

THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor: Cllr. Val Carter

77 High Street
Thrapston
Northamptonshire
NN14 4JJ

Tel: (01832) 734 673

Email: clerk@thrapstontowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.thrapstontowncouncil.gov.uk



THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

June 2021

FULL TOWN COUNCIL

The Council is a corporate body, a legal entity, separate from that of its members. Its decisions are the responsibility of the whole body. The Council has been granted powers by Parliament including the important authority to raise money through taxation (the precept) and a range of powers to spend public money. It is responsible for decision making on the raising of the precept and for the strategic decisions affecting the community and inhabitants of Thrapston. The Council will adopt Standing Orders which are the written rules of the Council and are essential to regulate the proceedings of meetings. The Council will adopt Financial Regulations which regulate and control the financial affairs and accounting procedures of the Council. The Council can delegate powers to its Committees and the Clerk.

The Council will meet monthly, on the second Tuesday of every month. All meetings are open to members of the public. Members will undertake Councillor Surgeries on the first Saturday of each month on a rotational basis (or as agreed). The Council can agree to spend any amount agreed in the annual budget.

Consists of: All 13 Councillors

Chairman: Town Mayor

Quorum: One-third (rounded up), 5.

Terms of Reference:

- ❖ To appoint a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to undertake the affairs of the Council.
- ❖ To appoint Committees.
- ❖ To receive reports and determine any items passed from those Committees.
- ❖ To adopt Standing Orders.
- ❖ To adopt Financial Regulations.
- ❖ To agree the annual budget.
- ❖ To agree the annual return.
- ❖ To set the Precept.
- ❖ To review and adopt Policies and Procedures.
- ❖ To determine the Town Awards.
- ❖ To consider, debate and award contracts and tenders.
- ❖ To consider, debate and determine grant applications.
- ❖ To determine projects that are to the benefit of the whole town.
- ❖ To review the Council's Strategic Plan.
- ❖ To deal with any matters within the remit of the Town Council.

Adopted by Thrapston Town Council

Date: 8th June 2021

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Committee is to debate issues and make recommendations, where appropriate, to Council on matters relating to employment and personnel. The Committee will meet at least quarterly (March, June, September, December). Meetings of the Personnel Committee will be open to members of the public but the press and public will be excluded from any business of a confidential nature.

Membership: The Personnel Committee will comprise of 6 members plus the Mayor as ex-officio with voting rights. The Mayor may be substituted by the Deputy Mayor. Members will be elected by the Council. The Chairman of the Committee will be elected annually.

Quorum: One half of membership (rounded up), 4.

Terms of Reference:

- ❖ To deal with all matters relating to the recruitment of the Clerk.
- ❖ To oversee all matters relating to the recruitment and employment of other staff.
- ❖ To review job descriptions and contracts as required.
- ❖ To annually review staff salaries for recommendation within the annual budget.
- ❖ Responsibility for staff training and professional development.
- ❖ To monitor and review Health & Safety regulations, policy and procedures and personnel policies of the Council.
- ❖ To promote compliance and good practice in relation to employment legislation and relevant local government policies in relation to employment matters.
- ❖ Convening investigatory committees to examine disciplinary, grievance or capability matters, reporting outcomes to Council.
- ❖ To organise hearings in connection with capability and/or grievance and/or disciplinary and/or retirement issues.
- ❖ To deal with other staffing matters as they arise.

Adopted by Thrapston Town Council

Date: 8th June 2021

PLANNING & ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Committee is to debate issues in detail concerning planning and planning applications and to make observations to the Planning Authority in accordance with planning guidelines on behalf of the Council, which is a statutory consultee AND to debate issues with regards to the assets held by the Council, regularly reviewing its maintenance and management programme and making recommendations to Council for the disposal or purchase of any assets. The Committee will meet monthly on the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings of the Planning & Asset Management Committee will be open to members of the public.

The Committee has delegated authority to consider and comment on planning applications and to consider future planning strategies, policies and neighbourhood plans. The Committee also has delegated authority to spend within its allocated budget.

Membership: The Planning & Asset Management Committee will comprise of 6 members plus the Mayor as ex-officio with voting rights. The Mayor may be substituted by the Deputy Mayor. Members will be elected by the Council. The Chairman of the Committee will be elected annually.

Quorum: One half of membership (rounded up), 4.

