

Thurston Parish Council Meeting  
3<sup>rd</sup> August 2011  
**THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2011 at 7.30pm in the Sports Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Church Road, Thurston

**In the Chair** : Cllr Campbell

**Present** : Cllrs Dolan, Robinson, Weeks, Jefferson, Fawcett, Mrs Service, Mrs Harvey, Mrs Bullen and Rainbow

**In Attendance** : Kathryn Savage, Clerk, D Cllr Mrs Powell, C Cllr Mrs Otton, P Sgt Curtis

2 members of the public were present

- 1 **Opening** – The meeting was declared open at 7.30pm
- 2 **Apologies for Absence** –  
Cllrs Dashper                      Other Commitments  
These apologies were formally accepted on the proposal of Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Weeks, all in favour
- 3 **Declaration of Interest from Councillors** –  
Cllr Mrs Bullen                      Item 7e
- 4 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** – the minutes of the meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011 had been circulated and were approved as a true record, proposed Cllr Rainbow, seconded Cllr Jefferson, all in favour. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

- 1 A motion to ask the County Council to reconsider the times for use of concessionary bus passes before 9.30am was to be put, and a Working Group was looking into the impact of scrapping the Explore card for young people.
- 2 Thurston library had been selected to be 1 of the pilot libraries for new ways of running and managing libraries across the County.
- 3 Cllr Guy McGregor had announced there would be no more automatic assessments of requests for speed limits by Councils officers. County Councillors would still be able to ask for full assessments.
- 4 A new style of solar powered flashing 30mph signs were proving to be a success in several parishes.
- 5 Lucy Robinson had been appointed Interim Chief Executive of the County Council.  
Cllr Mrs Service advised that the deer signs proposed for Norton Road had not yet been installed. C Cllr Mrs Otton to investigate.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MRS POWELL'S REPORT**

- 1 Cllr Mrs Powell had toured the waste recycling plant at Great Blakenham
- 2 Potential fly-tipping following the closure of several Household Waste Recycling Centres could be reported to MSDC or District Councillors. Some sites were to be taken over by commercial companies and would remain open.
- 3 Information was given to Council ref Community Land Trusts
- 4 The Budget Challenge – MSDC would need to make cuts amounting to £3.9m over the next three years, and were consulting with Parish and Town Council as to what services they currently provide were considered important, in order that they could analyse the data to help with their budget discussions

**POLICE REPORT** – Delivered by P Sgt Curtis – there had been 4 crimes reported for July, as compared to 6 in the same period in 2010 – 1 theft of a cycle; 2 criminal damage to Youth Shelter and to a vehicle and 1 common assault which had been dealt with by Community Resolution. During the month of July, Police had received 27 calls in relation to events in Thurston, 1 of which, relating to the Youth Shelter, had been logged onto the ongoing Tactical Plan. Speed checks had been carried out in Barton Road with 116 vehicles being checked and 5

found to be exceeding the acceptable speed. 1 resident had been handed a Section 59 warning in relation to their manner of driving, and had subsequently had their vehicle seized.

**A member of the public**, commenting on the abusive language and other ASB experienced by residents near to the Youth Shelter, called for its removal. She further complained that calls to Police were not answered swiftly. Sgt Curtis responded that there was a totally new generation of Officers within the SNT, who were all working with the teenagers, and urged residents to make a call to Police, asking for an event number, which would then ensure that the problem would be logged onto the Police system, creating a true picture of the severity of the problem. It was agreed by P Sgt Curtis that he would look into the deployment of a drugs-trained dog. The Chairman noted that everyone involved with the Youth shelter was most concerned by the ASB, and thanked the members of the public for their contribution to the debate.

**5 Statutory Business** – There was none

**6 Police Matters** –

- a) Matters for referral to next Tasking Meeting which was to be in July – nothing new to add
- b) Village Reports of concern to the PCSO – there were none
- c) Proposed Police vehicle – this matter was deferred pending further information

**7 e) Youth Shelter (b/fwd)** – Cllrs addressed the main problems reported ref ASB – noise, litter. NOTED –

- i) When the shelter had been erected, the Parish Council had said if there was trouble, it would be taken down.
- ii) The troublemakers represent a small minority of people
- iii) Local residents were not usually reporting incidents at the time, and those present were advised to do so, and to also ask for an event number, which would ensure the matter would be added to the Police log of events at the site.

**PROPOSED** –

- i) To set up a Working Party to determine the extent of the problem etc. to include Cllrs and PCSO. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to be before the next PC meeting at which a report would be delivered.
- ii) To hold a meeting for the users of the Youth Shelter
- iii) To hold a meeting of all other interested parties to review possible way forward

**13 d) Proposal from SCC ref Streetlights (b/fwd)** – Mr Richard Webster from SCC spoke of the County Councils plans to reduce streetlighting costs by installing intelligent lighting, and turning some light off between the hours of midnight and 5.30am. Thurston Parish Council owns 104 of the streetlights in the village, and Mr Webster had produced a quotation for the same measures to be installed on the PC-owned lights. The initial cost would be £4,680, but over the course of the following three years, this cost would be recouped by the lower usage of electricity. After consideration, it was agreed to go ahead with the proposal, proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Mrs Harvey, all in favour. The Chairman thanked Mr Webster for his presentation.

