwest quadrant and will be replanted. These trees are being replanted as overcrowded and very dense. Thanked the Parish Council for the grant of £5,000 for 2024/2025 year.
- 9.4 **Saxon Shore Forum:** The main presentation did not attend.
- 10. Highways:**
- 10.1 **Memorandum of Understanding** – The locations were approved by Norfolk County Council. This was APPROVED and to be signed.
- 10.2 **Risk Assessment SAM2** – This was APPROVED.
- 10.3 **SAM2 data download** – SAM2 (1) has data downloaded and reset. (2) SAM2 has not recorded data. Assessment by Westcotec, Dereham would have a look at the recorder for £45.00. This price was AGREED.
- 11. Health and Safety and GDPR Update:**
- 11.1 **Health and Safety Policy** – This had been updated and now APPROVED.
- 11.2 **Inspection Sheet** – This had been updated and included the tree inspection. This was APPROVED.
- 12. Planning:**
- Decisions made outside Parish Council Meeting:***  
*Ref: 23/01714/F Proposed refacing existing dwelling, proposed 2 storey rear extension, porch extension, garage conversion and internal remodelling at 3 Hunts Cottages Church Street Thornham Hunstanton Norfolk – OBJECT to the application – contrary to neighbourhood plan: D1: Design principles for new development and H5: Residential extensions. It is not in keeping with the surrounding area and a vast extension.*
- 13. Correspondence:**
- 13.1 **Internal Review:** An internal review had been requested after a Freedom of Information request response was given. This was undertaken by Cllrs S Mocatta and I Barrett. This took 6 hours to deal with and a draft response was prepared for Councillors approval.

**14. Reports from Councillors and Clerk.**

None

**15. Items for Next Agenda:**

To discuss Harbour Road where the springs come through as it is very soft.

**16. Date and Place of Next Meeting Wednesday 14 February 2024 at 7.00pm in Thornham Village Hall.**

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

.....Chair

Dated:

## Norfolk County Council Report by Cllr A Jamieson

### Councillors accept £600 million devolution deal

County councillors have voted to accept a county deal devolution agreement with the Government, to transfer significant funding and powers to Norfolk.

Government funding will start transferring to Norfolk next summer, if councillors vote in July 2024 to stage the first election for a leader in May 2025. The deal will mean that decisions can be taken in Norfolk, for Norfolk.

[Watch a video statement from Cllr Mason Billig via YouTube.](#)

The full council agreed the following recommendations:

Council:

- Recognises the work carried out during 2023 to consult with the public, inform Members and prepare plans in relation to the 'in-principle' County Deal brought to Council in January this year
- Commends the work undertaken by the Leader and Officers to secure additional benefits for the Norfolk County Deal and resolves that the Deal should be accepted
- Agrees that the election for the Directly Elected Leader should be held alongside the county council elections in May 2025 to enable the widest possible engagement with the electorate
- Agrees that the resolution adopting the new governance arrangements should be brought to the Full Council meeting on 23 July 2024 to facilitate that election date

For further details go to [www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkcountydeal](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkcountydeal).

### Background – what would a county deal mean?

Norfolk faces a major opportunity to gain new powers and funding from the Government, through an agreement called the County Deal.

We could make more decisions in Norfolk, for Norfolk and secure investment of more than £600m over 30 years. If councillors agree the in-principle deal, it will enable us to invest in areas such as transport, skills and job opportunities, housing and regeneration, tailored to the needs of local people.

A County Deal would mean:

- Having a Council Leader who is directly elected by the public, enabling Norfolk's voice to be heard by the Government
- Targeting funding and resources to Norfolk's own priorities
- Unlocking housing and employment sites

- Investing in the skills we need and attracting and retaining key businesses
- Opening the door to more – further powers and funding in future

## **Householders to get free DIY waste for small projects**

Norfolk residents will be able to dispose of small amounts of DIY waste at Norfolk's Recycling Centres free of charge from 31 December following changes made by Norfolk County Council.

The change applies to small-scale projects carried out by householders on their own home, allowing them to bring a maximum 100 litres (must fit into 2 x 50l bags) for free or one single item (maximum size of 200cm x 70cm x 75cm). Each household is allowed four free visits with DIY waste every four weeks. Anything beyond this will still be charged at normal rates.

The change in policy follows Government abolishing charges for the disposal of limited amounts and types of DIY waste at recycling centres across the UK.

Prior to 31 December, customers with DIY-type construction and demolition waste will continue to be directed to the 'Pay as you throw service' which is available at all centres.

