

THROPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of ordinary meeting of Thropton Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th November 2024 commencing at 7pm in Thropton War Memorial Hall

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

In Attendance: C Miller (Clerk/RFO)

2024/87 Apologies for absence

Cllr Mrs Bertram

2024/88 Declaration of Members Interests

There were no Declaration of Members Interests.

2024/89 Minutes of previous meeting held 17th September 2024

RESOLVED:

Members agreed the minutes of the previous meeting held 17th September 2024 were a true record.

2024/90 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

2025/91 Environmental issues. Members to receive update relating to Environmental Meeting 25/9/24

The meeting had been well attended. Newly formed Coquet River Action Group (CRAG) had given an informative and interesting account relating to water testing. Varying levels of pollution were an ever present hazard. Northumberland Rivers Trust had provided insight into their work and challenges to be faced. It is apparent issues with agricultural, sewage and septic tanks etc. were symptoms of everyday life. Thropton First school had included environmental education within their curriculum. In summary it was a constructive meeting, with questions raised and answered, and possible solutions considered. Two attendees had registered to volunteer with water testing.

Further meetings could easily be arranged at short notice when important environmental issues need to be aired.

2024/92 Thropton Play Area

2024/92/01 Play area. Members to consider resident consultation, replacement play area equipment

Clerk advised resident consultation would need to be simple, and in the first instance could be carried out via the Parish Council website and noticeboard.

RESOLVED:

1. Members agreed initial consultation would be carried out with the following questions. 1. Should the play area be improved; 2. if so, what improvement would residents wish to see; 3. were residents in favour of creation of a community area within the play area.

2. Members agreed wider consultation would take place Spring 2025.

2024/92/02 Annual ROSPA inspection of play area. Members to receive update on items raised.

Cllr Tuckey to continue to monitor area and confirm dimensions, in order for Clerk to order new matting. The monthly inspection report had not indicated any further issues.

2024/93 Finance
2024/93/01 Invoices for authorisation

PAYABLE TO	DETAIL	NETT	VAT	GROSS
Thropton War Memorial Hall	Hire of hall, environmental meeting	£22.00	NIL	£22.00
HMRC (retrospective)	Quarterly PAYE	£145.20	NIL	

Members approved the payments.

2024/93/02 Budget 2025-2026. Members to consider draft budget.

Members considered the first draft budget 2025-2026, to be clarified at January Parish Council meeting.

2024/93/03 Precept 2025-2026. Members to consider draft precept.

Members considered the first draft precept 2025-2026, to be clarified at January Parish Council meeting.

2024/93/04 Provision of grit bin, Village View. Members to consider resident request.

There were five properties at Village View with elderly occupants.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed the area would benefit from a grit bin. Clerk to submit request for a bin to County Council.

2024/93/05 Grant request from Rothbury Wrestling Academy. Member to consider request.

Grant request had been received from Rothbury Wrestling Academy who were carrying out fund raising in order to purchase new wrestling mats at a cost of £8,000. Two youngsters of the group were from Thropton parish.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed a grant of £50.

2024/93/06 Grant Request from Wag & Company, North East Friendship Dogs. Members to consider request

Wag & Company were the only visiting dog charity befriending older dog lovers in their own homes as well as care homes and hospitals across the north east region.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed no grant would be given.

2024/93/07 Grant Request from Thropton Together. Members to consider request for funding towards insurance for Christmas tree

Members considered the request for the Parish Council to cover the annual insurance premium for the Christmas tree display at a cost £150.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed a grant of £150.

2024/93/08 NJC Pay scales. Members to note pay increase of £1290/annum (full-time hours), payable from 1st April 2024

Members noted the NJC pay scale increase from 1st April 2024.

2024/94 Planning

2024/94/01 Planning applications received

No planning applications had been received.

2024/94/02 Approval of planning application received

No approval of planning application had been received.

2024/94/03 Cherry Tree on green at The Meadows. Members to receive update on TPO request.

Clerk had submitted TPO application in September and re-contacted the County Council to request an update, with response awaited.

2024/94/04 Scottish Woodlands, Great Tosson Woodland Creation. Members to consider proposals.

The long-term vision for the project is to create native woodland sympathetic to the landscape providing increased biodiversity, flood protection and amenity value. The woodland would add to the existing native broadleaf trees on and adjacent to the site, and provide an enhanced habitat for both wildlife and the local community to enjoy.

RESOLVED:

Members in favour of the proposals.

2024/95 Members to receive update from Rothbury Joint Burial Committee

Drainage survey had been completed, with septic tank emptied. Minor repair works may be required. Base for shed to be installed.

2024/96 X14 Bus Service. Members to receive information regarding increasing X14 night time service

There had been no further information relating to possible extension of bus service. Clerk advised the North East Combined Authority Mayor was currently running a consultation relating to public transport.

<https://www.northeast-ca.gov.uk>

2024/97 Urgent Business/Items for next meeting

Correspondence from Thropton W.I relating to request for 20mph speed limit to be considered at next meeting.

NALC had created a separate safety section on their Web page with real instances of how safety in villages can be improved, which could highlight ideas the Council had not thought about.

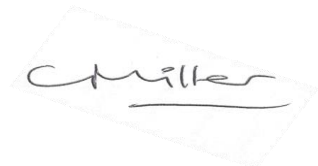
<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/campaigns/importance-of-community-safety>

Clerk informed Cllrs NALC were running an on-line consultation relating to the option of holding Parish Council meetings electronically, which Cllrs could complete.

2024/98 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Thropton Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 21st January 2025 commencing 7pm in Thropton War Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 745pm

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line. The signature is enclosed within a faint, light-colored rectangular border.

C Miller, Clerk/RFO