

**Thorpe St Andrew Town Council
Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on 5 February 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
Mrs L Skinner	Mr C Eden

Apologies: None

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 2 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 8 January 2024.

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2024 were signed and approved as a true record.

4 Announcements (For information only)

4.1 The Town Mayor, on behalf of the Council, sends best wishes to the King after this evening's cancer diagnosis announcement and wishes him a speedy recovery.

4.2 The Town Clerk updated the members on the following:

- The Neighbourhood Plan has been approved to go to referendum, probably in May.
- First meeting with Father James took place this month, very positive meeting which will continue. Also discussed, was the work the Church and Heritage Group are doing on commemorating the railway disaster. How the Council can support with the event will be added to the March agenda.

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 – Crime report noted with the following action:

Action - Town Clerk to request a more detailed and geographically correct report for Thorpe St Andrew in future. Also to raise the Yarmouth Rd residents' complaints about the increase in police vehicle sirens and lights, using the road at all times of day and night, since the new station has been in operation.

5.2 County and District Councillors – Cllr Ward's report noted. Cllr Fisher updated members on the Heartsease roundabout completion date, now 5 May 2024. Cllr Berry recently attended the BDC Overview and Scrutiny meeting, discussing many things including, selling of Thorpe Lodge, anti-social behaviour and business revenue support. Also advising members of an impact on

residents, traveling in the west of Broadland and Norfolk until the end of December 2024, due to abnormal loads transporting equipment weekly for the Hornsea 3 project.

5.3 Members of the public - No Public Participation

6 Update on current projects - Verbal report

- a. **Creation of New Community Space, Sir George Morse Park** - Applied for the Pride in Place Community grant, the panel will look at these in detail mid-February.
- b. **Improved Play Area at the Fitzmaurice Park**- Slightly behind schedule, as still waiting on one contractor.
- c. **Anglia in Bloom** - Cannot enter as 2024 application not released yet. Town Clerk and Parks and Estates Manager attending a launch meeting in March to learn more.
- d. **Newsletter** – Almost ready to go, request to Cllrs for any further input.

7 Finance

7.1 Payments List – report attached and noted.

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

8 Thorpe Business Group – Proposal attached

The Town Clerk briefed the Members to consider a new proposal for sponsorship of community events, the attached report outlined the proposal and recommendations. Positive discussion and ideas were put forward by Cllrs.

It was proposed by Cllr Bowe and with a unanimous show of hands **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk provides a detailed proposal at the next meeting.

Subsequently to the Resolution, Cllr Buck requested early viewing of the proposal.

Action - Town Clerk to send out the marketing package/proposal to Cllrs this week.

9 LED Streetlights – Report attached

The RFO provided some background and summarised the proposal and decisions required from the council as laid out in the report.

It was proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Snelling and with a unanimous show of hands **RESOLVED** to accept the 3 recommendations on page 15 of the report, and to apply for a loan with the PWLB for a term of 10 years.

10 Defence Employer Recognition Scheme 2024 Silver Award Expression of Interest - Attachment noted

It was proposed by Cllr Bowe, with a unanimous show of hands, **RESOLVED** to ask the Town Clerk to make amendments to current policies, to facilitate the expression of interest before the deadline, mid-March.

11 Exclusion of Press and Public - All members of the public left the building.

12 To consider actions relating to the River Bed Lease – Note Attached.

The Town Clerk asked the Members to consider and decide on the following:

- i) To set up a company to manage the River Bed Lease, or return the lease before the end of March 24
- ii) Appoint Politis Consulting to support the council in the creation of a company

Much discussion took place with all councillors participating. Cllr Bailey asked for clarification on costs, better understanding of what can be enforced and the income stream, the Town Clerk responded. Cllr Fisher advised that it is the Town Council's responsibility to finally take action on behalf of the residents of Thorpe St Andrew and sort River Green out, including the wider area and marshes. Also, asking if 3 quotes would be required.

The Town Clerk advised Members that the quote received is likely difficult to provide a comparable price for, because of the years of knowledge and expertise Thomas Foreman has in this specific and that there wouldn't be a conflict of interest. If required, the Town Clerk will source alternative quotes to ensure due diligence.

It was proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Buck and with 9 in approval, 4 against and 2 abstentions it was **RESOLVED** to agree in principle with the company set up, subject to 3 quotes and the Town Clerk to decide on the most appropriate quote.

Future Agenda Items - None

Meeting Closed at 8.45pm

Chairman _____

Date _____