Traders must continue to pay for DIY waste.

For more information visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/DIYwaste](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/DIYwaste)

## **Award-winning Adult Learning service rated 'Good' by Ofsted**

Norfolk County Council's Adult Learning has been rated as 'Good' following their latest Ofsted inspection.

The inspection report praised the ambition of the service, which provides community-based and online learning for around 6,000 adults a year. The service achieved a 'Good' rating across all six areas that were inspected, alongside the overall 'Good' rating.

Inspectors commented that learners are 'highly motivated' and committed to their studies. They praised the number of people who have a 'clear plan' for their future careers and that they want to improve their economic prospects.

In particular, inspectors highlighted the work with residents of retirement homes who have increased their confidence, self-care and resilience after completing courses in basic cookery. They commented how, following the course, learners felt less isolated and 'excited to prepare and eat their own meals'.

It was also recognised that the service has responded effectively to the growing demand for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses.

There was praise for the work with Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service apprentices. The inspectors saw how the course helps them to work safely while learning about the importance of health and nutrition. The report concluded that the 'apprenticeship is well matched to the needs of the fire service.'

This inspection result comes on the back of Norfolk County Council Adult Learning being named 'Further or Higher Education Provider of the Year' at this year's Norfolk Education Awards. This followed national recognition in 2021 where the service was named adult and community learning provider of the year at the Tes Further Education Awards.

Norfolk County Council Adult Learning offers a wide range of courses for adults of all levels and interests. Whether you want to change your career, improve your skills, or pursue your passion.

Find out more about Adult Learning and browse the course catalogue at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/adultlearning](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/adultlearning).

## **New year, New you. Norfolk gears up for a healthy 2024**

More than half of Norfolk's residents are planning to make a New Year's resolution this year, with losing weight and healthier eating topping the list, according to a survey\* carried out by Public Health at Norfolk County Council.

Fifty-eight per cent of respondents said they would make a resolution this year, with 34% saying that they would like to lose weight and 27% saying that want to eat healthier in January and onwards. Reducing stress (18%) and drinking less alcohol (11%) were also high on the priority list for 2024.

It should be a successful start to the county-wide health kick, as 42% residents claim that previous resolutions have been kept to for six months or more and just 7% slipping in the first week.

Fortunately, for anyone who's looking to make a change but struggles to stick to goals, Ready to Change is a great free online tool with lots of support. Those looking to reach a healthy weight, drink less or give up smoking can go online and there are quizzes to help you understand what you might need to improve as well as loads of tips and information about free support in Norfolk.

Professor of health psychology Felix Naughton, a behaviour change expert from the University of East Anglia said: "Planning is key to successfully achieving your goal. Write down your goal, including how and when you will achieve it, get the support of friends and family, and think about anything that might get in the way and how you will get around it."

Visit [www.readytochange.co.uk](http://www.readytochange.co.uk) for help setting your goals and action plans to get you the success you deserve in 2024.

\*Online survey of 153 Norfolk residents carried out from 11 – 18 December.

## **Multi-million pound investment proposed to modernise Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service buildings**

A multi million pound proposal to modernise fire and rescue buildings across the county is set to be considered by Norfolk County Council's Cabinet.

The work is part of the council's ongoing infrastructure investment to improve the inclusivity of Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) buildings to ensure they are fit for the future as the service recruits more women and looks to improve and standardise the layouts of its buildings for the health, safety and wellbeing of staff.

NFRS has looked at the equity of facilities at its fire stations, as well as what more it can do to minimise contamination of potentially harmful substances and recommended a range of changes to station layouts and facilities. These aim to create more purpose-built facilities for women and improve zoning to minimise the risk of contaminant spread.

To date cabinet has approved a £1.2m investment in a new logistics hub in Wymondham and wide-ranging improvements at Sprowston and Thetford fire stations.

Cabinet has now been asked to approve a three-stage approach to prioritising the modernisation of stations which requires an allocation of £2m from existing capital for 2024-25; with a follow-on £2m bid expected for 2025-26.

More modern fire stations, such as Carrow in Norwich will require minimum interventions, with the majority of the improvements focused at on-call stations. If agreed, the timetable will be realigned to other initiatives such as decarbonisation of the wider county council estate to ensure best value for money.

NFRS also asked for cabinet acknowledgement of an estimated further £4.5m requirement for work beyond 2026 for improvements to its remaining estate.

