

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Thompson Parish Council

held in the Thompson Village Hall at 7.00pm on Friday 26th May 2009

1. **Present:** Mr Johnson, Mrs Josiah, Mr Robertson, Mrs Winslow, Mr Gregory, Mrs Sharp, Dr Murphy, 15 Members of the public, Mr Cowen (Breckland Councillor) and Mr Monson (Norfolk County Councillor)
2. **Apologies Absence:** None
3. **Election of Officers:**
 - 3.1. **Election of Chairman:** No nominations for Chairman were received prior to the meeting. Mr Johnson was nominated at the meeting by Mrs Winslow and seconded by Mrs Josiah. There being no further nominations a vote of members was taken and Mr Johnson was unanimously elected as Chairman.
 - 3.1.1. **To receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office:** The clerk received the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office at the meeting.
 - 3.2. **Election of Vice-Chairman:** A nomination for Mrs Sharp for Vice-Chairman was received prior to the meeting, the nominator was Dr Murphy seconded by Mrs Winslow. There being no further nominations a vote of members was taken and Mrs Sharp was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.
 - 3.3. **To appoint representatives to outside bodies:**
 - 3.3.1. **Representatives to the Village Hall Committee:** Currently the Council representatives on the Village Hall Committee are Mr Johnson and Mr Robertson. A vote was taken and they were unanimously voted to continue in this role.
 - 3.3.2. **Appointment of trustee's to the Town Land Charity:** The current trustee's are the Chairman and Mrs Tyler. The Chairman stated the trustee's are usually members of the council but that because of her great knowledge of the village there would be an advantage to the Town Land Charity for Mrs Tyler to remain a trustee. It was proposed that Mr Johnson and Mrs Tyler continue to act as Trustee's to the Town Land Charity by Mrs Winslow and seconded by Mrs Sharp, the vote being carried unanimously.
 - 3.3.3. **Trustee to the Millennium Green Charitable Trust:** Mrs Winslow is already a Trustee of the Millennium Green Charitable Trust and it was proposed that she should continue as the council's representative. Proposed by Mr Johnson and seconded by Mrs Josiah, the vote was carried unanimously.
4. **To sign as correct the minutes of the last annual meeting held on 20 May 2009:** The Chairman read the minutes of the last meeting to the council and signed them as being correct.
5. **Reports:**
 - 5.1. **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported that the Council's attention had been on two major changes, both of which are ongoing and neither of which have yet been implemented. The first is the Local Development Framework or LDF which lays out guidelines for property development for Breckland to deliver the 15,000 houses which Central Government wants built in Breckland District council's area. Most of these will be in the Thetford, Dereham and A11 corridor areas, with lesser numbers being built in Watton and Swaffham and fewer in selected villages, Thompson is not one of these. Breckland DC is seeking to protect the character of villages such as Thompson by retaining existing settlement boundaries. Exceptions will be granted for social housing units such as the proposed development of the site between No. 1 Council Houses and Griston Road. This development is in abeyance for 2 years whilst the access problem for the redevelopment of 1 & 2 Airie Houses is settled. At the end of this period a new Planning Application will be needed allowing your council to lobby Flagship and Norfolk County Council Highways Department for inclusion of a lay-by in the plans. With regard to the proposed Unitary Authority matters are nebulous, however we are taking steps to obtain Quality Status to help ensure that your Council has access to sit on a number of Committees and Quango's to allow us a greater say in our future. The Chairman outlined proposed changes to the legal structure of the Millennium Green Charitable Trust and to the Thompson Village Hall which will be discussed at the Council Meeting immediately following the annual meeting.
 - 5.2. **Responsible Financial Officer's Report:** Due to various problems the accounts have not yet been finalised and will be published shortly on the Parish notice boards.
 - 5.3. **Reports from local organisations:**
 - 5.3.1. **Thompson Millennium Green Charitable Trust:** This report is held over until the June meeting of the Parish Council.

- 5.3.2. Thompson Village Hall Committee:** The chairman reported that there was little to add to that which was covered earlier in the meeting except that funds were healthy despite a slight fall in bookings for small events. This fall had been counteracted by funds raised by the Coffee Mornings, the Chairman thanked all involved in this fund raising venture. Mrs Spence added that since the Coffee mornings started there had been a slight drop off in those attending from the village but that there was a healthy core of “regulars” attending including the monthly attendance of the walkers.
- 5.3.3. Thompson Women’s Institute:** Mrs Winslow reported that in the past year the WI had held a full and varied program, including a mobile meeting at a local Alpaca Farm and that mini fete had been held at the Village Hall instead of the usual garden party. This had been very successful with a lot of husbands, friends and villagers attending. The Thompson WI celebrated its 55th birthday with meals at the Willow House and a Christmas meal at a member’s home. This year has seen some new member’s joining from the village and the Thompson WI continues to flourish and remains, very much, a part of village life.
- 5.3.4. Stitchers Group:** Mrs Tyler reported that the group had a good membership with a steady number of regular attendees. Members continue to teach each other new skills, including a workshop on making a Christmas Tree Skirt. Members put on there usual display at the Art, Craft and Flower Festival at the Church and will be exhibiting there again this year. Members attended the Chilford Quilt show in March and November and some attended the Knitting and Stitching show at Alexandra Palace. The group continues to look for new members and Mrs Tyler asked anyone interested in joining to come along to any of their weekly meetings in the Village Hall at 7.00pm on a Wednesday or to contact her or any of the other members.
- 5.3.5. Bowls Group:** Mr Tyler provided a report for the recently re-formed bowls group. Membership remains low but that the group has all the equipment necessary for carpet bowls and that anyone interested in trying this sport need just turn up at the Village Hall at 07.30 pm on Monday evenings.
- 5.3.6. Wayland Partnership Report:** Mrs Tyler reported that during the last year the Wayland Partnership had been awarded a Heritage Lottery Grant to research the history of the Wayland area. A Heritage Officer, Sue White, had been appointed in January and she is keen to meet Parish Councils and any other interested groups. The project welcomes volunteers and there is a commitment to leave a legacy, such as a book or similar resource as well as oral history and an archive for future generations. Wayland House attracts a range of tenants, including Breckland Council on Wednesdays and Fridays, the Registrar by appointment on Thursday afternoons, Breckland Homeless Unit on Tuesday afternoons, Connexions by appointment on Wednesday Afternoons and Peddars Way Housing Officer on Tuesday mornings. In addition the Community Banks continues to be a success. The Partnership, a company limited by guarantee needs new Trustees and those interested should contact Mrs Tyler or Mrs Godfrey at Wayland House.
- 5.3.7. The Church:** Mrs Norris was unable to attend the meeting but had reported that she wished to thank the council for its donation for Churchyard maintenance and reported that some of the donation had been spent repairing the Church’s lawnmower and that the remainder was earmarked for the purchase of two metal gates for the church, one for the main entrance and the other for the porch.

6. To consider any subscriptions falling to be paid annually:

- 6.1. Insurance – provider Allianz Insurance plc:** It was decided to renew the Councils insurance with this insurance provider.
- 6.2. Membership subscription of Norfolk Association of Local Councils:** It decided to renew the council’s membership of this organisation for year 2009-2010.
- 6.3. Membership subscription of Norfolk Rural Community Council:** It was decided to renew the council’s associate membership of this organisation.

7. Any other business:

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.15pm

Signed as true record of the meeting

Chairman of Thompson Parish Council