

# THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor: Councillor Andrew McGovern

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Full Town Council held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.15pm at the Town Council Office, Thrapston

**Present:** Councillor McGovern (Chairman) Councillor Storey  
Councillor Bellamy Councillor Wheeler  
Councillor Glover Councillor Wilcox  
Councillor Hawkins Councillor Winter  
Councillor Latimer Councillor Worley  
Councillor Shortland-Ford

**Attending:** Linda Brodier (Town Clerk) Lauren Wheeler (Assistant Clerk)  
David Brackenbury (Unitary Councillor) Steve Kilby (Chairman, Venturas)  
Anthony Binns (Vice Chairman, Venturas)  
John Wisniewski (Treasurer, Sports Association)

FTC/03/01 **APOLOGIES**  
Councillors Lewis and Severn had tendered their apologies which were accepted.

FTC/03/02 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**  
Councillor Latimer: Item 9.1 and 10.2 – non-pecuniary interest.  
Councillor Hawkins: Item 7.2 - pecuniary interest.

FTC/03/03 **PUBLIC OPEN TIME**  
None.

FTC/03/04 **MINUTES**  
**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting dated 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025 be confirmed as a true record.

Minutes of Committee and Working Party meetings held in February 2025 were noted.

### Brought Forward

FTC/03/09.1 **To receive Councillor Report in relation to Thrapston Venturas' search for land for a training pitch and determine action to be taken.**

Councillor Latimer, having declared an interest, withdrew from the meeting. Councillor Latimer was invited to speak and expressed that they are still looking for land and are still seeking help from Thrapston Town Council. Steve Kilby, Chairman and Anthony Binns, Vice Chairman of Thrapston Venturas, addressed the Council and explained that the pitch that they are looking for will be an all-weather pitch and it will be for training use only. There are currently three options of land which are:- (i) the land behind Nene Valley Surgery/Tennis Club, (ii) land at the bottom of Meadow Lane/Springfield Avenue and (iii) land in Islip. The land in Islip cannot be discussed further as it remains confidential at present. To clarify councillor concerns, as a Council we can look at the land in Islip if we have the General Power of Competence and it is proven to be a benefit to the town, but there may be some technicalities. Thrapston Town Council voiced that they are aware of the challenges surrounding training and acknowledge how

valuable the Venturas are in Thrapston. It was confirmed that there have been difficulties getting hold of the landowner in relation to the area of Springfield Avenue. Following lengthy discussion, it was **resolved** to take this matter back to the next meeting in April with a specific agenda item to discuss whether the Council would be prepared to allow use of the land behind Nene Valley Surgery/Tennis Club given concerns about the impact on wildlife, and further to decide who will pay for the feasibility study. The matter to be under closed session so discussions can take place regarding the land in Islip.

FTC/03/05

### **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES**

**To receive reports from Councillors on meetings they have attended as representatives to other bodies:-**

- Police Liaison Representative – Cllr Hawkins
- CHAT Youth Counselling – Cllr Wilcox
- Volunteer Action – Cllr Wheeler
- Warehouse Applications – Cllr Hawkins
- Thrapston Nene Valley Park – Cllr Wilcox

Councillor Hawkins explained that the Neighbourhood Plan group had its first meeting which both himself and Councillor Worley attended. Mike Dobson and his family members who have joined the group are committed and organised and currently looking for new members. No further reports.

FTC/03/06

### **FINANCE**

FTC/03/06.1

**To approve the Financial Reports for February 2025.**

**Resolved** that the Financial Reports for February 2025 be accepted, as attached at Appendix 1.

FTC/03/06.2

**To receive and authorise payments due March 2025.**

**Resolved** that the list of payments due in March 2025 be approved, as attached at Appendix 2.

FTC/03/07

### **PLANNING, LICENSING & OTHER CONSULTATIONS**

FTC/03/07.1

To consider the following planning applications and determine the Council's responses.