The bid fits with the council's Strategic Property Asset Management Framework 2021/22 to 2026/27 to provide the right property, fit for purpose, in the right place, to meet current service delivery needs and to plan for the future.

## **24/7 free travel to all disabled bus pass holders in Norfolk**



From 1 February 2024 all Norfolk residents who hold a disabled concessionary travel pass will be eligible for free bus travel 24 hours a day, seven days a week when travelling within the county.

The decision, which was published today by Norfolk County Council, means that more than 14,500 people across the county who hold a concessionary bus pass due to disability, and their eligible companions, will now be able to travel on any bus at any time free of charge across Norfolk.

Previously concessionary pass holders with a disability were only able to travel for free on buses off-peak (all day on Saturdays and Sundays but only from 09:30 Monday to Friday) except for those registered blind or visually impaired.

Offering free travel at all times is over and above the minimum requirement set by government, and is something that a local authority can choose to do but doesn't have to do. The change was recommended following an updated equality impact assessment of the scheme which concluded that it is now unfair to offer a discretionary enhancement to just one group of disabled people (i.e. those who are blind or visually impaired).

The recommendation agreed by the individual cabinet member was to 'extend the concessionary travel discretion of free travel at all times to all eligible disabled passholders and eligible companions, from 1 February 2024.'

The cost of providing this enhancement is estimated at £50,000 which will be funded by the Council's ring-fenced public transport budget provided by the Department for Transport.

## **Norfolk County Council's emergency team has busiest Christmas on record**

Social workers in Norfolk had a busier Christmas and New Year than ever, with more than 800 calls coming in over the festive period.

The council's Emergency Duty Team, which helps respond to out of hours social care emergencies, was available 24/7 over the holiday period, supporting some of the county's most vulnerable people.

Christmas day was the busiest on record with 71 calls. The previous record was 50 calls in 2021, due to the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the Christmas bank holiday weekend, the team dealt with 414 calls and the New Year bank holiday weekend saw the team deal with 377 calls.

Requests ranged from formal mental health assessments, safeguarding children referrals and community care calls, such as elderly residents needed an increase in care or night visits.

## **Year End Report, 2023 - Thornham Jubilee Meadow.**

We had a most successful year, starting in January, when Rory Hart came to plant new whips (small trees). This was followed a month later by the installation of fencing alongside the A149, which has improved the health and safety of the site. We also started a fundraiser asking people to sponsor nest boxes and not for the first time, we were amazed by the response. We obtained sponsorship for 25 small nest boxes, as well as for two Barn Owl boxes which were erected on two telegraph poles which we bought from a company in Dereham.

In June this year, the meadow was cut and all the top growth was removed from the site. This was followed in September by rotavating all of the field to destroy the roots of the growing grasses. We are grateful to Colin and Amanda Crown, who did this work for us so efficiently.

It took us quite a while before we could get the seeds planted. This was eventually done at the end of November, as we were hampered by almost continuous rainfall throughout October and November. Ed, Cross, devised an ingenious method of planting the seeds which involved a slug pellet unit towed by a quad bike as the usual method of using a tractor was impossible because of the field conditions.

Having done that, we went in pursuit of trees and have placed an order with Barcham Trees in Ely. We have placed two orders. The first is for 25 trees for the one-acre memorial area. These will be the trees, generously donated, during the Aviva Save our Wild Isles project, and they will have memorial plaques. The plan is to have these trees planted in February 2024. The second order is for a further 20 trees to be planted at the end of next year in the open meadow area. We are delaying the planting of the second batch in order to protect the seeds which now cover this area. We want to give them as much chance as possible to get off to a good start. So, with the seeds planted and the trees ordered, we can relax for a short time until all the action starts up again. Thus, the capital works elements of the Jubilee Meadow project have progressed well and in timely fashion so far.

The other key element to our work has been the research to ensure we can sustain the meadow over the long term. This means essential maintenance work must be funded both in terms of the labour required and the plant and equipment essential for the task. We were fortunate to be alerted to the North Norfolk Landscape recovery project. This is a national project in part funded by DEFRA but with strong local groups needing private funding support.

We attended a useful launch meeting in Burnham Deepdale and are keeping in regular contact with Norfolk Rivers Trust staff who are key elements in this co-operative project. We believe we have a unique local project which fits well with the overall scheme's aims. However, this does not launch until 2025 and so we are grateful for the support we hope to have from Parish Council in the short term.

We now await the Spring with a sense of great anticipation. We are grateful for the support we have enjoyed from the community and grant donors.

Jubilee Meadow Working Party  
2024.

January