

THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor: Councillor Andrew McGovern

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Minutes of the Meeting of Full Town Council held on Tuesday 15th April 2025 at 7.15pm at the Town Council Office, Thrapston

- Present:**
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Councillor Worley (Acting Chairman) | Councillor Shortland-Ford |
| Councillor Bellamy | Councillor Storey |
| Councillor Glover | Councillor Wheeler |
| Councillor Hawkins | Councillor Wilcox |
| Councillor Latimer | Councillor Winter |
| Councillor Lewis | |
- Attending:**
- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Linda Brodier (Town Clerk) | Lauren Wheeler (Assistant Clerk) |
| David Brackenbury (Unitary Councillor) | Steve Kilby (Chairman, Venturas) |
| Anthony Binns (Vice Chairman, Venturas) | Isaac Biddle, MP Caseworker |
- FTC/04/01 **APOLOGIES**
Councillors McGovern and Severn had tendered their apologies which were accepted.
- FTC/04/02 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**
Councillor Latimer: Item 9.1 and 10.1 – non-pecuniary interest.
Councillor Bellamy: Item 9.4 – pecuniary interest.
Councillor Hawkins: Item 7.1 – non-pecuniary interest.
- FTC/04/03 **PUBLIC OPEN TIME**
None.
- FTC/04/04 **MINUTES**
Resolved that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting dated 18th March 2025 be confirmed as a true record.
Resolved that the Minutes of the Acquisitions Committee Meeting dated 3rd December 2024 be confirmed as a true record.
- Minutes of Committee and Working Party meetings held in February 2025 were noted.
- FTC/04/05 **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
- It was agreed to include the Neighbourhood Plan in this list going forwards.
Neighbourhood Plan reported noted.

- FTC/04/06 **FINANCE**
- FTC/04/06.1 **To approve the Financial Reports for March 2025.**
Resolved that the Financial Reports for March 2025 be accepted, as attached at Appendix 1.
- FTC/04/06.2 **To receive and authorise payments due April 2025.**
Resolved that the list of payments due in April 2025 be approved, as attached at Appendix 2.
- FTC/04/06.3 **To review bank signatories and determine changes required.**
Resolved to amend the bank signatories as recommended by officers. It was noted that amendments were being made now by way of risk management, given the forthcoming contested election and to ensure the smooth running of council functions.
- FTC/04/06.4 **To receive request from Events Committee for funds to support Party in the Park.**
Resolved to support the request from the Events Committee to allocate the sum of £7,620 from General Reserves to Party in the Park 2025 given that the application for a grant was refused, on the proviso that if a grant is secured that the monies be returned to General Reserves. Further **resolved** that a realistic budget for 2026-27 be presented later in the year for consideration by Finance.

Brought Forward

- FTC/04/09.1 **To receive Officer Report in relation to potential land for use by Thrapston Venturas as a training pitch and determine action to be taken.**
 Councillor Latimer, having declared an interest, withdrew from the meeting.
 Report received and noted. There was a lot of discussion about this item, given the dimensions requested and the impact / proximity to the SSSI / RAMSAR site. Members are supportive of the need for a training pitch in Thrapston, but the site indicated with dimensions is not feasible as it crosses the Town Walk. The Venturas confirmed that they could reduce the size down from 171mx121m to 120mx80m. Discussions then took place regarding a feasibility study and the Venturas confirmed that they had received a quote for a survey to be undertaken. Isaac Biddle, Caseworker to Lee Barron MP, voiced Lee Barron's support and read out letters received from a resident and from Ward Councillor Wendy Brackenbury in support of this project for an all-weather pitch in Thrapston. Some discussion took place regarding the potential land available in Islip. Following much discussion, which also included mitigation costs for loss of local wildlife etc. which would be in the tens of thousands, it was brought back to the item on the agenda: is the Council willing to explore the possibility of using or leasing the land for the proposed purpose. It was **carried by majority** with **one vote against** to defer the matter, for the Venturas to bring back full details of their proposal including proper dimensions indicated on a plan and feasibility studies for both sites for the Council to consider.

Brought Forward

- FTC/04/10.1 **To receive correspondence from Thrapston Sports Association seeking approval from the Council for works to be undertaken to replace the barrier fencing around the main football pitch and by the car parking area on Castle Playing Fields, for which a grant is being applied for by Thrapston Venturas FC.**
 Councillor Latimer, having declared an interest, withdrew from the meeting.
Resolved that there was no objection from the Town Council relating to the replacement of the low barriers around the football pitch and by the car parking area.

Councillor Latimer returned to the meeting.

Brought Forward

- FTC/04/09.4 **To receive Officer Report relating to a request for screening along a resident's property at Castle Playing Fields to act as a barrier against balls hitting the fencing during training sessions.**
 Councillor Bellamy, having declared an interest, withdrew from the meeting.
 The Chairman clarified that the resident who brought this item to the table is a member of this council and as such the council need to be mindful of this.

Following discussion on this point during which explanations were given as to the nuisance being experienced and the need for training to take place at the top part of Castle Playing Fields, it was **carried by majority** with **one vote against** and **two abstentions** to approach the Sports Association to see if they can do anything to mitigate the nuisance being caused to a local resident by way of temporary netting, and to encourage the resident to also engage with the Sports Association to try and get matters resolved to mutual satisfaction.

