

THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor: Cllr. Val Carter

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136-012/013

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

18 December 2012

Present: Cllr. V Carter, Cllr. P Baden, Cllr. K Draycott, Cllr. K Fouhy, Cllr. P Goss, Cllr. S Haynes, Cllr. R Jakeman, Cllr. H McCormack, Cllr. P Pike, Cllr. E Sewell, Cllr. C Thorp and Cllr. A Winter

In Attendance: Jeanne Pike, Clerk and Sara Crawley

01 Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. D Read tendered his apologies which were accepted.

09 Granting Dispensations: (taken next for continuity)

The Monitoring Officer, Sharn Matthews has suggested an arrangement suitable for the Town Council to adopt that will allow the Clerk delegated power to grant a Dispensation (see Appendix 1). Sharn feels that it would be a better option to put this in place and then grant a Dispensation for setting the Precept rather than have problems at a later stage. Cllr. P Baden proposed that this process be put in place and the Clerk be delegated to grant the Dispensation required, seconded by Cllr. K Fouhy with **all in favour**.

02 Declaration of interest in items on the Agenda:

All councillors present had submitted a request for a Dispensation to allow them to set the Precept for 2013/2014. This has been granted. **Noted**

03 Public Participation:

There were no members of the public present

04 Police and Road Safety:

The Police were unable to attend so the Clerk read the Parish Crime report for November which showed 12 crimes reported which were broken down as follows: 1 of criminal damage, 2 of theft from motor vehicles, 1 of deception/fraud, 1 drug offence, 4 theft/handling, 1 violent offence and 2 burglary other. It was noted that there had been a robbery at the High Street Jewellers during December.

A letter from Superintendent Sean Bell invites the Town Council together with the community to be part of their Speed Watch programme. Ten volunteers would be needed as a minimum and they would receive training, equipment and all other materials for a charge of £450 + VAT. Members were unhappy with this request as they felt the Police should be covering this without help and a cost involvement from members of the public. Clerk to communicate this to the Police. **Action Clerk**

05 Minutes of the last meeting:

Resolution: To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting dated 27 November 2012 proposed by Cllr. R Jakeman and seconded by Cllr. E Sewell
With **all in favour R502/136**

06 Cemetery Management Sub-Committee:

Cllr. P Pike proposed that the minutes of the Cemetery Management Sub- Committee dated 28 November 2012 be approved seconded by Cllr. P Baden with **all in favour.**

07 Planning, Leisure and Amenities Committee Report:

Cllr. P Goss proposed that the PLA report dated 04 December 2012 be approved, seconded by Cllr. K Draycott with **all in favour.**

08 Finance and Strategy Statement:

Cllr. S Haynes proposed that the Finance report dated 11 December 2012 be accepted, seconded by Cllr. P Baden with **all in favour.**

Resolution: To accept the Finance Statement for the month of November 2012 and approve the required payments; proposed by Cllr. P Pike and seconded by Cllr. P Baden with **all in favour. R503/137**

10 Cemetery Fees:

The Cemetery Sub-Committee has set the fees for 2013/2014 with a much simplified version of the original table agreed by F&S (see Appendix two). Cllr. P Baden proposed that the fees be approved and accepted as recommended by the Cemetery Sub-Committee, seconded by Cllr. R Jakeman with **all in favour. R504/137**

11 Budget/Precept 2013/2014:

The Finance and Strategy Committee has recommended a resolution for Full Council. Cllr. Baden outlined the reasons that the Finance Committee were recommending a 2% increase in the Precept the main one being that the Reserves should be protected in the light of further anticipated austerity measures which will continue until 2018 and Cllr Baden proposed:

Resolution: That Thrapston Town Council apply an increase of 2% (total £231,500) to their request for the Precept for 2013/2014. **R505/137**

The Resolution was seconded by Cllr. S Haynes with 9 for the Resolution and 3 against, Cllrs. A Winter, V Carter and K Fouhy. **Passed by a majority vote**

12 T.E.R.G Update:

Cllr. E Sewell reported that having considered the present emergency plan he was aware of a need to revamp the measures put in place and bring the whole plan up to date. Cllr. Sewell said he felt that councillors should be the ones responsible for putting any necessary plans into action and once the plan had been updated a meeting would be arranged for all councillors to appraise them of the details of the plan and their part in its implementation. **Action ES and SC**

13 Town Council Offices:

As Rosguill has now pulled out of the agreement to rebuild the Town Council offices members noted that that the offices have been in desperate need of remedial work for some years. This work was put on hold due to the pending 'rebuild' but now that circumstances have changed the work has become a matter of priority.

There are various options open to the Council but the top priority is to obtain a surveyors report on the state of the building, work needed and a valuation.

The Clerk has put the matter in progress and it is hoped that the information required will be forthcoming early in the New Year.

14 Training Courses:

Cllr. R Jakeman has recently been appointed to the Standards Committee and attended a course to help him understand his new role.

Cllr. V Carter has attended several functions/services this month, primarily at Harrowden Hall, TADS play, the Mason's Carol Service at Peterborough Cathedral, the Rotary Carol Service at Little Addington and the Lights Switch on at Thrapston. All the events were very enjoyable.

15 Clerk's Report:

1) The updates for the Electoral Roll are available and have been issued to any councillors who need to supply Welcome Packs.

2) Following a report that the Government may be stopping Councils from issuing newsletters an email from NCALC firmly disputes this.

3) A thank you card received from the Stroke Association for the recent donation.

4) A letter from the County Council informing the Town Council that further cuts to School Crossing Patrol personnel will happen in the new financial year and asking if the Town Council wish to fund a post. Thrapston now has no School Crossing Patrol.

16 District Councillors Report:

Cllr. P Baden reported that there was a lack of information available as council meetings were slowing down in the run up to Christmas.

17 Chairman's Comments:

Cllr. Carter thanked members and staff for their support during the year to date saying that she felt it would take a year to be fully conversant with the role of Mayor/Chairman.

Cllr. Carter wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

18 Items for Future Agendas:

The only item brought to the table was one by Cllr. E Sewell - to consider the purchase of the Mason's Arms as Town Council Offices. Members to add this to their Agenda for **January PLA**

There being no other relevant business the meeting closed at 8.05 pm.