**Parish Council meeting at 19:30 4th March 2025**

 **Nempnett Thrubwell Village Hall**

**MINUTES**

1. Attendance:

Councillors: John Mallone (JM), James Everett (JE), George Ford (GF), Ingrid Wilms (IW), Peter Hellier (PH - Chair), Peter Rendle (PR).

Parish Clerk: Liz Horne (LH).

Members of the public-5 members of the public present.

Ward Councillor: Anna Box (AB)

PH Mentioned that we have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

1. Apologies: None received.
2. Public Participation:

Cllr PH received a letter from parishioner Mr Stephen Read and responded to the points raised:

1. To be a Parish Councillor you need to either live in the parish or within 3 miles of the Parish.
2. Cllr JE’s involvement in the issue raised over tree stumps being on the public highway, Cllr PH confirmed that he was very happy with what Cllr JE had done on his own behalf and on the behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr PH also confirmed that there is no perceived conflict of interest in principle between being a member of the Parish Council and a member of the Parochial Church Council.
3. With regards to the meeting that took place on the 4th February, Cllr PH is aware of some poor communications but is not aware of any breach of Code of Conduct or Standing Orders and that he is quite happy with how we conduct ourselves as a Parish Council. Mr Read asked if enough standing orders were in place and quoted that honesty, openness and accountability are 3 tenets of the principles of the council and suggested Nempnett Thrubwell Parish Council performance score is 5 out of 10.
4. Approval of minutes of meetings:
	1. The minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2025 were reviewed and approved. Proposed by JE. 2nd by IW. Motion carried.
5. Declarations of Interest:
	1. There were no declarations made by Councillors.
6. Ward Councillor Updates:
	1. BANES new budget has been adopted at £157 million. BANES remain in the lower third for council tax cost average in the West of England , but have remained in a good financial position even considering the cost of living crisis.

A total of 4.99% increase is to plug the gap caused by the increase in NI and inflation costs in social care.

* 1. Many councils have adopted less frequent bin collections to make savings but BANES will not be adopting this policy.
	2. BANES have identified a problem with special needs education and more funding will be available for that.
	3. More funding will be available for enforcements in the Valley for parking offences and breaches in by-laws.
	4. Highways funding will also increase to assist with speed limits and speeding on dangerous roads. A cabinet meeting will take place following a little boy being run down in Bishop Sutton.
	5. There is a white paper regarding North Somerset Council joining WECA. AB asked the Parish Councillors to please respond.
1. Highways
	1. Bottom of Chapel Hill, Grove Farm – a pile of tyres were there and have been cleared leaving a big drop on the corner.
	2. Bristol Water - hedge at Rugmore Farm not been cut

**ACTION: IW to repeat the report via FixmyStreet again after a storm left debris in drains at the top of Awkward Hill and further down Chapel Hill towards Rugmore Farm. LH to duplicate the reporting.**

1. Planning:
	1. New applications:
2. Longachre Farm 25/00472/FUL

Barney from B2B architects explained the scope of the planning application, confirming that the 2 current barns will be infilled by the addition of a bedroom and lounge to allow for more comfortable occupation as a residential home.

**ACTION: JM proposed that Nempnett Thrubwell Parish Council support this application. JE 2nd. Motion Carried. LH to add comments to BANES planning portal.**

* 1. Ongoing:
		1. Mary Paddock Farm 25/00111/CLEU
		2. Thrubwell Farmhouse 24/03218/LBA
		3. Barn, Nempnett Street 24/04205/CLEU
		4. The Old Forge 24/04621/FUL
	2. Decisions:
1. Thrubwell Farmhouse 24/02214/VAR Permitted
2. Thrubwell Farmhouse 24/02234/VAR Permitted
	1. Enforcement:
3. Parcel 5342, Bellevue Lane 24/00362/UNAUTH

**ACTION: A temporary stop notice is now in place which will expire in 36 days. AB to find out what will happen after the 36 days and feedback next steps.**

1. Old Quarry, airport parking 24/00170/UNAUTH
2. Finance:
	1. Bank reconciliation for 1st Feb 2025 to 28th Feb 2025 was agreed as being an accurate record. Proposed by JE and 2nd IW. Motion Carried
	2. Payments for approval.:
		1. Liz Horne – Clerks salary & expenses for February £380.19 JE Proposed and 2nd IW. Motion carried.
3. Parish Council Airports Association. – AB commented that a motion is going through to add more pressure via Westminster to object to expansion plans at Bristol Airport.
4. Old finger-posts renovation- A grant of £825.00 has now been received from the Mendip Society towards further renovations.
5. Welcome pack for new NT residents. This document will be updated and change organically over time but can be removed from future agendas.

**ACTION: IW to add Blagdon and the Harptrees History Societies.**

1. Emergency Plan- Ongoing.

**ACTION: LH received village hall keyholders 03.03.25 and will update the plan ready for review at the April Parish Council meeting.**

1. Somer Valley Links Consultation- This project covers Mid Somer Norton, Farrington Gurney, Whitchurch and surrounding areas due to population and planned housing developments. No comments from NTPC as the consultation is not an area that affects the village.
2. Next meeting: **Annual Residents Meeting** Tuesday 8th April @7pm followed by the **Parish Council Meetin**g @7.30pm.

 There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.30