

**THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023**

**PRESENT:** Mr J Fisher (Chairman) Mr F Bowe  
Mr S Snelling Mr P Berry  
Mr T Garner Mr D Buck  
Ms C Ferris

**1. In Attendance:** Mrs R McCarthy (OM/RFO), Mr J Calver (Parks Supervisor), Mrs D Wheatley (Administration and Communications Officer), and eight members of the public.

**Apologies for Absence:** Mr D Wiseman

The Chairman advised that as Item 7 was on the Agenda after the Confidential Matters (Item 6) when the public would not be permitted he would discuss Item 7 first.

**2. Declarations of Interest:** None

**3. Minutes of meeting held on 12 June 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.

**4. Planning Items Raised by Residents**

A resident from Hillcrest Road spoke in regards to the state of their verges following pavement works undertaken by Norfolk County Council (NCC). Following advice from NCC that they would be taking no further action, the resident requested help from the Town Council to have the verges reinstated.

A resident spoke in regard to the use of pesticide sprays and registered disappointment at their continued use in the town.

A resident spoke in regard to Hillcrest Road and stated it should have its share of the NCC funding given to the Town Council.

**5 Planning Applications:**

**2023/1525 19 Howard Close Removal/Variation of Condition (S73/S19) (JF)**

The Town Council, in its capacity as statutory consultee, raises no objection but suggests consideration given to the window having limited opening.

**2023/1453 38 Thunder Lane Proposed garage conversion, new access and summer house (CF)**

The Town Council, in its capacity as a statutory consultee, raises no objection in principle but support the NCC Highways comments in relation to the road access and vehicle turning.

**2023/1548 37 Eastern Road Single storey rear annexe (FB)**

The Town Council, in its capacity as statutory consultee, raises no objection.

**2023/1702 35 Thor Close Demolition of glazed conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension (PB/DW)**

The Town Council, in its capacity as statutory consultee, raises no objection.

**2023/1711 1 Pine Road Single storey rear extension (SS)**

The Town Council, in its capacity as statutory consultee, raises no objection.

**BA/2023/0247/TPOA 10 Yarmouth Road**

**T1: Cedar-weight reduction by thinning out and reducing branches back to secondary growth points on largest bough on western aspect. Reduce branches protruding from main crown by 1-2m on upper 1/3<sup>rd</sup> portion of crown. Crown raise of southern crown area by up to 5m by thinning out and removing duplicating branches back to secondary growth points. Incorporate 8 tonne Cobra to existing brace (JF)**

The Town Council, in its capacity as statutory consultee raises no objection but would support the views of the Tree Officer.

**7. Verge Maintenance**

The members considered the report attached and had a lengthy discussion about the benefits of keeping the verge maintenance in-house or contracting out. It was felt that whilst it was better to have full control of the job/workmanship, and work directly with residents to resolve issues, outsourcing the work would likely give more opportunity for being herbicide-free.

It was proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Berry and by show of hands with all in favour **AGREED** to get some prices for contracting out the verges, to be brought to the Full Town Council in October.

In response to the issue raised by two members of the public, Cllr Fisher stated that Hillcrest Road was not in any worse condition than other areas in the town; largely due to cars parking on verges. He advised it would not therefore be appropriate to spend Town Council money on verges until by-laws are in place regards to prevent parking, and where damage has been caused by another local authority.

Cllr Fisher offered to write a letter in both his capacity as a County Councillor and Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee to NCC Highways in support of the formal complaint to be made by the resident. The resident was greatly appreciative of the gesture and thanked the Town Council for their support.

Cllr Berry queried the resident point about funding for Hillcrest Road and the OM/RFO confirmed that funds paid under the "Urban Grass Cutting Schedule" was invested in the verge cutting along Hillcrest Road in the same way as all other roads in the contract.

Cllr Buck suggested better promotion of verge management techniques and services to residents via newsletter and signage, which was met with widespread support.

**Information Only:**

**Confidential - Enforcement Notices** – Nothing to report

**Future Agenda Items (not for discussion)** - None

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dated** \_\_\_\_\_