**ALBY WITH THWAITE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 September 2018 at 7.30 pm**

**at Alby Horse Shoes Inn, Cromer Road, Erpingham, NR11 7QE**

**Present:** Chairman Barry Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chairman Will Cutts,

Councillors Stephen Jordan, Alistair MacKinnon, Sheila Goodley

Clerk Rosalyn Dawson

6 members of the public were in attendance

**The Chairman announced that recently Councillor James Buchan had suffered a sad loss and the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council offered condolences to James and his family. This message was sympathetically endorsed by parishioners present.**

1. **Apologies for absence**: Councillor James Buchan.
2. **Parishioners Questions**

Referring to the survey undertaken on the Common is the New Zealand Pigmy Weed prevalent in other Ponds on the Common?

1. **No declaration of interest was made for items on the Agenda**.

4. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 29 May 2018 were agreed.**

5. **Matters arising**: **None**

6. **Clerk’s Finance Report:**

Community Account Balance b/fwd. from 31 March £2,992.09

Income for period 1st April to 31st August 2018 £1,500.00

Payments for period 1st April to 31st August (£1,009.62)

**Community Account** **balance c/fwd.** **£3,482,47**

Premium Account balance b/fwd from 31 March £ 252.39

Added interest 1st April to 31 August 2018 0.13

**Premium Account balance c/fwd. £ 252.52**

The most recent Bank Statement balances could not be verified at the meeting. However a spreadsheet showing the Statement of Accounts was circulated prior to the meeting and the figures above corresponded with the Statement. The Statement of Accounts was agreed.

The Clerk’s salary of £306.25 for the 2nd quarter was approved and a cheque raised. Payment of £28.38 (reimbursement for stationery) was approved and a cheque raised.

7. **Thwaite Common Advisory Group held on 12 July**

The Chairman advised that Councillor Will Cutts attended the meeting. The minutes of Advisory Group were read aloud. Discussion followed on the grant spend of £6,000 on tree lopping and the remaining budget balance of £497.78. Concern was expressed on the scale of the funds spent. The Chairman advised he had written to Rob Young requesting more transparency. He hoped this information would be forthcoming before the next meeting on the 12 November to report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

**The Ponds**: The Parish Council considered the outcome of a survey by Natural England to ‘fill in’ the School House Pond that is stricken with the New Zealand Pigmy Weed, was a very radical one. However, a decision made by the Group was to approach Helen Baczkowska from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust to complete a survey of the ponds and water courses before any decision making. Forthcoming TC Advisory Group meeting dates are: 12 November 2018, 11 March and 8 July 2019. It was suggested that the minutes of the TC Advisory Group be placed on the Parish website.

8. **Cattle Grids on Thwaite Common**

Installing cattle grids on Thwaite Common was a subject on the Agenda of the TC Advisory Group and a request for contributions from other sources was made. Upon request of the Chairman, the Clerk had researched potential funding and one likely source was found. It was agreed to post a notice in the local magazine ‘In Touch’ advising of a forthcoming public consultation within the parish (no decision will be made prior to a public consultation).

9. **Broadband service in the community**

It was agreed to approach neighbouring parish councils for Broadband speeds within their parishes before taking official action.

10. **Planning Applications**

No new Planning Applications received in this quarter was reported.

11. **Revised quotation for IT equipment:**

No quotation has been received.

12. **Adjourn the meeting for public participation**:

Parishioners showed concern that the contract with Witham’s for the Common Cut had lapsed this year and they felt the contract should be reinstated.

Pending the Common Cut a parishioner advised that Ragwort prevalent on the whole of Thwaite Common was not poisonous unless it was cut and baled for feeding of livestock.

13. **Dates for forthcoming meetings:**

Tuesday 11th December 2018

Tuesday 19th March 2019

14. **The Meeting closed at 9pm**