**NE/25/00060/FUL:** 4 Market Road Thrapston Kettering NN14 4JU: Change of use to Use Class F2 (local community uses), as an art studio hub and wellbeing space, holistic therapy loft and a multi-purpose fluid relaxing space upstairs.

**Resolved:** No objection.

**NE/25/00061/FUL:** 7 Midland Road, Thrapston Kettering NN14 4JS: Change of use to tattoo parlour, with two stations and a separate social shop area with seating.

**Resolved:** No objection.

FTC/03/07.2

To receive notification of planning permissions granted, refused, withdrawn and appealed.

**NE/24/00948/LBC:** Proposed repainting of windows and doors, replacement of felt bay roofing with lead, repair of windows where noted and the replacement of windows and doors where noted at 7 Chancery Lane, Thrapston – **CONSENT REFUSED**

**NE/25/00011/FUL:** Demolish conservatory, add carport, install external rendering/cladding, garage conversion to habitable accommodation, extension to dormer window, install new windows and external doors – part retrospective at 10 Nene Court, Thrapston – **PERMISSION GRANTED.**

The above decision notices were noted.

- FTC/03/08 **FORMER ST JOHN BUILDING, THE BULLRING**  
 FTC/03/08.1 **To receive Officer Report together with scope of works and quotes from Berrys and Oglesby & Limb with regards to providing a Project Appraisal and determine which company to proceed with.**  
**Resolved** to accept Oglesby & Limb's project appraisal and to send thanks to Berry's for their scope of works and quote.
- FTC/03/09 **OFFICER & COUNCILLOR REPORTS**  
 FTC/03/09.2 **To receive Officer Report in relation to the grant awarded from North Northamptonshire Council in the sum of £2,746 towards the Be Active project and determine action to be taken with regards to the shortfall in funds.**  
**Resolved** to go ahead with the first item of equipment being the table tennis as part of the Be Active project, and for the shortfall to be taken out of the Play Areas budget.
- FTC/03/09.3 **To receive updated Officer Report in relation to a new initiative being proposed by Citizens Advice North Northants for a pilot study in Thrapston for residents to access their services, seeking support from the Town Council in the sum of £1,750 to fund the pilot. To consider report and determine action to be taken.**  
 It was **carried by majority with 1 vote against and 1 abstention** to support the pilot project which will run for 8 weeks at a cost of £1,750 with an additional 2 evenings and 1 Saturday included in the study, which is to be held at Thrapston Library. For the additional evenings and the Saturday, it will cost and additional £226.07 bringing the total to £1,976.07, this money to be taken from General Reserves.
- FTC/03/09.4 **Action from Finance 11.02.2025: Clerk to present to Full Council in March a paper indicating where funds have been drawn from Earmarked Reserves so plans can be made to replenish those pots, so Committee can prioritise long term accumulation funds. To receive Officer Report and determine any action to be taken.**  
 This report to be presented to the Finance Committee Meeting in May after year end.
- FTC/03/09.5 **Action from FTC 19.11.2024: To bring back before Council in March for a decision on how to instruct the grounds maintenance contractor with regards to grass cutting at Water's Edge, given that grass cutting will not take place until April. To receive Officer Report and determine any action to be taken.**  
 It was **carried by majority with 1 vote against** to allow a 1 metre strip along the water's edge to grow longer, this to be for a 1 year trial.
- FTC/03/09.6 **To receive and consider Officer Report together with nominations for the Town Awards with a view to selecting the winners. To agree to the purchase of the glass awards at a cost of approx. £27 each.**  
**Resolved** to award 5 winners – the details of which will be made available at the Annual Town Meeting.
- FTC/03/09.7 **To receive and consider Officer Report together with a nomination from the Council Staff for the new Animal Charity for the financial year 2025/26 Medical Detection Dogs and determine if to accept the nomination.**  
**Resolved** to accept the nomination for Medical Detection Dogs as the Council's animal charity for 2025/26. Further **resolved** to change the Charity Policy for staff to choose the charity for the year and for Council to be notified in the Clerk's report – amended policy to be presented to Council for adoption at the May meeting.
- FTC/03/09.8 **To receive and consider Officer Report with regards to the pollarding of trees at the rear of the houses at Poreham Road and determine action to be taken.**  
 It was **carried by majority with 1 vote against** to accept the Facilities Manager's report and proceed with pollarding the trees identified at Poreham Road.