**7 Business Remaining from Previous Meetings** –

- a) Thurston under Fives – the PC solicitors and the CC solicitors were now jointly drawing up the lease for this project
- b) Allotments – nothing to report.
- c) Proposed closure of library – Cllr Fawcett had attended the CC Cabinet meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July, at which it had been agreed to invite around 8 Councils, including Thurston PC, to participate in a pilot scheme for the running of local Libraries.
- d) New Green Community Trust proposals for new PC Office – The Clerk had met with New Green Trustees for further information ref these proposals. The proposed meeting room would measure some 4.5m x 3.9m; the office space itself would contain the Council's existing furniture adequately; there would be provision of a kitchenette, and the disabled toilet in the existing bowls changing rooms would remain. The Trust planned to charge the PC for all this floor space at the same rate per sq.m as for the current office space. They would, however, reserve the right to hire out the meeting room themselves at times when the Council would not need it, and would deduct the hire fee received from the council's rent.
- e) Youth Shelter – see above
- f) Updating of Emergency Plan – Cllr Robinson had circulated proposed dates for a meeting of the Emergency Plan Group.

**8 Chairman's Communications** – there were none

9 Questions from Councillors previously submitted- There were none

10 Reports from Committees and Groups

a PLANNING -

i Planning Applications received -

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
1874/11	Front porch, 20 Howes Avenue	SUPPORT
1891/11	2 storey rear extension, Hardwick House, Birds Road	SUPPORT
2280/11	2 storey side ext., Hamilton House, Thedwastre Road	SUPPORT
2368/11	Crown lift 1 oak tree, 7 Blackbird Close	SUPPORT
2128/11	2 storey front ext., 36 Barleyfields	OBJECT

Ref. GP1, Scale and density and H18, appearance

These comments were approved for submission, proposed Cllr Weeks, seconded Cllr Rainbow, all in favour

ii Planning Decisions received -

0100/11(Outline)	1.5storey dwelling, land 64 Barton Road	REFUSED
1498/11	Attic conversion & rear ext., 5 Heather Close	GRANTED
1959/11	Retain & complete 1 storey side ext., Blakey Topping	GRANTED
2112/11	Work to sycamore tree, Rowan House, Pokeriage Gardens	GRANTED

b RECREATION GROUND -

- i) Quotations received ref provision of window blinds, Pavilion - there had been only 2 quotations received. **Deferred**

c COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS -

- i) Cllr Mrs Service had attended a meeting of the Cavendish Hall Management Committee, and a meeting of the College Forum
- ii) Cllrs Mrs Harvey and Rainbow had attended a SALC-run New Councillor Briefing session
- iii) Cllr Weeks had attended two planning meetings
- iv) Cllr Robinson had attended three planning meetings and a meeting ref Library proposals

d VILLAGE REPORTS -

- i) Cllr Weeks reported overhanging hedges and plants at two addresses in Furze Close
- ii) Cllr Rainbow reported similar problems at addresses in School Road, School Lane and St Peter's Way
- iii) Cllr Mrs Service reported a hedge was overgrowing the Cycle Route 51 in Mount Road
- iv) Cllr Fawcett reported a loose lighting globe in lamp number 237

**Clerk to report all matters**

e QUALITY COUNCIL STATUS -

- i) Thurston Voice - After consideration, it was agreed to include the following in the next edition : -  
Streetlighting; Youth Shelter; Litter; Updating of the Emergency Plan; Proposal to lease a Police Vehicle; Details of new Recycling site arrangements; a list of donations made by the Council. **Clerk to produce a draft edition for approval at next meeting.**
- ii) Consideration of publishing a PC website on One Suffolk - **Clerk to look into the set-up procedures of such a website.**

11 Reports from Officers of the Council

a CLERK'S REPORT -

- 1 A letter had been received from New Green Trust in thanks for Council's donation
- 2 The renewed terms for electricity at the Pavilion from British Gas had now been formally accepted,
- 3 A letter of thanks for the Council's good wishes had been received from the retiring Vicar
- 4 Information had been received from the Home Office ref new Crime Funding Funds now in place
- 5 the PC had been consulted by MSDC ref polling stations, and had agreed no changes
- 6 The 1968 Club had formally requested that the PC once again fund the insurance for the event.

- 7 MSDC had advised that the new development of houses at 84 Barton Road, was to be known as Jacob Close
- 8 Reports made to the previous meeting by Cllrs, had been reported to the various authorities
- 9 New Green Trust had advised of new procedures being put in place ref the locking of car parks.

**12 Resolutions or Recommendation already received** - There were none

**13 Finance**

a) Accounts Awaiting Payment :-

COMPANY	COST	VAT	TOTAL
Mrs K Savage, Clerk's Salary			746.84
Mrs K Savage, Clerk's Expenses			42.17
Ray Austin, Handyman contract			346.00
R & C Sadler, (Rec Grd a/c) Caretakers Salary			107.25
PC Medic, Computer Maintenance Contract			30.00
Suffolk ACRE membership fee			25.00
CPRE, Membership			29.00
Rattlesden PC, ref attendance of 2 Cllrs to New Cllr Briefing session			30.00

On the proposal of Cllr Weeks, seconded Cllr Dolan, these accounts were approved for payment, all in favour

b) Accounts already paid -

Plusnet, Broadband & Telephone	24.48	4.87	29.37
New Green Comm Trust	213.00	42.60	255.60
AB Computers, New Router for PC (C/CARD)	33.33	6.66	39.99

c) Receipts - There were none

d) To consider proposal from SCC ref Streetlighting - see above

e) To consider Council Savings Accounts - deferred

f) Receipt of Budget to Actual statement to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011 - this was now received.

**14 Any Other Specified Business** - There was none

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.08pm

**Date of next meeting, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011 to be held in the Pavilion meeting room.**

**Signed..... Chairman Date 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011**