

# THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor: Cllr Karen Draycott

77 High Street  
Thrapston  
Northamptonshire  
NN14 4JJ

Tel: (01832) 734 673

Email: [clerk@thrapstontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@thrapstontowncouncil.gov.uk)

Website: [www.thrapstontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.thrapstontowncouncil.gov.uk)



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Town Clerk on 01832 734673**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Town Council  
held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.15pm at the Town Council Office**

**Present: Cllr Draycott (Chairman), Cllr Baden, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boyd, Cllr Carter,  
Cllr Charles, Cllr Cribb, Cllr Strode-Willis, Cllr Wheeler, Cllr Wilcox, Cllr Winter**

**In attendance: Linda Marshall (Clerk), Cllr Brackenbury [20:05]**

No.	Item	Action	By Whom
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Cllrs Otterwell and Read had tendered their apologies which were accepted.		
2.	<b>Declaration of Interest</b> None.		
3.	<b>Public Open Time</b> None.		
4.	<b>To approve the Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b> <b>Resolved</b> that the Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting dated 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 be confirmed as a true record.		
5.	<b>To receive a presentation from David Manning on the Country Park Proposal</b> David Manning presented to the Council on his proposals for a country park in Thrapston – a copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.		
6.	<b>To discuss the transfer of the remainder of the Persimmon owned land in the vicinity of the gravel pits, including the woodland and car park, to the Town Council and agree action</b> It was noted that the transfer papers for Waters Edge have been signed – this relates to the land under the existing S106 Agreement. The remaining land owned by Persimmon which includes the woodland and car parking area was discussed. It was noted that Persimmon have had a tree survey undertaken and have actioned any trees requiring attention. Following discussion it was <b>resolved</b> that the Town Council would be willing to take ownership of this land and to maintain and look after it, with the land being transferred at nil value.		

7.	<p><b>To discuss the proposal for a country park, to hear from the Councillors who attended the meeting with the District Council, to consider the Town Council's involvement (if any) and agree action</b></p> <p>It was agreed that there is now a better vision for the proposal of a country park down by the gravel pits. The proposal was supported, and it was felt that the timing was good with the overall greenway project. It was noted that the next step is a feasibility study, which will cost in the region of £15,000. It was further noted that those present at the meeting in January (East Northamptonshire Council, Natural England and Nenescape) are also supportive of the project. It was <b>resolved</b> that the Town Council are supportive of the need for the feasibility study and the Clerk was requested to go back to those who attended the initial meeting in January asking if any funds have been made available to undertake the study. Discussions took place about who will ultimately take ownership of the project. Even though volunteers and stakeholders will be involved, someone will need to "hold the egg". It was felt generally that the Town Council didn't have the required expertise for such a project, but it was agreed to take one step at a time and concentrate first on the feasibility study. It was also agreed that the first phase of the project, i.e. local clearing/planting schemes could commence at any time to enhance what is currently there. Council were asked for any suggestions of community groups who would wish to be involved to be let the Clerk know. David Manning left the meeting.</p>	Liaise with attendees at initial meeting to see if any funds are available for the feasibility study	Clerk
8.	<p><b>To receive a report (if available) from the last JAG meeting; to discuss and agree any items requiring consideration; to identify any items to be raised at a future meeting</b></p> <p>Report taken as read. A question was raised: why is Chowns Mill taking 2 years to complete when the A14 bypass only took 2 years? Cllr Charles will raise this at the next meeting.</p>		
9.	<p><b>To receive a report (if available) from attendance at the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner's Surgery; to discuss and agree any items requiring consideration; to identify any items to be raised at a future meeting</b></p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting is in 2 weeks. In the meantime email correspondence had been received from the PFCC (Police, Fire &amp; Crime Commissioner) regarding ANPR cameras (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) and that some councils had enquired about them purchasing their own. If there was enough interest the PFCC would investigate it further. Following discussion it was agreed that this would be of no further benefit to our town and therefore we would not register an interest. Cllr Boyd was asked to raise at the next meeting that there is a lot of talk about the recruitment of police officers in the County, but there is no mention of the numbers leaving the force due to stress, mental health and other illnesses. It was noted that Rushden only has one PCSO for the entire town whereas Wellingborough has 8. 9 PCSOs are now being paid for by local authorities – it was felt that we are still being asked to pay for what should come under the force's remit.</p>		

