

**Thorpe St Andrew Town Council  
Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on 8 January 2024 at 7:30pm**

**1 Present:**

Mr F Bowe (Town Mayor)	Mr J Fisher
Mr S Snelling (Deputy Town Mayor)	Mr D Wiseman
Mr D Buck	Ms J Bailey
Mr J Ward	Mr J Emsell
Mr P Berry	Ms L Barrett
Mr T Garner	Ms C Ferris
Mr S Court	Mrs M Friend

**Apologies:** Mrs L Skinner and Mr C Eden

**In attendance:** Mrs M Barron, (CEO), Mrs R McCarthy (RFO/OM) Mr J Calver (Parks and Estates Manager), Mrs L Weston (Administration and Committee Officer) Mrs D Wheatley and 3 members of the public.

**2 Declarations of interest in items on the agenda – none**

**3 To confirm the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 4 December 2023.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2023 were signed and approved as a true record.

**4 Announcements (For information only)**

**4.1** The Town Mayor – no announcements

**4.2** The Town Clerk updated the members on the following:

- Regular meetings will commence from January with Father James and the church.
- Unfortunately, still no response from Network Rail but we will continue to support in this area.
- Play area at the Fitzmaurice Park, positive talks with play contractors, hopeful to provide plans in Feb, with a view to go to consultation.
- The Morse plans to be revisited, to take this project forward.
- In talks with BDC and SNDC to replace the existing 600 halogen streetlights to LED, nil impact on residents or the budget.
- Essential workshop repairs starting this week with the asbestos removal.
- Defibrillator relocation, an electrician has offered free labour to relocate the unit, talks also in process with some organisations that may support with associated costs and help with fund raising.

**5 Public Participation – To consider a motion to suspend the meeting to allow members of the public the opportunity to address the meeting limited to 3 mins each**

**5.1 Norfolk Constabulary – No report**

**5.2 County and District Councillors – No report**

**5.3 Members of the public –**

A member of the public questioned an item from the December 2023 minutes that should have appeared on the agenda, which the CEO responded to. Also questioning the revenue projects line on the 24/25 budget, no details found and therefore felt no justification for the spend and without

this the precept deficit wouldn't be needed. There is also, a large increase in capital expenditure, therefore taking these two items into consideration cannot see any justification for an increase in the precept. Also highlighting the amount of cash reserve held, suggesting that maybe the precept could be reduced by 10pence. The CEO responded briefly, as the budget is an agenda item.

A member of the public added a comment about interest rates on the reserve figure and also asked Mr J Calver for an update on the research taken on the tennis courts maintenance. Apologies were given for the delay in emailing the council a report, promised in December, which will include photographs of Norwich tennis court for comparison and will be emailed soon.

## **6 Events 2024**

The RFO gave a brief overview of proposed events for 2024, requesting decisions from councillors regarding the date of the Firework event, the amount of donation for the Thursford organist provided at the Christmas 2023 event and the hire of traditional fairground rides for the Christmas event. The list was enthusiastically discussed with the following decisions made.

It was proposed by Cllr Emsell, seconded by Cllr Berry, with a unanimous show of hands **RESOLVED** to give a £250 donation to the Mechanical Music Museum Trust.

It was proposed by Cllr Buck, seconded by Cllr Ferris, with 8 in favour and 5 against, **RESOLVED** to hold the 2024 Fireworks event on the nearest weekend to 5<sup>th</sup> November.

It was proposed by Cllr Emsell, seconded by Cllr Court and with a unanimous show of hands **RESOLVED** to hire traditional fairground rides for 2/3 days for the 2024 Christmas event.

## **7 Finance**

**7.1** Payments List – report attached and noted.

**7.2** Bank Reconciliation Statement November – approved and signed as a true record

**7.3** Bank Reconciliation Statement – approved and signed as a true record

**7.4** Quarterly Report – report attached for Q3, summarised by the RFO and noted

## **8 Budget for the 2024/2025 financial year – for consideration and approval.**

The RFO finally received the Tax Base Figure from BDC and with no other adjustments to the figures, it brought the planned precept down to 9.9%. Cllr Ward reiterated previous comments on the subject and cannot agree to anything over 5%. Cllr Fisher and Cllr Emsell both agreed that the Council cannot continue to wait on receipt of Pinebanks money, having waited 12 years already, it could be many years before any is finally received.

It was proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Snelling, and a show of hands with one against **RESOLVED** to increase the budget by 9.9%.

## **9 Clean up and Bloom Grant – for consideration and approval.**

The CEO has applied for a £300 grant for projects such as Anglia in Bloom. It was proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Snelling and with a show of hands the decision to apply for the £300 grant was **RATIFIED**.

**Future Agenda Items** – The CEO advised the following items would appear on the next agenda: Rivergreen, Flooding and a Defence item.

Comment from Cllr Fisher to ask Norfolk Constabulary for a monthly report, if the local PC cannot attend.

**Meeting Closed at 8.25pm**

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_