

Minutes of ordinary meeting of Thropton Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th January 2022 commencing at 7pm in Thropton War Memorial Hall

Those Present: Cllr I Webb (Chairman), Cllr R Aplin, Cllr J Sutton, Cllr N Tuckey, C Miller (Clerk), County Cllr Colin Horncastle, two members of the public

2022/01 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2022/02 Declaration of Members Interests

There were no Declaration of Members Interests.

2022/03 Co-Option Vacancy

There had been no applications for the co-option vacancy.

2022/04 Meeting with Cabinet Member Cllr Horncastle

Cllr Horncastle, County Cllr for South Tynedale introduced himself as cabinet member for Community Services, a Local Authority Cllr for 31 years, previously Chairman of various planning committees and a Parish Council, and in attendance further to Glenn Sanderson, Leader of the Council, having offered Parish Council's the invitation for a Cabinet Member to attend a Council meeting.

The Parish Council feel as if they have lost control over the parish, with current live proposals for a total of 100 new dwellings of concern. The last few years have seen high cost dwellings being constructed which had led to an aging population.

In rural areas, there is a real need for affordable housing usually generated by housing developments, however smaller applications do not generate as much affordable housing. The County Council do have concerns with the current mix of rented accommodation countywide, and shared ownership schemes do not suit those on low income. There is now a Community Infrastructure Levy whose funds are transferable, and schemes for affordable housing in rural areas are being researched. Housing Officers were taking note as regards the mix of homes, with more rented accommodation for rural areas required. At the start of the new unitary authority a local plan was being established, however the 2017 change of administration had resulted in housing numbers countywide being reduced from 25,000 to 17,000. Policies can be introduced into a Neighbourhood Plan to control the number of second homes/private rental properties/affordable properties. The Parish Council understand a County Cllr has stated Thropton parish is not in need of affordable housing, and a Section 106 contribution had been proposed for a cash payment to be made in lieu of affordable housing. Cllr Horncastle to meet with the Director of Planning, Rob Murfin, tomorrow morning and would raise the issue of the lack of affordable housing in Thropton.

Planning Application 18/00751/REM: Land to the West of Northern 4 x 4 Centre, West End Garage, for an increase to 79 No dwellings to go back to Planning Committee, with Cllr Horncastle to confirm the date. In the meantime the land is in an unacceptable state due to dumped debris, with Cllr Horncastle to speak to County Council Enforcement Officer who had attended the site December 2021. Regarding the Spar development, there were proposals for a noise reduction barrier in front of existing dwellings, however there now appeared to be insufficient room for this. Cllr Horncastle to follow up on Planning Application NO 21/04415/S106A: Land West of Thropton Demesne – Variation of S106 agreement on 18/02244/OUT.

Traffic management/speeding traffic/parking had been discussed with Richard McKenzie of the County Council, with draft proposals produced. Public consultation to be carried out, with copies of plans awaited from Richard McKenzie for display within the parish. Lack of electricity vehicle charging points in the parish of concern. As regards reducing the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph, this could be achieved by lobbying the local County Cllr, along with installation of interactive signage. Cllr Horncastle to convey highway issues to County Cllr John Riddle, portfolio holder.

2022/05 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

2022/06 Minutes of previous meeting held Monday 8th November 2021

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held Monday 8th November 2021 be accepted as a true record.

2022/07 Thropton Play Area

2022/07/01 To consider improvements to Thropton play area and financial implications

Fence had been repaired. Cllr Aplin had contacted parishioner to suggest a site meeting as regards replacement equipment and had passed on details of grant applications available via the County Council. Existing tree stumps could be developed as a play feature. It was agreed Cllr Tuckey would arrange repositioning of the goalposts, to prevent balls going into the neighbouring field.

2022/07/02 To receive progress with tree planting

Due to Storm Arwen, County Council staff had been redeployed and tree distribution would be confirmed at a later date.

2022/07/03 To receive monthly play area inspection report(s)

The November play area inspection report had indicated removal of tree branches and rope swing, with gardener to action.

2022/08 To consider Traffic control/traffic calming proposals for the parish

Discussed earlier.

2022/09 Finance

2022/09/01 Invoices for authorisation:

- Jubilee Institute – Meeting room, Coquetdale Cluster 12/10/21 - £18.00
- M Evens -dismantling of seats, concrete pads, installation of two seats - £320.00; bus stop bench removal/concrete base - £37.50; bin installation – £62.50; play area repairs - £91.25
- Broxap – bench - £593.40
- Coquetdale Cluster fee y.e 31/3/22 - £23.71

It was resolved to approve the payments

2022/10/02 To approve budget for 2022-2023

It was resolved to approve the budget for 2022-2023.

