

Minutes of the Thwaite St Mary Parish Meeting on Wednesday, 24th May 2017 at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Thwaite St Mary

Present: Maurice, Valerie & Joshua Healy, Sandra & Steve Hayes, Josie Bassingthwaite, Christine Hamilton, Roger & Jean Madgett, Tom Grant, John Havart, Jane Love (minute secretary), David Rowlinson (chairman), Geraldine Hayes, Mavin Shulver, Mike Holness, Simon Norton. Also broadband consultant Annette Thorpe and District Cllr Brendan Bernard

A minute's silence was held in respect for those killed in the terrorist action in Manchester on Monday, 22nd May

1. Apologies:

Janet & Jim Hadingham, Marion Barwick, Gill Wilson & Shirley Mundy, Philip & Sue Taylor.

4. Broadband – the way forward: (this item was moved forward to allow Annette Thorpe to leave early). Ms Thorpe gave some background on progress towards Better Broadband for Norfolk, which has left Thwaite St Mary as one of the communities deemed to be "out of scope" due to the lack of BT switching boxes in or near the village. She suggested that residents could apply for the voucher scheme being offered through Norfolk County Council and then aggregate their vouchers to apply for an interim solution such as satellite or wireless, which would not preclude the village from opting for Better Broadband in future. The "value" of each voucher was in the region of £350.

Other alternatives included mobile broadband, such as that offered by EE.

She encouraged more households to come forward to express an interest in broadband, but did assure the meeting that if there is a tender exercise (in approximately 2-3 weeks) Thwaite would be included. Ms Thorpe also assured the meeting of her support.

Ms Thorpe then left the meeting and the agenda resumed.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 20th October 2016 were approved and signed by the chairman.

3. Matters arising:

3.1 BT kiosk – The PCC had declined to acquire the kiosk on behalf of the parish. The meeting voted eight in favour with five abstentions for the chairman to take the case to the PCC again. While an individual cannot acquire it, the owner of the land on which the kiosk stands can own it, and therefore Tom Grant offered to adopt it.;

3.2 Tom Grant would get the fingerpost repaired by the end of June;

3.3 Gypsy & Traveller Local Plan – no further information had been received;

5. Outcome of Electoral Review of South Norfolk DC – implications: The District Council boundaries had been redrawn in such a way that Thwaite was now part of the Ditchingham & Earsham ward, which would elect two councillors. This meant that the first two candidates with the highest number of votes in that ward, regardless of political affiliation, would win the available seats on the District Council.

6. Community Governance Review – parish response: The meeting approved the responses to the relevant questions and resolved that the chairman should submit the online questionnaire on behalf of the parish.

7. **Petition re building on Green Belt:** The Council for the Protection of Rural England had asked for support for its campaign against building on green-belt land until banked land and brown-field sites had been used. Christine Hamilton asked for more information and Roger Madgett may attend the CPRE briefing on this subject.
8. **Report from District Cllr Brendan Bernard:** The District Council had had a busy year, including the failure of devolution, the ward boundary review, investment in the A11 economic corridor, the parish governance review and a radical shake-up of the domestic waste collection routine. In the coming year, the parish boundary review would be completed, a new agricultural development area, or food hub, was proposed for Eaton, and council tax was going up 4%.
9. **To note:**
 - 9.1 The chairman would make a Declaration of No Accounts;
 - 9.2 Community Emergency Planning – as a result of Storm Doris the District Council had requested that communities looked at making provision to look after the elderly and vulnerable, but it was felt that the parish was not large enough to have a specific plan;
 - 9.3 Police update/crime statistics – residents were warned about thefts from sheds in Ditchingham and Broome;
 - 9.4 Local County Council elections – Margaret Stone was re-elected with 52% of the vote.
10. **DAG fund:** £285 remained in the fund. Efforts had been made to return the funds but no-one had come forward. The meeting agreed to retain the funds for possible maintenance of the phone kiosk.
11. **Tree warden:** It was thought that Ann Hinchcliff may be the village tree warden – Jean Madgett volunteered to ask her.
12. **Election of officers:** The chairman confirmed that he did not seek re-election and as no other names were put forward, suggested that he would call a meeting in one to two weeks time to elect a new chair – which was agreed. Thereafter, if no chair were elected, six electors would be required to call a meeting between 1 March and 1 June in each year, and elect a chair on the night. The chairman was thanked for his hard work on the part of the parish over the past three years.
13. **Any other business:** there was none.

Date of next meeting: to be advised.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.07pm.

Signed..... Dated.....
Chairman