Councillor Bellamy returned to the meeting.

FTC/04/07 **PLANNING, LICENSING & OTHER CONSULTATIONS**

FTC/04/07.1 To consider the following planning applications and determine the Council's responses.

NE/25/00238/VAR: Land Rear Of 7 To 9 Chancery Lane, Thrapston: Variation of (a) Condition(s). Variation of condition 2 to allow for amendment to approved plans - substitute approved plans 2019.11.101 and 2019.11.102 with 2019.11.103 and 2019.11.106 pursuant to NE/21/00568/FUL - Erection of dwelling and associated parking (APP/M2840/W/23/3318227).

Councillor Hawkins, having declared an interest, withdrew from the meeting.

Resolved: No objection.

Councillor Hawkins returned to the meeting.

FTC/04/07.2 To receive notification of planning permissions granted, refused, withdrawn and appealed.

NE/23/01241/LDP / Appeal Ref: APP/M2840/X/24/3337442: 60 Market Road, Thrapston. APPEAL DISMISSED.

The above decision notice was noted.

FTC/04/08 **PUBLIC TOILETS**

FTC/04/08.1 **To receive Officer Report in relation to the Public Toilets Cleaning Contract. To receive and review tenders which have met the tender specification requirements, with a view to awarding the contract to the successful tenderer.**

Following a review the tender submissions, the evaluation process, and the recommendation set out in the officer's report, it was **carried by majority** with **one abstention** to award the cleaning contract to Hygeniq, who achieved the highest overall score with a total of 12.5; to include the provision of all consumables, with the shortfall in costs being taken from General Reserves.

FTC/04/09 **OFFICER & COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

FTC/04/09.2 **To receive Officer Report in relation to fly tipping along land owned by the Town Council running adjacent to the A605 and determine action to be taken.**

Following consideration of officer's report, **resolved** to accept the quotation from Rubbish2Go and proceed with clearing the fly tipping at a cost of £4,950. Further **resolved** to write to the adjoining residents, and letting agents in the town, advising that the area has been cleared and that it will be monitored in future for acts of fly tipping. It was agreed to also include an article in the newsletter advising residents of this and requesting that if anyone is aware of fly tipping to report it to the council.

FTC/04/09.3 **To receive Councillor report together with Terms of Reference relating to the Thrapston Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for approval.**

Councillor report and draft terms of reference noted. Some amendments were required to the terms of reference in that clarity is sought as to who is holding the finances, the definition of delegated authority needs rewording to include that the Town Council will need to sign off a draft Neighbourhood Plan prior to consultation, and that it can be any two councillors appointed to sit on the Steering Group. It was further suggested that the Steering Group has their own website which can be linked to from the Town Council

website – this way they have full access to amend the page. It was agreed that a revised Terms of Reference would be presented at the next meeting.

- FTC/04/09.5 **To receive Officer Report with quotes from specialist waste management contractors with regards to the collection of sanitary waste and determine awarding of contract.**
Resolved to award the contract to Hygiene Solutions.

Councillor Brackenbury arrived at the meeting [20:31].
 Mark Wood left the meeting [20:31].

FTC/04/11 **UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Councillor Brackenbury advised that they are in the period of purdah due to the forthcoming elections.

He reported:

- Newlands Warehouse - applicants are going straight to appeal due to non-determination – any representation to be submitted by 16th May – although he is requesting an extension to this due to the forthcoming elections.
- IM Properties - still extant and will still be considered by Committee – but they could well go down the same route as Newlands.
- There isn't a policy to devolve every asset – but if there was an asset or service which by mutual agreement could be devolved then there could be a discussion.

Councillors were asked if they had any questions to raise:

- Rubbish on the A14 – could bigger bins be provided – Cllr Brackenbury will follow this up.
- To receive an update on the solar farm application. Cllr Brackenbury gave an update and said that the Monitoring Officer had over-ruled the decision and directed planners not to defend the appeal.

FTC/04/12 **CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk's report noted. To add that communication had been received regarding the bus shelter: the legalities are still being looked into at NNC, but no further funds would be available to the town council to take on the cleaning and maintenance of the shelter.

FTC/04/13 **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

Councillor Wheeler wished to thank all councillors for the last four years and wished those not standing for re-election good luck with their new ventures. Particular thanks were given to Councillor Winter for his 10+ years' service.

Councillor Winter wished to thank everyone, saying it is important that we continue to have a town council in the town. He voiced that no matter what decisions are made round the table, everyone should walk away with no hard feelings. He gave thanks to the staff for their support.

Councillor Worley reiterated what had been said. He continued that there is so much more that Councillors can do and encouraged councillors to put projects forward. He said that there are no wrong answers, just different preferences – but everyone should do it for the right reasons. He wished good luck to those standing, and thanked officers for their support.

There being no further business the meeting closed at: 20:54

Signed

Dated

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APPENDIX 1 – FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR MARCH

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

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APPENDIX 2 – LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR APRIL

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

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