

**GARVESTONE, REYMERSTON & THUXTON
PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting on Monday 9th March 2020 at Garvestone Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Mr M Garrod, Mrs P Reade, Mrs T Garrod, Mrs C Harris, Mr G Smith, Mr S Smith and Mr L Smith. Also present: residents. The clerk was absent, Mr S Smith took the minutes.

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The following statement was read out by Mr M Garrod.

“On February 26th, our clerk, Frances, met with Matt Worden, Area Manager South, Highways, in Thuxton. The meeting was to try and address the problems residents are experiencing with the road past their properties. Frances had previously had a site meeting with a Thuxton resident on February 21st where the problems had been pointed out and explained for clarification. The meeting with Matt Worden on February 26th was soon “hijacked” by some of the residents and it ended in a very acrimonious manner. Your Parish Council is here to work for you and to represent you and it will not tolerate any sort of abuse directed at public servants working in any part of the parish on your behalf. We believe it appropriate for the residents involved to offer their apologies to both Frances and Matt Worden if they have not already done so.”

20/39 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the clerk.

20/40 To receive declarations of interest and grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None.

20/41 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 10th February 2020

It was agreed to add “Vote in favour – 3/2” after “No objections” in item 20/19, 3PL/2019/1542/D, and with this amendment the minutes of the meeting were signed as a true record.

20/42 To agree a correction to the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15th July 2019 (cheque number for £27.50 to Garvestone village hall for room hire on 15/7/19 corrected from 1148 to 1448)

This correction was agreed.

20/43 To receive matters arising from last Parish Council meeting

None.

20/44 To receive clerk's report

20/14 The clerk has contacted Cathryn Barron about the review of bus services in the Dereham area. See agenda item.

20/14 The clerk has contacted Highways to request a formal review of the problems in Thuxton. See agenda item.

20/45 To receive correspondence

- Complaint from member of the public – it was agreed to discuss this after exclusion of the public
- Email about scrambler motor bikes in Garvestone – noted and agreed to monitor if ongoing or at unsocial hours

- Request for funding from North Breckland Youth for Christ – it was agreed to pass this request on to Garvestone Charity
- Ian Martin, District Councillor – no report by Breckland Council, Mattishall Ward Councillors as on leave

20/46 To receive members' items

Mr S Smith brought up external lighting in the parish. It was agreed to put an item in the newsletter requesting that all external lighting be on motion sensors.

Mr S Smith noted that the visit of the Flying Scotsman later in the year is likely to result in crowds of visitors and that the Yaxham Road level crossing on Dereham will be closed for replacement in May 2020.

20/47 To receive items for the next agenda

Renewal of grass cutting contract, Flying Scotsman visit management, Remembrance project.

20/48 Meeting adjournment – members of the public invited to speak

The chairman reminded members of the public that each person could speak for no longer than three minutes. The following issues were brought up:

- A member of the public said the area around the Lings could be a popular viewing area for the Flying Scotsman and this could result in traffic problems and asked whether MNR should liaise with the police in preparation.
- A member of the public expressed disappointment that the number 15 bus service to Norwich is to be stopped.
- A member of the public noted that the EDP have reported that Garvestone School was rated “good” at its recent Ofsted inspection. It was agreed that the Parish Council will write to congratulate the School.
- A member of the public gave his views on the bus services consultation, particularly that a larger vehicle is needed for the number 17.
- A member of the public brought up the condition of the footway at the building site on Dereham Road when the works are completed the footway should be repaired and the cost charged to the developer. It was agreed that the Parish Council will contact Enforcement to ask that this happens.
- A member of the public apologised for “hijacking” the meeting between the clerk and Matt Worden of Highways in Thuxton.
- There will be a footpath walk on Saturday 4th April, meet at Garvestone village hall at 9.30 am. [Clerk’s note: this walk was cancelled]

20/49 To agree comments to Breckland Council on any new planning applications

None.

20/50 To note results of planning applications

3PL/2019/1590/F

Mr Karl Hunt

Rosehaven, Reymerton Road

Demolish of existing garage.

Proposed extension to the side of the property, allowing for a new attached garage and 2 additional bedrooms to the upper floor. Plans amended to provide parking

Permission

3PL/2020/0088/D

Mrs M Jennings

Land off Dereham Road

NR9 4QT

This application seeks to obtain permission for the scale, appearance and layout of the new dwelling and garage, following outline permission 3PL/2019/0762/O

Permission

3PL/2019/1581/HOU

Mr & Mrs S Thompson

North Green Farm House,

North Green, Reymerton

Alterations and rear extension of dwelling

Permission

3PL/2019/1542/D

Mr Cameron Black

Land adjacent Thuxton Grange

Station Road

Reserved matter application for single dwelling following outline permission - 3PL/2018/1309/O

Permission**20/51 To receive an update from the rights of way working group**

The working group has met and thanks were given to the attendees. How to support the current claims was discussed. The list of possible future additions identified will be looked at to decide how to proceed. Mr G Smith attended the Norfolk Local Access Forum Parish Paths Seminar along with 80 attendees.

20/52 To receive an update on the Remembrance project

The working group has not met. The plan was to take forward the information put together by Barnham Broom & Upper Yare Remembrance Project on the soldiers to be commemorated but this has not yet been received. It has been decided to contact Mr Hickman directly who is researching for the whole group of parishes. The funding needs to be spent by the end of 2020.

20/53 To discuss whether to hold a parish organisations day

It was agreed that a flier is needed listing organisations in the parish and contact details. This will be put on the next agenda.