FTC/03/10  
FTC/03/10.1

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**To receive correspondence from North Northamptonshire Council regarding the Bus Shelter on the High Street in Thrapston opposite the Fire Station, with a request that the Town Council takes over the management of the Bus Shelter in terms of cleaning and maintaining it, in lieu of receiving a one-off payment from NNC in the sum of £2,000. To consider correspondence and determine action to be taken.**

Correspondence received and noted. Whilst the Council is supportive of taking on the ownership of the Bus Shelter, discussions took place regarding what legal covenants will be attached, what are the terms and legal obligations that will be imposed and what will be the terms of reference. Agreed for the Clerk to ask other local councils if they have been asked to take responsibility of their bus shelters. Clerk to seek further information from NNC following the discussions and the legal implications and bring back to the April meeting.

FTC/03/10.2

**To receive correspondence from the Sports Association seeking permission for the erection of a marquee on Castle Playing Fields during the Christmas period for use with their New Years' Eve event.**

Discussions took place regarding concerns about noise for neighbours and how the grass is going to be protected. Following discussion it was **resolved** that Thrapston Venturas could erect a marquee on Castle Playing Fields and in line with terms and conditions would need to pay a £500 damage deposit.

FTC/03/11

## **UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

**To receive reports from North Northamptonshire Unitary Councillors.**

Unitary Councillor David Brackenbury reported the following:

- Newlands Warehouse - applicants are going straight to appeal due to non-determination.
- IM Properties - still unsure when it will come to NNC, Councillor Brackenbury is thinking it will be June.
- NNC have flagged the mess/rubbish/litter with National and Local Highways on the A605 and A14 and this needs rectifying.
- Strategic Planning being reviewed under the Government Infrastructure Planning Bill, to include 1.5m new homes. In North Northants the number of new homes was increased by 11%.
- Adult social care and children services which are demand led continue to have a big impact on the Council's budget. They receive around 110 new EHCP (Education Health & Care Plan) applications each month under children's services.

The Chairman asked if any members had questions for Cllr Brackenbury:-

- Cllr Brackenbury confirmed that he wasn't aware if NNC Highways had lodged an objection to the warehouse applications, but confirmed that highways concerns are one of the key things, given the current weight of traffic on the A605 and A14.
- Regarding NNC bid for re-organisation, Cllr Brackenbury confirmed that it is still NNC's desire to combine with Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes as a combined authority, but Milton Keynes have engaged with Bedford and Luton and do not want Northamptonshire included. Alternatives would point towards Leicester and Oxfordshire.
- Regarding devolution, Cllr Brackenbury advised that he was not aware what the agenda was. He will try and find out and get back to us.
- Regarding maintenance / provision of street furniture (i.e. litter bins) and re-white lining, and generally the lack of maintenance in Thrapston, Cllr Brackenbury advised similarly with the devolution points and said he will look into it.
- Regarding the transfer of the former of St Johns Ambulance Hall Cllr Brackenbury will chase and let us know when he has an answer.

FTC/03/12

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk's report noted. In addition, the Clerk noted that she had received further correspondence from NNC re the S136 mowing letter discussed last meeting in which they advised the grant sum was incorrect and will be in line with previous payments.

FTC/03/13

**CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

Chairman made everyone aware that his end of year event has had to be cancelled due to low tickets sales. He thanked everyone for attending.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at: 20:50**

Signed .....

Dated .....

**APPENDIX 1 – FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY**

*The financial reports are available on the Town Council website.  
To view the reports please.*

## APPENDIX 2 – LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR MARCH

*The list of payments is available on the Town Council website.  
To view the reports please [Click Here](#).*