

Thurston Parish Council Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011

**THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**Present :** Cllr Campbell, Chairman, Cllrs Robinson, Weeks, Mrs Service, Dolan, Dashper and Monk

**In Attendance :** Kathryn Savage, Clerk, C Cllr Mrs Otton, PC A Miles and PCSO B Ellis

6 members of the public were present

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

**2 Apologies for Absence** - Cllr Sadler Family Commitments  
Cllr Button Work Commitments

These apologies were formally accepted, proposed Cllr Weeks, seconded Cllr Dashper, all in favour.

D Cllr Haley had submitted had apologies.

**3 Declaration of Interest from Councillors -**

Cllr Robinson	Item 14d
Cllr Dashper	Item 7a
Cllr Mrs Service	Item 10a(i) 0154/11

**4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting** - the minutes of the meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> February been circulated and were approved as a true record, proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Weeks, all in favour. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT -**

- 1 The total of expected cuts in the next financial year across the authority was expected to be approximately £43m. The Council propose not raise Council tax which will, attract a subsidy from Government
- 2 Schools Organisation Review - A Stakeholders meeting had been held, which had done little to reassure those present. SCC were still committee to phase out Middle Schools, and had approved its policy on free schools and academies.
- 3 Cllr Mrs Otton had submitted a bid for funds from her Locality Budget for provision of film equipment for the Youth Forum
- 4 SCC had launched a consultation to see if communities around the county were interested in running their own libraries. The CC were to maintain funding for 15 libraries that are larger and serve a wider community base, but would be looking for communities or businesses to fill the funding gap. Mobile libraries were part of the cuts, but Cllr Mrs Otton urged Cllrs to reply to the consultation stating the importance of mobiles libraries

**POLICE REPORT** - PC Annelly Miles, who had recently joined the local SNT, introduced herself to Council, and reported that there had been 4 crimes reported since the previous meeting, as opposed to 13 in the same period in the previous year. There had been 1 of accosting; 1 breach of harassment and 1 drug offence, and PC Miles asked for any information relating to these crimes. Speed checks were to be carried out in Barton Road during the coming month. Mid Suffolk South SNT were to hold an event in the New Green Community Centre Sun lounge on 25<sup>th</sup> March, with the express purpose of attracting local residents to come along and find out what services and information is available to them from the SNT

**The Chairman** brought forward the debate ref the amended planning application number 0154/11 at 34 Heather Close, for the convenience of the applicants who were present in the meeting. The original and amended plans were available to view, and after discussion, it was agreed to submit a recommendation that the application be refused, based on the fact that the proposed front porch was shown to protrude further in front of the original building on the amended plans than it was on the original plans which had been refused. Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Dashper, 6 for, 1 abstention. Motion carried

## 5 Statutory Business –

- a) Recruitment of New Councillors – TPC was operating with two vacant seats, one of which was a long-standing vacancy despite notices advertising then vacancy. Council had been considering a course of action in the light of upcoming Elections. The Clerk had prepared a letter on the matter outlining responsibilities due to be passed down to P&TC's as a result of Government cut-backs and SCC's divestment programme. After consideration, it was agreed that Cllrs deliver a copy of the letter to every Thurston household. Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Dashper all in favour.
- b) APM – this was scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in the Cavendish Hall. **Clerk to invite local organisations to report to this meeting.**

**The Chairman** brought forward the debate ref planning application number 0204/11, at 18 Heath Road for the convenience of the applicants who were present at the meeting. The plans were available to view, and after consideration, it was agreed to submit a recommendation that the application be granted, proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Dashper, all in favour.

- c) Appointment of SALC representative – this needed to be filled following the resignation of the Cllr who had carried out this duty previously. After discussion, it was agreed Cllr Dolan will take on this responsibility.
- d) Elections – The Clerk advised Cllrs of the process of submitting nomination papers for election onto the Council, highlighting the deadline for receipt of completed forms at MSDC was between 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011 and noon on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

- 6 **Consideration of matters for referral to Police Tasking Meeting** – It was agreed that there were no matters for referral to this meeting, and to ask the Police if they have records of previous incidents around the Youth Shelter in New Green Avenue.

## 7 Business Remaining from Previous Meetings –

- a) Thurston under Fives – a draft heads of terms for lease had been received from the PC 's solicitors, which with 2 minor comments was agreed. This, along with a copy of the Trust Deed, would now be returned to the PC solicitor, for her to open discussions with the CC legal team
- b) Provision of allotments – the Clerk had attended a meeting at MSDC with Land Management, and Housing staff to determine whether the former playing field in Oakey Field Road might be made available for this purpose. The Housing team had concerns ref parking, but were to liaise with one tenant ref relinquishing a small piece of land to be used for this purpose. The Land management team confirmed that MSDC were keen to hand this plot over to the PC for this purpose, and it was agreed to attempt to find a resolution by the end of March 2011. **deferred to next agenda.**
- c) Provision of Dog waste bag dispensers – these had now been delivered and it was agreed to ask Mr Austin to install them at given points around the village, along with the printed posters produced by the children from then Primary School.
- d) Proposed closure of library – see report by C Cllr Mrs Otton, above. Correspondence had been received from David Ruffley MP, voicing his concerns on this matter, and it was agreed to ask if he could attend the public meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March. **Clerk to write.**
- e) Annual Village litter-pick – It was agreed that light refreshments would be made available, Cllr Mrs Service to organise. **Clerk to ask New Green Trust to allow stacking of full litter bags by the Biffa bin, and to request that MSDC collect them at the earliest opportunity after the day.**
- f) Cllr expenditure incurred in printing off documents sent to them by e-mail. The Clerk had this month prepared packs of printed material relevant to the meeting, and it was agreed that this practise should become regular proposed Cllr Weeks, seconded Cllr Monk, all in favour.