20/54 To receive an update on highways issues and clarify the process for reporting problems

The following report by the clerk was tabled.

1. Broken pavement on Dereham Road at the entrance to the building site for four bungalows

Reported to Enforcement but this is not an Enforcement issue.

Reported to Highways.

Response: "No action has been taken at this time but we will continue to monitor the problem -We have assessed that the defect does not currently meet our intervention criteria. We will continue to monitor as part of normal scheduled inspections."

2. Hingham Road junction

Reported to Councillor Ed Connolly who passed on to Matt Worden, Area Manager South Highways. I also spoke to Matt Worden.

Response: “Drainage investigations on the main Dereham Road near the junction with Hingham Road will be carried out and any remedial work programmed. If a scheme is necessary it will be added to our list of schemes and considered for our annual construction programme.”

3. Blocked drain on Town Lane

Reported to Councillor Ed Connolly (with the job numbers of the reports by a member of the public) who passed on to Matt Worden, Area Manager South Highways. I also spoke to Matt Worden.

Response: “Drainage investigations in Town Lane (in two places) will be carried out and any remedial work programmed. If a scheme is necessary it will be added to our list of schemes and considered for our annual construction programme.”

4. Thuxton problems

Request for review of Thuxton problems made to John Cotton. Also reported to Councillor Ed Connolly who passed on to Matt Worden, Area Manager South Highways. Matt Worden emailed and offered to meet me for an inspection and this was arranged for 26 February 2020. Before this meeting, I met with a Thuxton resident on 21 February to view the problems so as to ensure all could be pointed out and explained to Mr Worden.

Mr Worden has emailed a summary of the discussion and the work Highways intend to do, as follows:

“I acknowledge the concerns of residents and the parish council about HGV’s using Station Lane and Town Lane however the roads are in a reasonable condition bearing in mind the season and the fact that some of the overrunning will be down to larger farm vehicles. We will continue to monitor the verge erosion but at present I do not think that any urgent work is necessary. In my experience the majority of HGV traffic in such rural areas will be associated with local farms and deliveries and these vehicles would be exempt from any restriction should we consider one necessary.

I will programme some work to reinstate the verge near The Swallows where there is a potential highway issue due to the overrunning.

I will arrange for the drainage gullies that were blocked to be cleaned and for the protruding concrete sandbag outside Church Farm to be dealt with.”

5. Process for reporting problems

Highways faults (potholes, blocked drains, broken signs etc) should be reported directly to Highways on 0344 800 8020 or at <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/highwaysdefect/> .

If Highways have failed to deal with the problem after six weeks, this problem can be raised with the clerk who will liaise with Cllr Connolly or Highways as appropriate. If raising an issue with the clerk, please give full written details (location, description of problem, map if necessary, job numbers of the reports to Highways with dates and any responses from them).

Requests for improvements to highways should be brought to the Parish Council, either by raising the request at a meeting or by contacting the clerk or a councillor. The Parish Council will then decide whether to pass these requests for improvements to Highways.

It was agreed to keep chasing the broken pavement on Dereham Road and that the blocked drain on Town Lane needs the road to be dug up as jetting the drains has not worked.

20/55 To agree a response to the Norfolk County Council consultation on proposed changes to bus services operated under contract

The consultation has been emailed to the clerk’s emailing list. Councillor Connolly has responded to the consultation requesting a larger bus for the number 17 service. It was agreed to respond requesting a

larger and more suitable vehicle for the 17 service, expressing dismay that the 15 service is to be stopped and pointing out the long term need to improve public transport for environmental reasons.

20/56 To note the A47 North Tuddenham to Easton dualling Statutory Consultation

The consultation has been emailed to the clerk's emailing list. It was agreed to respond that mitigation for the effects of rat-running through Thuxton are needed, as was done at Weston Longville.

20/57 To review the following: Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, General Risk Assessment

It was agreed to postpone review of these policies to the next meeting.

20/58 Financial report

a. To approve receipts and payments

Payments

Frances Needham	Clerk's pay March 2020	1479	£280.66		£280.66
Norfolk Pension Fund	Pension contribution	1480	£83.16		£83.16
Frances Needham	Clerk's expenses Dec 2019 – Mar 2020	1481	£64.69		£64.69
Norfolk Parish Training and Support	Subscription	1482	£90.00		£90.00
Total			£518.51	£0.00	£518.51

b. To report bank balance and reconciliation

The balance of the Community Account at 28/2/20 was £13498.56 with payments of £100.00 outstanding to 4/3/20 leaving a balance as per cash book of £13398.56. Of this, £7,900 is the HLF grant for the Garvestone, Reymerston and Thuxton Remembrance Trail.

c. To receive a financial report

The financial report had been sent to councillors before the meeting.

Acceptance of the financial report was proposed by Mrs C Harris, seconded by Mr G Smith, all agreed.

20/59 To pass a resolution to exclude members of the public and press for the following confidential items:

a. To review the Clerk's Employment Contract

Mr T Garrod proposed that members of the public and press be excluded for this item, seconded by Mrs P Reade Smith and all agreed. Mrs T Garrod proposed that the changes relating to sickness leave, sick pay and holiday entitlement be agreed and the notice period remain as three months, seconded by Mrs P Reade, all agreed.

b. To discuss the complaint from a member of the public (20/45)

A response to be sent by the clerk to the complainant was agreed. It was agreed to put adoption of a Complaints Policy on the next agenda.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30 pm on Monday 20 April 2020 at Garvestone Village Hall. The Chair thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.

Signed.....
Date.....