Terms of Reference:

- ❖ To receive, consider and respond on all planning applications received from North Northamptonshire Council and respond on behalf of the Council. Any major planning applications will be recommended to Council for consideration.
- ❖ To receive, consider and respond on all matters relating to Listed Building Consents, buildings of special interest, historic buildings and buildings in the conservation area, local development framework, Tree Preservation Orders, street naming and numbering.
- ❖ To receive, consider and respond to all relevant consultation documents relating to planning and associated matters and development, including county structure plans, district plans and any others of a similar nature, making recommendations to Council for any major consultations.
- ❖ To identify, comment upon, and refer to the relevant authorities any matters considered to be in breach of planning permission.
- ❖ To appoint representatives to attend Planning Authority meetings and authorise them to speak on behalf of the Town Council.
- ❖ To appoint representatives to attend Planning Enquiries and authorise them to speak on behalf of the Town Council.
- ❖ To recommend policies to Council in relation to planning issues and revise these as necessary.
- ❖ To continue effective liaison with all major property developers and residents, assist in the negotiation of Section 106 Agreements, contribute to infrastructure requirements and act as an informed body on planning matters to other committees and working parties.
- ❖ Contribute to all communication with residents in connection with planning matters.

- ❖ To receive and consider issues arising from the facilities team's inspections and to manage a programme of repairs and maintenance for all Council owned assets held by the Town Council.
- ❖ To consider and agree applications for the letting of Council property.
- ❖ To arrange leases, rents and reviews and set them as necessary.
- ❖ To explore opportunities to increase the portfolio of assets held by the Town Council and make recommendations to Council regarding the procurement of such potential assets.
- ❖ To identify the need to dispose of any assets held by the Town Council and make recommendations to Council regarding the disposal of any such assets.
- ❖ The Committee has delegated authority to spend within its allocated budget (up to £5,000). This will include making decisions on budgeted finance and recommend to Council any proposals which are outside the approved budget and require either grant aiding or the use of financial reserves.
- ❖ To ensure a budget for the next year is provided to the Finance and Devolution Committee by the October of every year.
- ❖ The committee is authorised to establish sub-committees and working parties and to appoint advisers as and when necessary to assist in its work.

Adopted by Thrapston Town Council

Date: 8th June 2021

FINANCE & DEVOLUTION COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Committee is to regulate and control the Council's finances and formulate recommendations to the Council. The Committee will meet monthly on the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings of the Finance & Devolution Committee will be open to members of the public.

The Committee will appoint 4 members to be bank signatories for the purpose of counter-signing cheques and authorising online BACS payments. The Committee will appoint 2 verification councillors who will be responsible for carrying out internal checks on behalf of the Council to ensure that its financial management is adequate and effective. The verification councillors will not be the Mayor or Deputy Mayor and will not be a bank signatory.

The Committee has delegated authority to spend within its allocated budget. This will include making decisions on budgeted finance and recommend to Council any proposals which are outside the approved budget and require either grant aiding or the use of financial reserves.

Membership: The Finance & Devolution Committee will comprise of 6 members plus the Mayor as ex-officio with voting rights. The Mayor may be substituted by the Deputy Mayor. Members will be elected by the Council. The Chairman of the Committee will be elected annually.

Quorum: One half of membership (rounded up), 4.

Terms of Reference:

- ❖ To receive, consider and approve monthly financial reports.
- ❖ To receive, consider and authorise monthly expenditure.
- ❖ To undertake regular budget reviews.
- ❖ To prepare annual budgets and recommend a precept to Council.
- ❖ To review staff salaries for approval by Council within the annual budget, as recommended by Personnel.
- ❖ To review and make recommendations on fees and charges.
- ❖ To consider and debate all devolved services, determine if such services would benefit the community and whether the Council has the manpower to deliver such services. Make recommendations to the Council if it is deemed that such services should be taken on.
- ❖ To consider and report to Council on any matters raised by the internal and/or external auditor.
- ❖ To review the Council's Financial Regulations, Risk Management Scheme and Asset Register.
- ❖ To identify funding streams available and administer grant fund applications where appropriate.
- ❖ The committee shall monitor all aspects of the Council's performance not otherwise monitored by any other committee or working party and shall report thereon to the Council.

Adopted by Thrapston Town Council

Date: 8th June 2021

EVENTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Committee is to debate issues, determine decisions and report back to Council in respect of an annual programme of events, to manage a programme of community engagement and to oversee the finances allocated to the Committee for which it has delegated powers to spend within the budget.

Membership: The Events & Community Engagement Committee will comprise of 6 members plus the Mayor as ex-officio with voting rights. The Mayor may be substituted by the Deputy Mayor. Members will be elected by the Council. The Chairman of the Committee will be elected annually.

Quorum: One half of membership (rounded up), 4.

