

# THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor: Cllr Val Carter

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Town Council held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.15pm at The Souster Youth Hub

Present: Cllr Carter (Chairman), Cllr Charles, Cllr Cribb, Cllr Hawkins, Cllr Latimer,  
Cllr McGovern, Cllr McLuckie, Cllr Twigger, Cllr Wheeler, Cllr Wilcox, Cllr Worley

In attendance: Linda Marshall (Clerk)

No.	Item	Action	By Whom
<b>Part 1</b>			
1.	<b>To Receive Apologies for Absence</b> Cllrs Winter & Cairns had tendered their apologies which were accepted. Unitary Cllr Geoff Shacklock had tendered his apologies.		
2.	<b>Declaration of Interest</b> Cllr Latimer declared an interest in Agenda Item 17 as she is Secretary of the Sports Association and helps run Thrapston Foodbank. Cllr Carter declared an interest in Item 17 as she is a volunteer at Thrapston Foodbank.		
3.	<b>Public Open Time</b> One member of the public was present. He wished to ask two questions to the Unitary Councillors: (i) what was the rationale behind moving evening meetings to early afternoon meetings?; (ii) given the debt of Northamptonshire County Council, was there a legacy debt and, if so, how was this proportioned between West and North Northamptonshire Councils/what impact did it have on the two new unitary councils?	Questions put to the Unitary Councillors Agenda Item 5.	Chairman
4.	<b>To approve the Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting dated 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b> <b>Resolved</b> that the Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting dated 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 be confirmed as a true record.		
5.	<b>To welcome the Unitary Councillor(s) to the meeting:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To receive an update following the first six months of North Northamptonshire Council</li> <li>• To understand what the Unitary Councillors are doing in and around Thrapston</li> <li>• To receive answers to questions submitted prior to the meeting</li> </ul> <b>To discuss any further points raised</b> Cllrs Wendy Brackenbury and David Brackenbury gave an overview of the first six months of the Unitary Authority (see attached at Appendix 1). They then proceeded to answer all the questions put to them, see attached at Appendix 2. Thanks were given to the Unitary Councillors for their attendance. They left, with the member of public, at 20:40.		

6.	<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> No report available.		
7.	<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> PFCC Crime Plan circulated by email and noted.		
8.	<b>To receive a report (if available) relating to the Thrapston Youth Forum, to discuss and agree any items requiring consideration</b> Minutes of the recent Youth Forum meeting circulated by email to Full Council and noted.		
9.	<b>To receive a report (if available) from the Nene Valley Park Project's Management Team; to discuss and agree any items requiring consideration; to identify any items to be raised at a future meeting</b> No report available.		
10.	<b>To receive a verbal update from the Chairman of the Planning &amp; Asset Management Committee</b> Cllr Worley briefed the meeting on key points arising from the recent Planning & Asset Management Committee meeting. To be noted that Minutes giving a detailed account of meetings are available on the Council's website.		
11.	<b>To receive a verbal update from the Chairman of the Finance &amp; Devolution Committee</b> Cllr Cribb briefed the meeting on key points arising from the recent Finance & Devolution Committee meeting. To be noted that Minutes giving a detailed account of meetings are available on the Council's website.		
12.	<b>To receive a verbal update from the Chairman of the Events &amp; Community Engagement Committee</b> Cllr Wilcox briefed the meeting on key points arising from the recent Events & Community Engagement Committee meeting. To be noted that Minutes giving a detailed account of meetings are available on the Council's website.		
13.	<b>To receive a verbal update from the Chairman of the Personnel Committee</b> Cllr Wilcox briefed the meeting on key points arising from the recent Personnel Committee meeting. To be noted that Minutes giving a detailed account of meetings are available on the Council's website. Cllr Wilcox advised that interviews had been held for the Events & Community Engagement Role and an offer made. The successful candidate has accepted the offer and will commence employment w/c 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2022.		
14.	<b>To receive a report from attendance at the recent Queens Green Canopy meeting and discuss any items raised from the report</b> Report taken as read. It was noted that there will be an amount in the annual budget for tree planting.		
15.	<b>To receive a report from attendance at the recent Strategic Town &amp; Parish Forum meeting and discuss any items raised from the report</b> Report taken as read.		
16.	<b>To note various correspondence received in relation to future development on the edge of Thrapston; to consider the Council's position and responses to such correspondence</b>		

