

Thurston Parish Council Meeting  
2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011  
**THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 at 7.30pm in the Sports Pavilion, Recreation Church Road, Thurston

**Present :** Cllr Robinson (in the Chair), Cllrs Weeks, Monk, Mrs Service, Dashper and Sadler (7.50pm)

**In Attendance :** Kathryn Savage, Clerk, C Cllr Mrs Otton, D Cllr Haley (7.40pm)

3 members of the public were present

**1 Opening** - The meeting opened at 7.30pm

**2 Apologies for Absence** - Cllr Dolan Unwell  
Cllr Campbell Holiday

These apologies were formally accepted, proposed Cllr Monk, seconded Cllr Weeks, all in favour. Cllr Robinson then advised Cllrs that a letter of resignation from her seat on the Council from Mrs C Clark. **Clerk to write.**

**3 Declaration of Interest from Councillors** -  
Cllr Monk Item 10(i) 3860/10  
Cllr Dashper Item 7a

**4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting** - the minutes of the meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011 had been circulated and were approved as a true record, proposed Cllr Dashper, seconded Cllr Mrs Service, all in favour. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -**

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT -

- 1 SCC were to set their budget on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The total of expected cuts in the next financial year was expected to be approximately £42m. The Council propose not raise Council tax which will, attract a subsidy from Government
- 2 The Council proposed to make cuts in the following services - Libraries, Buses, School crossing patrols, Youth clubs, some Waste recycling schemes, funding of the eExplore card, checking HGV's to see if they're overloaded, ceasing enforcement of weight restrictions on roads, divestment of the Fire Service to Cambridge.
- 3 In addition to the cuts mentioned above, the Council had made significant reductions in the levels of subsidy provided to passenger transport, which enable commercial services to operate in non-peak time slots. This will mean that evening and occasionally weekend services will cease. Details would be announced after the budget had been agreed.
- 4 The Bury Road park & ride scheme had now closed.
- 5 Closure of libraries - the CC had launched a consultation to see if any local communities were interested in running their own libraries.

POLICE REPORT - PCSO Uttley had prepared a report, as follows :- 4 crimes recorded since the previous meeting, as opposed to 10 this time in the previous year - 1 theft of a water bowser; 1 theft of trailer; 1 arson at Community College; 1 shed broken into. The SNT had been looking into issues re parking on grass verges and pavements in the village, and had kept MSDC informed of their findings and recommendations. The Priority Setting meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> January had had a poor turnout. Police advised residents to be aware that theft of heating oil; and scrap metal were on the increase.

MR R FAWCETT - ref proposed closure of Thurston library.

Advised that this had been opened originally as a centre for Thurston. Noted that not all County Councils had decided to close their libraries. Put forward a suggestion that the Parish Council move their office into the library which would ensure two days of opening. Mr Fawcett would attend a meeting 8<sup>th</sup> February at Thurston library to put his points across. The Chairman noted that most concern was opening hours out of school times Cllr Dashper noted that there were several options to look at, for example, possibly increasing the precept to enable the library to

stay open. D Cllr Haley felt that opposition of the closure should be fought for. Cllrs Robinson and Weeks would attend the meeting 8<sup>th</sup> February

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT -**

- 1 Merger of MSDC and BDC continued. They were now advertising for a joint Chief Executive.
- 2 The DC Revenue Support Grant had been increased by £34k.
- 3 There was to be no rise in the DC Council Tax.
- 4 Homelessness was increasing
- 5 MSDC were meeting planning targets with no problems.

MR MCBLANE, SCHOOL ROAD - ref proposal of allotments in former playing field in Oakey Field Road, raised the matter of parking issues already in existence. Advised of proposed meeting with MSDC officers, with assurance he would be informed of any future progress on this matter.

**5 Statutory Business - There was none**

- 6 Consideration of matters for referral to Police Tasking Meeting -** It was noted that the Clerk had asked for problem at the Youth Shelter to be added to this list, which had only set two of three items at present. Cllr Robinson advised Council of a report of an accident black spot along Norton Road, near junction Orchard Lane. **Clerk to ask CC for introduction of raised chevron signs to warn drivers of severe bend in the road.**

