

Minutes of the Annual meeting of Thropton Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th May 2022 commencing at 730pm in Thropton War Memorial Hall

Those Present: Cllr J Sutton (Chairman) Cllr R Aplin, Cllr C Foggon, Cllr N Tuckey, C Miller (Clerk), seven members of the public

2022/37 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2022/38 Election of Chairman

Cllr Sutton and Aplin both proposed as Chairman, Cllr Sutton seconded by Cllr Aplin and duly elected.

2022/45 Co-Option Vacancy – Moved up the agenda

Cllr Foggon proposed, seconded and co-opted onto the Council.

2022/39 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Aplin proposed and seconded as Vice Chairman and duly elected.

2022/40 Election of Representative to Rothbury Joint Burial Committee

Cllr Foggon proposed and seconded as Rothbury Joint Burial Committee representative and duly elected.

2022/41 Election of Representative to Coquetdale Cluster

Cllr Aplin proposed and seconded as Coquetdale Cluster representative and duly elected.

2022/42 Election of Representative to Mid Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Cllr Aplin proposed and seconded as Mid Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group representative and duly elected.

2022/43 Election of Representative to Rothbury Parish Council Crises Management Working Group

Cllr Foggon proposed and seconded as Rothbury Parish Council Crises Management Working Group representative and duly elected.

2022/44 Declaration of Members Interests

There were no declaration of members interests.

2022/46 Public Questions

The traffic management scheme had been drawn up as a starting point and displayed within the parish. It had been disappointing the plan displayed in the Cross Keys bus stop had been deliberately destroyed. Cllr I Webb explained that parishioner concerns had been received about traffic and speeding, linked to parking on the roads, particularly for disabled person's and parents of young children. Exiting from side roads is problematic, there had been a couple of minor accidents, and it was felt action had to be taken, with the situation anticipated to worsen due to the Spar proposals. The County Council had therefore agreed to draft a document for discussion, but had confirmed there is currently no definitive plans or budget for traffic calming management within the parish. The Parish Council believed if any measures were taken, it would be beneficial to wait until the Spar and proposed housing development(s) had been completed. Residents near to the Three Wheat Heads had no option other than on-street parking, and were not convinced there was a speeding problem in the centre of the village. An interim solution could be a 20mph speed limit, however no action could be taken with this unless speeding

surveys indicated a problem. Interactive signage possible, but could cause problems at the Spar site. Village Gateway signage classed as a psychological barrier, and such signage can encourage vehicles to slow down, with County Council indicating gateway signage is a possibility for the parish. An approach to the Spar to provide funding towards village projects could be instigated.

2022/47 Minutes of previous meeting held Tuesday 15th March 2022

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th March 2022 be accepted as a true record.

2022/48 Thropton Play Area

2022/48/01 To consider improvements to Thropton play area and financial implications

A local group who wished to improve the play area had attended the Parish Council meeting September 2021, however no further contact had been received.

2022/48/02 To receive progress with tree planting in the parish

The 50 trees planted at the edge of the play area had been removed by persons unknown. The crime had been reported to Northumbria Police, however as there was no evidence it could not be taken forward. Parishioner present who enquired if there was any space in Thropton for an orchard, however the Parish Council do not own any land, other than the play area, although the County Council could possibly be able to advise.

2022/48/03 To receive monthly play area inspection report(s) and consider replacement of gate

It was resolved to await the ROSPA annual report due in June to consider any repairs required.

2022/48/04 To receive update on relocation/improvements to goalpost

Relocating the goalpost had been considered, however there was no simple solution, raising the fence would need the permission of the landowner, and football nets could lead to health and safety issues. A steel cage like net could be a possibility, with I Webb to provide further details. Clerk advised there did not appear to be much public support for the proposals, with the consensus being to leave as it was. It was resolved R Aplin would speak to landowner as regards fencing and secure costings for improvements, if landowner permission granted.

2022/49 To consider Traffic control/traffic calming proposals for the parish

1. Sixteen written comments had been received.
2. Eleven objections against the roundabout, no comments in favour.
3. Query concerning bus stop lines across driveway of 2 Cartington View – which were moved further along the street – will these remain ?
4. Is it desirable to spend in excess of £100K during the present climate ?
5. No need for dedicated bus stop at Three Wheat Heads which would remove parking spaces.
6. Objections to substantial reduction of on-street parking and marked bays, with many houses on Main Street having no other option for parking. No mention of allocated resident parking bays, concern regarding section between Three Wheat Heads and beyond Croft turning – objection to placing 3 bays on North side of street at this point. Double yellow lines just beyond the bridge illogical, potentially causing a problem with future house sales due to residents having to park on opposite side of road to their property.
7. Would like to see prevention of parking on pavements, improve sight-lines for vehicles pulling out of side turnings; raised curbs at bus-stops to facilitate boarding and alighting. Money would be better spent on improving pavements. Parking on opposite side to houses not future-proof, houses will want to charge electric vehicles.
8. Designated parking area obstructs access from Thropton Hall. Designated bus-stops must include raised curbs.