	<p>Various correspondence noted in relation to the two proposed developments; dates for the public consultations confirmed. Discussions took place regarding predetermination and predisposition and caution was given to councillors regarding making comments on the proposed developments. It was noted that the public consultations are statutory consultations and as such it is a time to make any requests (i.e. what are the developers doing for Thrapston). It was agreed that the Council will take a neutral stance until it is furnished with any planning applications, at which time it will be brought before the Full Council as opposed to Committee. Councillors were encouraged to attend the public consultations. It was agreed to circulate the STAUNCH bulletins to Full Council.</p>		
17.	<p><b>To receive a request from Thrapston Foodbank to site their mobile unit in the Sports Association car park and agree action</b></p> <p>The proposal received was a request from Thrapston Foodbank to site their portacabin in the Sports Association car park area, where the pre-school sheds are (to avoid any impact on the car parking spaces).</p> <p>Following discussion it was <b>resolved</b> that the Council would permit the siting of the portacabin in the Sports Association car park area, where the pre-school sheds are. This would however mean that the Sports Association would need to re-locate the sheds. The Council would not be in agreement with anything being sited in the main area of the car park.</p> <p>The Co-Op yard was suggested as an alternative location for the portacabin. Cllr Wheeler will investigate this option.</p>	<p>Advise Foodbank and Sports Association</p> <p>Investigate Co-Op Yard</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Wheeler</p>
18.	<p><b>To receive a report and quotation relating to the air conditioning units at the Plaza and agree action</b></p> <p>Report noted. It was <b>resolved</b> to proceed with the works if not covered by the manufacturer's warranty, with £1,124.66 being spent from budget and the remaining £808.77 from general reserves.</p>	<p>Proceed accordingly</p>	<p>Facilities Manager</p>
19.	<p><b>Clerk's Report (for noting)</b></p> <p>(i) Welcome Back Fund grant awarded in the sum of £4,509.75 – to be spent on promotional and marketing materials as per the proposal.</p> <p>(ii) Collection at Fireworks raised £2,299.51 for the Mayor's Charity, NDAS.</p> <p>(iii) The Clerk circulated a report to the councillors giving a summary of the damage and costs incurred following the Friday night hire of the Plaza and.</p>		
20.	<p><b>Chairman's Comments</b></p> <p>(i) Cllr Carter has circulated her Mayor's Diary, for information.</p> <p>(ii) Thanks to be given to the staff who attended the Plaza on Saturday to clean up after the Friday night booking. It is very much appreciated.</p> <p>(iii) Thanks given to the Clerk for her work at the weekend following the Friday night booking.</p> <p>(iv) Councillor presence at Farmer's Market to be discussed at FTC in January, with no presence in December &amp; January.</p> <p>(v) Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help at Fireworks; very much appreciated.</p> <p>(vi) If anyone else is available to help at the Christmas event please advise.</p> <p>(vii) Remembrance: There is a short service at Coronation Gardens on the 11<sup>th</sup> at 10.50am followed by a 2 minutes' silence at 11am, followed by a walk of remembrance to the</p>		

	<p>cemetery. There is a 10.50am service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> at Coronation Gardens followed by a 2 minutes' silence at 11am. The parade leaves from outside the library at 2.45pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> (meet at 2.30pm) followed by a church service at 3pm. Councillors are asked to attend where possible.</p> <p>(viii) Thanks to the Facilities Manager for trimming the roses in Coronation Gardens.</p> <p>(ix) Thanks to the Yarn Bombers for their Remembrance display.</p>		
<b>Part 2</b>			
21.	<p><b>Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 members of the public and press are to be excluded on the grounds that the following items to be discussed are of a confidential and sensitive nature</b></p> <p>There were no items to be discussed in Part 2.</p>		
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:20.		

Signed .....

Dated .....

DRAFT

# Appendix 1

## Overview of the Unitary Authority

**Cllr Wendy Brackenbury and Cllr David Brackenbury were in attendance**

- Arrived at Vesting Day (1<sup>st</sup> April 2021) with little issues.
- Elections in May - Officers were busy.
- New Leadership Team created, and Committees set up.
- There are four local area Planning Committees.
- There is a hybrid Executive - Model of Governance.
- There are several Executive Advisory Panels.
- Items are scrutinised by the EAP's before going to the Executive.
- There has been a lot of work with transferring Officers over.
- It was important that the effects of the change-over to residents was limited.
- There have been no huge changes, and work is still ongoing for the smooth transition – it will carry through this financial year.
- Working hard to ensure the Corporate Plan reflects the objectives that North Northamptonshire Council want to achieve with best service and communication to people who live and work in the county.
- The Corporate Plan is a high-level document and will go to Full Council in December.
- The new Council has a mixture of previous and new Councillors. There has been a lot of training.
- There are no plans to hold Councillor Surgeries, but they are happy to meet people individually if required.