**7 Business Remaining from Previous Meetings -**

- a) Thurston under Fives - communication had been received from CC who were now to be the leaseholders of the proposed building, subletting it to the TUF's, asking if the rent could be lessened. After consideration of all facts and matters, it was agreed to retain the rent as previously set at £2,500p.a., proposed Cllr Weeks, seconded Cllr Sadler, 5 for, 1 abstention. CC had also recommended that rent for use of the Recreation Ground car park should not be included in the terms of the lease which was accepted by the Council and this was deferred to the next meeting.
- b) Request for double yellow lines, School Road - a plan of proposed markings had been received and after consideration was approved by Council. **Clerk to advise SCC.**
- c) Update ref provision of allotments/parking spaces on MSDC amenity land - MSDC Officers had now proposed a meeting with the Clerk at their Council offices to determine what might be possible. **Clerk to arrange**
- d) Provision of Dog Waste bags dispensers - Actual preferred sites for the installation of these bins as determined. **Clerk to place the order.**

**8 Chairman's Communications -**

- a) Proposed closure of Library - letter received from David Ruffley MP in support, **Clerk to write back affirming PC support against closure.** All other matters dealt with in Public Participation above.
- b) Proposal for installation of a trim trail. **Deferred to next meeting**
- c) Village Fete - ~Cllr Dolan had offered to help with this. **Deferred to next meeting**

**9 Questions from Councillors - There were none**

**10 Reports from Committees and Groups**

a PLANNING -

i Planning Applications received -

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
3860/10	1 storey double gge., 4 Maltings Garth	APPROVAL 5 for 1 abs
3530/10	1 det dwelling etc., Poplar Farm	RECOMMENDATION

ii Planning Decisions received -

2950/10	4 det bungalows etc., 84 Barton Road	GRANTED
1710/10	1 semi-det chalet bungalow, 20 Barleyfields	GRANTED
3470/10	1 dwelling, land adj The Moorings Thedwastre Rd	GRANTED

b RECREATION GROUND -

The extractor fan in Home Team changing room had now been fitted.

c COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS -

- i) Cllr Monk had attended a meeting of the Ixworth PPA
- ii) Cllrs Mrs Service and Monk had attended the Police Priority Setting meeting

- iii) Cllr Mrs Service had attended a College Forum meeting, which had included discussion ref improvement to the dining area; details of official opening of the Sport Hall; and information ref the ARTCV proposals for a hut etc
  - iv) Cllr Mrs Service had attended a meeting at the College ref the proposed Auditorium, noting that plans were to be circulated.
- d VILLAGE REPORTS - There were none
- e QUALITY COUNCIL STATUS - Cllr Weeks advised Council that records of when they had done any training were needed and asked them to search for the information.

**11 Reports from Officers of the Council**

- a CLERK'S REPORT -
- 1 New Green Centre - information ref forthcoming events
  - 2 SCC - information ref bus passes (to be circulated)
  - 3 SALC- information ref a Working in Collaboration Event 1<sup>st</sup> March
  - 4 Suffolk ACRE - information ref conference to assist parishes implement parish plans
  - 5 Thurston community college - invitation to opening of Sports Education Centre
  - 6 E-mail from resident ref parking on verges in Furze Close

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

**13 Finance**

- a) Accounts Awaiting Payment :-

COMPANY	AMOUNT	VAT
Mrs K Savage, Clerk's Salary	746.84	
Mrs K Savage, Clerk's Expenses - Travel to meeting	26.00	
Ray Austin, Handyman contract	340.90	
“ “ Hedge cut o/s Cavendish Hall	<u>45.00</u>	
	385.90	
R & C Sadler, (Rec Grd a/c) Caretakers Salary	107.25	
PC Medic, Computer Maintenance Contract	70.00	
All Seasons Fencing (rabbit fencing, Heath Rd Playing Field	735.55	109.55
Cllr Monk, travel to Ixworth PPA	4.00	
Newflame, Fire equip. inspection, Pavilion, (Rec Grd a/c)	28.20	4.70
New Green Comm Trust (unpaid VAT)	5.32	

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

- b) Accounts already paid -
- |                                    |        |       |
|------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Plusnet, Broadband & Telephone     | 29.59  | 4.93  |
| New Green Comm Trust               | 250.28 | 37.28 |
| WHSmith, gift cards, (Charge card) | 105.00 |       |
| Postage (Charge card)              | 5.00   |       |
- c) Receipts - MSDC Cleansing Grant
- |  |        |  |
|--|--------|--|
|  | 746.98 |  |
|--|--------|--|

**14 Any Other Specified Business -**

- a) Commemorative mugs ref Royal Wedding - Council was advised that it could not fund these from its budgeted funds, but could apply for grants to cover the cost. **Cllr Dashper to investigate.**
- b) Village Litter pick - After discussion, it was agreed to once again organise this, to take place on 2nd April 2011 at 10am. **Clerk to contact all village organisations**

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.55pm

**Date of next meeting, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 to be held in the Pavilion meeting room.**

**Signed..... Chairman Date 2nd March 2011**