9. Vehicles most likely to speed being logging wagons, heavy farm machinery, motorbikes, speed cushions would be ineffective against any of these.
10. Increased braking and acceleration will increase air pollution levels. Increased tyre wear will increase particulate into watercourses. Additional light pollution.
11. Any reduction in habitual parking places will result in cars parking on pavements in side streets. What are the plans to enforce the upcoming legislation in banning parking on the pavement?
12. Not aware of a particular issue with traffic that would warrant traffic calming measures.
13. Only measures required being slow down traffic signs that tell traffic what speed they are doing and to slow down if necessary, and speed bumps. Alternative speeding measures as in Powburn, Longframlington and Longhorsley could be implemented, average speed traffic cameras, automated speed signs that flash a vehicle's speed.
14. Objection to not being consulted – (not understood as this is the initial stage of informal consultation).
15. Due to number of logging wagons from 4am, speed cushions would create noise pollution.
16. Traffic measures before the start of the village more sensible so vehicles have slowed down before they enter the village.
17. Suggestion 20mph to replace 30mph, particularly at school, although due to narrowness of road and requirement for some on street parking, it is rare to get over 20mph anyway; solar-powered flashing speed alert signage proposed.
18. Increase in traffic around new shop may influence speed awareness. Proposed new housing development at west of village will impact on placement of any calming measures and surely any proposed calming should be delayed until this site is agreed.
19. Measures would affect music centre and Armstrong Hall with Sunday service increasing and groups attracting over 40 + children over three hours.
20. Parking restrictions on main road would remove the existing "traffic calming" effect of parked cars. Residents park cars in the street which has the effect of narrowing the roadway and thus "calming the traffic." If restrictions enforced, this would allow traffic to move more swiftly through the village and be more likely to collide with the hump-back bridge.
21. Access for elderly and disabled to church, coffee mornings and lunch club will be restricted.
22. Requests for County Council to hold public meeting to understand the rationale for the plan, research undertaken in drafting the plan, which appears to be an urban and generic solution to a small rural village.
23. Not surprising there is no written support for the proposals – however as a resident of the Main Street, there are definitely parking and speeding issues. We have seen many cases where there have been near misses, vehicles pulling onto pavements to avoid on-coming traffic, pedestrians being put in danger and hearing the screech of brakes.

2022/50 Finance

2022/50/01 Invoices for authorisation:

- Kidd Garden Design – Playground inspections and maintenance November 2021 to April 2022 - £280
- C Miller – Coquetdale Cluster salary – £130.00
- HMRC – PAYE on above - £30.00
- Rothbury Parish Council (RJBC) – Thropton percentage share of precept - £5073
- Jubilee Institute – Coquetdale Cluster meeting - £18.00
- NALC – annual subscription - £138.03
- BHIB – annual insurance premium - £472.62 – 3 year Long Term Undertaking

It was resolved to approve the payments.

2022/50/02 To receive acknowledgement of grant from Citizens Advice Northumberland

Grant acknowledgement noted.

2022/51 Planning

2022/51/01 Planning applications received

- 21/04917/VARYCO: Land South of Thropton Demesne – Variation to 21/00053/VARYCO to allow basement to be removed and additional accommodation provided above the garage with external stepped access – no objections

2022/51/02 Approval of planning application received

- 22/00014/ADE: Spar Stores – Advertisement consent for 7 fascia signs and set of stainless steel letters
- 22/00524/FUL: Three Wheat Heads – Extension to existing timber chalet to provide an ensuite and W/C

2022/51/03 To approve inclusion of Thropton Parish within the Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan, lead Council being Rothbury Parish

It was resolved Thropton Parish would be included within the Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan.

2022/51/04 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)

There was still refuse on site, along with metal which had been blown around the site during Storm Arwen, however County Council Planning Enforcement had advised they were to commence enforcement action.

2022/52 To receive update from Rothbury Joint Burial Committee

The last Joint Burial Committee meeting had been inquorate. Next meeting scheduled for Monday 6th June 2022 commencing 8pm in the Dovecote Room, Jubilee Institute.

2022/53 Audit of Accounts year ending 31/3/22

2022/53/01 To consider and agree any actions arising from the report of the internal auditor

There were no actions arising from the report of the internal auditor.

2022/53/02 To approve the Governance Statement

It was resolved to approve the Governance Statement.

2022/53/03 To approve the draft annual accounts for 2021/2022

It was resolved to approve the draft annual accounts for 2021/2022.

2022/53/04 To approve the Accounting Statement and explanation of variances

It was resolved to approve the Accounting Statement and explanation of variances.

2022/53/05 To approve the Exemption Certificate

It was resolved to approve the Exemption Certificate.

2022/53/06 To approve public right of inspection dates

It was resolved to approve the public right of inspection dates as 13 June to 22 July 2022.

2022/54 To consider Thropton Parish Council Management Plan 2022-2025

It was resolved to approve the Parish Council Management Plan 2022-2025.

2022/55 To receive update from Rothbury Parish Council Crises Management Working Group

Next Crises Management Working Group meeting to be held 25/5/22 where County Council Resilience Officer would be advising on the Civil Contingencies Act.

2022/56 Police Report

Northumbria Connected is the new tool to ensure Northumbria Police are delivering on all the issues that affect communities across the North East. Subscribe at www.northumbria.connected.co.uk

2022/57 To consider Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Due to lack of interest, Thropton Together had dropped proposals to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, however there were various events to be held in Rothbury during the weekend, including lighting of the beacon/piper playing on the village green 935pm 2/6/22 (with town crier to make the proclamation at 2pm 2/6/22) and a five mile charity walk 11am 4/6/22, to meet at Rothbury riverside.

2022/58 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Thropton Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 19th July 2022 commencing 7pm in Thropton War Memorial Hall.



The meeting closed at 830pm
Claire Miller
Parish Clerk

www.parish-council.com/thropton