### **List of Current Committees (As Per NNC Website)**

Area Planning Committee Corby  
 Area Planning Committee Kettering  
 Area Planning Committee Thrapston  
 Area Planning Committee Wellingborough  
 Audit and Governance Committee  
 Corporate Parenting Board  
 Council  
 Democracy and Standards Committee  
 EAP Climate Change Environment & Growth  
 EAP Education, Skills and Employment  
 EAP Health & Wellbeing and Vulnerable People  
 EAP Planning Policy  
 EAP Service Delivery, Performance and Customers  
 Employment Committee  
 Executive  
 Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee  
 Health and Wellbeing Board  
 Joint Children's Trust Committee  
 Licensing and Appeals Committee  
 North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority  
 North Northamptonshire Shadow Executive Committee  
 North Northamptonshire Shadow Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
 North Northamptonshire Shadow Senior Appointments Committee  
 Outside Bodies Scrutiny Panel  
 Schools Forum  
 Scrutiny Commission  
 Shared Services Joint Committee  
 Strategic Planning Committee  
 Tenants' Forum

## Appendix 2

### Questions/Answers of the Unitary Councillors

Cllr Wendy Brackenbury and Cllr David Brackenbury were in attendance

#### Public Questions:

- Q: What was the rationale behind moving evening meetings to early afternoon meetings?
- A: It is only Full Council that has been moved to afternoon meetings, and they meet once every 2-3 months. All other meetings are still held in the evening. Full Council meetings can last up to 6-7 hours and the quality of decision making that late at night could be affected. Adequate time is needed at these meetings for proper debate. It was a unanimous cross-party decision to move Full Council meetings to start in the afternoon. All candidates who stood for election were made aware of daytime meetings. This change is being trialled for 3 months.
- Q: Given the debt of Northamptonshire County Council, was there a legacy debt and, if so, how was this proportioned between West and North Northamptonshire Councils/what impact did it have on the two new unitary councils?
- A: The County Council didn't finish in debt due to PFI's (private finance initiatives) with the four district and borough councils. Figures will be shared with the Town Council for publication in its Minutes.

#### Town Council Questions:

- Q: Will North Northamptonshire be introducing a CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)?
- If not could you provide a reason
  - If there is an intention to introduce a CIL could you provide an update on the timetable
- A: No, but developers are required to contribute under S.106 scheme. No plans to change. The new Secretary of State is not going forward with the White Paper or any changes to the Planning System. S106 contributions have beneficial status.
- Q: North Northants is now a full parished authority. However it is noticeable that historic parishes (i.e. not Corby, Kettering or Wellingborough) pay fully for their own services while the new town councils do not. What plans does North Northants have to charge the new town councils fully for their services (as West Northants does) or provide relief for the historic town/parish councils?
- A: These questions have already been raised by a number of Unitary Councillors but at present decisions have not been made; there is a demand for services to be equitable across the County.
- Q: Thrapston Town Council is interested in creating a 'Hub' where various drop-in services for residents from various government and independent bodies can be had. The optimal goal would be to combine these with existing services in the town such as the library and the town council offices and provide space for. The Town Council has substantive earmarked funds for the project and depending on the project have assets which could be leveraged. Would you be willing to arrange for, and facilitate discussions with, property services for the transfer of underutilised North Northants assets to the town council enable this project?
- A: A Community Asset Transfer Policy is being drafted (going to the Executive in January). Similar questions have been raised across the County and all are being considered. The Town Council needs to identify which of NNC's assets it is referring to.
- Q: Thrapston has a demonstrable lack of Sports pitches, less than 33% of Sports England's recommendation. Could you provide an update regarding North Northants strategy for remedying this situation?
- A: This question has been put forward to NNC by the Unitary Councillors but a response is awaited. The source of the figures was questioned (and answered by Cllr Worley), but in any event and regardless of the figures it is noted that there is a desire for more pitches in Thrapston. Investigations are underway for the land behind the school.

