**ALBY WITH THWAITE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th Septemher 2019 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, Clare McNamara, Sheila Goodley Angus McKenzie

Guest: John Timewell, County Councillor – North Walsham & Erpingham Ward(s)

Clerk Rosalyn Dawson

Members of the public were in attendance

1. **Apologies for absence**: none
2. **Parishioners Questions:** One query regarding posting of the addendum on the website. It was explained that this would not be agreed until after the meeting.
3. **Declaration(s) of interest:** None
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 26 June 2019 were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.**
5. **Matters arising**: Surface Water flooding at Town Green and Middle Hill was discussed at item 7.
6. **Clerk’s Finance Report – 6 July to 5 October**

The Clerk’s salary of £306.88 and the reimbursement of stationery expenses of £60.89 for above period, were agreed and cheques for the payments were raised.

A spreadsheet showing financial transactions for the above period had been forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting.

The Clerk presented the Statement of Accounts at 31 August 2019. This will be shown as **ADDENDUM 1** on the Parish Website.

**Community Account balance b/fwd @ 5 July £5,013.56**

Income for the period £ NIL

Payments for the period (£ 858.39)

**Community Account balance c/fwd £4,155.17**

**Premium Account balance c/fwd £ 253.04**

An invoice from Softcraft for £877.68 for computer equipment had been forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting. Payment of the invoice was agreed and a cheque was raised.

The Vice Chairman presented a receipt for £19.47 for the purchase of reflectors, previously agreed, to install at the gullies on Thwaite Common. A cheque was raised for this amount.

There were no queries raised with regard to the finances.

**7. Highways**

Speed signs at Town Green

John Timewell advised that a Sam2 system cannot be used in a National speed limit and the cost of installing a 30mph limited is high and for the foreseeable future there is no budget to fund them. Highways have suggested erecting signs at the two main entrances saying *“Welcome to Town Green. Please drive carefully”.*  They advised that this action has similarly proved successful elsewhere and would show that the Parish Council and Highways are jointly working to resolve the speeding issue. Furthermore John Timewell’s generous gesture to fund the cost of the signs from his Members’ Highway Budget was favourably received and unanimously agreed by Councillors. He asked that the Parish Council advise him where the signs will be positioned.

Surface water flooding at Town Green and Middle Hill

This matter was raised in Item 5 of the minutes dated 26 June 2019. Councillor Clare MacNamara presented a map for John Timewell to show the areas affected by flooding in periods of heavy storm. He agreed to look into the problem and respond to the Parish Council.

Flourescent reflectors

This matter was dealt with under item 6.

**8. Footpath Notice posted in Pack Lane**

Prior to the meeting Councillor Stephen Jordan reported that a Notice had been erected along the footpath between Dovehouse Lane and Church Road in Alby, known locally as Pack Lane. The Notice is in advance of an Application to seek an upgrading of the footpath to a restricted byway. The upgrade is based upon research carried out by a volunteer local correspondent for the Open Spaces Society - the claim being that the footpath was used by horses and cyclists historically. However in the interim interested parties – the landlord(s), users, nearby residents and the Parish Council will require to provide evidence to determine if the path has been used for horses or cyclists during the past 20 year if it transpires that they wish to oppose the modification.  This will need to be presented to Highways in advance of the Modification Order Application’s formal submission to Highways. The Clerk advised that she had obtained a copy of the Application. There was a take up for a copy from interested parties. A landlord present at the meeting advised he would erect signs in the Lane prohibiting horses and cyclists.

**9. Parish Project**

The Clerk reminded Councillors of an earlier suggestion made by a parishioner to allocate funds for improvements in the Parish. This was an item in the Open Forum minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 29 May 2018 and was due to an increase in the Parish Precept. This matter was earmarked to go back on an Agenda and be advertised in ‘The Touch Magazine’ asking parishioners to bring their suggestions to the Parish Council. It has been suggested by Councillors that £500 is an affordable amount. The Clerk suggested that she drafts an insert for councillors’ agreement.

**10. Thwaite Common**

Some concerns were raised that no agreement for a grazing regime has been made and there is a significant problem with ragwort taking over at the West end of the Common. Also feral cats are a nuisance and are hunting the birds on the Common.

Planting of Trees: An idea to introduce a few specimen trees to Thwaite Common brought to the Parish Council by residents was presented to the meeting by the Chairman and the Black Poplar was the suggested species. It was agreed to present a planting scheme to the Thwaite Common Advisory Group at their next meeting.

Bird Boxes: Further to an article in the ‘In Touch’ magazine by two Parish residents, an initiative was presented to the Parish Council encouraging the nesting of birds and that bird boxes should be strategically sited on the Common with the assistance of the RSPB. A resident, present at the meeting, volunteered to build the bird boxes and his suggestion was the Raptor box at an approximate cost of £65 and smaller boxes (6 for £145 was quoted) to encourage children to get involved. The Parish Council agreed to fund the initiative pending receipt of an acceptable quotation. The Raptor box needs to be in place by November.

**11. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11 December at 7.30pm**

**12. Public Participation:**

A parishioner thanked the Vice Chairman for installing the reflectors on the Common.

**13. Close of Meeting was 9.45 pm**