Terms of Reference:

- ❖ To determine whether to invite non-Council members to sit on the Committee.
- ❖ To organise a suitable programme of annual events additional to the Christmas lights switch on and Remembrance Service and report to Council.
- ❖ To manage the programme of events and ensure they are delivered within the committee's budget and available staff resources.
- ❖ To manage a list of stock/equipment owned by the Town Council for events (including a stock list for Christmas lights).
- ❖ In conjunction with the Mayor to manage the fundraising events that the Mayor may wish to put on during their mayoral year, to include a maximum of one end of year event, a Civic Service event and one other Mayoral event. Any additional events must be approved in advance with the Clerk.
- ❖ To publicise and promote all Town Council events.
- ❖ To seek funding and sponsorship for Town Council events.
- ❖ To establish and maintain a programme of community engagement and to link members with community groups and bodies for the purpose of engagement.
- ❖ To prepare and manage community consultations, receive and summarise responses received and report to Council.

Adopted by Thrapston Town Council

Date: 8th June 2021

THRAPSTON MARKET WORKING PARTY

The purpose of the Working Party is to investigate and research a rejuvenation plan for Thrapston Market.

Membership: The Thrapston Market Working Party will comprise 4 members plus the Mayor as ex-officio with voting rights. The Working Party will have the ability to co-opt specialists as required. The Leader of the Working Party will be elected at the first meeting following its creation, and annually thereafter.

Delegated Powers: None.

Terms of Reference:

- ❖ To meet with Bletsoe regarding the Transfer of the Management of the Market
- ❖ To liaise with Charlotte Croser regarding the set up of the Farmer's Market
- ❖ To look at ways to rejuvenate Thrapston Market
- ❖ To consider what other stalls the town would like to see
- ❖ To create a project plan for the rejuvenation of the Market

Adopted by Thrapston Town Council

Date: 8th June 2021

SCHEME OF DELEGATION

MATTERS RESERVED FOR DECISION BY THE COUNCIL

The undermentioned matters shall be reserved for decision by the Council itself:

- (a) All matters for which the approval of the Council itself is required by statute;
- (b) The appointment of Standing or Special Committees and of other ad hoc bodies, excluding Sub-Committees, which shall be a matter for decision by the Standing Committees themselves;
- (c) The promotion of or opposition to legislation including byelaws;
- (d) The making, alteration or revocation of Standing Orders and the waiver or modification thereof;
- (e) The giving of evidence before Commissions, Inquiries and similar bodies and the formal expression of views on the reports of such bodies;
- (f) The appointment or dismissal of the Clerk to the Council;
- (g) All major policy matters.

POWERS DELEGATED TO ALL STANDING COMMITTEES

All Committees may take decisions in the Council's name, provided that:

- (a) Such decisions are within the Council's powers and are not matters specifically reserved for the Council itself;
- (b) Such decisions are within their terms of reference, do not fall within the terms of reference of any other Council body, are in accordance with Standing Orders and do not conflict with the overall policy direction of the Council;
- (c) A Committee may incur expenditure on behalf of the Council in accordance with the Financial Regulations and approved budget;
- (d) There is no conflict with a decision of another Council body. In cases where there is conflict the matter shall be referred for consideration by the Council for determination.
- (e) Given that no other provision is made within Standing Orders, all Standing Committees shall elect, annually, a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

ACTIONS DELEGATED TO TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk is authorised:-

- (a) To sign on behalf of the Council any document necessary to give effect to any decision of the Council;
- (b) To take proceedings or other steps as may be necessary to enforce and recover any debt owing or other obligation due to the Council;
- (c) To institute and appear in any legal proceedings authorised by the Council;
- (d) To appear or make representation to any tribunal or public inquiry into any matter which the Council has an interest;
- (e) To alter the date or time of a committee meeting, but before doing so shall consult the Chairman of the committee concerned about the need for the change and about alternative dates and times;
- (f) To decide arrangement for the closure of the Council offices during the Christmas and New Year period, subject to consultation with the Chairman.
- (g) The Clerk may incur expenditure on behalf of the Council which is necessary to carry out any repair, replacement or other work which is on such extreme urgency that it must be done at once, whether there is any budgetary provision for the expenditure, subject to a limit of £1,000. The Clerk shall report the action to the Council as soon as practicable thereafter;
- (h) To incur expenditure for the maintenance, replacement or repair of existing plant, buildings, land or equipment or for the day to day running of the office in accordance with the Financial Regulations and subject to it not exceeding the budget set;
- (i) To act as line manager to all the Council's staff in accordance with the Council's policies, procedures and budget, including:
 - a) The paying of employees their salaries and wages at the rates agreed by the Council;
 - b) The control of staff performance, staff appraisals, discipline and performance;
 - c) Payment of expenses and allowances in accordance with the Council's scheme;
- (j) To recruit staff as required and as agreed with the Council;
- (k) To arrange staff and councillor training when required subject to the budget being available and to report accordingly to the Personnel Committee at its next meeting.