- Q: Land at St John's Ambulance – could this land be purchased by the Town Council for development into a community hub/council office? If NNC are not prepared to sell it, could Thrapston Foodbank site their portacabin there?
- A: Ownership of this land is being investigated; if owned by NNC consideration of any transfer will fall under the Community Asset Transfer Policy. Siting of the Foodbank is being looked at by NNC (Lisa Phillips) – it was suggested to investigate whether there may be space at East Northamptonshire House (Cedar Drive). Cllr Carter to provide recent communication trail to the Unitary Councillors.
- Q: Are there any other suggestions where the Foodbank's portacabin could be sited?
- A: See answer above.
- Q: Some green shipping containers have been sited in people's front gardens in and around the town, has this been done lawfully?
- A: The Unitary Councillors have not looked into whether planning permission was sought so the answer is unknown.
- Q: Can the Bullring Car Park be smartened up, including the derelict building and Chancery Motors – it is a real eyesore and we have received comments that entering/exiting the car park is unsafe – can it be made safe, smartened up, and more parking spaces provided?
- A: It is acknowledged that entry/exit is difficult – the Unitary Councillors will follow up with Highways whether a mirror could be erected to assist entry/exit.
- Q: We have been notified by a resident that the street gullies in Market Road and Huntingdon Road need urgent attention. Can you advise (i) when they were last cleaned (ii) when they are next programmed for routine visits and (iii) what the Council policy is for dealing with cyclic cleansing of gullies.
- A: No answer. It was confirmed that this issue has been reported via Street Doctor. The Unitary Councillors will come back to the Council when they have an answer.
- Q: Can you advise when repairs/maintenance works at the Sackville Street car park will take place?
- A: As the issue is not on the highway it is not of great urgency so other works will take priority. The Unitary Councillors have also logged the issue with the assets team.
- Q: What was the basis for the decision to locate the electric vehicle charging points in Highfield Road?
- A: There were limited places where they could go, not to be in the way of residents. On Highfield Road it is out of the way. Town Council concern that objections were not listened to. Acknowledged that this phase was carried out under the County Council. Town Council asked to be furnished with a copy of the criteria/policy for the placing of electric charging points.
- Q: Why do the residents in the old East Northants area have to pay for garden waste collection when it is included within the council tax fee for the residents that live in the areas that were covered by the other old borough councils?
- A: This will be addressed as part of the budget. There have been a number of anomalies like this following the transformation – the five sovereign authorities did vary from each other – harmonisation is taking place.
- Q: What are the NNC plans to commit to Carbon Zero? What actions are they taking?
- A: The impact on climate is considered with every decision made by Committee/Executive. There is a dedicated advisory panel and a climate portfolio holder. At the Council's first meeting they declared a Climate & Environmental Emergency. NNC have a Climate Change Conference next week (online), free for people to attend (<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/climate>). At present they are committed to reduce the carbon footprint and are working towards carbon zero.

- Q: How are the advisory groups constituted?  
A: They reflect the political make up of the Council. They do not have decision-making powers. Their findings feed in to the Executive for decision. Members of the Council sit on the advisory panels.
- Q: What is happening with the scrutiny committee?  
A: There are two Committees, the Finance & Resources Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Commission. There has been a public consultation to determine “what people want” and the 300 responses are now being considered. A draft Work Plan will then be put to the Scrutiny Commission and will be available on the website. The Finance & Resources Scrutiny Committee will look at the draft budget. The Scrutiny Commission will scrutinise the Executive.
- Q: Where will the new Unitary Council be located and why?  
A: Registered Office is Sheerness House, Kettering. NNC are using all offices to work from across the County. Assets will be looked at. Full Council will meet at Corby Cube (the largest office to accommodate all Councillors). There is not enough space in any of NNC’s assets for a single place. They are not looking to build a new building.
- Q: When Thrapston TC objects to planning applications, do our UA representations undertake to raise these at the UA planning committee?  
A: Any objections will form part of the report that members of the Planning Committee read. It was noted that Unitary Councillors must remain neutral and keep an open mind about planning applications or they will not be permitted to vote – they cannot pre-determine a planning application. All objections made by the Town Council are noted and taken into consideration.
- Q: Planning Application 16-01690-REM The Nurseries: It was highlighted not to join the Nurseries road layout with ..... so as not to create a rat-run. How can this be revoked with no consultation?  
A: This cannot be revoked without consultation, but the developer can put in another planning application. It is noted that the developer has built the road without planning permission and if declined they would have to take it up. A planning application has now been submitted (retrospectively) by the developer (it will be out soon) under reference NE/21/01530/FUL. The Town Council needs strong planning grounds to object to the application. It was acknowledged that this approach isn’t right, but developers get away with it.
- Q: Youths attending school at Prince William are unable to attend extra curricular activities and revision sessions due to the lack of transport from Oundle to Thrapston. Can this be investigated to see if transport can be provided.  
A: There is already millions of pounds allocated to school transport. It was suggested that in other districts they hold some services back through the week to provide after school transport. The Unitary Councillors will investigate this further.
- Q: Healthy Pet Supplies put in an application in April 2020 for parking restrictions outside their shop. The Town Council supported their application. They are still waiting for a response.  
A: This will be investigated/chased up.
- Q: 2 Traffic Wardens were out on Sunday – they ticketed the Royal Mail vans. What is the criteria now for Traffic Wardens?  
A: The Unitary Councillors were not aware that Traffic Wardens were coming out but will investigate and report back.

~ End ~