## 8 Chairman's Communications –

- a) St Edmundsbury BC had invited Council to consult ref a planning application at Nether Hall, The Street Pakenham.

## 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>
0136/11	side dormer exc., 47a Genesta Drive	SUPPORT
0154/11	2 storey front & rear exts., + dormer to front elevation, (amended) 34 Heather Close	OBJECT
0204/11	Front porch, rear conservatory + 1 storey side & rear ext., 18 Heath Road	SUPPORT
ii Planning Decisions received -		
3860/10	1 storey double gge., 4 Maltings Garth	GRANTED
3530/10	1 no Detached dwelling, Poplar Farm, Gt Green	REFUSED
3438/10	Continued use of Orchard Room, without compliance to conditions, Harvey's Garden Plants	GRANTED

b RECREATION GROUND -

i) Quotation from M&TJ's ref ground maintenance work at Recreation Ground - this amounted to £1455 +VAT, a figure less than in previous years, and was accepted on the proposal of Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Monk, all in favour.

c COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS -

i) Cllr Mrs Service had attended the AGM at Cavendish Hall, and reported that the Halls' finances were said to be improving; the Scout group now had the funds required for the outdoor staircase access to roof; it had been proposed to stage an event of some kind in 2012 to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic

ii) Cllr Mrs Service had attended a meeting of the Thurston Relief in need Charity at which the 9acre field in Heath Road had been discussed, and it had been noted that income from the recycling bins had decreased. The Charity had formally thanked the PC for the provision of rabbit fencing at the Heath Road Playing Field.

iii) Cllrs Dashper, Weeks and Robinson had attended the first group meeting ref the Library Consultation ref proposed closure, on 8<sup>th</sup> February. Also present had been 2 representatives from the College, the Libraries Area manager, Library staff, a representative from Jigsaw and D Cllr Haley.

d VILLAGE REPORTS -

i) Cllr Weeks reported that a 30mph sign in Beyton Road had been uprooted. He further reported a growing concern among residents of Furze Close ref the deposit of spent cigarette ends on the pavement there by staff from the Tinkerbelle Day Nursery.

**Clerk to write asking that they be put in litter bins**

ii) Cllr Monk reported that the road at Pokeriage Corner still floods

iii) Cllr Mrs Service reported that one of the springs on the gate to Heath Road Playing Field was broken **clerk to arrange repair**; that hedges along Norton Road needed to be cut back, and that the sign indicating permission to use a footpath across land part of the Rougham Estate in Barton Road was missing again. **Clerk to advise Rougham Estate Manager.**

e QUALITY COUNCIL STATUS - The Group were to meet on 15<sup>th</sup> March to review .

## 11 Reports from Officers of the Council

a CLERK'S REPORT -

- 1 £1,882.54 VAT had been reclaimed
- 2 MSDC - litter picking advice and guidance notes ref safety had been received
- 3 SCC - information re closure of Waste Recycling Sites - none affect Thurston

## 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	
R & C Sadler, (Rec Grd a/c) Caretakers Salary	107.25	
“ “ Caretakers expenses	2.25	
PC Medic, Computer Maintenance Contract	20.00	

Drecroft, Printing of Village Guide	698.00	
SCC, Library payment	2,662.05	
British Gas Business, Pav Electricity (Rec Grd a/c)	192.32	9.62
Anglian Water, Pavilion (Rec Grd a/c)	240.49	
Secelec, install 2 x extractor fans, Pavilion (Rec Grd a/c)	554.00	110.80
SALC, Allotments Seminar, 18.2.11	20.00	4.00

On the proposal of Cllr Monk, seconded Cllr Mrs Service these accounts were approved for payment, all in favour

- |   |        |       |
|---|--------|-------|
| b) Accounts already paid -              |        |       |
| Plusnet, Broadband & Telephone          | 26.62  | 5.32  |
| New Green Comm Trust                    | 213.00 | 42.60 |
| PC world, printer (Charge card)         | 79.88  | 15.98 |
| Postage (Charge card)                   | 5.00   |       |
| c) Receipts - MSDC S106, Rabbit fencing | 840.00 |       |
| Hire of Pavilion                        | 20.00  |       |
- d) Quotation from M&TJ's ref grass cutting Heath Road Playing field - this had been received quoted at £50 +VAT per cur, as in several previous years. It was therefore unanimously agreed to accept this quotation, proposing a maximum of 5 cuts in the coming season.
- e) Approval of Financial Risk Assessment - this was approved on the proposal of Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Dashper all in favour. **Clerk to include an extra column ref Impact, for future assessments.**
- f) Approval of Asset Register - this was approved with the addition of the 8 new Dog Litter bag dispenser units, proposed Cllr Weeks, seconded Cllr Dolan, all in favour
- g) Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit - this was approved, proposed Cllr Weeks, seconded Cllr Dashper, all in favour.
- h) Consideration to fund Clerk's membership of SLCC - after consideration, this was unanimously agreed.

#### 14 Any Other Specified Business -

- a) Suffolk Housing Society - the Operations Director had contacted the Council ref possible provision of services at sites around the village other than Field View, and asking Council's view. Agreed to suggest Woodland Close, Oakey Field Road and the Cracknell's Garage site as potential areas for such services. **Clerk to notify.**
- b) Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service consultation - agreed to circulate to Cllrs
- c) Community Right to Buy - agreed that Cllrs Campbell and Dashper would meet to consider this
- d) Consideration of support ref Heart-start initiative - Cllr Robinson asked Council's support for this training, and for free use of the Sports Pavilion. This was unanimously agreed.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.18pm

**Date of next meeting, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011 to be held in the Pavilion meeting room.**

**Signed..... Chairman Date 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011**