



## ALDBOROUGH and THURGARTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALDBOROUGH AND THURGARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Community Centre Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.00pm

**Present:** D. Hooker (Chair) R. Gadsby (Vice-Chair) H. Hudson, G.Fiske, T.Hooker, J.Mumford  
W. Murphy (Clerk)  
5 members of the public

**1. Apologies for Absence** – Cllr J Toye – NNDC, Cllr S Penfold - NCC

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None

**3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 had previously been circulated, had some corrections made. These were then confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

**4. INFORMATION ON MATTERS ARISING**

D Hooker is continuing conversations with the Cricket Club. They have an Annual General Meeting soon and he is hoping that a good relationship with the parish will be discussed. D Hooker confirmed that the oiling of Parish Council noticeboards will commence soon.

**Action DH**

R Gadsby confirmed that the noticeboards were hard to open – D Hooker will take a look at them. **Action DH**

**5. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was noted that the caravan has now been removed

The street lights that are looked after by Victory Housing appear to be on all the time. T Hooker will contact them with the times the Parish Council street lights go on and off to see if theirs can be adjusted to the same times. **Action TH**

Pot holes in the village are becoming a danger. The clerk confirmed that these can be reported on the Highways website.

The crossroads sign by Thurgarton Church has gone missing. This will be reported to Highways. **Action TH**

**6. REPORTS**

Written report received from Cllr Toye and is attached.

## **7. FINANCE AND REGULATORY**

**7.1 Invoices and Payments** – Aldborough Community Centre £10. agreed and signed off by Chair

**7.2 John Bacon Chairty** – H Hudson gave an update. The Clerk will see if she has a cheque book so the balance can be paid to the Priscilla Lodge Charity. **Action WM**

## **8. THE GREEN**

**8.1 Highways Partnership Update** – D Hooker confirmed that he had met with Highways and is waiting for a scheme to be drawn up and when the work is scheduled to begin. **Action DH**

**8.2 Play area and other assets** – G Fiske confirmed there were no issues. Community Action Norfolk offer playground inspection training. The clerk will see when training is next available. **Action WM**

**8.3 Pond Management 2025** – T Hooker gave a report see attached. The clerk will see if the pond risk assessment needs updating. **Action WM**

As proposed by T Hooker and seconded by J Mumford and all in favour it was agreed that T Hooker should speak to Garden Guardian to see if he could leave 1 meter around the trees so that the grass can grow. **Action TH**

## **9. PLANNING**

**9.1 To discuss and make observations on any applications received.**

None received.

## **10. PARISH MATTERS**

**10.1 Christmas arrangements including tree location** – R Gadsby gave a report see attached. Thanks was given to the person that had donated the Christmas tree and it was agreed that Santa and his grotto should be placed in the community centre next year.

**10.2 Street Lighting Update** – T Hooker confirmed that six lights have been completed with one still needing to be done. There is a problem with one of the timers. T Hooker will chase TT Jones. **Action TH**

**10.3 Village Fayre 2025** – The date confirmed is 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 Valarie King has stood down as chair and she was thanked for all her hard work. H Hudson is now the chair for the next few years. An advert was placed asking for volunteers and 7 people came forward. The next meeting is 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and R Gadsby will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Paish Councillor on this committee.

**10.4 Parking – Aldborough School** – G Fiske confirmed that the parking around the beck has become an issue with cars parking in the entrance to the cow field. They are also parked on the path and beyond the bridge on the right-hand side leading up to a blind bend. Cars are also being parked on the left-hand side of the road. He will be in

discussions with the school, Alby Parish Council and the Beat Manager for a solution to this. – **Action GF**

**11. TO DEAL WITH CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**12. TO NOTE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA**

Policies

**13. TO CONFIRM THE DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed 20.14

Christmas Events Report - R Gadsby

Christmas arrangements went to plan.

Singing round the tree was again a great success. Thanks to our Italian accordion player, Carmin

Again, the tree was very nice this year and the placement was in a better spot. I would like to thank our resident who each year donated the tree to the village.

Unfortunately, storm Darragh took control of the tree with high winds and the tree had to be re-positioned. Due to that, Santa was happily seated in his grotto in the community centre organized quickly by Penny and Tom.

It was lov4ely. The children adored it and I think it should be done again next year. I will put photos in our next newsletter. Disaster turned into a success.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped David put up the tree, Tom Niall and Peter Luke.

Volunteers are needed to have successful events on the green and they will always be needed to keep this thriving community going.

## District Council Report – John Toye – 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025

Good evening, and Happy New Year.

I apologise for not being with you this evening. I had planned to be there but today was my first day back and I have been in meetings at the council from 9am to 4.30pm with a working lunch. I therefore have lots of work to catch up on.

There is little new items to report and much of our work has been on setting a balanced budget for next year. We had a 1.8M funding gap the majority of which was due to homelessness support requirements of which the government do not pay sufficient to cover the costs and as a subsequence we have to fund it from your council tax. The majority of our homelessness is caused by private landlords selling up as it is no longer viable for them to continue and domestic abuse.

There has been considerable work done in the council and savings made wherever possible and after today's meetings believe that we have closed the gap to zero and a balanced budget. Good stewardship has put us in a much better place than many other councils.

I am sorry that we have not yet got a decision on the pig farm application and the chairman will know that I do send nudges to planning officers to try and get a decision so that all of us including the applicant can move on.

I hope to catch up with you all soon and please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything you believe I can assist with.

## **POND AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP REPORT**

The Pond and Wildlife management workgroup met on Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss plans for 2025. Issues discussed were as follows:

### **Pond – increase in growth of reed and it's management.**

We will approach our usual contractor to explore the possibility of removal of reed from the site in addition to cutting back the reed. Previously removal has taken place on a bi-annual basis but whether due to climate changes or other reasons, the reed may need to be reduced on an annual basis. Historically the removal has been undertaken by volunteers but this year the limited number of those available plus the amount of reed that needed removal made it an almost impossible task.

A possible way to limit reed growth might be to increase the level of the pond (reed roots do not cope with a deeper water) a flexible addition to the outlet pipe might allow us to manage the depth – we will consult and explore the options and possibilities taking account of any concerns about increased level of the pond.

**General.** There is a residue of money left in the Wildlife Club (no longer in existence) bank account which needs to be used for support of wildlife in the village. The proposition is to use this money to plant more native bulbs in different areas of the village. Last year, approx. 1,000 native bulbs were planted for the wellbeing of our parishioners and wildlife. Can the parish council agree that the grass cutting contractor be approached and requests made that

he leaves a 1 metre uncut area around the trees on the Green. This would enable planting around the bases of the trees and protect the plants as they emerge – too close cutting of grass around the trees risks damage to the root structure and visually having these left longer with native spring bulbs and wildflowers will enhance the aesthetics of the green area.

DRAFT