

Minutes of ordinary meeting of Thropton Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st March 2023 commencing at 7pm in Thropton War Memorial Hall

Those Present: Cllr Sutton (Chairman), Cllr Aplin, Cllr Foggon, Cllr Tuckey, C Miller (Clerk)

2023/15 Apologies for absence

Cllr I Webb

2023/16 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr Tuckey declared an interest in **Agenda Item 2023/19, Thropton Play Area.**

2023/17 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

2023/18 Minutes of previous meeting held Tuesday 17th January 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held Tuesday 17th January 2023 be accepted as a true record.

2023/19 Thropton Play Area

2023/19/01 To consider most recent play area inspection reports

Cllr Tuckey had removed the rocker dog for repair. The most recent play area safety inspection report had indicated the plastic/rubber cap of post/stopper on rocker seesaw required replacement. It was resolved Cllr Tuckey would action replacement.

2023/19/02 To consider quotation(s) for play area grasscutting

An advert had been placed in Over the Bridges, Parish Council web-site and noticeboard inviting quotations for the play area grasscutting. One quotation had been received and it was resolved to accept the price of £30/hour from CSM Windows and Guttering.

2023/20 To consider Traffic control/traffic calming proposals for the parish

Clerk had contacted County Council Officer Richard McKenzie regarding the increase in traffic and on street parking due to the newly opened Spar, however no reply had been received. It was felt the problem could be eased if the speed restriction was moved back. It was resolved to request a temporary extension of the restriction to slow traffic to the Spar, until issues with the proposed housing development had been resolved. Speeding traffic through the village of long-term concern. It was resolved to invite Northumbria Police personnel to the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for 16/5/23.

2023/21 Finance

2023/21/01 Invoices for authorisation:

- Kidd Garden Design – play area inspection – invoice awaited.
- C Miller – six monthly salary, expense - £598.91
- HMRC – PAYE - £145.20
- Jubilee Institute – rent of meeting room, Cluster meeting 6/12/22 - £18
- Glasdon – replacement litter bin – £243.88

It was resolved to approve the payments

2023/21/02 To consider request for litter bin near to Spar

Parishioner request had been received for an additional litter bin near to the Spar. Spar had advised they carry out daily litter picking, could increase this, and/or possibly fund a litter bin. It was resolved to monitor the situation and in the meantime, request Spar carry out additional litter picking duties.

2023/22 Planning

2023/22/01 Planning Applications received

- 23/00647/FUL: Overweigh, Overweigh Lane, Additional works to 21/01603/FUL comprising of flat roof addition to rear of proposed single storey pitched roof extension to side of property – the Parish Council had no objections to the proposals.

2023/22/02 Approval of planning application received

No approval of planning application had been received.

2023/23 To receive update from Rothbury Joint Burial Committee

The new grasscutter/tractor/mulcher/trailer was on order for use at Whitton Bank Cemetery, Rothbury.

2023/24 To consider Crises Management

Thropton Village Hall Committee were considering installing a generator, ground source and solar panels for the Hall. The dormitory accommodation could be used in times of crises.

2023/25 To consider Climate Change

The company offering free government funded EV charge points had advised the points could not be placed on private land or the school car park, but would need to be installed on-street. It was resolved not to take the matter forward.

2023/26 Review of Internal Auditor

It was resolved to re-engage A Winter as internal auditor y/e 31.3.23

2023/27 Review of Internal Controls

It was resolved the internal controls were sufficient for the present needs of the council.

2023/28 Review of Insurance Policy

Current cover encompassed Public liability 10m; employers liability 10m, officials 500K; libel 250K; legal 250K; street furniture 36K; play area 60K. It was resolved the cover was sufficient for the present needs of the council.

2023/29 Review of Asset Register

It was resolved the Register was a true record of the Council's assets.

2023/30 Review of Risk Assessment

It was resolved the Risk Assessment was sufficient for the present needs of the Council.

2023/31 To consider parishioner report of road flooding within the parish

Clerk to contact Graham Bucknall, County Council Officer, who had attended the Coquetdale Cluster meeting 6/12/22, and who had advised he would be carrying out a site visit to determine the problem with flooding on Thropton main street.

2023/32 To consider parishioner correspondence relating to reducing the village dependence on heating fuel and expensive electricity

A parishioner had advised the County Council had refused permission for a smart meter mast at the Spar. This meant customers were unable to pass their excess electricity onto others, as this required installation of a smart meter. Clerk to enquire with County Council why permission had been refused. Analogue switchover 2025 also of concern. County Council had advised there is no significant impact in the short term, however to continue to use landline phone lines beyond the end of 2025 users will need to plug telephone equipment into a powered router. Clearly this has the potential to be affected by power outages and NCC will be communicating with Parish Councils to help explain this in more detail, as well as some key messages to support more vulnerable members of the community.

2023/33 To consider Coronation celebration/party in the parish

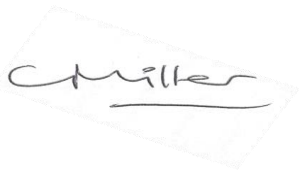
The Lunch Club had raised the matter of a Coronation celebration tea party with Cllr Tuckey, however the Parish Council could only fund Thropton parishioners who attended the Club. Cllr Tuckey to seek further information.

2023/34 To consider proposal from Thropton Parish Cllr Ray Aplin to request an increase in the X14 bus service and for proposals to be forwarded to Northumberland County Council

County Council had advised the last X14 bus from Thropton travels back to the Ashington depot, and it would not be cost effective for it to be in service due to low passenger numbers. In the near future the bus is to be stored at the Alnwick depot. The North of Tyne Authority area is to be enlarged by 2024, and Cllr Aplin advised they would be taking over responsibility for bus routes county wide. Cllr Aplin had drafted a letter to the County Council requesting a public consultation exercise in order to assess the local need and viability of increasing the X14 bus service to provide a night-time service. It was resolved the correspondence would be forwarded to Chris Curtis, Senior Programme Office, County Council .

2023/35 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Thropton Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 commencing 7.15pm in Thropton War Memorial Hall. The Annual Meeting of the Parish will commence at 7pm.



The meeting closed at 8pm

Claire Miller
Parish Clerk

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