10.	<p><b>To receive a report (if available) from attendance at Plastic Free Thrapston Steering Group meetings; to discuss and agree any items requiring consideration; to identify any items to be raised at a future meeting</b></p> <p>Report taken as read. Members were supportive of the idea of a separate eco-group being formed in the town; maybe a Facebook group to share ideas. It was agreed that initially Cllr Wilcox would write an article for the next edition of Jigsaw and see what response was received and consider having a slot at the Annual Town Meeting.</p>	Write article for Jigsaw	Cllr Wilcox
11.	<p><b>To receive a report relating to the Thrapston Youth Forum following a follow up meeting with Jason Royce of Souster Youth; to discuss and agree any items requiring consideration</b></p> <p><u>Youth Forum</u>: Report taken as read. Council were supportive of the formation of a Youth Forum which will be co-ordinated by Cllr Bennett. It was proposed that they hold 3-4 meetings per year to start with, have a focused agenda and then feed back into the Town Council. Cllrs were invited to attend any of the meetings. Cllr Bennett will liaise with the Clerk regarding dates/times of meetings.</p> <p><u>Souster Youth</u>: Report taken as read. It was noted that Souster Youth are looking for financial support from the Town Council in the sum of £30,000 per annum for 3 years to cover the cost of an experienced Youth Worker. It was noted that the Town Council has already set its budget for the financial year 2020/21 and there are no funds available for this project. It was noted that Souster Youth do have some capital reserves. Questions were asked as to how this project fits in with CHAT, a youth counselling service based in Oundle who helps students at Prince William and its feeder schools. It was noted that CHAT offers 1:1 counselling whereas Souster Youth are working with groups of children in schools already. Following discussions it was concluded that Council were big advocates of youth work in the town and have previously given grants towards such projects. It was recommended that the Souster Youth apply for a grant from the Council.</p>	Arrange Youth Forum meetings	Cllr Bennett
12.	<p><b>To receive a verbal update from the Chairman of the Planning &amp; Asset Management Committee</b></p> <p>No report as Cllr Otterwell was not present.</p>		
13.	<p><b>To receive a verbal update from the Chairman of the Finance &amp; Devolution Committee</b></p> <p>Cllr Strode-Willis briefed the meeting on key points arising from the recent Finance &amp; Devolution Committee meeting. To be noted that Minutes giving a detailed account of meetings are available on the Council's website.</p>		
14.	<p><b>To receive a verbal update from the Chairman of the Events &amp; Community Engagement Committee</b></p> <p>Cllr Cribb briefed the meeting on key points arising from the two recent Events &amp; Community Engagement Committee meetings. To be noted that Minutes giving a detailed account of meetings are available on the Council's website.</p>		
15.	<p><b>To receive a verbal update from the Chairman of the Personnel Committee</b></p> <p>Cllr Boyd advised that there hadn't been a meeting since December. She advised that the closing date has passed for the recruitment of a receptionist and she and the Clerk are now in the process of scoring the applications to short-list for interview.</p>		

16.	<p><b>To receive a report from the Project Manager and a verbal update from the Chairman of the Peace Park Working Party</b></p> <p>Report taken as read. It was noted that the works for the enclosed toddler play area will commence after Easter.</p>		
17.	<p>To review, agree and adopt the following policies:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaints Policy</li> <li>• Accident &amp; Incident Investigation Policy</li> </ul> <p>It was <b>resolved</b> to adopt both policies.</p> <p><b>To discuss and consider whether there is a need for a Child &amp; Vulnerable Adults Policy and agree action</b></p> <p>Following discussion it was recommended that the Clerk reviews the Safeguarding Policy.</p>	Review Safeguarding Policy	Clerk
18.	<p><b>To discuss whether the Town Council wishes to continue to carry out the cutting of grass within the highway under the provision of Section 136 of the Local Government Act 1972 receiving the sum of £1,423.25 from the County Council towards the cost</b></p> <p>Cllr Charles left the meeting.</p> <p>It was <b>resolved</b> that the Town Council continues to carry out the cutting of grass within the highway under the provision of Section 136 of the Local Government Act 1972 and received the grant from the County Council towards the cost.</p> <p>Cllr Charles returned to the meeting.</p>		
19.	<p><b>To receive a Grant Application from Peak Empower and determine if to award a grant</b></p> <p>It was <b>agreed by majority</b>, with 2 abstentions, that a grant would not be awarded to Peak Empower.</p>		
20.	<p><b>To receive design and quote for the Past Chairman's pendant and determine quantities to proceed with</b></p> <p>It was <b>agreed by majority</b>, with 2 abstentions, that the Council would not purchase new past chairman's pendants; the Clerk was asked to look at alternatives and bring ideas back to the next meeting.</p>	Look at alternatives Agenda 10.03.20	Clerk
21.	<p><b>To discuss and consider the Council's Strategic Objective to seek to develop a community hub and agree action</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the Council would hold the earmarked funds and will wait and see if any suitable properties become available. It was suggested that there could be a visitor's centre as part of the Country Park proposal.</p>		
22.	<p><b>District Councillors' Reports</b></p> <p>i) Cllr Carter advised that the Structural Change Order is going through parliament now – voting takes place on Thursday and if it is voted in favour the new Unitary councils will come into effect in April 2021 with the elections taking place in May 2020.</p> <p>ii) Cllr Brackenbury advised that the Waste Team at East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) have been litter picking along the A14 and A45.</p> <p>iii) Cllr Brackenbury advised that ENC are now collecting small electrical items if left in a bag next to the wheelie bin on collection day. Cllr Brackenbury is to investigate the collection at Castle Court where several items have been left but not collected.</p>		

	iv) The Northamptonshire Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is looking to welcome more members to its Youth Commission to understand and meet the needs of local young people. They are keen to encourage those with experience of the criminal justice service. They are looking for around 30 people.		
23.	<p><b>Clerk's report (for noting)</b></p> <p>i) Following on from the email circulated regarding electric vehicle charging points possible locations were suggested for the Clerk to respond to the County Council with.</p> <p>ii) The Clerk advised of funding application issues with timings of project planning, receiving quotations, submitting the application, closing dates, date of notification and commencement of works. To be considered further.</p> <p>iii) The Office is aware that someone has been sleeping over in the car park down by the skate park – the PCSO and Persimmon have been advised.</p> <p>iv) The Clerk advised that an employee had sustained an injury at work; it was being dealt with and has been recorded in the accident book.</p> <p>v) The Clerk advised that we are now out of contract with the Christmas Lights company – we have met with four companies and will bring quotes to the next meeting.</p> <p>vi) The Clerk advised that she had been passed an email from the Friends of Thrapston Library who would like to see a copy of the County Council's Heads of Terms and our requested changes to see if they can help with the purchase at all. Cllr Brackenbury advised that she has investigated the matter further and has been advised by Property that it is not possible at this stage to incorporate any of our changes. It was felt therefore that there would be no merit in the Friends pursuing this.</p>		
23.	<p><b>Chairman's comments</b></p> <p>None.</p>		
	<b>There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:05.</b>		

Signed .....

Dated .....