2022/10/03 To approve Parish precept requirements of £4500 for 2022-2023

It was resolved to approve the parish precept requirements of £4500 for 2022-2023.

2022/10/04 To approve £10146.00 contribution to the Rothbury Joint Burial Committee precept 2022-2023

It was resolved to approve the contribution of £10145 to the Rothbury Joint Burial Committee precept for 2022-2023.

2022/10/05 To receive grant acknowledgement from Great North Air Ambulance

Acknowledgement of grant noted.

2022/11 Planning

2022/11/01 Planning applications received

- 21/04415/S106A: Land West of Thropton Demesne – Variation of S106 agreement on 18/02244/OUT – objection had been submitted regarding lack of detail in the application, no confirmation of how much or where the 106 funds would be utilised, stating the Parish Council believe there is a need for affordable housing in the parish, and would not support the application unless the 106 monies were utilised for the benefit of Thropton parish.
- 20/03909/FUL & LBC: The Barns, Thropton – Listed Building Consent: Conversion of barns to form four dwellings – no objections.
- 21/04570/LBC & 21/04569/FUL: The Pele, Listed building consent to convert ancillary buildings into two units, each one bedroom properties with bathroom, kitchen, living and dining facilities, to be used as annexes – no objections.
- 21/04766/VARYCO: Auto Testing Centre, West End Garage – Variation of condition 2 and 6 of 20/01442/FUL to formalise several changes to the approved development – no objections.
- 22/00014/ADE: Spar Stores, advertisement consent for 7 fascia signs and 1 set of stainless steel letters – no objections.

2022/11/02 Approval of planning application received

- 21/01758/FUL: Carlton Cottage – Single storey rear extension and refurbishment works
- 21/02566/FUL: The Cottage, 1 Black Chirnellis -Single storey rear extension
- 21/04086/FUL: Shalamar, Pondicherry – Single storey side extensions and front extension

2022/11/03 To receive update on Mid Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan:

Coquetdale County Councillor had confirmed at Rothbury Parish Council meeting 8/12/21 he had carried out consultation with Snitter residents, who had indicated they did not wish to be part of a Neighbourhood Plan. As Whitton & Tosson had withdrawn from the project, this meant only Rothbury and Thropton parishes could be included in the Mid Coquetdale Plan, due to no neighbouring boundaries. Hepple, Alwinton and Harbottle would therefore need to create a separate document.

2022/11/04 To receive update regarding Planning Application: 18/00751/REM: Land to the West of Northern 4 x 4 Centre, West End Garage – Reserved matters for 79 No dwellings with all matters to be considered including access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale on 13/03894/OUT (Revised Description 28th May 2021)

Discussed earlier.

2022/12 Rothbury Joint Burial Committee

2022/12/01 To receive update on cemetery matters

No matters raised.

2022/12/02 To consider Thropton Parish Council leaving the Rothbury Joint Burial Committee

Stephen Rickitt of Northumberland Association of Local Council's did not recommend parishioner consultation

on the option of leaving the Burial Committee due to the sensitive nature of burial matters. After discussion, it was agreed at the present time Thropton parish should remain part of the Burial Committee membership.

2022/12/03 To approve Joint Burial Committee Constitution reviewed and amended at RJBC meeting 13/12/21

It was resolved to approve the Joint Burial Committee constitution, with the only amendments relating to the individual Parish Council precept percentage splits for 2022-2023.

2022/13 To consider alternative site for seat at bus shelter due to objection received

A householder had advised they owned the land in front of the bus shelter and objected to placement of a new seat onto a concrete base, although had said the old seat could remain. The County Council had confirmed the land was not included in the sale/transfer of the old W/C block, and is currently unregistered with the Land Registry. It was resolved to write to the householder to ask if they had confirmation of land ownership, and to discuss the matter further. Thropton W.I. had offered to donate a bench for the Queen's Platinum, and a suitable site would be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

2022/14 To consider re-locating bin at riverside due to comments received

Whilst M Evens had been installing the bin at the riverside, an employee of JWG coaches had stated it would affect buses accessing the area, however no problems had been encountered and it was agreed to retain the bin in the current location.

2022/15 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Thropton Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 15th March 2022 commencing 7pm in Thropton War Memorial Hall.

PART TWO

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

It was resolved to hold private session.

2022/16 To review Clerk Salary – discussed in private due to personal information

It was resolved to move Clerk to payscale 13.



Claire Miller
Parish Clerk

The meeting closed at 9pm.